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IV. Encuentro de Directores de Registro Civil, Identidad
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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON CIVIL STATUS (ICCS) AND ITS ACTIVITIES. SOME
EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

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Introduction

The International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS) is an intergovernmental organisation, made up of 16 member States, whose seat has been established in Strasbourg since 1981. Since its creation, the ICCS has accomplished work of which it has no reason to feel ashamed, and which I will try to illustrate now. After a quick historical presentation, which will give a better understanding of the structures and operation of the organisation, I will present some achievements of the ICCS, by giving examples for the two principal fields in which the Commission tries to fulfil its mission of international co-operation, namely the documentation work and the normative activity.

The ICCS will soon celebrate sixty years of existence. At the end of the Forties, the idea to set up an officially recognised international organisation which would foster inter-State co-operation in civil-status matters was expressed in an exchange of letters between Governments. The idea was then embodied into concrete form by a Protocol signed in Bern on 25 September 1950 by five countries - Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland- which had in common the fact that the matter was governed by the Napoleonic Code and that four of them used the French language. That explains why the French language became the official language of the ICCS. As a matter of fact, French is still the only official language of the ICCS, even if great efforts are made to make the greater part of the ICCS work available in other languages. I can add that the introduction of a second language is again under discussion.

After the signature of an additional Protocol on 25 September 1952 allowing the accession of other countries, the following States were admitted to the International Commission on Civil Status as members: Turkey in 1953, Germany in 1956, Italy in 1958, Greece in 1959, Austria in 1961, Portugal in 1973 and Spain in 1974, the United Kingdom in 1996, Poland in 1998 and Croatia and Hungary in 1999.

In addition to the status of member, the internal Rules provide for an observer status which enables ICCS to have contacts with non-member States and other international organisations. Seven States currently have the observer status with the ICCS: Cyprus, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Moldova, Slovenia, Sweden and the Holy See. To specify the relations with other international organisations, the ICCS concluded co-operation agreements with the Council of Europe, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Union. Contacts have also been developed with other countries and associations, in particular of civil registrars. The Rules also provide that the ICCS "furthers relations with bodies dealing with matters having an interest for civil-status purposes" and that it may "enter into collaboration with third States with a view to furthering co-operation between them and the member States."

According to the Protocols which founded the ICCS and the Commission's internal Rules, the mission of the ICCS is to facilitate international co-operation in civil-status matters and to further the exchange of information between civil registrars. The Protocol of 1950 explicitly mentions that the ICSS must compile and keep up-to-date a legislative and jurisprudential documentation setting out the laws of the member States on matters relating to the status and capacity of persons, to the family and to nationality, and that it provides, on the basis of this documentation, information to Authorities of the member States. The internal Rules specify that the Commission carries out all studies and work aimed at harmonising the provisions in force in the member States in these same matters, in particular by the drafting of Conventions or Recommendations, and at improving the operation of civil-status departments in those States.

Right from the start, the ICCS wished to facilitate the communication of information directly between the registrars of the various countries. This wish is expressed not only in the internal Rules, but is also to be seen in the structures of the ICCS and in its method of operation. The originality of the ICCS is that its operation rests mainly on the National Sections which make it up. On becoming an ICCS member, each State is to set up on its territory a National Section, responsible for promoting the aims of the ICCS and having as its members civil registrars, government representatives, judges and law professors. The National Sections have a central role in the operation of the ICCS for most of the work which is entered on the Commission's agenda is initiated on their proposals, and their role is to allow the ICCS to start studying useful projects in a practical rather than technocratic way.

As indicated previously, the Commission has tried to fulfil its mission of international co-operation by developing its activities in two major directions: the documentation work (1) and the normative work (2).

1. Documentation work

As far as the constitution of documentation is concerned, the most important work carried out by the ICCS is presently the "*International practical Guide on civil status*", but there are also several comparative studies on specific topics and various reports.

1.1. The *International practical Guide on civil status*

The *International practical Guide on civil status* was prepared in the mid-Eighties, in order to replace the documentation compiled previously by means of a collection of twelve files, each setting forth the civil-status and family-law provisions of each member State and which had been up-dated and published for about thirty years.

The *practical Guide* was prepared in order to enable registrars to know the principles governing the personal status of foreigners and to facilitate their work when receiving certificates and documents concerning these foreigners. Despite what its title might suggest, the *International practical Guide on civil status* is not just confined to civil-status practice but constitutes a comparative-law documentation particularly rich for all the areas of law that can affect civil status. Besides the technical aspects of drawing up, rectifying, cancelling or transcribing the various civil-status records and making the endorsements or annotations that supplement them as and when events or decisions affect a person's life and status, the *Guide* provides information on national legislative provisions relating to birth, parentage, marriage and registered partnerships as well as their annulment and dissolution, death and absence, nationality, surnames and forenames, etc.

The *practical Guide* includes, on one hand, a single questionnaire (with about 250 numbered questions) taking stock of all the problems arising in the practice of civil registration in all the fields previously mentioned and, on the other hand, the answers prepared by the National Section of each ICCS member State, to each question, setting out the domestic provisions and the private international law rules with an indication of the relevant references of the applicable provisions. The answers are subsequently re-read by the Secretariat General with a view to their harmonisation. This *Guide* also includes a "general introduction", outlining in two or three pages the system of civil registration of each member State and of most observer States.

To take into account the changes of the member States' laws, the *practical Guide* is up-dated as regularly as possible; this is a very difficult task, especially when substantial and frequent changes to national legislation are adopted, as has been the case in various countries in recent years. The large number of countries and fields covered by the *Guide* do not always permit an up-dating to be prepared as quickly as one would wish. This difficulty is also the major reason why the *Guide* exists only in a French version.

Published for about fifteen years in a loose-leaf edition of more than 500 large-size pages, the *practical Guide* can, since 2001, be consulted on the ICCS webpage.

1.2. Specific studies and reports

The documentation work of the ICCS is not limited to the *practical Guide* and its up-dates. The States need to know the legislative and regulatory provisions of other countries as well as the developments which are in hand there. They thus have an undoubted interest in having available a comparative tool covering a significant number of countries.

Sometimes comparative work is carried out to answer a specific request when a State wishes to know how this or that point is approached elsewhere before launching into a reform. Often comparative work is used by the ICCS in order to evaluate whether or not it is advisable to begin the study of a future normative activity.

The information collected in this context led the ICCS to draft various comparative studies on specific subjects which are usually not frequently studied.¹ These studies were published in various reviews and translations of most of them can be read on the ICCS webpage.

Comparative-law studies are particularly delicate tricky, especially when they relate to such a large number of countries, when their laws are very different and when the concepts behind the same words very often diverge in an important way- but they are usually much appreciated and useful for the States and the whole community of lawyers and researchers. They have, however, two great disadvantages: they require a considerable amount of energy and work and their period of validity is unfortunately particularly uncertain, since some new provisions adopted in one or another country are often enough to call the whole of the study into question. And provisions reforming legislation on the establishment of parentage, on marriage, on nationality or on surnames have been adopted successively in several countries at a particularly rapid pace in recent years.

The ICCS does not envisage up-dating all the studies, but it has decided to take up again the study on fraud with respect to civil status, originally published in 1996 and already updated in 2000, and to develop more particularly the topic of bogus marriages. The question of fraud with respect to civil status raises important problems in all the States and the member States have expressed great interest in the realisation of a comparative study in this field.

In addition to the *practical Guide* and the publication of specific comparative studies, various other reports are to be considered as being part of the ICCS documentary task. First of all, there is an important report presented every year by the Secretary General at the General Assembly, in which the legislative modifications which have taken place in the member States over the past year are highlighted. One may also mention in this category a number of comparative notes presented at conferences or seminars and/or appearing in publications of various countries. Most of these reports can also be read on the ICCS webpage, often both in French and in translated versions.

¹ There may be mentioned more particularly in this respect five comparative-law studies which were prepared since 1996, respectively on "fraud with respect to civil status", on "the application in the civil-status field of the principles set out in the European Convention on Human Rights", on "transsexualism, civil status and private and family life", on "civil-status and perinatal deaths" and on "the establishment of maternal descent and surrogate motherhood".

2. Normative work

In addition to the constitution of documentation, the ICCS has developed over the last sixty years an important normative activity with a view to furthering the harmonisation of the law relating to persons and organising the coexistence of the legal registration systems of its various member States.

The ICCS has thus drawn up 9 Recommendations and 31 Conventions –it will soon be 32 for a new Convention, on the recognition of registered partnerships, is to be signed at the beginning of September. Certain Conventions are reserved for ICCS member States only, but the majority are more widely open to signature by other States, notably those which are members of the Council of Europe or the European Union; some, that I shall mention more particularly, are also open to any other State. As for the Recommendations, they attempt to identify what, according to the ICCS, is desirable in matters of civil status and the law of persons and they invite the various member States to conform to the principles enshrined in them.

Some of these instruments aim at harmonising the law of persons and family law (2.1.), others are very technical (2.2.).

2.1. Instruments aiming at harmonising the law

The ICCS has tried to contribute to the harmonisation in the member States of the standards applicable in the fields of its competence. Various international instruments - Conventions or Recommendations - try to facilitate the establishment of the maternal descent of children born out of wedlock or the celebration of marriages in the member States, to promote a uniform legislation for the registration of records, to solve problems of the civil status of refugees, to harmonise civil-status records and extracts or to reconcile the necessary publicity of civil-status registers and documents with respect for private life.

Drafting an international instrument is often very difficult. An international Convention has to define common rules and reach a compromise that is acceptable to all the countries. This not easy when the domestic law adopted in each State, instead of converging, tend to move in different directions and the differences create situations that are hardly reconcilable. For various reasons the instruments aiming at harmonising the law have thus not always had the success which would have been expected.

Yet, one can be pleased to note that a certain number of principles sometimes come to be applied many years after being formulated in an instrument. Such is the case, for example, of the harmonised presentation of civil-status records and extracts, which were recommended by the ICCS respectively in 1987 and 1990, and adopted rather recently by several countries, in particular within the framework of the computerization and the data-processing exploitation of civil-status documents. Such is also the case, for example, of the Recommendation of 1976 on the law of marriage, of which however one can make a contrasted assessment. One can note that about thirty years after its adoption, the majority of the principles set out in this Recommendation have been incorporated in the various domestic laws, yet one cannot but observe that there still remain some principles that are not applied in certain countries (for example, subordinating marriage to a medical examination or to the preliminary publication of banns) or that others have been undermined by the restrictive measures recently introduced in a great number of countries in the context of new immigration policies and the combating of marriages of convenience.

Taking into account the attachment of the various countries to their national provisions as regards the law of persons and family-law and the difficulties encountered by Conventions aiming at the harmonisation of law, attention can be drawn here to the method which was used in the last two instruments adopted by the ICCS on particularly difficult subjects, namely the surnames and registered partnerships. The method used is that of the recognising what was done abroad, when certain conditions relating to the links between the State of origin and the situation created are met.

2.2. Technical instruments

The ICCS has also prepared a significant number of technical Conventions, trying to bring progress appreciated both by registrars and by the public in their everyday life and relationships with foreign civil-status authorities. These instruments have been significantly more successful.

For the individual, it is not essential that the legal rules of law are the same in all the countries. What is important for a person is that if he or she lives in another country and needs a civil-status certificate from his/her country of origin, that document issued by his/her national authorities is accepted without formalities in the country of residence. Concretely, that means that if persons are to circulate, civil-status documents and decisions concerning them must also be able to circulate, but it also means that these documents must be easily understood and accepted in the foreign country.

To facilitate the international circulation of civil-status certificates and documents and their comprehension abroad, the ICCS has prepared a number of Conventions establishing international uniform models, which are multilingual forms in the older Conventions and coded forms in the more recent ones. In all cases, the international documents – issued to the users or automatically transmitted to a foreign authority - are all accepted abroad without translation or legalisation.

The multilingual forms have a system of pre-printed translations and numbered boxes on the front and the back of the documents, which makes it possible for the foreign authorities to read the international document directly. When the languages in the multilingual forms became too numerous, the ICCS worked out a new system, allowing the direct use abroad of the international documents but also of the civil-status certificates and documents issued by the national authorities of a country. In the new system adopted in 1995, the pre-printed translations were replaced by a system of coding, every entry appearing in a civil-status document being assigned a code number, which is common to all ICCS countries. For example, if a document drawn up in France contains the word "nom", the figure "7" will appear under that word. If it is drawn up in Spain, under "Apellidos" there will also be a "7". Under the words "date de naissance", "date of birth" or "fecha de nacimiento", the code "9-7" will appear. Together, all these numbers form a glossary and it suffices to possess this dictionary to understand the document. And since the glossary can be programmed in a computer, it is sufficient to feed the various figures of the code into the machine in order to obtain immediately their translation into the local language. Reading and translating can therefore be automatic.

a) Conventions on the issue of uniform documents for use abroad

The ICCS Conventions on the issue of documents are numerous and they have proved quite successful. The list being too long, they cannot all be enumerated here. I will only mention some of them, stressing again that they all aim at facilitating the administrative steps of the public and provide for the issue of uniform international certificates. For my examples I chose Conventions which are open to all States.

- I would first mention Convention No. 1 on the issue of certain extracts from civil-status records for use abroad, signed at Paris on 27 September 1956, and Convention No. 16 on the issue of multilingual extracts from civil-status records, which modernized and replaced Convention No. 1. Convention No. 16 was signed at Vienna on 8 September 1976 and ratified very largely by ICCS member States and non-member States. It is presently in force between 17 States. The multilingual extracts are, I may add, probably familiar to some of you because they have been used in some bilateral agreements, notably between Italy and Argentine.
- I would also cite specially Convention No. 20, signed at Munich on 5 September 1980, on the issue of a certificate of legal capacity to marry, in force between 11 States.
- Further examples are Convention No 15, creating a international family booklet, and Conventions No. 27 and No. 28, signed respectively at Paris in September 1998 and Lisbon in September 1999, which provide for the issue of life and nationality certificates.
- Also be to classified in future in this category are the various certificates appended to the Convention on the recognition of registered partnerships, quoted previously, which aim at attesting the conclusion of a registered partnership or its dissolution or annulment.

b) Conventions on the exchange of information between authorities

Many ICCS Conventions contain provisions obliging the competent authorities of one member State to furnish information to the authorities of another State, either *ex officio* or on request. The exchange of information is sometimes the main purpose of a Convention and is sometimes ancillary to the principal objective, but the exchange is always carried out by the sending of a document drawn up on a uniform - multilingual or coded- international model.

I will not present the Conventions whose main purpose is the exchange of information because only ICCS member States or, in some cases, member States of the Council of Europe, may become parties thereto. But I will give examples of Conventions where the obligation of information is ancillary and where this exchange is to supplement the principal objective of a Convention in order to enhance its effectiveness: I will just give two recent examples, namely the two last Conventions which will be open to all States once they are in force, respectively on the recognition of surnames and on the recognition of registered partnerships.

- The main purpose of Convention No. 31 is the recognition of surnames, either of spouses or of children if certain conditions are fulfilled. As regards a child, the Convention provides that the "surname attributed, in the Contracting State where he or she was born, to a child possessing two or more nationalities shall, if that State is one of those of which the child is a national, be recognised in the other Contracting States." Yet, by way of derogation to this principle, the parents may request that another surname be attributed in another Contracting State of which the child is a national, and this other surname shall then be recognised in the other Contracting States. In this precise case, the Convention prescribes an automatic exchange of information by obliging the authority of the second State to send to the civil registrar of the place of birth, for rectification of his or her registers, a notice of the attribution of a surname which it has effected at the parents' request. The notice is drawn up in accordance with a uniform coded model, which is appended to the Convention.
- The Convention to be signed next September, on the recognition of registered partnerships, similarly provides for an automatic exchange of information in order to enhance the main purpose of the Convention, which is the recognition respectively of the conclusion, dissolution or annulment of a registered partnership, or the recognition by the State where the partnership was registered of its dissolution or annulment occurring in another State. The exchange of information is effected by means of uniform coded certificates, which are appended to the Convention: the authority issuing one of the certificates will send it to the authorities of the other Contracting States, whenever such a State is a State of which one of the partners is a national or in which one or the other partner is habitually resident and also, as regards information concerning a dissolution or annulment, the State in which the partnership was registered.

This concludes my presentation of the International Commission on Civil Status and of its activities. My description is far from being complete, but you may easily find more extensive information by consulting the ICCS webpage (<http://www.ciec1.org>), where almost all documents are available in an English translation but where many documents are also to be found in other languages, and notably in Spanish.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that I have tried more particularly to draw attention to some ICCS instruments, that are likely to interest in particular the members of Consejo Latinoamericano de Registro Civil, Identidad y Estadísticas Vitales. The participation of States of Latin America in some of the instruments which I mentioned is not only possible and to be considered, but would be in the interest of the two parties. It would be of unquestionable interest for the ICCS member States and for the States which are represented in your Council, but also of unquestionable interest for the public of all our countries, given the number of people concerned. Many nationals of ICCS countries emigrated in the past, sometimes very long ago, towards various countries of Latin America and many of them have maintained contacts with their country of origin, and often have even retained the nationality of that country. Today, many people born in your countries settle in ICCS States, but there are also numerous nationals of those States who live in your countries for professional or other reasons. I think that, if a larger co-operation were to be established, it would be in the interest of ICCS member States for some ICCS instruments to be ratified by countries of the Latin-American Council. As for co-operation between the two organizations, this is also possible and to be considered, on topics and according to procedures which would be necessary to examine and define jointly.

Thank you for your attention. Les agradezco su atención.

Chantal NAST
Strasbourg, 28 June 2007

Appendix 1

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON CIVIL STATUS (ICCS) La Commission Internationale de l'Etat Civil (CIEC)

in brief

Founded: 1948-49. Protocol on the International Commission on Civil Status, signed at Bern on 25 September 1950.

Member States: 16

Observer States: 7

Official language: French

International Conventions: 31

Recommendations: 9

Main publication: "Guide Pratique international de l'Etat Civil" (*International practical Guide on civil status*)

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Aim

The ICCS is an intergovernmental organisation whose aim is to facilitate international co-operation in civil-status matters and to improve the operation of national civil-status departments. To this end, it keeps up-to-date a documentation on legislation and case-law setting out the law of the member States, provides those States with information and expertise, carries out legal and technical studies, prepares publications and drafts Conventions and Recommendations.

Structure and organisation

Each member State sets up a National Section responsible for promoting the aims of the ICCS in its territory and ensuring liaison with the other Sections through the intermediary of the Secretary General.

The General Assembly is composed of the members of the National Sections and meets twice a year, in spring in Strasbourg and in September in a member State, *ad hoc* working-party meetings being held in the meanwhile. The General Assembly takes notably decisions on the admission of a new member State to the ICCS, adopts the text of the Conventions and Recommendations and decides on proposals for new activities.

The Bureau, which is composed of the Presidents of the National Sections, notably elects the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, grants observer status to an international organisation or a State and adopts the budget.

The Secretary General is notably in charge of the management of the ICCS. He implements the decisions taken by the ICCS, ensures liaison between the National Sections, participates in the meetings and prepares the record thereof, keeps the accounts and archives and ensures liaison with other institutions.

Member States and Observers

Member States : Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

States with observer status: Cyprus, the Holy See, Lithuania, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and Sweden.

Co-operation with other intergovernmental organisations

The ICCS collaborates with other organisations and co-ordinates its activities with theirs. It has entered into co-operation agreements with the Council of Europe, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees and the European Union.

Work of the ICCS

The Commission's work, which is proposed by the National Sections, is prepared by working parties, with the assistance of the Secretariat General

Conventions

Since its creation the ICCS has adopted 31 multilateral Conventions, which are legally binding instruments. The depositary of the Conventions, of which 26 are currently in force, is the Swiss Federal Council. The most recent Convention, on the recognition of surnames, was signed at Antalya on 16 September 2005.

The object of the Conventions is either to harmonise the substantive law of the member States in civil-status matters or to facilitate the functioning of civil status across frontiers, notably by means of multilingual documents, thereby simplifying formalities for persons living abroad.

Being confronted with the problem of the increasing number of languages to be used in the multilingual forms, the ICCS drew up Convention No 25, signed at Brussels on 6 September 1995, creating a system of code numbering for the entries appearing in civil-status records and documents. The Conventions adopted since that date include appendices drawn up in this way (for example, life certificate, certificate of nationality).

Recommendations

Since 1958 the ICCS has addressed to its member States 9 Recommendations covering the improvement of the functioning of civil-status departments, the harmonisation of civil-status records and extracts, the publicity of records, the computerisation of civil status, the co-operation in the matter of administrative assistance to asylum-seekers and documentary fraud.

Documentation et publications

For the fields within its competence, the ICCS compiles a documentation on legislation and case-law of the member States. It prepares consolidated summaries on issues of current concern (for example, fraud with respect to civil status, civil status and the European Convention on Human Rights, transsexualism, registration of lifeless children, ...).

Main publication: the "International practical Guide on civil status", prepared since 1985. This work (in French) contains an overview of the general organisation of civil-status departments in the member States and gives, by means of questions and detailed answers, particulars of the legislative and regulatory provisions on numerous matters (rules common to the various civil-status records, birth and parentage, marriage and its dissolution, registered partnerships, death, nationality, surname and forenames, civil status in international law). The work, which was sold directly by Editions Berger-Levrault until 2001, is now available on the ICCS webpage.

Questions of current concern :

Amongst the activities now in progress, mention may be made of those relating to the recognition of registered partnerships, computerisation and fraud.

Annexe 2 / Appendix 2

Liste des Conventions et Recommandations élaborées par la CIEC

List of Conventions and Recommendations drawn up by the ICCS

The ICCS has only one official language: the English translations of the original French titles are unofficial.

Conventions

1. Convention relative à la délivrance de certains extraits d'actes de l'état civil destinés à l'étranger, signée à Paris le 27 septembre 1956 [*Convention on the issue of certain extracts from civil-status records for use abroad, signed at Paris on 27 September 1956*]
2. Convention relative à la délivrance gratuite et à la dispense de légalisation des expéditions d'actes de l'état civil, signée à Luxembourg le 26 septembre 1957 [*Convention on the issue free of charge and the exemption from legalisation of copies of official records of civil status, signed at Luxembourg on 26 September 1957*]
3. Convention concernant l'échange international d'informations en matière d'état civil, signée à Istanbul le 4 septembre 1958 [*Convention on the international exchange of information relating to civil status, signed at Istanbul on 4 September 1958*]
4. Convention relative aux changements de noms et de prénoms, signée à Istanbul le 4 septembre 1958 [*Convention on changes of surnames and forenames, signed at Istanbul on 4 September 1958*]
5. Convention portant extension de la compétence des autorités qualifiées pour recevoir les reconnaissances d'enfants naturels, signée à Rome le 14 septembre 1961 [*Convention extending the competence of authorities empowered to receive declarations acknowledging natural children, signed at Rome on 14 September 1961*]
6. Convention relative à l'établissement de la filiation maternelle des enfants naturels, signée à Bruxelles le 12 septembre 1962 [*Convention on the establishment of maternal descent of natural children, signed at Brussels on 12 September 1962*]
7. Convention tendant à faciliter la célébration des mariages à l'étranger, signée à Paris le 10 septembre 1964 [*Convention to facilitate the celebration of marriages abroad, signed at Paris on 10 September 1964*]
8. Convention concernant l'échange d'informations en matière d'acquisition de nationalité, signée à Paris le 10 septembre 1964 [*Convention on the exchange of information relating to acquisition of nationality, signed at Paris on 10 September 1964*]
9. Convention relative aux décisions de rectification d'actes de l'état civil, signée à Paris le 10 septembre 1964 [*Convention on decisions concerning the rectification of civil-status records, signed at Paris on 10 September 1964*]
10. Convention relative à la constatation de certains décès, signée à Athènes le 14 septembre 1966 [*Convention relating to the establishment of death in certain cases, signed at Athens on 14 September 1966*]
11. Convention sur la reconnaissance des décisions relatives au lien conjugal, signée à Luxembourg le 8 septembre 1967 [*Convention on the recognition of decisions relating to the matrimonial bond, signed at Luxembourg on 8 September 1967*]
12. Convention sur la légitimation par mariage, signée à Rome le 10 septembre 1970 [*Convention on legitimation by marriage, signed at Rome on 10 September 1970*]
13. Convention tendant à réduire le nombre des cas d'apatridie, signée à Berne le 13 septembre 1973 [*Convention to reduce the number of cases of statelessness, signed at Berne on 13 September 1973*]
14. Convention relative à l'indication des noms et prénoms dans les registres de l'état civil, signée à Berne le 13 septembre 1973 [*Convention on the recording of surnames and forenames in civil-status registers, signed at Berne on 13 September 1973*]
15. Convention créant un Livret de famille international, signée à Paris le 12 septembre 1974 [*Convention introducing an international family record book, signed at Paris on 12 September 1974*]
16. Convention relative à la délivrance d'extraits plurilingues d'actes de l'état civil, signée à Vienne le 8 septembre 1976 [*Convention on the issue of multilingual extracts from civil-status records, signed at Vienna on 8 September 1976*]
17. Convention portant dispense de légalisation pour certains actes et documents, signée à Athènes le 15 septembre 1977 [*Convention on the exemption from legalization of certain records and documents, signed at Athens on 15 September 1977*]
18. Convention relative à la reconnaissance volontaire des enfants nés hors mariage, signée à Munich le 5 septembre 1980 [*Convention on the voluntary acknowledgment of children born out of wedlock, signed at Munich on 5 September 1980*]
19. Convention sur la loi applicable aux noms et prénoms, signée à Munich le 5 septembre 1980 [*Convention on the law applicable to surnames and forenames, signed at Munich on 5 September 1980*]
20. Convention relative à la délivrance d'un certificat de capacité matrimoniale, signée à Munich le 5 septembre 1980 [*Convention on the issue of a certificate of legal capacity to marry, signed at Munich on 5 September 1980*]

21. Convention relative à la délivrance d'un certificat de diversité de noms de famille, signée à La Haye le 8 septembre 1982 [*Convention on the issue of a certificate of differing surnames, signed at The Hague on 8 September 1982*]
22. Convention relative à la coopération internationale en matière d'aide administrative aux réfugiés, signée à Bâle le 3 septembre 1985 [*Convention on international co-operation in the matter of administrative assistance to refugees, signed at Basle on 3 September 1985*]
23. Protocole additionnel à la Convention concernant l'échange international d'informations en matière d'état civil signée à Istanbul le 4 septembre 1958, signé à Patras le 6 septembre 1989 [*Additional Protocol to the Convention on the international exchange of information relating to civil status, signed at Istanbul on 4 September 1958, signed at Patras on 6 September 1989*]
24. Convention relative à la reconnaissance et à la mise à jour des livrets d'état civil, signée à Madrid le 5 septembre 1990 [*Convention on the recognition and updating of civil-status books, signed at Madrid on 5 September 1990*]
25. Convention relative au codage des énonciations figurant dans les documents d'état civil, signée à Bruxelles le 6 septembre 1995 [*Convention on the coding of entries appearing in civil-status documents, signed at Brussels on 6 September 1995*]
26. Convention concernant l'échange international d'informations en matière d'état civil, signée à Neuchâtel le 12 septembre 1997 [*Convention on the international exchange of information relating to civil status, signed at Neuchâtel on 12 September 1997*]
27. Convention relative à la délivrance d'un certificat de vie, signée à Paris le 10 septembre 1998 [*Convention on the issue of a life certificate, signed at Paris on 10 September 1998*]
28. Convention relative à la délivrance d'un certificat de nationalité, signée à Lisbonne le 14 septembre 1999 [*Convention on the issue of a certificate of nationality, signed at Lisbon on 14 September 1999*]
29. Convention relative à la reconnaissance des décisions constatant un changement de sexe, signée à Vienne le 12 septembre 2000 [*Convention on the recognition of decisions recording a sex reassignment, signed at Vienna on 12 September 2000*]
30. Convention relative à la communication internationale par voie électronique, signée à Athènes le 17 septembre 2001 [*Convention on international communication by electronic means, signed at Athens on 17 September 2001*]
31. Convention sur la reconnaissance des noms, signée à Antalya le 16 septembre 2005 [*Convention on the recognition of surnames, signed at Antalya on 16 September 2005*]
32. Signature en septembre 2007 : Convention sur la reconnaissance des partenariats enregistrés, adoptée le 22 mars 2007 [*Signature in September 2007: Convention on the recognition of registered partnerships, adopted on 22 March 2007*]

Recommandations / Recommendations

1. Recommandation relative à la délivrance et à la reconnaissance des documents délivrés aux réfugiés en application de la Convention de Genève du 28 juillet 1958, adoptée à Luxembourg le 8 septembre 1967 [*Recommendation on the issue and recognition of documents issued to refugees under the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1958, adopted in Luxembourg on 8 September 1967*]
2. Recommandation relative au droit du mariage, adoptée à Vienne le 8 septembre 1976 [*Recommendation relating to the law of marriage, adopted in Vienna on 8 September 1976*]
3. Recommandation relative à l'identification des réfugiés de l'Asie du Sud-Est, adoptée à Munich le 3 septembre 1980 [*Recommendation on the identification of refugees from South-East Asia, adopted in Munich on 3 September 1980*]
4. Recommandation relative à la publicité des registres et des actes de l'état civil, adoptée à Rome le 5 septembre 1984 [*Recommendation relating to the publicity of civil-status registers and records, adopted in Rome on 5 September 1984*]
5. Recommandation relative à l'harmonisation des actes de l'état civil, adoptée à Lisbonne le 10 septembre 1987 [*Recommendation relating to the harmonisation of civil-status records, adopted in Lisbon on 10 September 1987*]
6. Recommandation relative à la coopération internationale en matière d'aide administrative aux demandeurs d'asile, adoptée à Patras le 8 septembre 1989 [*Recommendation relating to international co-operation in the matter of administrative assistance to asylum-seekers, adopted in Patras on 8 September 1989*]
7. Recommandation relative à l'harmonisation des extraits d'actes de l'état civil, adoptée à Madrid le 7 septembre 1990 [*Recommendation on the harmonisation of extracts from civil-status records, adopted in Madrid on 7 September 1990*]
8. Recommandation relative à l'informatisation de l'état civil, adoptée à Strasbourg le 21 mars 1991 [*Recommendation on the computerisation of civil status, adopted in Strasbourg on 21 March 1991*]
9. Recommandation relative à la lutte contre la fraude documentaire en matière d'état civil, adoptée à Strasbourg le 17 mars 2005 [*Recommendation on combating documentary fraud with respect to civil status, adopted in Strasbourg on 17 March 2005*]

Appendix 3

ICCS Conventions (closed, semi-open and open)

Conventions	Closed Conventions: Only ICCS member States	Semi-open Conventions: ICCS member States + member States of the Council of Europe (+ member States of the European Community/Union)	Open Conventions: Any State
No 1			Any State
No 2			Any State
No 3	ICCS		
No 4	ICCS		
No 5	ICCS		
No 6		ICCS + CoE	
No 7		ICCS + CoE	
No 8		ICCS + CoE	
No 9		ICCS + CoE	
No 10		ICCS + CoE	
No 11		ICCS + CoE	
No 12		ICCS + CoE	
No 13		ICCS + CoE	Once in force, any State party to the Convention of 28.7.1951 relating to the status of refugees and the Protocol of 31.1.1967
No 14		ICCS + CoE	Once in force, any member State of the United Nations or of a specialised agency of the United Nations
No 15			Any State
No 16			Any State
No 17		ICCS + CoE	
No 18			Any State
No 19			Any State
No 20			Any State
No 21		ICCS + CoE + EuropComm	
No 22		ICCS + CoE + EuropComm	
No 23	ICCS (States parties to Convention No 3)		
No 24		ICCS + CoE + EuropComm	
No 25			Any State
No 26		ICCS + CoE + EuropComm	
No 27		ICCS + CoE + EuropComm	
No 28		ICCS + CoE + EuropComm	Once in force, any other State (the Contracting States may raise an objection in the 6 months following notification)
No 29		ICCS + EuropUnion	Once in force, any other State (the Contracting States have to declare acceptance of the accession)
No 30	ICCS		Once in force, any other State for the communication of data provided for in an ICCS Convention to which it is party.
No 31	ICCS	Once in force: accession of member States of the CoE	Once in force: accession of any other State if so invited pursuant to a unanimous decision of the ICCS States.
No 32	ICCS		Once in force, accession by any other State.