**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 19 April 2012

Interinstitutional File:	**8863/12**
2011/0443 (NLE)	
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2011/0452 (NLE)	
2011/0447 (NLE)	
2011/0441 (NLE)	**JUSTCIV 143**

COVER NOTE

from:	Mr Jon Cunliffe, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
date of receipt:	13 April 2012
to:	Mr Morten Bødskov, President of the Justice and Home Affairs Council
No. Cion prop. :	5306/12 JUSTCIV 9, 5307/12 JUSTCIV 10, 5309/12 JUSTCIV 12, 5310/12 JUSTCIV 13, 5311/12 JUSTCIV 14, 5312/12 JUSTCIV 15, 5308/12 JUSTCIV 11, 5218/12 JUSTCIV 7
Subject:	Proposals for Council decisions on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Andorra, Seychelles, Albania, Singapore, Morocco, Armenia, Gabon and the Russian Federation to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction - Opt-in of the United Kingdom

Dear Morten,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the United Kingdom's formal notification, in accordance with Article 3(1) of the Protocol (No 21) to the Treaties on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, that it intends to take part in the adoption and application of the following proposals:-

i. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Andorra to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 908 final)

ii. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Seychelles to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 909 final)

iii. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Albania to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 912 final)

iv. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Singapore to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 915 final)

v. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Morocco to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 916 final)

vi. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Armenia to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 917 final)

vii. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Gabon to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 904 final)

viii. Proposal for a Council decision on the declaration of acceptance by the Member States, in the interest of the European Union, of the accession of Russian Federation to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (COM(2011) 911 final)

The United Kingdom wishes to make clear that the decision to take part in the adoption and application of these proposals is without prejudice to the United Kingdom's disagreement with the assertion by the Commission in these proposals that the matters dealt with by the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction fall into the exclusive external competence of the European Union.

I am copying this letter to Catherine Day, Secretary General of the Commission and Uwe Corsepius, Secretary General of the Council.

(complimentary close)

(signed) Jon Cunliffe

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