



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

On: 3 December 2019

To: Delegations

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Subject: Conclusions on the Future of Civil Justice Cooperation

Delegations will find in Annex the Council conclusions on the Future of Civil Justice Cooperation adopted by the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 3 December 2019.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON
THE FUTURE OF CIVIL JUSTICE COOPERATION**

1. The Council underlines the importance of civil justice cooperation for citizens' and companies' everyday life and recalls the commitments taken with the Tampere conclusions and Stockholm Programme. The Council stresses that for carrying out the objectives of the Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 further reflection on the civil justice cooperation acquis is required. In terms of future action, the Council emphasises the need to prioritise effective implementation, enforcement, evaluation of application and functioning of existing EU instruments as well as digitalisation. The existing EU legal framework should be as user friendly as possible. Any new legislative initiatives must be based on evidence of clear added value and of practical needs of citizens and businesses. Where the initiatives aim at harmonising substantive civil law they should not unnecessarily impede on well-functioning national legal frameworks already in place.
2. The Council recalls that, in order to ensure coherence and consistency of the civil justice cooperation acquis, legislative proposals in the civil law area should be properly coordinated and fragmentation should be avoided not only in the negotiation process but also later in the process of implementation.
3. The Council stresses the key role of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters and the European e-Justice Portal in implementation and application of legislation and invites the Commission and Member States to use their best efforts to enhance the visibility and use of these tools amongst practitioners. Recalling the importance of e-CODEX, the Council invites the Commission to consider all options, legislative and non-legislative, to ensure its long-term sustainability and management.

4. The Council recalls that a multilateral approach is an essential element of international cooperation also in the field of civil justice. The Council expresses its support to the key multilateral organisations in the field: the Hague Conference on Private International Law, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT. For particular cases where multilateral cooperation is not an option, the Council invites the Commission to present effective alternatives to cater for citizens' and companies' needs.
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