

**RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF CIVIL STATUS**

THE EUROPEAN GROUP FOR PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW,

At its meeting held in Katowice on 14 September 2019, –

*Noting* that the decrease in the number of Member States of the International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS) is likely to affect the development and follow up of instruments of international cooperation in the field of civil status;

*Noting* that Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union, largely inspired by the work of the ICCS, preserves the possibility for individuals to benefit from facilities provided by other international instruments, such as the conventions adopted by the ICCS;

*Noting* that the ICCS conventions continue to be used by the administrations of the Contracting States and benefit persons moving across international borders, including citizens of the European Union;

*Noting* that several of these conventions are instruments open to ratification by non-member States of the organization, and that some have been ratified by a significant number of these States;

*Aware* of the problems raised in matters of civil status by the current migration context / state of migration;

*Recognising* the importance of instruments of cooperation in the field of civil status to facilitate the international mobility of persons, including within the European Union;

*Also recognising* the importance of effective monitoring of existing instruments, as well as the value of promoting such instruments among a growing number of States in the context of international mobility;

*Considering* that a number of the ICCS Conventions constitute a useful complement to the functioning of other European and international instruments, in particular those adopted by the European Union and the Hague Conference on Private International Law;

*Calls upon* the institutions concerned to take all measures to:

- (1) preserve the *acquis*, in particular by maintaining or supporting a mechanism capable of following up the ICCS conventions;
- (2) continue international co-operation in civil status matters;
- (3) examine ways in which the European Union can participate in these conventions or other future civil status instruments in order to increase the number of people benefiting from such instruments.