



25/5/2005

The Hague, 13 June 2005

The Embassy of the Republic of Hungary presents its compliments to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and with reference to the Latter's Note L.c.ON No 16(05), dated 22 April 2005. has the honour to give the answers to the Questionnaire as follows:

1. Criteria to to classify diplomas as notarial documents

In the Republic of Hungary the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not differentiate between diplomas that were issued by a private university/high school or by a state university/high school.

2. Procedure concerning the issue of Apostille on diplomas – the nature of the notarial document concerning the apostille:

In the Republic of Hungary, the Ministry of Education certifies and signs the diploma issued by a university/high school. After this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs certifies the **authenticity** of the signature and the seal of the Ministry of Education (issues an apostille on it).

Thus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not have the authority to survey the authenticity of the diploma itself, the Apostille is only given concerning the authenticity of the signature and the seal of the Ministry of Education. The Apostille is issued in three languages: English, French and Hungarian (the Apostille-form is attached).

When a student completes a university/high school with a certain speciality (e.g. university of medicine), then the diploma is verified by the signature and the seal of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs certifies the signature's and the seal's authenticity according to the Hungarian practice. However, if the student needs professional practice for the diploma or any other complementary course, then the Ministry that deals with that special profession issues the certificate about the accomplishment of the professional practice (e.g. students of medicine need professional practice in Hungary, the accomplishment of this practice is certified by the Ministry of Health, professional practice concerning economics is verified by the Ministry of Finance). In this case the authenticity of the signature and seal of the said ministries are certified with the Apostille issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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The Hague

3. Authorities responsible for the issue of the Apostille:

In the Republic of Hungary the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues the Apostille for diplomas. The Ministry of Justice (in the Republic of Hungary this Ministry has the right to issue Apostille besides the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) does not have authority in this case, except the one in question No 4.*

4. Original copy or certified copy is suitable?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs certifies the original diplomas and the copies issued by the universities/high schools. The photocopies are only certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if they are stamped by the original seal of the Ministry of Education and the authenticity of the photocopies are verified by the signature of the Ministry of Education. *If a student made an authentic copy of the diploma at the notary, (so it has the authentic seal and the signature of the notary) then the competent authority of Ministry of Justice certifies the authenticity of the seal and the signature of the notary. In this case the assistance of the Ministry of Justice is needed because of the relevant Hungarian laws. These laws say that the seal and signature of a notary can only be certified by the Ministry of Justice.

5. On-line diplomas:

In Hungary the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not issued any Apostille yet on on-line diplomas. The on-line education functions in Hungary, but at the end of the education students receive a diploma similar to the diploma of those who take part in the normal form of education.

6. Information given to the public

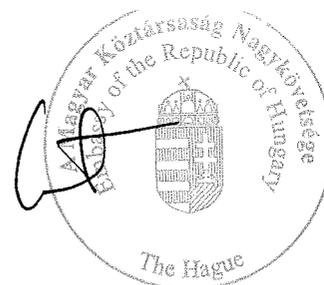
In the connection with the clients we experience similar problems. A major part of the clients do not know that the Apostille only certifies the authenticity of the seal and signature, not the content of the public document.

7. Do you have any comments concerning the Apostille issued on diplomas:

It would be useful to write a comment on the lower part of the Apostille that it only certifies the authenticity of the signature and the seal of the maker of the document.

The Embassy of the Republic of Hungary avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Honourable Permanent Bureau the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 1



A P O S T I L L E
(Convention de la Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. ország: **Magyar Köztársaság**
pays: **République de Hongrie**
country: **Republic of Hungary**

Ezt a közokiratot
Le présent acte public
This public document

2. írta alá:
a été signé par:
has been signed:

3. minőségében eljárva:
agissant en qualité:
acting in capacity of

4. az okirat pecsétjével (bélyegző-
lenyomatával) van ellátva:
est revêtu du (timbre ds):
bears the seal/stamp of:

Oktatási Minisztérium
Le Ministère de l'Éducation
Ministry of Education

Tanúsítja
Atteste

Certified

5. helység
a
at

Budapest

6. időpont: év 2005. hónap március nap 11
le: an mois jour
date: year month day

7. kiállító
par
by

Magyar Köztársaság Külügyminisztériuma
Le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de la République de Hongrie
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary

8. ügyszám 1:
sous No.:
No.:

ügyszám 2:
sous No.:
No.:

illeték:
taxe: 5.000,-Ft
fee:

9. pecsét (bélyegzőlenyomat)
sceau (timbre):
seal/stamp

10. aláírás
signature:
signature:

(Tiszai Zoltán)
vezető főtanácsos