

ANNEX

QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTION 1. In practice, what are the kinds of public documents (e.g., commercial documents, birth certificates) for which the competent authority(ies) in your state is (are) most commonly called upon to issue apostilles?

Local register offices as the competent authorities are most commonly asked to issue apostilles for commercial documents and documents related to international adoption.

QUESTION 2. Do you have statistics at your disposal with respect to the number of apostilles issued by your competent authorities (by type of document, if possible)?

There are 37 local register offices in Finland, of which the Helsinki office is the largest. Helsinki local register office issued 13 049 apostilles in year 2002. That is approximately half of the number in the whole country (25 000 – 30 000). Finland does not have exhaustive data from the whole country.

During the same year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs legalised approximately 6 000 documents.

QUESTION 3. Pursuant to the application by the European Community for membership of the Hague Conference, it will need to be determined to what extent the Hague Conventions, and in particular the "Apostille" Convention, should or could be extended to regional economic -integration organizations. Do you consider that it would be necessary or appropriate to adopt a protocol favouring the adoption of a clause similar to that of Article 18 of the Hague Convention on the law applicable to certain rights in respect of securities held with an intermediary?

Finland considers the adoption of such a clause appropriate.

QUESTION 4. Would you be in favour of the adoption of a protocol designed to enable a State with several units to extend the application of the Convention to one or several of its territorial units?

-

QUESTION 5. Can you specify the price charged by the competent authorities in your country for issuance of the apostille?

Apostille in Finland costs 8 euros.

QUESTION 6. In practice, have you encountered difficulties connected with the formal requirements provided for under the Convention?

No.

QUESTION 7. Practical information relating to the methods used to affix the apostille would be very useful. In particular, how do you proceed when the public document to receive the apostille has several pages?

In practical terms, all documents are bundled up and the apostille is placed as the last paper at the bottom of the pile. Finally, the whole pile is attached together with a signet.

QUESTION 8. Is consultation of the register or card index for verification requested frequently?

No. Such requests are extremely rare.

QUESTION 9. Do you use signatures by mechanical means, stamp and/or electronics, to fill in apostilles? If so, have security measures been taken to avoid any fraud? If so, which?

No electronic stamps or signatures are used in Finland. The apostilles carry a mechanical stamp and a handwritten signature, and the apostille is attached to the document with a signet.

QUESTION 10. Do you use an electronic medium to keep the "register or card index" provided for under Article 7 of the Convention? If so, do you also keep a paper copy of the entries and if not, do you contemplate doing so? What are your reasons?

There is no electronic card index. The apostille card index is a register of paper copies of the apostilles only.

QUESTION 11. Do you issue apostilles for electronic documents? If so, can you provide us with details of the manner of that issuance and if not, do you think this possibility can be contemplated?

Apostilles are not issued for electronic documents in Finland.