



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 29 September 2010**

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**NOTE**

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to:	Working Party on Civil Law Matters (General Questions)
Subject:	Letter from the United States Mission to the European Union on possible cooperation between the United States and Member States in the context of the 1993 Hague Convention on adoption

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**Cambodia**

- The United States agrees that a unified effort is necessary to provide a coordinated response to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in its desire to create a country-wide comprehensive child welfare system and an intercountry adoption process that fulfills Cambodia's obligations under the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention.
- The U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh regularly meets with representatives of countries interested in the inter-country adoption process in Cambodia (including France, the United Kingdom, and Germany) to discuss concerns present in the current inter-country adoption process.
- The United States is an active member of the Hague Permanent Bureau's receiving country Working Group in/for Cambodia. We encourage other EU member receiving states to join us in this inter-Embassy effort in Phnom Penh in urging the RGC to implement a Hague-Compliant system with a strong regulatory framework.

## Vietnam

- The United States agrees that a unified effort is necessary to assist the Government of Vietnam in its desire to revise its laws and regulations and to implement a child welfare system to provide for a transparent and ethical adoption system. These are needed for Vietnam to pursue its stated goal of joining the Hague Adoption Convention.
- The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi works closely with the Inter-Embassy Adoption Working Group (which includes Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden) to coordinate this effort.
- We appreciate continued discussions with other receiving countries and joint efforts to encourage Vietnam to establish a strong regulatory framework as well as more transparency and uniformity in fees. We hope that all receiving countries will adopt a coordinated approach to restarting adoptions once Vietnam becomes a full Hague member state. We also hope that the EU will support efforts to assist Vietnam in reforming its adoption system.
- The United States also remains concerned about the short implementation timeline that the GVN has proposed. , We are concerned that having receiving countries resume a large number of intercountry adoptions in Vietnam in 2011 may be problematic if the implementation phase is rushed. Implementation measures are key to building a strong system of safeguards against fraud.
- The United States encourages solidarity among receiving countries in reviewing Vietnam's compliance with the Convention if/when Vietnam joins the Convention.