



Chamber of Notaries
Tatari 25
10116 Tallinn
Estonia

29 July 2024

Dear Madam, Sir,

On behalf of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan, and Maqsut Narikbayev University, it is with great pleasure that we extend an invitation to Estonia to participate in the 13th International Forum on the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP), which will take place on **Monday 21 October and Tuesday 22 October 2024** in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Forum will be the first to be held in this region and will be jointly organised by the HCCH and the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan, in collaboration with the Maqsut Narikbayev University's Antenna of HCCH Matters in Central Asia.

Since its launch in 2006, the e-APP has become an integral part of the operation of the HCCH *Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* (1961 Apostille Convention). The e-APP is designed to ensure the practical, effective and secure operation of the Apostille Convention in an environment of constant technological development. The Astana Forum will provide a unique international platform to discuss the latest developments in relation to the e-APP worldwide.

In light of the experience of Estonia with the operation of the 1961 Apostille Convention and its successful implementation of the e-APP, we would also be honoured to have Estonia represented in one of the Expert Panels. Each panellist will be invited to give a short presentation on the operation of the e-APP system in their jurisdiction, followed by a further discussion of other e-APP solutions with members of the panel and a Q&A session with the participants. These exchanges will be an opportunity for participants to learn about the unifying power of the e-APP as a point of global convergence for different legal and administrative traditions. All panellists are kindly invited to join the Forum in person. Panellists and officials joining in person are required to make their own travel and hotel arrangements and cover all related costs. With a view to the practical organisation of this Forum, we would be grateful if you could inform the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH (via e-mail: secretariat@hcch.net) whether Estonia will be in a position to be represented by an expert panellist at the Forum by **Monday 26 August 2024**.

Other interested officials from Estonia may join the Forum. Participation in the Forum is free of charge. For further details please refer to the HCCH Apostille [web page](#).

A draft Agenda, including meeting and session times, will be available on the HCCH website in due course. This Agenda will be further updated as panellists are confirmed.

Please note that the Forum will be delivered in English and there will be no French or Spanish interpretation during the Forum.

Should you require further information about the Forum, please contact Secretary Ms Melissa Ford (mfo@hcch.net) or Legal Officer Mr Caio Gomes de Freitas (cgf@hcch.net) of the HCCH.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew the assurances of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'B' and a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Dr Christophe Bernasconi
Secretary General
HCCH