



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.7.2016
C(2016) 4437 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assemblée nationale for its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision authorising enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions on the property regimes of international couples, covering both matters of matrimonial property regimes and the property consequences of registered partnerships {COM(2016) 108 final}, the proposal for a Council Regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes {COM(2016) 106 final} and the proposal for a Council Regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of the property consequences of registered partnerships {COM(2016) 107 final}.

The Commission notes that Union citizens, making use of their right to free movement, increasingly move across national borders and that this leads to a greater number of couples with an international dimension. In the absence of common rules in the Member States on the matters covered by the enhanced cooperation, international couples face difficulties when managing their property or when sharing it in case of separation or the death of one of their members.

The Commission is pleased that the Assemblée nationale shares the view that enhanced cooperation in the area of the property regimes of international couples, covering both marriages and registered partnerships, is required to facilitate the free movement of citizens regardless of whether they are linked by marriage or by a registered partnership, and that therefore the two Regulations implementing the enhanced cooperation should be adopted simultaneously.

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After the European Parliament gave its consent on 8 June, the Council adopted the Decision authorising enhanced cooperation on 9 June. At the Council meeting, Estonia announced its intention to join soon the enhanced cooperation, which will bring to 19 the number of Member States participating therein. Following the opinion of the European Parliament, the Council adopted the Regulations implementing the enhanced cooperation on 24 June. The Regulations will fill an important gap in the field of Union family law.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Assemblée nationale to the enhanced cooperation and the Regulations implementing it and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*