The Protection of Vulnerable Adults in EU Member States.
The Added Value of EU Action in Light of the Hague Adults Convention

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Purpose and methodology

- To assess the potential added value and the possible content of EU measures regarding the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations, a survey has been conducted in three EU Member States.
Main findings of the survey

• In the Member States that are not a party to the Hague Adults Convention the situation appears to be unsatisfactory in general terms.

• The Member States that are already a party to the Convention experience some difficulties in this field only in those cases that require cooperation with countries that are *not* a party to the Convention.

The Hague Adults Convention convincingly addresses the basic issues on the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations.
The possible steps forward

The Union could, in principle:

- adopt a legislative measure that would broadly reproduce the Hague Adults Convention
- authorise Member States to ratify the Convention in the interest of the Union

The second option should be preferred since all Member States would enjoy the advantages of the Convention in both intra-European situations and in situations connected with a non-European country
The possible steps forward

- However, the possibility should be considered of enacting a legislative measure that would **supplement** the Convention in the relations among Member States and **fix its few weaknesses**.

- EU legislation could, *inter alia*:
  
a) create a “European certificate of Powers Granted for the Protection of an Adult”

b) allow the adult to choose, together with the law applicable to his or her lasting power of attorney, which court should possess jurisdiction.