

Authentic instruments and parenthood Between recognition and acceptance

EAPIL Webinar- 24 May 2023 *Patrick Wautelet*

The Proposal

Authentic instrument with no binding legal effect	Decision	Authentic instrument with binding legal effect	European Certificate of Parenthood
Acceptance (Art. 44-45)	Recognition (Art. 24-34 + Art. 40- 43))	Recognition (Art. 35 to 39 + Art. 40- 43)	<i>Effects</i> (Art. 46 to 57)
Public authority or other authority (Art 4(6))	Court (Art. 4(4))	Public authority or other authority (Art 4(6))	Issuing authority

Thou shall make a choice

Authentic instrument with no binding legal effect	Decision	Authentic instrument with binding legal effect
"Documents which do not establish parenthood with binding legal effect but which <i>provide evidence of the</i> <i>parenthood</i> established by other means" (Proposal, p. 13)	Decision of a court of a Member State (Art. 4(5))	"Documents establishing parenthood with binding legal effect" (Proposal, p. 13)





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Pour copie conforme, L'Officier de l'Elect Civil etiteguie :















Working with 2 categories – an assessment



Ordinary // exceptional case

Drawing the line between the 2 categories :

- Specific to each Member State requires detailed knowledge of law of MS of origin
- Specific to each parent
- One and the same birth certificate could have
 - · Constitutive effect for one parent; evidentiary effect for the other
 - Constitutive and evidentiary effects for one parent

Question : why limit acceptance to acts without binding effects?

Working with 2 categories – an assessment







Evidentiary effect

Acceptance (Art. 45) Identical evidentiary effect

Comparable effects

Member State B

Member State A



Member State A

Member State B





Member State B





Member State B

Member State A

The way forward?



- (1) Adapt the language
- (2) Address the alternative routes for acceptance
 - Explain when MS addressed may choose to give 'most comparable effects'
 - Clarify relationship between 'most comparable effects' and 'public policy'
 - Strike out the 'comparable effects' possibility
- (3) Consider merging the 2 categories of authentic instruments? An authentic instrument "has the same effects in another Member State as it has in the MS of origin"
- (4) Keep the users of the future Regulation in mind!