



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

Directorate C: Civil Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

**Unit C1: Civil Justice**

Brussels, 30 -11- 2007  
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Mr Christoph C. Paul and  
Dr. Elzbieta Dobiejewska  
BAFM  
Eisenacher Straße 1  
D-10777 Berlin  
Germany

Dear Mr Paul, dear Dr. Dobiejewska,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2007 addressed to President Barroso. President Barroso has asked me to reply to you.

With your letter you have enclosed a copy of the Wrocław Declaration on Mediation of Bi-national Disputes over Parents' and Children's Issues which German and Polish mediators adopted on 8 October 2007. We have taken note of the Wrocław Declaration and the five recommendations set out therein.

The European Commission promotes the use of mediation in the settlement of family disputes. It presented a proposal for a Directive on mediation in October 2004<sup>1</sup>. The proposal, which applies also to family law, seeks to promote the use of mediation and a sound relationship between civil proceedings and alternative means of dispute resolution. The proposal is currently discussed by the Council and the European Parliament and I am hopeful that it will be adopted in the near future.

Following the adoption of the Directive on mediation, it will be incumbent on the European Commission to monitor its implementation in the Member States. We are therefore grateful for any complementary initiative which promotes the use of mediation and takes account of the specific characteristics of international family disputes.

Yours sincerely,

Salla Saastamoinen  
Head of Unit

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2004) 718 final.