

UK ACCEDES TO HAGUE CONVENTION OF 2 JULY 2019 ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN JUDGMENTS IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS

On 27 June 2024, the UK acceded to the Hague Convention of 2 July 2019 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters (“**Hague 2019**”). The Convention will come into force for the UK on 1 July 2025 and apply to judgments given in proceedings started after that date.

Acceding to Hague 2019

Hague 2019 provides for the mutual enforcement of judgments between the UK and other contracting states (including EU member states) in proceedings started after the Convention comes into force for the UK. It covers judgments deriving from, for example, both asymmetric and non-exclusive choice of court agreements, plugging some of the remaining gaps in the ability to enforce UK judgments in the EU post Brexit. See our previous briefing [here](#) for more information.

Further to the UK signing Hague 2019 on 12 January 2024, the Ministry of Justice laid before Parliament the statutory instrument necessary for the UK to accede (the “**Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments (2019 Hague Convention etc.) Regulations 2024**”) on 29 April 2024. The UK’s final step towards implementation took place with ratification on 27 June 2024.

In theory, the EU, which is already a party to Hague 2019, could use article 29(2) to block the Convention as between the UK and EU before it comes into force in the UK next July. However, it is very unlikely that it will do so, given that Hague 2005, which applies where there is an exclusive jurisdiction clause, already applies between the EU and the UK, and the EU did not block the Convention’s coming into force with regard to Ukraine last year.

Once in force in the UK, the Convention should provide greater legal certainty that judgments from the UK courts will be recognised and enforced in other states worldwide, and vice versa. Whilst it will still be twelve months until this happens, the application of the Convention depends upon the date of commencement of proceedings, not the date of the contract or other relevant events.

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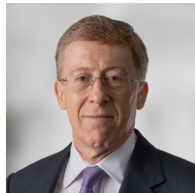
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