

Protecting Family Life and Children's Rights

Insights from Recent ECtHR Case Law

Online, 24-25 February 2026

Morning sessions from 9:00 until 13:00 CET

ONLINE

EXCELLENCE IN EUROPEAN LAW

Speakers

Lídia Balogh, Research Fellow, Institute for Legal Studies, ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest

Samuel Fulli-Lemaire, Professor of Private Law, University Panthéon-Assas; bwg Family Law Firm, Paris

Cristina González Beilfuss, Professor of Private International Law, University of Barcelona

Joanna Guttzeit, Family Judge, Berlin's Liaison Office to the EU, Brussels

Tine Van Hof, Senior Researcher and Guest Professor, University of Antwerp; Scientific Advisor, Tiberghien Lawyers, Brussels

Francesca Maoli, Associate Professor in EU Law, San Raffaele University, Rome

Nuala Mole, Founder and Senior Lawyer, The AIRE Centre – Advice on Individual Rights in Europe, London

Eva Petrová, Chairperson of the Committee for the Rights of the Child; Deputy Government Agent for Representing the Czech Republic before the ECtHR, Ministry of Justice, Prague

Nadia Rusinova, Attorney-at-Law; Lecturer, The Hague University

Jens M. Scherpe, Professor of Comparative Law, Director of the Nordic Centre for Comparative and International Family Law (NorFam), University of Aalborg

Pavel Simon, Judge, Chairman of the Senate, Member of the Grand Senate of the Civil and Commercial Division, Supreme Court of the Czech Republic, Brno

Key topics

- The child's right to be heard: landmark decision
- Child abduction within a human rights framework
- Foster care and adoption
- Co-motherhood
- Gender identity
- Surrogacy: new case law and legislation

Language
English

Event number
126D019

Organiser
Dr Angelika Fuchs (ERA)

With the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union

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Tuesday, 24 February 2026

08:45 Connecting to the platform

09:00 **Opening of the seminar**
Angelika Fuchs

I. THE HEARING OF THE CHILD: FOCUS ON CHILD ABDUCTION

Moderator: *Joanna Guttzeit*

09:05 **Right of the child to be heard and the duties of the child's representative in judicial proceedings**
Nuala Mole

09:25 Discussion

09:45 **The influence of the ECtHR on international child abduction law**
Tine Van Hof

10:05 Discussion

10:25 Break

Moderator: *Nadia Rusinova*

10:40 **Procedural safeguards in international child abduction cases: cutting-edge case law with a focus on *M.P. v Greece***
Francesca Maoli

11:00 Discussion

11:20 **Hands-on experience and exchange: The protection of the rights and best interests of the child in abduction proceedings**
- *Nadia Rusinova*
- *Joanna Guttzeit*
- *Francesca Maoli*
- *Tine Van Hof*

11:40 Discussion and short break

II. GENDER REASSIGNMENT

12:10 **Gender identity issues in recent ECtHR case law**
Pavel Simon

12:30 Discussion

13:00 End of the first conference day

Objective

This online conference will discuss recent developments in family law, focusing primarily on the intersection between family law and human rights standards.

Participants will gain insight into landmark judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), addressing critical issues such as the child's right to be heard, international child abduction, foster care frameworks, and adoption processes.

Additionally, the conference will explore emerging topics including legal recognition of co-motherhood, as well as gender re-assignment and surrogacy.

Who should attend?

Family lawyers, lawyers in private practice and judges involved in family litigation, ministry officials, representatives of NGOs and children's rights organisations, academics.

Interactive Online Seminar

The online seminar will be hosted on the **Zoom** videoconferencing platform. You will be able to interact immediately and directly with our top-level speakers and other participants. We will make the most of the technical tools available to deliver an intensive, interactive experience. The highest security settings will be applied to ensure that you can participate safely in this high-quality online seminar.

CPD

ERA's programmes meet the standard requirements for recognition as Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Participation in the full programme of this event corresponds to **7 CPD hours**.
A certificate of participation for CPD purposes with indication of the number of training hours completed will be issued on request. CPD certificates must be requested at the latest 14 days after the event.

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

08:45 Connecting to the platform

III. BECOMING A CO-MOTHER

Moderator: *Samuel Fulli-Lemaire*

09:00 **Navigating co-motherhood in recent ECtHR judgments**
Cristina González Beilfuss

09:25 Discussion

IV. FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

09:45 **Current ECtHR rulings on foster care and adoption**
Eva Petrová

10:10 Discussion

10:30 Break

V. SURROGACY

Moderator: *Cristina González Beilfuss*

10:45 **The impact of surrogacy on women and children in light of international human rights standards**
Lídia Balogh

11:00 Discussion

11:15 **Surrogacy in landmark decisions of the ECtHR**
Samuel Fulli-Lemaire

11:40 Discussion and short break

12:10 **Recent developments on surrogacy in national legislations**
Jens M. Scherpe

12:30 Discussion

13:00 End of the seminar

For programme updates: **www.era.int**
Programme may be subject to amendment.

Your contacts



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Save the date

Annual Conference on European Succession Law
Barcelona/Online, 21-22 May 2026

Annual Conference on European Family Law
Trier/Online, 24-25 September 2026



Times indicated are CET
(Central European Time)

Registration

Protecting Family Life and Children's Rights

Online, 24 – 25 February 2026 / Event Number: 126D019

Registration for the above-mentioned event (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title ❑ Ms ❑ Mr Other

First Name

Surname

Organisation

Position Tel.

Department

E-Mail

Street/No.

Postcode/City Country

Different billing address (if applicable)

Organisation

First Name

Surname

Street/No.

Postcode/City Country

Tax number

VAT number

Reference

E-Mail

Certificate: ❑ **I wish to receive a participation certificate for CPD purposes (with indication of the training hours completed) and agree for my participation to be tracked for this purpose.**

Registration fee

Fee	Standard	EU & ERA patrons*	Young lawyers & other groups**	Discount Voucher Code
Registration by 24/01/2026	€ 495.00 ☐	€ 400.00 ☐	€ 400.00 ☐	€ 400.00 ☐
Registration after 24/01/2026	€ 550.00 ☐	€ 440.00 ☐	€ 440.00 ☐	€ 440.00 ☐

* EU and ERA Patrons

- Staff of European Union institutions and agencies; Staff of ERA's patrons: all EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden), Albania, United Kingdom, Scotland, Serbia, the German states and the City of Trier.

** Young lawyers & other groups

- For young lawyers up to and including 30 years of age (important: the participant must provide a copy or details of his or her passport or identity card on request);
- Full-time staff of universities or comparable academic institutions;
- Staff of charitable organisations or comparable institutions

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Registration

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ERA
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Videoconferencing Platform

Zoom

Language

English

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