



ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED ADOPTION ORGANISATIONS

## **A History of EurAdopt :**

*30 years of intercountry adoption in the best interests  
of children*

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## **A History of EurAdopt – 30 years of intercountry adoption in the best interests of children**

### **Preface**

This report is to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 of EurAdopt's official formation in 1993 as a non-governmental membership organisation comprising adoption accredited bodies operating in Europe.

The authors are grateful to the previous Chairs and other officers of EurAdopt who contributed significantly to the report. It is written from the perspective of member mediating agencies whose services hold the best interests of children at the heart of their practice. We are aware of the great responsibility each member agency has to the adopted children it serves and we appreciate that behind this account of EurAdopt's history and statistical overview are countless unique and individual adoption stories. We are grateful to the adopted people working within EurAdopt's member agencies who reviewed and commented on earlier drafts.

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## Background to EurAdopt

In the 1940s and 1950s, movement of children through intercountry adoption within Europe was coupled with a movement from Europe toward the United States. From the 1960s onward, most European countries became receiving States from an increasing number of States of origin: from Asia, Latin America and from Ethiopia<sup>1</sup>.

From 1950s the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) , International Social Service (ISS), and the Council of Europe all recognised that child migration through intercountry adoption was growing and was largely unregulated. There were no international instruments nor guidelines and states laws on adoption varied widely. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in a special message on 20 May 1954, proclaimed its intention "to study the means of unifying and harmonising the legislation of member states" after which the Social Committee and the Legal Commission initiated work to "reflect upon, define and establish statistics" on intercountry adoption<sup>2</sup>.

In November 1959, at the UN General Assembly, the international community unanimously adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It also proposed to draw up a regional convention with model regulations whose principles would apply to all states. The UN Technical Assistance Administration, in collaboration with the Swiss government, the (ISS) and the International Union for Child Welfare (IUCW) held a seminar in Leysin in May 1960 . It was reserved for those who were experts in the field and in a position to disseminate the output in their respective States. These comprised social workers dealing with adoption, legal experts, and civil servants. The Council of Europe and Hague Conference on Private International Law and the National Catholic Welfare Conference sent observers.<sup>3</sup> There followed several multi-lateral Conventions and agreements, e.g. Hague Convention 1965 <sup>4</sup> , European Convention 1967 <sup>5</sup> Inter-American Convention 1984 <sup>6</sup> and other bi-lateral agreements.

In the 1970s data on intercountry adoption were elusive. Receiving states' data were available only for USA, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, and Norway<sup>7</sup> . There was a groundswell of concern about intercountry adoption as a global activity where there was the potential for children to become commodities with different "market values" as a result of the practices and inconsistent professional fees involved. <sup>8</sup> An international meeting was hosted in Milan in September 1971 by the Sangemini Study Centre, Italy. It was chaired by Mrs. Angie Brooks of Liberia, the president of the 1969 United Nations General Assembly, and attended by delegates from 176 countries including from Europe. The meeting resolved to petition the UN to sponsor an international conference for a world agreement on adoption law. A meeting convened by the UN in Geneva in 1978 agreed the proposals that were later

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<sup>1</sup> Yves Denéchère. Regulating a particular form of migration at the European level; the Council of Europe and intercountry adoptions (1950-1967). Peoples and borders; movement of persons in Europe, to Europe, from Europe (1945-2015), Nov 2014, Padova, Italy. Halshs-01101137.

<sup>2</sup> Op cit

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, Innocenti Digest, Intercountry Adoption, December 1998

<sup>4</sup> Convention of 15 November 1965 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law and Recognition of Decrees Relating to Adoptions, which was signed by Austria, Switzerland and United Kingdom but never entered into force.

<sup>5</sup> European Convention on the Adoption of Children, open to the signature of Council of Europe Members

<sup>6</sup> Inter-American Convention on Conflict of Laws concerning the Adoption of Minors 1984, EIF 1988

<sup>7</sup> Private communication Peter Selman

<sup>8</sup> Adoptionscentrum Sweden records

decided upon in "The UN Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children with Special Reference to Fostering and Adoption" 1986. In 1982, a number of NGO's including the International Council for Social Welfare (ICSW), ISS, as well as the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs proposed guidelines for intercountry adoption based on the draft UN Declaration. "The Guidelines on Procedures for Intercountry Adoption" were formally presented and published in 1992 by ISS, Geneva, in collaboration with Adoptionscentrum, Sweden. These guidelines for intercountry adoption were updated and further developed to embrace national adoption and foster care and were endorsed during an ICSW conference in Hong Kong in 1996. They were published jointly by ICSW and ISS in 1997 as "The Child's Right to Grow Up in a Family. The Guidelines for practice on National and Intercountry Adoption and Foster Family Care"

Adoption agencies in Europe, several of which had been active participants in the European and global initiatives, were taking steps in parallel at agency level. In 1980, the Board of the Swedish Adoptions centrum, a founding member of EurAdopt, decided upon standards that would regulate that agency's activities overseas and the following year an Ethics Working Group was formed comprising the eight Swedish agencies. From 1981, agencies from Sweden, other Nordic countries, and subsequently the Netherlands, held regular meetings, usually every two years to discuss matters of common interests. One principal drive was to develop a set of common guidelines by which these agencies would operate and be held to account. This group also called for the introduction of controls on private/independent adoptions, i.e., those arranged by individual potential adopters without mediation through adoption agencies or state bodies. In 1985 Adoptions centrum Sweden began working on a document concerning Financial Factors "in order to find principles for evaluation of costs in different countries"<sup>9</sup> In 1988 the "common rules" for Swedish organisations was accepted by all agencies in the network.

In 1987, a Conference was held in Vienna to follow up on the UN Declaration 1986 where plans for a new intercountry adoption Convention were beginning to be openly discussed. The first working session of the Hague Convention was held in 1990 and the European organisations and the Nordic Adoption Council] (NAC) "whose ethical rules and practices significantly pre-dated the Hague Convention",<sup>10</sup> were participants. Observer status was offered in 1992, conditional upon this collaborative network establishing itself as a formal non-governmental organisation. EurAdopt was that organisation .

### **The formation of EurAdopt as a Non-Governmental Organisation**

In 1991, at a meeting in Denmark the European agencies agreed the transition from a collaborative network to a formal organisation. This was given effect in 1993 in Lage Vuursche, The Netherlands, when 20 agencies from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden signed the common Ethical Rules. From the outset EurAdopt has collated statistics on an annual basis on the intercountry adoptions each member organisation has mediated. The data includes the State of origin of the children concerned, their gender, age and whether they were adopted alone or together with siblings.

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<sup>9</sup> Elisabet Sandberg - extract from Adoptionscentrum Sweden archives

<sup>10</sup> Kerstin Sterky, Chair EurAdopt 1994-1996,

EurAdopt members declared their adherence to the principles set out in:

The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The 1986 UN Declaration on Social and Legal Principles Relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally

The 1982 ICSW Guidelines on Procedures for Intercountry Adoption.

The 1993 Hague Convention on Co-operation and Protection of Children in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

The organisations objectives were to:

- advocate intercountry adoption as an option in child welfare when pursued in the best interests of the child, in the context of subsidiarity.
- establish common ethical rules and promote their application.
- promote co-operation between governments and authorised non-governmental organisations.
- share knowledge in matters of intercountry adoption between participating organisations.
- work for improved legislation and other measures for the protection of children
- promote the ratification of or accession to the Hague Convention <sup>11</sup> and to encourage research<sup>12</sup>

## **EurAdopt Members, Countries and Agencies**

In its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, EurAdopt has 24 organisations in membership, from 13 countries. Of the 20 signatory agencies ( from 9 countries) in 1993, only France is no longer represented. Organisations from Austria [2005], Germany [1999], Luxembourg [2012] and Malta [2019] have joined along the way, and those from Cyprus [1996] and Spain [1997] who became members in the interim have ceased to be members [in 2007 & 2017 respectively]. A full listing of countries can be found in Table 5 in the Appendix, along with the agencies mediating most adoptions in 1993, 1999,2004, 2006,2007,2010, 2016 AND 2020,

As the numbers of intercountry adoptions have fallen (see below) it has been noticeable that the number of organisations providing intercountry adoption services in member countries has reduced. Some countries have seen a reduction in the number of accredited bodies in recent years with agencies merging or ceasing to provide intercountry adoption services. Denmark for example now has only one mediating agency {DIA} and it is anticipated that this pattern will be replicated in other countries in the near future.

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<sup>11</sup> Kerstin Sterky, Chair EurAdopt 1994-1996,

<sup>12</sup> Elizabet Sandberg, Chair EurAdopt, 2006-2008

EUROPEAN & EURADOPT ADOPTIONS 1993-2019												
States ranked by no of Inter-country adoptions in 2004												
STATE	1993	EURADOPT		2004	EURADOPT		2010	EURADOPT		2019	EURADOPT	
	ALL	No.	%	ALL	No.	%	ALL	No.	%	ALL	No.	%
Spain				5,541	54	10%	2,891	141	5%	375	0	
France	2,750	117	4%	4,079	117	3%	3,508	28	<1%	421	0	
Italy	1,696	100	6%	3,402	1,729	51%	4,130	312	8%	1,205	54	12%
N'lands	594	410	69%	1,307	1,177	90%	705	575	82%	145	89	61%
Sweden	934	737	79%	1,109	987	89%	728	643	88%	170	170	100
Germany				744	60	8%	515	198	38%	85	32	38%
Norway	543	519	96%	706	706	100	343	343	100	89	89	100
Denmark	509	473	93%	528	528	100	419	419	100	46	46	100
Belgium	360	183	51%	470	269	57%	388	388	28%	104	27	26%
Finland	103	56	54%	289	127	44%	160	160	83%	67	64	96%
Iceland	11	11	100	29	28	97%	18	18	100	5	5	100

### States of origin 1993-2021

China is the State of origin sending most children for transnational adoption in this period both worldwide and to Europe. This starts in the early 1990s when China first recognised and recorded intercountry adoptions. By 1996 the annual number of adoptions worldwide was 4,838 and numbers peaked in 2005 when there were 14,484. Thereafter numbers fell year by year to 1,065 in 2019. Adoptions from Russia also rose in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union, reaching 6,157 in 1999 and peaking at 9,450 in 2004. Numbers fell to 1,058 in 2014 and 229 in 2019.

For EurAdopt countries, the annual number of adoptions from China rose from 96 in 1993 to 1,949 in 2004 after which numbers fell year by year to 2019. Adoptions from South Africa only started in 1999 but then grew rapidly. In 2021 South Africa and Thailand were the major States of origin.

Full details of the key States of origin can be found in Tables 1 and 2 in the Appendix of tables.

## **Collaboration within EurAdopt**

EurAdopt is registered in the Hague, Netherland and is governed by Dutch law. Its permanent secretariat is provided by the member organisation from the Netherlands, Wereldkinderen. Its governance documents comprise: Articles of Association, Internal Rules, and Ethical Rules.

To be eligible for membership organisations should be involved in intercountry adoption placements for at least 3 years in their own countries in direct cooperation with authorities or accredited bodies in States of origin. They must be non-governmental organisations which are committed to upholding EurAdopt's Ethical Rules.

Collaboration takes many forms:

- A General Meeting of representatives from all member organisations is hosted by a EurAdopt member organisation, usually every two years, at which issues of common concern and interest are discussed in addition to conducting the business of the organisation. Originally, the Conference took the form of one "Open Day" associated with the General Meeting but since 2012 it has extended into an event over 2 days which has naturally enabled a more comprehensive programme to be offered (See Table 3 in the Appendix ]
- The EurAdopt Council is the governing body of the organisation between General Meetings and meets in person annually. The Council comprises one representative and a nominated substitute of each country which is reflected in EurAdopt membership. Since 2020, an adoption researcher from Netherlands has been co-opted onto the Council. There was a gap of 3 years occasioned by the pandemic when it was not possible to meet in person, but these resumed in Denmark in 2022. With the pandemic, however, came greater possibilities of virtual meetings. The Council took the decision to meet virtually every 3-4 months to attend to business as it arose and to share experiences of the challenges and changes to intercountry adoption procedures and practices which resulted from travel and other restrictions, and to provide a forum for mutual support. Regular virtual meetings have continued, even although meetings in person have resumed.
- There is also access to a social media group "Signal" to share information and advice in real time and a Dropbox where members can share relevant reports, research studies, presentations, and other documents of interest.

Working and Interest Groups are convened from time to time with members working together on areas of common concern or where there is deemed to be a gap in knowledge which EurAdopt members can fill drawing upon their own experience in mediating intercountry adoptions. This element of collaboration was much in evidence leading up to EurAdopt's formation and has continued to date. In the days prior to social media, staff from member agencies would co-ordinate their travel to States of origin in order that in person membership meetings could take place.

One previous Chair reported that the collaboration within EurAdopt has been "very important to suppress the tendencies to competition for adoption contacts, promote ethics in adoption and to help us all develop our philosophy on adoption and to encourage research".

Continuity of core agency membership and personnel has engendered a collective understanding of the cultural context and processes of adoption in a broad range of States of origin as well as in the receiving States represented in EurAdopt membership. It has also resulted in an appreciation



over time of the life-long and, indeed, generational impact of intercountry adoption. Such appreciation has been greatly enhanced by the fact that people with lived experience of adoption increasingly hold diverse roles in accredited agencies and contribute to the design, development, and delivery of their intercountry adoption services.

### **Collaboration with other bodies**

From the outset there has been overlap of membership and very close collaboration between EurAdopt and Nordic Adoption Council, working towards harmonising practice and developing initiatives together. Their shared philosophy held greater influence when acting together prior to the Hague Convention, during its creation and when promoting the importance of its ratification.<sup>13</sup>

Particularly in the early years there was considerable communication and dialogue with the Hague Permanent Bureau, UNICEF, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, European Union, European Parliament, Commission of Europe, and States' adoption Central Authorities.

### **EurAdopt and the Hague Conference on Private International Law**

Principal amongst EurAdopt's collaboration has been its contribution to the development of the Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Hague Convention).

EurAdopt had a real voice in the preparation of policy, regulations and in the concept of the Hague Convention<sup>14</sup>. It proved to be a respected contributor in the creation of the Convention and after its coming into effect.<sup>15</sup> Several previous Chairs emphasised the importance of EurAdopt's work in this context and in particular the relevance of EurAdopt's Ethical Rules and its Financial Factors document which it was keen to promote.

The Nordic and European organisations had, together, a knowledge of the practical operation of intercountry adoptions in a great number of countries and could compare such practices. This proved to be a valued perspective as the Hague Convention was being developed.<sup>16</sup>

EurAdopt has exercised its observer status with representatives attending each Hague Convention Special Commission meeting since 1994 (see Appendix Table 6). In advance of the Special Commission in 2005 there was a pre meeting between EurAdopt, ISS, UNICEF and UNCRC to share common concerns following which EurAdopt, together with NAC, submitted 7 proposal papers (see section on Publications) for consideration during the session. EurAdopt representatives have served on Expert Working Groups<sup>17</sup>

Maria Doré, Chair of EurAdopt from 2016-2020, reports later involvement with the Hague via the Permanent Bureau Expert Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (following the meeting in The Hague, 8-9 October 2012). In 2014 EurAdopt was invited to participate in a smaller

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<sup>13</sup> Elisabet Sandberg, Chair EurAdopt 2006-8

<sup>14</sup> Lucile Van Tuyl Chair EurAdopt 1998-2000 and 2004-2006

<sup>15</sup> Elisabet Sandberg, Chair EurAdopt 2006-2008

<sup>16</sup> Elisabet Sandberg, Chair EurAdopt 2006-8

<sup>17</sup> Expert Group on Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption

working group to assist the Permanent Bureau in drafting a model survey for adoptive parents. In 2015 the EurAdopt members assisted in the pilot phase of this survey. A meeting of the Experts' Group took place in the Hague in connection with the Special Commission in June 2015. Following the meeting the Model Survey was adjusted by the Permanent Bureau. A teleconference was held by the Experts' Group on 11 December 2015 when it was concluded, to present the survey to the Council on General Affairs and Policy. On 15-17 March 2016, the Council on General Affairs and Policy endorsed the Model Survey for Adoptive Parents developed by the Experts' 'Group and also encouraged the Central Authorities under the 1993 Convention to administer the Survey and to complete the Tables on Cost.'

Maria Doré also participated as an independent observer at the fourth meeting of the Special Commission in the Hague on 8-12 June 2015. EurAdopt was acknowledged during the meeting for its active role in the Experts' Group. She also made a speech on " Adjusting to the changing landscape of intercountry adoption" and participated in the panel of the ROUND TABLE 3: " Addressing the challenges resulting from the changing landscape of intercountry adoption: how do actors respond?" at the fourth meeting of the Special Commission in the Hague on 8 June 2015.

The most recent Special Commission was held online in 2022 and was attended by representatives from both NAC and EurAdopt which separately made interventions. "EurAdopt's Demand for Minimum Standards for Post Adoption Services 2019" was acknowledged in Special Commission 2022 papers<sup>18</sup>

### **Publications for internal reference and for wider dissemination**

These include:

- Guidelines on financial factors in co-operation with counterparts and co-workers in countries of origin, adopted 1988, amended 1998 and 2002. The 2002 version was presented to the Hague Special Commission 2005.<sup>19</sup> It is no longer in publication having been superseded by the Hague Permanent Bureau's publication on the subject.
- Guidelines for Representatives 2016
- Principles for EurAdopt members related to Search, Knowledge, and Reunion
- Working Documents submitted jointly with Nordic Adoption Council to the Hague Convention Special Commission 2005
  - WD1 Safeguards in Individual Adoption Cases
  - WDII Post-Adoption Services in the Receiving Countries
  - WDIII Suggested Criteria for Accreditation of Bodies in Receiving States Performing Functions and Duties under the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention
  - WDIV Accreditation and Authorization
  - WDV Origin and Personal History of Adoptee, Principles for Search, Knowledge, and Reunion,
  - WDVI Good practice in Economic Matters in Intercountry Adoption
  - WDVII Expediency in the Child's Best Interests
  
- EurAdopt's Demand for Minimum Standards for Post Adoption Services 2019
- Manifesto Post Adoption Services
- Annex EurAdopt Post Adoption Statement

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<sup>18</sup> Discussion Paper "Post Adoption Matters" , Prel Doc no 8 of May 2022

<sup>19</sup> Minutes of EurAdopt General Meeting 2004

## Conclusions

It is evident from the reports of previous EurAdopt Chairs that the individual member agencies of EurAdopt (principally from the Nordic countries and the Netherlands) had been influential in the field of intercountry adoption for many years prior to EurAdopt's formation. They had identified the challenges inherent in the growth of intercountry adoption and responded by developing ethical guidelines for actors to work to in their delivery of intercountry adoption services. Once formed, EurAdopt alongside Nordic Adoption Council (NAC) who have member agencies in common, was recognised for the collective specialist knowledge and experience of its membership and was granted Observer status at the sessions of the Hague Convention. EurAdopt was actively represented in the first working session and thereafter leading up to and following the Convention's entering into force. It has attended every Special Commission, has been involved in the Convention's Expert and Working Group including the 2023 Working Group on Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption. Its work on Post Adoption Services was recommended reading for the Special Commission 2022.

Through its involvement in the Hague sessions, it has explicitly met its aim of "advocating for intercountry adoption as an option in child welfare when pursued in the best interests of the child, in the context of subsidiarity". The organisation's Ethical Rules have been long established and membership of EurAdopt requires the adherence to these in all aspects of member's service delivery. EurAdopt has also taken the lead in addressing the financial aspects of intercountry adoption, both within EurAdopt and in the context of the Expert Working Group at The Hague.

EurAdopt's core membership has been remarkably stable over the years, and this underpins one of EurAdopt's strengths, namely the collaboration between member agencies, the sharing of knowledge gained from experience and research and to promote research-informed adoption practice. The peer support that this provides was particularly in evidence during the challenges of the recent COVID 19 pandemic. The regular Conferences which have developed in scope in recent years ensure dissemination to a wider audience of intercountry adoption actors through Europe and beyond, to practitioners, policy makers, State parties and academics for example.

Activity designed to promote the ethical framework to which it adheres was more in evidence in earlier years when EurAdopt may also have had more of a presence on the international stage. The Hague Convention now has 105 Contracting States, and it may be that EurAdopt as an organisation is now working more for improved legislation and other measures for the protection of children through its links to the Permanent Bureau and its attendance at Special Commissions. At an individual member agency level, however, there is considerable engagement with Central Authorities in order to influence policy. Central Authorities' attendance at EurAdopt Conferences has been important. One of EurAdopt's early aims was to see the end of independent adoptions and it is disappointing that these continue to be widespread. It is interesting, however, to note that in some EurAdopt member States all adoptions are carried out by the accredited bodies.

The adoptions mediated by EurAdopt have been a small percentage of the number of children adopted into Europe annually. However, the number of adoptions from some States of origin to EurAdopt member agencies have remained consistent over many years and have not been subject to the frequent pattern of peaks and troughs. Some States of origin place children exclusively with EurAdopt

member agencies rather than with other European organisations. As the number of intercountry adoptions have dramatically reduced globally, the emphasis of EurAdopt and its member agencies is shifting towards post adoption services. EurAdopt's Post Adoption Manifesto is influential and member agencies are drawing upon this document in their dialogue with their respective Central Authorities,

In its 30<sup>th</sup> year EurAdopt's expertise is as relevant as ever and it can be argued that with the reduction in number of intercountry adoptions the collective experience of its members becomes more important if agencies are to maintain a broad overview of current challenges and the policy development and service delivery that is required to meet them.

## **APPENDIX - DETAILED TABLES**

**Table 1 SUMMARY DATA 1993-2021- Member agencies; States; total adoptions and five States of origin with highest number of adoptions**

**Table 2 SEVEN FURTHER STATES OF ORIGIN**

**Table 3 EURADOPT CONFERENCES 1993-2024**

**Table 4. EURADOPT CHAIRS 1993-to date**

**Table 5. MEMBER AGENCIES and STATES**

**Table 6. EURADOPT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW**

**November 2023**

**Table 1 SUMMARY DATA 1993-2021- Member agencies; States; total adoptions and five States of origin with highest number of adoptions**

YEAR	Agencies & States			Top 5 States of Origin [Peak year in Italics]					
	Agency	State	IN & <u>OUT</u>	Total ICA	ICA from China	ICA from Colombia	ICA from Korea	ICA from India	ICA from Ethiopia
1993	20	9		2,606	96	631	340	353	112
1994	21	9		2,728	205	549	395	358	85
1995	21	9		2,811	299	521	405	403	93
1996	22	10	Cyprus	2,901	344	467	387	243	104
1997	23	11	Spain	2,955	380	457	333	321	154
1998	23	12	L'bourg	3,409	616	493	400	367	144
1999	24	13	Germany	3,694	621	531	471	420	164
2000	26	13		3,613	886	546	398	376	182
2001	23	12		3,579	989	547	391	331	166
2002	26	13		3,859	1,401	540	310	237	175
2003	26	13		3,789	1,535	457	293	190	164
2004	28	13		4,204	1,949	372	282	231	272
1993-2004				40,148	9,321	6,111	4,405	3,830	1,815
2005	29	14	Austria	4,113	1,842	277	251	194	365
2006	25	14		3,094	1,140	268	213	124	285
2007	24	12	<u>Austria</u> <u>Cyprus</u>	2,881	1,026	253	144	142	314
2008	28	12		2,807	832	256	168	101	338
2009	28	12		3,161	869	347	186	112	395
2010	27	12		2,930	790	414	150	65	333
2011	26	12		2,455	469	400	124	65	292
2012	26	12		2,026	478	224	94	49	179
2013	27	12		1,591	358	99	33	21	91
2014	27	12		1,419	305	118	65	25	39
2015	26	11	<u>France</u>	1,243	249	107	34	32	25
2016	28	13	Austria UK	1,062	127	93	68	39	6
2017	24	13	France <u>Spain</u>	875	82	104	57	49	6
2018	23	12	<u>France</u>	686	66	73	58	47	0
2019	23	13	Malta	651	48	80	33	30	0
2020	23	13		306	2	48	22	18	0
2021	24	13		454	0	48	33	36	0
05-21				31,762	8,683	3,209	1,751	1,149	2,654
TOTAL				71,910	18,004	9,320	6,156	4,979	4,469
					China	Colombia	Korea	India	Ethiopia

**Table 2 SEVEN FURTHER STATES OF ORIGIN**

		<i>Peak Years highlighted in Italics</i>						
YEAR	Total	Thailand	S. Africa	Vietnam	Russia	Brazil	Philippines	Taiwan
1993	2,606	115	---	112	51	184	74	---
1995	2,811	84	---	140	54	198	53	2
1996	2,901	103	---	222	91	182	48	2
1997	2,955	120	---	235	111	168	40	---
1998	3,409	109	---	308	135	133	45	2
1999	3,694	149	1	240	120	131	55	2
2000	3,613	134	12	184	96	104	45	1
2001	3,579	124	76	149	73	87	67	---
2002	3,859	113	109	163	87	70	45	60
2003	3,789	114	131	47	101	108	48	86
2004	4,204	124	159	13	135	81	63	58
1993 - 2004	40,148	1,402	488	2,007	1,123	1,647	636	214
2005	4,113	120	201	153	111	62	45	46
2006	3,094	111	207	106	108	65	51	57
2007	2,881	145	175	109	52	68	35	54
2008	2,807	124	178	87	118	73	35	77
2009	3,161	132	216	113	150	47	55	88
2010	2,930	84	163	40	162	24	59	95
2011	2,455	61	150	25	190	42	44	57
2012	2,026	97	123	5	121	31	57	67
2013	1,591	58	152	0	89	30	49	51
2014	1,419	93	142	13	35	12	49	71
2015	1,243	67	121	27	37	24	35	74
2016	1,062	123	126	24	23	18	56	82
2017	875	70	117	33	6	9	51	79
2018	686	78	78	19	5	2	37	55
2019	651	93	108	9	4	6	28	77
2020	306	34	36	7	4	0	10	32
2021	454	91	89	13	3	4	22	29
2005 - 2021	31,762	1,581	2,382	783	1,218	517	718	1,091
1993 - 2021	71,910	2,933	2,870	2,790	2,341	2,164	1,354	1,305
YEAR[S]	TOTAL	Thailand	S. Africa	Vietnam	Russia	Brazil	Philippines	Taiwan

**Table 3 EURADOPT CONFERENCES 1993-2024**

*Informal Network of European NGOs exists from late 1970s*

<b>1991</b>	<b>Copenhagen, Denmark – decision to create EurAdopt</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>Lage Vuursche, Netherlands – Articles of Association and Ethical Rules approved - observers at Hague Convention</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>Marstrand, Nr. Göteborg, Sweden</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>Antwerp, Belgium</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>Florence, Italy</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>Vaasa, Finland</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>Aarhus, Denmark</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Dusseldorf, Germany</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Barcelona, Spain</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>Venice, Italy</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>Oslo, Norway</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Berlin, Germany</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Stockholm, Sweden</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Utrecht, Netherlands</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Milan, Italy</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>Copenhagen, Denmark – postponed</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Copenhagen, Denmark</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>Cambridge, UK</b>



**Table 4. EURADOPT CHAIRS 1993 to date**

<b>1993</b>	<b>Philippe Demonceau, Amarna, Belgium</b>
<b>1994-1996</b>	<b>Philippe Demonceau, Amarna, Belgium</b>
<b>1996-1968</b>	<b>Kerstin Sterky, Adoptionscentrum, Sweden <u>died 2021</u></b>
<b>1998-2000</b>	<b>Lucile van Tuyll, Wereldkinderen NL</b>
<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>Ingibjoerg Birgisdottir, Icelandic Adoption Society</b>
<b>2001-2004</b>	<b>Ketil Lehland, Adopsjonsforum, Norway. <u>died 2014</u></b>
<b>2004-2006</b>	<b>Lucile van Tuyll, Wereldkinderen NL</b>
<b>2006-2008</b>	<b>Elisabet Sandberg, Adoptionscentrum, Sweden</b>
<b>2008-2010</b>	<b>Angelo Moretto, CIAI, Italy</b>
<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Pia Brandsnes, DanAdopt, Denmark</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Angelo Moretto, CIAI, Italy</b>
<b>2012-2014</b>	<b>Angelo Moretto, CIAI, Italy</b>
<b>2014-2016</b>	<b>Angelo Moretto CIAI, Italy</b>
<b>2016-2018</b>	<b>Maria Doré, Adoptionscentrum, Sweden</b>
<b>2018-2020</b>	<b>Maria Doré, Adoptionscentrum, Sweden</b>
<b>2020-2022</b>	<b>Gill Haworth, Coram IAC, UK</b>
<b>2022 – to date</b>	<b>Gill Haworth, Coram IAC, UK</b>

TABLE 5: MEMBER AGENCIES & STATES 1993-2021

5a 1993-1999 - total annual adoptions in *ITALICS*

<u>1993</u>	<i>2,606</i>	<u>20 Member Agencies</u>	<u>9 States</u>
		<u>Agencies mediating 100+ adoptions</u>	<u>STATE</u>
	<i>551</i>	Adoptionscentrum	<u>Sweden</u>
	<i>121</i>	FFIA	<u>Sweden</u>
	<i>340</i>	Wereldkinderen	<u>Netherlands</u>
	<i>319</i>	Adopsjonsforum	<u>Norway</u>
	<i>151</i>	Children of World	<u>Norway</u>
	<i>271</i>	Adoption Centre	<u>Denmark</u>
	<i>134</i>	Danadopt	<u>Denmark</u>
	<i>117</i>	Rayon de Soleil	<u>France</u>
		<u>9 States</u> : - [with no. of adoptions mediated in brackets] Sweden [737]; Norway [519]; Denmark [473]; Netherlands [410]; Belgium [183]; France [117]; Italy [100]; Finland [56]; Iceland [11].	
<u>1995</u>	<i>2,811</i>	<u>21 Member Agencies</u>	<u>9 States</u>
<u>1997</u>	<i>2,955</i>	<u>23 Member Agencies</u>	<u>11 States</u>
		Agencies join from Cyprus (1996); Spain (1997)	
<u>1999</u>	<i>3,694</i>	<u>24 Member Agencies</u>	<u>13 States</u>
		<u>Agencies mediating 100+ adoptions</u>	<u>STATE</u>
	<i>675</i>	Adoptionscentrum	<u>Sweden</u>
	<i>117</i>	FFIA	<u>Sweden</u>
	<i>545</i>	Wereldkinderen	<u>Netherlands</u>
	<i>176</i>	Kind en Toekomst	<u>Netherlands</u>
	<i>355</i>	Adoption Center	<u>Denmark</u>
	<i>294</i>	Danadopt	<u>Denmark</u>
	<i>315</i>	Adopsjonsforum	<u>Norway</u>
	<i>242</i>	Children of World	<u>Norway</u>
	<i>164</i>	Rayon de Soleil	<u>France</u>
		Agencies join from Luxembourg (1998) and Germany (1999)	

5b 2000-2006 - total annual adoptions in *ITALICS*

2001	<i>3,579</i>	<u>23 Member Agencies - Spain withdraws</u>	<u>12 States</u>
		<u>Agencies mediating 150+ adoptions</u>	<u>STATE</u>
	621	<u>Adoptionscentrum</u>	<u>Sweden</u>
	156	<u>FFIA</u>	<u>Sweden</u>
	574	<u>Wereldkinderen</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	234	<u>Kind en Toekomst</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	376	<u>Adoption Center</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
	311	<u>Danadopt</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
	384	<u>Adopsjonsforum</u>	<u>Norway</u>
	276	<u>Children of the World</u>	<u>Norway</u>
2004	<i>4,204</i>	<u>28 Member Agencies</u>	<u>13 States</u>
		<u>Agencies mediating 150+ adoptions</u>	<u>STATE</u>
	647	<u>Adoptionscentrum</u>	<u>Sweden</u>
	176	<u>FFIA</u>	<u>Sweden</u>
	541	<u>Wereldkinderen</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	418	<u>Kind en Toekomst</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	218	<u>Meiling</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	356	<u>Adoption Center</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
	172	<u>Danadopt</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
	382	<u>Adopsjonsforum</u>	<u>Norway</u>
	239	<u>Children of World</u>	<u>Norway</u>
		<u>13 States – {total adoptions mediated in brackets }</u> Netherlands [1,177]; Sweden [987]; Norway [706]; Denmark [528]; Belgium [269]; Italy [221]; Finland [127]; Germany [60]; Spain [54]; Iceland [28]; Luxembourg [27]; France [17]; Cyprus [3]	
2005	<i>4,113</i>	<u>29 Member Agencies</u>	<u>14 States</u>
		<u>Austria [Family for You] joins</u>	
2006	<i>3,094</i>	<u>25 Member Agencies</u>	<u>14 States</u>
		<u>Agencies mediating 100+ adoptions</u>	<u>STATE</u>
	532	<u>Adoptionscentrum</u>	<u>Sweden</u>
	119	<u>FFIA</u>	<u>Sweden</u>
	355	<u>Wereldkinderen</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	224	<u>Kind en Toekomst</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
	290	<u>Adoption Center</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
	160	<u>Danadopt</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
	252	<u>Adopsjonsforum</u>	<u>Norway</u>
	157	<u>Children of World</u>	<u>Norway</u>
	102	<u>Ai Bi</u>	<u>Italy</u>

5c 2007-2015 - total annual adoptions in *ITALICS*

<b>2007</b>	<b><i>2,881</i></b>	<b><u>24 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>12 States</u></b>
		<b>Austria [Family for You] &amp; Cyprus leave</b>	
		<b><u>Agencies mediating 100+ adoptions</u></b>	<b>STATE</b>
	<b><i>465</i></b>	<b>Adoptionscentrum</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>100</i></b>	<b>FFIA</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>322</i></b>	<b>Wereldkinderen</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
	<b><i>227</i></b>	<b>Kind en Toekomst</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
	<b><i>262</i></b>	<b>AC Child support</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
	<b><i>144</i></b>	<b>Danadopt</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
	<b><i>231</i></b>	<b>Adopsjonsforum</b>	<b>Norway</b>
	<b><i>141</i></b>	<b>Children of the World</b>	<b>Norway</b>
	<b><i>141</i></b>	<b>Ai Bi</b>	<b>Italy</b>
	<b><i>102</i></b>	<b>CIAI</b>	<b>Italy</b>
		<b><u>12 States; [total adoptions mediated in brackets].</u></b> <b><u>Sweden [677]; Netherlands [641]; Denmark [426];</u></b> <b><u>Norway [426; Italy [246]; Belgium [125] ; Germany [109];</u></b> <b><u>Finland [73]; Spain [51]; France [32]; Iceland [21]</u></b> <b><u>Luxembourg [14];</u></b>	

<b>2010</b>	<b><i>2,930</i></b>	<b><u>27 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>12 States</u></b>
		<b><u>Agencies mediating most adoptions</u></b>	<b>STATE</b>
	<b><i>391</i></b>	<b>Adoptionscentrum</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>103</i></b>	<b>Children Above All</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>270</i></b>	<b>Child and Future</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
	<b><i>227</i></b>	<b>Wereldkinderen</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
	<b><i>242</i></b>	<b>AC Child support</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
	<b><i>177</i></b>	<b>Danadopt</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
	<b><i>198</i></b>	<b>Adopsjonsforum</b>	<b>Norway</b>
	<b><i>171</i></b>	<b>Children of the World</b>	<b>Norway</b>
	<b><i>193</i></b>	<b>Ai Bi</b>	<b>Italy</b>
	<b><i>119</i></b>	<b>CIAI</b>	<b>Italy</b>
		<b><u>12 States:- {total adoptions mediated in brackets }</u></b> <b><u>Sweden [643]; Netherlands [575]; Denmark [419]; Norway [343];</u></b> <b><u>Italy [312]; Germany [198]; Spain [141]; Finland [132]; Belgium</u></b> <b><u>[108]; France [28]; Iceland [18]; Luxembourg [13].</u></b>	
<b>2014</b>	<b><i>1,419</i></b>	<b><u>27 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>12 States</u></b>
<b>2015</b>	<b><i>1,243</i></b>	<b><u>28 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>13 States</u></b>
		<b>Austria [EFKO] joins</b>	

<b>5d 2016- 2021 - total annual adoptions in ITALICS</b>			
<b>2016</b>	<b><i>1,062</i></b>	<b><u>29 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>14 States;</u></b>
		<b>UK [IAC] joins.</b>	
		<b><u>Agencies mediating most adoptions</u></b>	<b>STATE</b>
	<b><i>157</i></b>	<b>Adoptionscentrum</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>72</i></b>	<b>Children Above All</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>107</i></b>	<b>Ai Bi</b>	<b>Italy</b>
	<b><i>83</i></b>	<b>DIA</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
	<b><i>64</i></b>	<b>Wereldkinderen</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
	<b><i>50</i></b>	<b>Child &amp; Future</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
	<b><i>47</i></b>	<b>Meiling</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b><i>875</i></b>	<b><u>24 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>13 States</u></b>
		<b>Spain [AAiM] leaves</b>	
<b>2018</b>	<b><i>686</i></b>	<b><u>23 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>12 States</u></b>
		<b>France [Amis des Enfants ] leaves</b>	
<b>2019</b>	<b><i>651</i></b>	<b><u>23 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>13 States</u></b>
		<b>Malta joins</b>	
		<b>13 States {total adoptions mediated in brackets }</b>	
		<b>Sweden [170]; Italy {94}; Netherlands [89]; Norway [89];</b>	
		<b>Finland [64] Denmark [46]; Germany [32]; Belgium [27]; UK [19];</b>	
		<b>Luxembourg [7]; Iceland [5]; Austria [5]; Malta [4].</b>	
<b>2020</b>	<b><i>301</i></b>	<b><u>23 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>13 States</u></b>
		<b><u>Agencies mediating most adoptions</u></b>	<b>STATE</b>
	<b><i>27</i></b>	<b>Children Above All</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
	<b><i>26</i></b>	<b>Ai Bi</b>	<b>Italy</b>
	<b><i>25</i></b>	<b>Interpedia</b>	<b>Finland</b>
	<b><i>23</i></b>	<b>DIA</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
	<b><i>20</i></b>	<b>Adopsjonsforum</b>	<b>Norway</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b><i>454</i></b>	<b><u>24 Member Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>13 States</u></b>

## **Table 6. EURADOPT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HAGUE CONFERENCE**

Minutes of the **Seventieth** Session of the Hague Conference concerning the **Convention on Protection of children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption**. Signed on 29 May 1993.

The list of participants includes under REPRESENTATIVES FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

### **EurAdopt**

**Mr A.F.C.J. Hendriks**, Executive Director, NICWO, The Netherlands

**Mrs F. Pastor**, Executive Director of *Sourires d'Enfants* ASBL, Aywaille, Belgium

**Ms O .Molteni**, CIAI, Italian Centre for Intercountry Adoption, Milan, Italy

**All of these were signatories to ethical rules – meeting in 1992**

All three are also listed as participants in the **second meeting of the Special Commission, 11-21 June 1990; 22 April- 7 May 1991 and 3-14 February 1992**

NB Also listed is the **Committee for Cooperation within the Nordic Adoption and Parent Organisations - later = NORDIC ADOPTION COUNCIL**

**Mr L von der Leith**, Denmark

**Mr M Luther**, Nordic Adoption Committee, Solf, Finland

**Mr K Lehland**, Director, *Adopsjonsforum* Norway  
= Chair of EurAdopt 2001-4

**Mrs E Sandberg**, Director Adoptionscentrum, Sundyberg, Sweden.  
= Chair of EurAdopt 2006-8

### **Representatives at Special Commissions**

**SC 1. 2000. - EURADOPT represented by**

**Lucile van Tuyll**, NETHERLANDS, Chair of EurAdopt, 1998-2000

**Ketil Lehland**, Adopsjonsforum, NORWAY

**Albert de Haan**, NETHERLANDS

**NORDIC ADOPTION COUNCIL = Elisabet Sandberg, Sweden  
Sten Juul Petersen, Denmark**

**SC 2. 2005 EURADOPT represented by**

Lucile van Tuyll, NETHERLANDS, Chair of EurAdopt, 2004-06

Ketil Lehland, Adopsjonsforum, NORWAY

NORDIC ADOPTION COUNCIL = Elizabet Sandberg, Sweden  
Sten Juul Petersen, Denmark  
Pia Brandsnes, Denmark

**SC 3. 2010. EURADOPT represented by**

Ms Pia Brandsnes, *Adoption & Society*, DENMARK. Chair of EurAdopt 2010-11

*NORDIC ADOPTION COUNCIL*

Birgitta Loewstedt , Sweden

Sten Petersen, Denmark

**SC 3. 2015. EURADOPT represented by**

Mia Doré, Adoption Centre, SWEDEN, Chair of EurAdopt 2016-2018

*NORDIC ADOPTION COUNCIL*

Birgitta Loewstedt , Sweden

**SC 5. 2022 [postponed from 2000]**

**SPECIAL COMMISSION HELD ONLINE.**

Those attending on behalf of EURADOPT included:

Gill Haworth, Coram IAC, UK, Chair of EurAdopt 2020-22

Susana Katz, Director, Ada, Germany

Berit Haas, Director, Parent Child Bridge, Germany

*NORDIC ADOPTION COUNCIL*

Elisabet Salvarsdottir, Iceland