



ARETI CHARIDEMOU
LAW FIRM

CHINA JOINS THE HAGUE CONVENTION

As of 7th November 2023

On March 8, 2023, China officially submitted documentation to accede to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, commonly known as the Apostille Convention. The Apostille Convention facilitates the use of public documents abroad by replacing the often long and costly legalization process by issuing a simple Apostille certificate.

The Chinese government stated that their decision to accede to the Convention is in accordance with their efforts to simplify the use of public documents abroad and expedite international trade. **The Apostille Convention will officially go into effect in China on November 7, 2023.** The Convention will continue to apply in Hong Kong and Macao. China has designated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Competent Authority to issue apostilles to documents originating within mainland China.

It is important to note that the Convention will not be applicable between the People's Republic of China and the Contracting States that China does not recognize as sovereign states.

To be mentioned that until today, documents issued in China shall have been certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and in the Cyprus Embassy, in order to be able to be used in Cyprus for various applications and/or transactions involving governmental bodies of the Cyprus Republic.

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