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Federal Office of Justice
Bundesrain 20
CH-3003 Bern
SWITZERLAND

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

UMPOD-SPR0721/23-2

PID

UMODX00OBB06

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Intercountry adoption from the Czech Republic to Switzerland

Information regarding the future cooperation

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Office for International Legal Protection of Children, as the Central Authority under the Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption turns to you in connection to the current situation in the Czech Republic regarding adoptions.

Since Switzerland and the Czech Republic have a cooperative working relationship with regard to intercountry adoption, we are writing to you to inform you of the most recent developments with regard to intercountry adoption in the Czech Republic.

In recent years we have obtained fewer and fewer dossiers of children that would benefit from intercountry adoption. The profile of the children has changed as well, children are older, with more severe health and social anamnesis. This trend is seen worldwide, where children are more successfully placed in their home country.

In light of these circumstances, we have decided to reduce the number of states with which we collaborate. The cooperation arrangements with those receiving states will be intensified, thus allowing the quality of the procedures to be further improved.

The intercountry adoption collaboration between Switzerland and the Czech Republic

As indicated above, the Czech Republic will only continue to work with a small number of states in the area of intercountry adoptions. The states we will continue our cooperation are Denmark, Italy, Spain, and Sweden. In addition to these countries, we will collaborate with Finland and Norway in a special regime, which started last year, and the cooperation will be evaluated in the future.

This decision came based on criteria that were set in order to improve and enhance cooperation. Collaboration will continue only with states which placed a higher number of children, states with applicants, who are very open towards older children, sibling groups, and children with more severe health and social anamnesis. Another important criterion is the quality of the postadoption service, and perhaps the most important criterion is the legal certainty and speed of adoption proceedings.

We would like to express our gratitude for our long-term cooperation so far, but unfortunately, as it is clear from the reasons stated above, we do not see any grounds for a continued adoption relationship with Switzerland.

In principle, this means that no new prospective adoptive parents' application from your country will be included in our registry. The applications that were included before will still be taken into consideration in a matching process and will be considered the same as any other application in our registry. On the other hand, it is important for the applicants to consider if they wish to remain in our database or try to focus on another country, in which there is a higher chance of being matched with a child. We hope that we can expect your cooperation in post-adoption services and search for origins as before.

Once again, I would like to emphasize that the cooperation so far has been beneficial and fruitful, but we have to react to the present situation and expected trends and not keep in our database applicants which could unnecessarily wait for a couple of years, with just a slight chance of being matched, as the situation in the Czech Republic has been slowly, but steadily changing.

We trust that we have provided you with sufficient information on this matter.

Zdeněk K a p i t á n
Director
Head of Service Authority

