



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
THE HAGUE**

**CONVENTION ABOLISHING THE REQUIREMENT OF LEGALISATION
FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
(The Hague, 5 October 1961)**

Notification pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention

OBJECTION

Georgia, 15-01-2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in its capacity as depositary, by its notification of November 17, 2015, informed the Contracting States on the accession of Kosovo to the above Convention. According to the notification, the accession will have effect only as regards the relations between Kosovo and those Contracting States which will not have raised an objection to its accession in the six months after receipt of the present notification. This six months period will in this case end on 15 May 2016. The Convention will, in accordance with its Article 12, third paragraph, enter into force between Kosovo and the other Contracting states, which have not raised an objection to its accession, on 14 July 2016.

According to Article 12 of the Convention only States can become members of the Convention. Georgia, as well as many other States, does not recognize Kosovo as an independent state. Furthermore, Kosovo is not a member state of the UN. Hence, Georgia regards that the accession of Kosovo to the Apostille Convention has no legal validity, including in the context of Georgia's treaty relationship with Kosovo under this Convention.

Georgia does not recognize that the depositary has the power to undertake actions under the Apostille Convention, the treaty practice or public international law that may be construed as direct or implied qualification of entities as states. Georgia pursuing its state interests, considers unacceptable and dangerous adoption of such a practice.

Having this premise. Georgia objects to the accession of Kosovo to the Apostille Convention and holds the view that the procedure of Kosovo's accession to the Convention shall be suspended.

The Hague, 29 January 2016

The Depositary Notifications are accessible on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at <https://treatydatabase.overheid.nl>

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