

A) VIDEOCONFERENCE TOPIC: As you will have seen, one of the new developments in the 2000 Convention has to do with declaration via videoconference. Personally, I feel this represents a highly significant advance in international, but also national, judicial cooperation.

In relation to this topic, I would like to raise a series of questions for us to discuss:

- 1.- How do you think this form of declaration affects *inmediación* (the principle that the judge must be present at all stages of proceedings)?
- 2.- In what cases would it be possible to hear the defendant or accused via videoconference?
- 3.- Would performing investigations or examining evidence via videoconference raise technical problems for you?
- 4.- What personal experience do you have of these kinds of declarations?
- 5.- Are we moving towards virtual trials?

It is not necessary to answer all the questions. Just indicate the number of the question you are going to reply to.

B) MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TOPIC: Despite the fact that the Stockholm Programme envisages the strengthening of judicial assistance among Member States, subjecting it to the principle of mutual recognition, thus far progress has been slow. What are the obstacles that have led, eleven years later, to judicial assistance in the EU still being subject to conventional instruments?

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