



Weekly Express



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### **[National] One step forward : legalization becoming easier with China's accession to the Apostille Convention**

On March 8, 2023, the Chinese ambassador to the Netherlands deposited China's instrument of accession to the *Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of legalization for Foreign Public Documents* (the Apostille Convention), as it has to be done at the place where it was signed. The Apostille Convention will come into force between China and other member states (which raise no objection) on November 7, 2023.

At present, any foreign public official document to be registered with Chinese authorities needs to go through a full notarization and legalization process, which not only takes long time but can also be quite costly. The accession of China to the Apostille Convention promises to greatly mitigate the legalization formalities.

How does it work? As in any other country part of the Apostille Convention, instead of having to legalize official documents, it will be enough with only one formality: the issuance of an Apostille.

What is an Apostille? It is an authentication certificate issued by the competent authority of the country where the public official document was executed and allowed to use it in the destination country, a member of the Apostille Convention which raised no objection to China's accession.

Notwithstanding the above, it is worth noting that only public official documents under internal law fall under the Apostille Convention. So, we are intrigued about the documents that China considers to fall under the category of public official documents.