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**Abstract:**

This article presents the achievements and failures of the International Commission on Civil Status, which is an intergovernmental organisation that aims to facilitate international co-operation in civil status matters and to improve the operation of national civil status departments. The author presented the history of the Commission and its current crisis caused by the decreasing number of member states (Poland withdrew from the organization in 2017). The next part of the article provides an overview of the instruments of the ICCS, in particular conventions, including three conventions binding Poland. The achievements of the Commission were also described as a missed opportunity for the European Union, considering the EU activity in the field of civil status in recent years.