

# Submitting to the President of Russia the proposal to sign a supplementary protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

Several provisions of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters have been supplemented with a special protocol to expand the scope of circumstances substantiating a request for mutual legal assistance as well as to simplify and expedite the procedure of mutual legal assistance in criminal cases. These additions are expected to increase the efficiency of international legal cooperation in criminal matters.

## **Reference**

Submitted by the Russian Ministry of Justice.

Russian Federation is a party to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention") and the Supplementary Protocol to the Convention (signed by Russia on 7 November 1996 and ratified by Federal Law No. 193-FZ of 25 October 1999).

The second supplementary protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (hereinafter the "Protocol") was presented for signing on 18 November 2001, and came into effect on 1 February 2004.

The special protocol supplements several provisions of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters by expanding the scope of circumstances substantiating a request for mutual legal assistance as well as simplifying and expediting the procedure of mutual legal assistance in criminal cases. These additions are expected to increase the efficiency of international legal cooperation in criminal matters.

The Protocol has been ratified by 37 states.

A signed resolution formalised the decision to present to the President of Russia a proposal on signing the Protocol on behalf of the Russian Federation.

Under the federal law On the International Agreements of the Russian Federation, once signed, the Protocol is subject to ratification as it contains regulations different from those stipulated by Russian law.