

LEGAL STANDARD

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2 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f) governs service of an individual in a foreign country. Rule
3 4(f)(2) permits plaintiffs to move the Clerk of Court to serve defendants by return-receipt mail.
4 Additionally, Rule 4(f)(3) permits the court to allow the plaintiff to serve the defendant “means not
5 prohibited by international agreement.” This includes email. *Rio Properties, Inc. v. Rio Intern. Interlink*,
6 284 F.3d 1007, 1016 (9th Cir. 2002) (stating that Rule 4(f) permits, *inter alia*, service by publication,
7 ordinary mail, mail to the defendant’s last known address, delivery to the defendant’s attorney, telex,
8 and, email).

9 The Ninth Circuit has held that service under Rule 4(f) is neither a “last resort” nor
10 “extraordinary relief.” *Id.* at 1015 (citation omitted). “It is merely one means among several which
11 enables service of process on an international defendant.” *Id.* The decision to allow alternative means of
12 service of process under Rule 4(f)(3) is discretionary. *Absolute Swine Insemination Co., Ltd v. Absolute*
13 *Swine Insemination Co., LLC*, No. 2:12-cv-00606, 2012 WL 3536788, at *3 (D. Nev. Aug. 14, 2012)
14 (citation omitted).

DISCUSSION

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17 The Commission’s motion is granted. When deciding whether to permit service by email or
18 return-receipt mail, the court must first make a legal determination: whether service by email or return-
19 receipt mail is allowed by international agreement and not prohibited by the foreign country’s law.
20 See FED. R. CIV. P. 4(f)(2); see *Brockmeyer v. May*, 383 F.3d 789, 804–805 (9th Cir. 2004) (identifying
21 these requirements). These requirements are satisfied here. It is undisputed that (1) The Hague
22 Convention permits service by international mail, (2) the United States and Israel are members to the
23 Hague Convention, and (3) Israeli law does not prohibit service by international mail. See *Treeline Inv.*
24 *Partners, LP v. Koren*, 07-cv-1964-cv-DLC, 2007 WL 1933860, at *5 (S.D.N.Y. July 3, 2007)
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1 (discussing each of these elements in detail and citing *Burda Media, Inc. v. Viertel*, 417 F.3d 292, 299–
2 300 (2d Cir. 2005) and *Ackermann v. Levine*, 788 F.2d 830, 840 (2d Cir. 1986)); *see also Facebook, Inc.*
3 *v. Banana Ads LLC* No. 11–3619, 2012 WL 1038752, at *1 (N.D. Cal. March 27, 2012) (granting
4 motion to serve foreign defendants by email); *Prof'l Investigating & Consulting Agency Inc. v. Suzuki*,
5 No. 11–cv–1025, 2014 WL 48260, at *2–3 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 7, 2014) (holding that The Hague Service
6 Convention allows service by email); *Williams-Sonoma Inc. v. Friendfinder Inc.*, 06–06572–JSW, 2007
7 WL 1140639, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2007) (permitting service on an Israeli defendant by email).

8 Second, the court must make a discretionary determination: whether permitting service of
9 process by email and return-receipt mail under The Hague Convention is necessitated by the facts and
10 circumstances and (2) reasonably calculated to apprise the defendant of the action and afford him an
11 opportunity to respond to the complaint. *Rio Properties, Inc.*, 284 F.3d at 1016. These factors are
12 satisfied here.

13 The facts and circumstances necessitate court intervention allowing service by email and return-
14 receipt mail because Laurent refuses to permit counsel to accept service on his behalf. (Pl.’s Mot. (#43)
15 at 1:7). Service by email and return-receipt mail are reasonably calculated to appraise Laurent of the
16 action because the Commission has located Laurent’s place of residence in Israel and discovered his
17 email address, which Laurent regularly checks. (*Id.* at 7) (citation omitted). In light of the Ninth Circuit’s
18 conclusion that service under Rule 4(f)(3) is neither a “last resort” nor “extraordinary relief,” the court
19 grants the Commission’s motion.
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21 ACCORDINGLY, and for good cause shown,

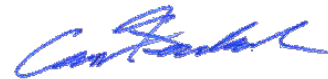
22 IT IS ORDERED that the Commission’s motion for alternative service of process (#43) is
23 GRANTED.
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1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission is permitted to service Mr. Laurent by email
2 at oren@bbinary.com.

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court will serve Mr. Laurent with the
4 Commission's amended complaint (#41) by return-receipt mail pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
5 Procedure 4(f)(2)(C)(ii) at the following address: Mr. Oren Shabat Laurent, Shoham, 1, 52711, Ramat
6 Gan, Israel.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 DATED this 3rd day of March, 2014.

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12 _____
13 CAM FERENBACH
14 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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