



2 Impasse Cristol  
Rue du Port  
34140 Mèze  
France  
21. March 2010

For the attention of : Statsforvaltningen  
Kristin Alstad-Mathiasen

**Journalnr: 2007-112/18246**

**REGARDING : SUMMER HOLIDAY 2010 WITH TATJANA & SOPHIA**

**Current Position**

As per the access ruling of *statsforvaltningen*, I am able to have two weeks during the summer holidays with my daughters, Tatjana (7) and Sophia (3).

Last year, Maria Svane, mother of my daughters, succeeded in having the two week period split into two separate weeks for the summer holiday of 2009.

Further, since October 2007, I have been obliged to spend all our allocated time together in Denmark, and a ruling allowing Tatjana to travel with me to South Africa in December 2008 was overturned.

**Request for Ruling**

With respect to the upcoming 2010 summertime period together, I wish to ask *statsforvaltningen* to rule that :

1. the access period is two consecutive weeks, and not split into two separate weeks
2. for these two weeks, Tatjana and Sophia be able to spend their holiday with us at our home in Mèze, France

I have approached Maria Svane with these requests, and she has indicated her opposition to both these points.

Maria Svane is insisting that the two weeks be split. She has proposed either week **26 or** week **27**, and week **31**. She has also informed me that Tatjana will be at *koloni* during week 30.

**1. Two consecutive weeks / timing thereof**

- As indicated, I am firstly asking that the two weeks be **consecutive**.

*Maria's opposition is rooted in her claim that the children are not comfortable spending a long time with me.*

This is not borne out by the girls in the time we have spent together. These times have been very happy, and there have not been any problems. Even Sophia, who is still relatively young, has been very happy spending this time with me, away from her mother. Both girls have also been happy to spend time with my wife, Christine, and step-daughter, Kayla.

It proved more disruptive for the girls to be returned after the first week, as they felt the time together was too short, and they were sad to have it over so quickly.

Further, the ruling splitting the two weeks in 2009, as per the request of Maria Svane, after bookings had already been made for flights and accommodation, placed considerable financial penalties on me. I was obliged to travel twice to Copenhagen - with a weeks' gap in-between - from South Africa, where I lived following my marriage in February 2009. The booking of additional flights and accommodation at premium rates was necessitated.

- Secondly, I propose the holiday take place over **weeks 27 and 28 (4 – 18 July)**.

My son, Jared Armstrong (19), brother to Tatjana and Sophia, will be spending time with us from week **28**, and I would like to have some time during which our whole family can be together, at our home in France.

## **2. Tatjana and Sophia being able to travel to France**

- *Maria argues against the children leaving Denmark on the grounds that they will be kidnapped by me, and further, lost within what she claims is the lawlessness of South Africa.*

There have been no reasons given by Maria for her assertion that I would kidnap my daughters, or evidence provided by her in support of this argument. Maria's opinion of South Africa and the way it adheres to its international agreements, remain unsupported by evidence.

However, as the proposed trip by the girls will be to another country within the EU, namely France, this same argument can no longer be said to apply.

My wife and I, and Kayla, have moved to France to be close to Tatjana, Sophia and Jared. We have settled in Mèze, on the south-west coast, for the long term.

We chose Mèze, as it is a small, safe, friendly village, with sufficient facilities, within easy access of several international airports that reach Copenhagen. During the summer, there is a direct flight between Montpellier (30 km from Mèze) and Copenhagen.

Our intention to remain in France for the long term is evidenced as follows:

- Kayla has entered a local French school, L'école Héliante, and has made many friends there, and is doing well.
- We have committed to a long-term rental on a house in Mèze from April 2010, at *2 Impasse Cristol, Rue du Port, 34140 Mèze*.
- We have rented out our respective houses in South Africa on long leases, and sold all belongings we do not wish to bring to France
- When the house market improves in South Africa, we intend to sell our houses there.
- We are in the process of shipping a container of all our remaining belongings to France.

***(Here following, is information provided pertaining to Mèze, and some pictures taken since our arrival on 2 January 2010).***

The importance of family to me, Christine and Kayla, has informed our choice to uproot and resettle, so as to be near to Tatjana and Sophia.

We would very much like the girls to see and experience where we live, and in so doing, allow us all to keep the close connection we have, and hope for many times spent together here in the future.

Most important to me is that - when I last saw Tatjana in February 2010 – she specified a wish to visit us in France, and to spend more time with us, and especially with Kayla while they are both still children, and can play together.



Yours sincerely,  
Jason Armstrong

# Mèze

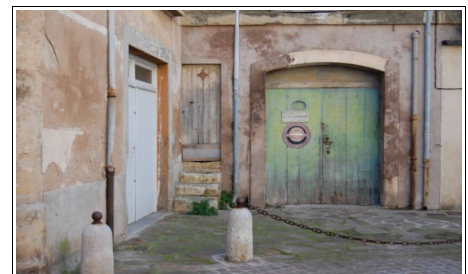


Mèze lies in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of south-western France, 30 kms from Montpellier.

There are international airports in Montpellier, Marseille, Toulouse and Béziers that reach Copenhagen.

Mèze is an old oyster village on the Thau lagoon, fed by the Mediterranean sea via the canals of Sète.

The old village centre is 2km<sup>2</sup>, with a XV century church, and is flanked by a small harbour, beaches and the lagoon, with a small suburb of more modern houses on the outskirts.





## Some views of Mèze



This is Rue du Port, off the tiny cul-de-sac where we live.

The entrance to our house, Impasse Cristol, is on the left, where the light is shining on the road.

The beach and harbour are 300 metres straight down this road, The public gardens are 100 metres up the road, and the town squares are around the corner.



This is our house. The ground floor has an office cum guest room, and a bathroom. The first floor, with the balcony railing, has a kitchen and living area. The second floor, has two adjacent bedrooms and a bathroom, and this is where the two girls would sleep, in a room next to Kayla's. There is enough space here for a play area too. The top floor has our bedroom and an open terrace.

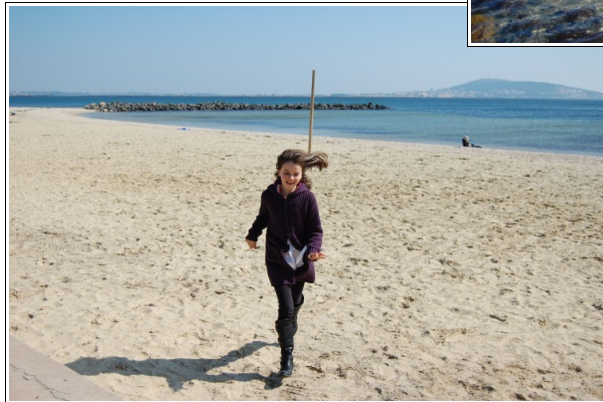


One of the two town squares, where a fresh market is held twice a week, and the village children play watched over by parents and grandparents, chatting on the benches.

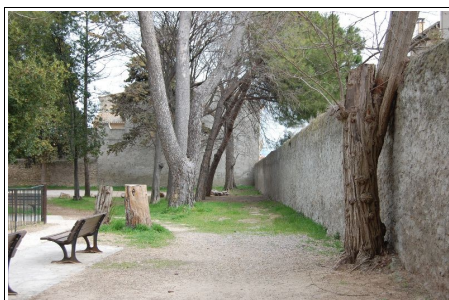




This is the closest to us of the three small beaches, on the shallow lagoon. In the summer, villagers picnic on the beach. There are many ice-cream shops and restaurants close by.



The public park is on the grounds of an old château, and leads from the larger of the town squares shown above. It has an enclosed toddler play area.







### Map of Mèze's Layout

- X** our house at Impasse Cristol
- A** Public gardens
- B** Town Squares
- C** Main Beach
- D** Kayla's School
- E** Sports Facilities

