

N° 3789.

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ALLEMAGNE, BELGIQUE,  
DANEMARK, FRANCE,  
GRÈCE, etc.

Convention internationale pour l'unification des méthodes de prélèvement des échantillons et d'analyse des fromages, avec annexes et protocole de signature. Signés à Rome, le 26 avril 1934.

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GERMANY, BELGIUM,  
DENMARK, FRANCE,  
GREECE, etc.

International Convention for the Unification of Methods of Sampling and Analysing Cheeses, with Annexes and Protocol of Signature. Signed at Rome, April 26th, 1934.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 3789. — INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION <sup>2</sup> FOR THE UNIFICATION OF METHODS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSING CHEESES. SIGNED AT ROME, APRIL 26TH, 1934.

*French official text communicated by the Italian and Netherlands Ministers for Foreign Affairs and by the Permanent Delegate of Finland to the League of Nations. The registration of this Convention took place December 17th, 1935.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REICH ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC ; HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE REGENT OF THE KINGDOM OF HUNGARY ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY ; HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS ; HIS HIGHNESS THE BEY OF TUNIS ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN ; THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA ;

Being of opinion that it is desirable to unify the methods of sampling and analysing cheeses for the purpose of preventing and, if necessary, settling disputes which may arise in international trade, and having recognised the value of closer co-operation for that purpose, have decided to conclude a Convention and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REICH :

Prof. Anton FEHR, former Minister ;  
Dr. Karl August WEGENER, Higher Government Counsellor.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. Pierre WAUTERS, Director General at the Ministry of Agriculture.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK :

M. Hubert WICHFELD, Danish Counsellor of Legation at Rome.

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

<sup>2</sup> Came into force October 12th, 1935.

*Ratifications deposited in Rome :*

ITALY . . . . .	February 21st, 1935.
FRANCE . . . . .	February 27th, 1935.
SWITZERLAND . . . . .	April 12th, 1935.
BELGIUM . . . . .	May 31st, 1935.
NORWAY . . . . .	September 26th, 1935.
FINLAND . . . . .	November 14th, 1935.
THE NETHERLANDS . . . . .	January 31st, 1936.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

- M. LOUIS-DOP, Member of the French Academy of Agriculture, Delegate of France and the French Colonies, Vice-President of the Permanent Committee of the International Institute of Agriculture ;  
M. Eugène VITOUX, Deputy Director of the Central Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC :

- His Excellency M. Pierre METAXAS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic accredited to His Majesty the King of Italy.

## HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE REGENT OF THE KINGDOM OF HUNGARY :

- M. Tibor DE PECHY, Counsellor at the Royal Ministry of Agriculture ;  
M. Ivan MESTERKOVITS, Chief Inspector of Agriculture.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY :

- Dr. Guido SEGRE, Consul General of His Majesty the King of Italy, Chief of Section at the General Directorate of Economic Affairs of the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs ;  
Prof. Bartolo MAYMONE, Director of the Royal Station of Zootechnics at Rome ;  
Prof. Giulio DALLA TORRE, Director of the Royal Station for Cheese-making at Caserta.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY :

- M. Johannes IRGENS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Norway accredited to His Majesty the King of Italy.

## HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS :

- M. A. J. SWAVING, Counsellor at the Ministry of Economic Affairs ;  
M. J. J. L. VAN RIJN, Delegate of the Netherlands to the Permanent Committee of the International Institute of Agriculture.

## HIS HIGHNESS THE BEY OF TUNIS :

- M. LOUIS-DOP, as above ;  
M. Eugène VITROUX, as above.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN :

- M. Bo Henrik VON STOCKENSTROEM, former Minister, President of the Swedish National Association for Dairy Products.

## THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION :

- Prof. Robert BURRI, Director of the Dairy Products and Bacteriological Establishment at Liebefeld ;  
Dr. Guido KOESTLER, Assistant at the Dairy Products and Bacteriological Establishment at Liebefeld.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC :

- His Excellency M. Frantisek CHVALKOVSKY, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Republic accredited to His Majesty the King of Italy ;  
M. Jaroslav DVORAK, Higher Counsellor at the Ministry of Agriculture.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA :

- Dr. Lludevit PROHASKA, Director of the Section of Zootechnics of the Ministry of Agriculture,

Who, duly authorised for the purpose, meeting at Rome at the headquarters of the International Institute of Agriculture, have agreed as follows :

*Article 1.*

For the purpose of ensuring the application of the principles laid down in Articles 2 and 3 below, the Contracting Parties undertake to introduce into their regulations provisions concerning the sampling and chemical analysis of cheeses (water content and fatty matter), applicable in the case of disputes which may arise in international trade.

*Article 2.*

In sampling, account shall be taken of the kind of cheese, its size and the consistency of the material. The samples should represent as faithfully as possible every part of the cheese which may be consumed and should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Annex A of the present Convention.

In the case of subsequent amendments, the Commission provided for in Article 7 below shall, with due regard to the information supplied by the Governments, draw up a note fixing the new rules according to which samples must be taken.

*Article 3.*

The chemical examination must be carried out, in the case of the determination of the water content and of the amount of fatty matter, in accordance with the methods indicated in Annex B of the present Convention.

The provisions of the second paragraph of the preceding Article shall apply should the methods laid down in Annex B be altered.

*Article 4.*

In the case of a dispute with regard to the interpretation of the clauses of the present Convention or practical difficulties connected with its application, either of the Parties concerned may, by agreement with the other Party, request the International Institute of Agriculture to make an attempt at conciliation, and may have recourse in the last resort to the Permanent Court of International Justice after all the means of agreement have been exhausted.

With a view to the attempt at conciliation, a Committee to which the States concerned and the International Institute of Agriculture shall each nominate an expert shall consider the dispute, taking account of all documents and information which may be useful as evidence. The Committee shall submit its report, which shall be communicated by the International Institute of Agriculture to each of the countries concerned, all subsequent freedom of action of the Governments being reserved.

The Governments concerned agree to be jointly responsible for the expense involved by the duties entrusted to the experts.

*Article 5.*

Countries which have not signed the present Convention may accede to it should they so request.

Accession shall be notified through the diplomatic channel to the Italian Government and by that Government to the contracting countries and to the International Institute of Agriculture.

*Article 6.*

Any contracting country may at any time notify the Italian Government that the present Convention shall apply to all or part of its colonies, protectorates, territories under mandate,

territories subject to its sovereignty or authority or any territories under its suzerainty. The Convention shall apply to all the territories mentioned in the notification. Failing such notification, the Convention shall not apply to such territories.

*Article 7.*

A contracting country which, in a case other than that provided for in Articles 2 and 3, desires to amend the text of Annexes A or B of the present Convention, must communicate its proposal to the International Institute of Agriculture.

The latter shall submit the text of the proposed amendments for approval by a Commission of five experts appointed by the Institute after consultation with the Governments of the contracting States as to the persons who might serve on such a Commission. The members of this Commission shall be replaced every three years. The Commission shall hear an expert nominated by the Government applying for the amendment in question.

Should the amendments requested be approved by the said Commission, the Institute shall notify the same to the contracting countries, inviting them to accept the amendments within six months. On the expiry of that period, the contracting countries which have not replied shall be deemed to have accepted them.

The amendment shall come into force six months after the date of the letter in which the International Institute of Agriculture has notified to the contracting countries unanimous acceptance of the proposed amendment, as resulting from the application of the above paragraph.

*Article 8.*

A contracting country which desires to denounce the present Convention either in respect of all its territories or only for all or part of its colonies, protectorates, possessions or territories referred to in Article 6 must communicate the same to the Italian Government, which shall immediately notify the other States that have acceded to the Convention and the International Institute of Agriculture, informing them of the date on which it received the said denunciation.

The denunciation shall only take effect in respect of the country which has notified it or the colonies, protectorates, possessions or territories mentioned in the act of denunciation, and then only one year after notification has been received by the Italian Government.

*Article 9.*

The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be deposited with the Italian Government.

Notice of every ratification shall be given by the Italian Government to the other contracting countries and to the International Institute of Agriculture.

*Article 10.*

Every country shall be entitled, at the moment when it deposits its ratification, to declare that it makes the putting into force of the present Convention conditional, so far as it is concerned, on the application of the Convention by certain countries which it names.

The present Convention shall come into force when it has been ratified by at least three sovereign countries, unconditionally or under conditions which have been complied with.

In such case it shall come into force six months after the date of deposit of the third ratification.

In the case of all other countries ratifying the Convention or acceding thereto, it shall come into force on the expiry of six months following the deposit of their ratification or accession.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done at Rome, the 26th day of April, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four, in a single copy, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. A certified true copy shall be forwarded through diplomatic channels to every country signatory of the present Convention.

For Germany :

Dr. Anton FEHR, *a. r.*

Dr. Karl August WEGENER, *a. r.*

For Belgium :

WAUTERS.

For Denmark :

H. WICHFELD, *a. r.*

For France :

L. D., *a. r.*

E. V., *a. r.*

For Greece :

P. METAXAS, *a. r.*

For Hungary :

MESTERKOVITS.

Tibor DE PECHY.

For Italy :

Guido SEGRE.

Bartolo MAYMONE.

Giulio DALLA TORRE.

For Norway :

J. IRGENS, *a. r.*

For the Netherlands :

A. J. SWAVING.

J. J. L. VAN RIJN.

For Tunisia :

L. D., *a. r.*

E. V., *a. r.*

For Sweden :

B. v. STOCKENSTROEM, *a. r.*

For Switzerland :

Dr. Rob. BURRI.

For Czechoslovakia :

CHVALKOVSKY, *a. r.*

J. DVORAK, *a. r.*

For Yugoslavia :

Dr. L. PROHASKA, *a. r.*

## ANNEX A.

### SAMPLING.

In the sampling of cheeses, account shall be taken of the following distinctions :

I. Cheeses of which samples may be taken :

- (a) By means of a taster ;
- (b) By cutting a section.

#### *Observations :*

(a) As a general rule, in the case of small cheeses, it is preferable to cut a section rather than to use a taster. The latter will be used if the cheese is not less than a month old.

In cases of sampling where a taster is necessary, it shall be chosen in accordance with the size of the cheese.

1. The taster shall pierce one surface of the cheese in an oblique direction, at a distance of 10 to 20 centimetres from the edge of the cheese, towards the centre, for instance, in the case of Grana, Gorgonzola, Emmenthal, Gruyère, Ovari (5 kg.), Fontina and other cheeses ;

2. The taster shall pierce the cheese from one surface to the other, through the centre, for instance, in the case of Edam cheeses (weighing 2 kg. or over), Provolone, Caciocavallo, etc. ;

3. The taster shall be directed horizontally from the centre of one vertical surface to the centre of the cheese, for instance, in the case of Gouda cheeses (weighing 2 kg. or more), Roman Pecorino, Tilsit, etc. ;

4. In the case of cheese despatched in casks or other receptacles, for instance, Caillebotte, Brynza and others, samples shall be taken by driving the taster in an oblique direction from top to bottom through the whole contents of the cask or receptacle.

(b) In the case of cheeses where it is necessary to cut a section, this shall be done from the edge or the centre of one of the surfaces, the surface of the cheese thus uncovered being immediately cauterized, for instance, in the case of Port-Salut, Edam, etc., when they weigh less than two kilogrammes.

The samples taken shall not weigh less than 40 grammes.

The sample must be placed immediately in a metal or glass jar, properly closed, and examined as soon as possible.

If it has not been possible to put the sample immediately in a closed metal or glass jar, it shall provisionally be carefully wrapped in tin-foil.

In no case may the sample be packed in paper or other absorptive substances, nor may it come into contact with paper or other absorptive substances.

After about one centimetre of the rind has been removed — in cases where a taster has been used — it is then used for filling up the holes. The sample must be grated finely and mixed carefully.

In the case of cheeses such as Edam and Gouda, the rind shall not be taken off, but only the mould.

The sample must be carefully mixed immediately before every analysis.

## II. Cheeses not suitable for the methods of sampling described above :

In the case of soft cheeses (Brie, Camembert and the like) not suitable for the methods of sampling described above, the sample will be taken by cutting in the cheese which is to be examined a section weighing not less than 50 grammes, in order to obtain 40 grammes of consumable product, after having removed the film of mould on the outer surfaces of the cheese ; the mass then obtained shall be made completely homogeneous by means of a spatula or a mortar.

The same shall apply to cheeses in boxes, to Gervais, Camembert, Schabziger and similar cheeses.

III. In the case of large consignments of cheese (waggon-loads), samples shall be taken in such a way that an average actual sample is obtained, without the value of the cheese despatched being appreciably reduced.

## TECHNICAL OBSERVATION CONCERNING THE SAMPLING OF CHEESE.

Special attention shall be given to the following points :

(1) In the case of large cheeses (for instance, Cheddar), the taster shall be long enough to pierce the middle of the cheese, so that it may be possible to be certain that the sample thus obtained represents the average composition of the product, that is to say, from the outer part to the centre, and not the outer part alone, which would be the case if too small a taster were used.

(2) In no case may the sample be packed in paper or other absorptive substances, nor may it come into contact with paper or other absorptive substances.

## ANNEX B.

### CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

#### 1. *Determination of Water Content.*

Five grammes of cheese are weighed in a small flat evaporation dish. If purified sand is used (compulsory for soft cheese), the sample weighed is carefully mixed by means of a glass rod with a flattened end adjusted to the evaporation dish.

It is best to dry the sample *first* at the ordinary temperature during not less than sixteen hours, if possible with the assistance of a vacuum, and then to dry directly at a temperature of not less than 105° C.

The drying is continued and the sample re-weighed at short intervals until the constant weight is reached.

#### 2. *Determination of Fatty Matter.*

The determination of the fatty matter is based on the Schmidt-Bondzynski-Ratzlaff method.

In the absence of apparatus making it possible to carry out the whole process of determination in the same tube and extract the total quantity of fatty matter, three grammes of cheese are weighed



in a small round flask of about 50 cc. ; 10 cc. of hydrochloric acid ( $D = 1.125$ ) are added, and the flask is heated gently and shaken carefully until the cheese is completely dissolved.

The contents of the flask are placed in a corked cylinder. The interior of the flask is first washed carefully with 10 cc. of alcohol at 96 %, then with 25 cc. of pure ether and, lastly, with 25 cc. of petroleum ether (boiling point  $40^{\circ} = 60^{\circ}$  C.).

The rinsings should be added to the cheese solution and the cylinder carefully shaken after each addition, it having been previously closed with a cork stopper moistened with water. It should be left to stand for about two hours, so as to ensure complete separation of the ether solution of fat.

The clear ether solution of fat is separated as completely as possible (so as to leave not more than 1 cc.) and then placed in a small calibrated flask ; about 25 cc. of a mixture of equal parts of ether and petroleum ether are placed in the cylinder, which is then shaken several times. After it has been left to stand for an hour, the ether liquid should once more be separated and emptied as completely as possible into the calibrated flask. This operation is repeated a second time.

The entire ether solution of fat is then distilled, and the residuum heated to constant weight in the drying stove at about  $102^{\circ}$  C.

## PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

### I.

At the moment of signing the present Convention, the Italian Delegation made the following declaration : “ Although the cheeses mentioned in Annex A are only given as examples, the Italian Delegation desires to specify that, in the case of cheese of the Grana type, samples may be taken with a taster (I (*a*)) in the case of new cheeses, whereas in the case of cheeses which have become hard it is preferable to take samples by sections (I (*b*)) ”.

### II.

At the moment of signing the present Convention, the Danish Delegation made the following declaration : “ The Danish Government is of opinion that it is extremely difficult to lay down general rules with regard to the sampling and examination of cheese which would be applicable in all cases and in all countries. The Danish Government is therefore of opinion that these regulations should not form part of an international convention, but that each country should be left to fix them ”.

For Germany :

Dr. Anton FEHR, *a. r.*

Dr. Karl August WEGENER, *a. r.*

For Belgium :

WAUTERS.

For Denmark :

H. WICHFELD, *a. r.*

For France :

L. D., *a. r.*

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CHVALKOVSKY, *a. r.*

J. DVORAK, *a. r.*

For Yugoslavia :

Dr. L. PROHASKA, *a. r.*

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE.

The undersigned, Waldemar Raythe de Queiroz e Silva, Agricultural Engineer, and Jorge de Sà Earp, Agricultural Engineer and Veterinary Surgeon, who have been provided by the Government of the Republic of the United States of Brazil with regular credentials and full powers for the signature of the "International Convention for the Unification of Methods of Sampling and Analysing Cheeses", having been prevented by accidental circumstances from taking part in the meetings of the Conference on the subject, have taken cognisance of the Convention signed at Rome for that purpose on April 26th last, and, being of opinion that it is in conformity with the interests of their own country and fully approving it, sign it, in agreement with all the other signatory States, in the name of Brazil as a contracting country.

The present Protocol shall be regarded as an integral part of the above-mentioned Convention of April 26th, 1934.

ROME, *April 27th*, 1934.

Waldemar Raythe DE QUEIROZ E SILVA.  
Jorge DE SÀ EARP.

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE.

The undersigned, Dr. Lars Arne Alexander Homén, provided by the Government of Finland with regular credentials and full powers for the signature of the "International Convention for the Unification of Methods of Sampling and Analysing Cheeses", having been prevented by accidental circumstances from taking part in the meetings of the Conference on the subject, has taken cognisance of the Convention signed at Rome for that purpose on April 26th last, and, being of opinion that it is in conformity with the interests of his own country and fully approving it, signs it, in agreement with all the other signatory States, in the name of Finland as a contracting country.

The present Protocol shall be regarded as an integral part of the above-mentioned Convention of April 26th, 1934.

ROME, *April 27th*, 1934.

Arne HOMÉN.