

No. 2438

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,
BELGIUM, DENMARK, SPAIN,
FRANCE, etc.**

**Protocol (with annexed Rules of Procedure and Final Act)
concerning the European Conference of Ministers of
Transport. Signed at Brussels, on 17 October 1953**

Official texts: French and English.

Registered by Belgium on 18 January 1954.

**RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE,
BELGIQUE, DANEMARK, ESPAGNE,
FRANCE, etc.**

**Protocole (avec règlement intérieur annexé et Acte final)
relatif à la Conférence européenne des Ministres des
transports. Signé à Bruxelles, le 17 octobre 1953**

Textes officiels français et anglais.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 18 janvier 1954.

No. 2438. PROTOCOL¹ CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 17 OCTOBER 1953

The Governments represented at the European Conference of Ministers of Transport meeting in Brussels from 13th to 17th October 1953;

Desirous of instituting a procedure whereby effective steps can be taken to co-ordinate and rationalise European inland transport of international importance;

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

There is hereby organised a European Conference of Ministers of Transport (hereinafter referred to as the "Conference").

Article 2

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference shall comprise :

a) A Council of Ministers of Transport (hereinafter referred to as the Council);

b) A Committee of Deputies (hereinafter referred to as the Committee);

These two bodies shall be assisted by Administrative Secretaries.

Article 3

PURPOSES OF THE CONFERENCE

The purposes of the Conference shall be :

a) to take whatever measures may be necessary to achieve, at general or regional level, the maximum use and most rational development of European inland transport of international importance;

¹ In accordance with article 14 (4), the Protocol came into force on 31 December 1953, having been finally approved, either by signature without reservation as to ratification or by signature followed by ratification, by the six following governments :

a) by signature without reservation as to ratification on 17 October 1953 :

Federal Republic of Germany	Italy
France	Switzerland

b) by deposit of the instrument of ratification on the dates indicated :

Belgium*	17 November 1953
British/United States Zone of the Free Territory of Trieste	31 December 1953

The Protocol subsequently came into force in respect of Sweden on 8 January 1954, upon the deposit of the instrument of ratification.

* This protocol is not applicable to the territories of Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

b) to co-ordinate and promote the activities of international organisations concerned with European inland transport, taking into account the work of supranational authorities in this field.

Article 4

MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The members of the Conference shall be the contracting parties to the present Protocol.

2. The associate members of the Conference shall be the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada, if they so request, and any other Government, after its application for associate membership has received the unanimous approval of the Council.

3. Associate members may be represented by observers at all meetings of the Council and of the Committee. All documents originating in the Conference shall be communicated to them.

Article 5

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Council shall be composed of those Ministers who are responsible for inland transport in their own Governments. In those cases where, in one Government, different inland transport questions are dealt with by two or more Ministers, any of those Ministers may participate in the work of the Council provided that no member Government shall have more than one vote in the Council.

Article 6

COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES

1. The Committee shall be composed of officials appointed on the basis of one deputy for each Minister, it being understood that each member Government shall have no more than one vote in the Committee.

2. The function of the Committee shall be :

- a) to prepare for each meeting of the Council;
- b) to deal with questions delegated to it by the Council;

c) to report on the measures taken in different countries to implement the conclusions reached within the Conference.

Article 7

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

a) The administrative seat of the Conference shall be in Paris. The Council shall meet at the administrative seat of the Conference, or elsewhere, as they may decide. The Committee shall normally meet at the administrative seat of the Conference. They may, however, meet elsewhere if the Council so decide with the agreement of the Government concerned.

b) The administrative secretariat shall be administratively integrated with the secretariat of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation but they shall be solely under the operational control of the Conference. The Administrative Secretaries shall be appointed with the agreement of the Conference. They shall be responsible for the preparation of the agenda, records and minutes of the meetings of the Council or Committee. They shall also take note of the conclusions of the Conference and shall be responsible for the distribution of documents and the safekeeping of the archives of the Conference.

Article 8

RESTRICTED GROUPS

a) Restricted groups may be formed for the purpose of initiating studies and discussions, within the framework of the Conference, of questions which are of special interest to certain members and are covered by the purposes of the Conference.

b) The Council shall be notified of the formation of any restricted group and kept informed of the general progress of its work.

c) If the other members consider their interests are involved they will be allowed to follow the studies and discussions of the restricted group, but they will not be able to oppose their being carried out within the framework of the Conference.

Article 9

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

a) The conclusions reached within the Conference shall be put into effect in the countries in agreement with them in that the Ministers of Transport concerned, acting individually within the area of their national competence, shall take or propose whatever measures may seem to them to be most appropriate.

b) Whenever the conclusion of a general or restricted international agreement seems necessary, each Minister of Transport concerned shall seek from his Government full powers to enable him, or any person or persons specially

appointed for the purpose, to conclude the international agreement in question. Any international agreement so concluded between a limited number of member governments shall be open for accession by other member governments.

c) The Conference or a restricted group may, by unanimous agreement, in any particular instance, notwithstanding the provisions of (a) and (b) above transmit its conclusions to any international organisation competent to take decisions with a request that the organisation in question should adopt the conclusion concerned as its own decision.

d) Any Government which is a member of the Conference but is not a member of an international organisation which may have taken a decision under the provisions of paragraph (c) above may notify the Conference of its intention to act as though it were bound by that decision.

Article 10

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

a) The Organisation for European Economic Co-operation will be invited to pay the salaries and expenses of the Administrative secretariat and to provide whatever facilities may be required for the proper working of the Conference. Whenever a body of the Conference meets elsewhere than at the administrative seat of the Conference, the host country shall pay all the expenses incurred by the meeting except the salaries of the administrative secretariat which shall be paid by the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation.

b) Member governments of the Conference who are not members of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation will contribute to the expenses of the Conference under special arrangements to be concluded between them and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation.

c) The detailed application of this Article and of Article 7 above shall be the subject of an arrangement between the Conference and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation.

Article 11

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

a) The Conference may establish relations with any supranational inter-governmental or non-governmental international organisation concerned with European inland transport.

b) Whenever particular technical questions under discussion in the Conference may require the undertaking of special studies, the Council or the Committee will, whenever possible and in whatever manner seems most suitable, invite an appropriate inter-governmental or non-governmental interna-

tional organisation concerned with European inland transport to carry out the studies required. The Committee shall, on the basis of these studies, submit its conclusions to the Council for approval.

c) (1) It is recognised that the Conference has a major interest in consulting the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation on questions of European inland transport of general economic importance, and also in consulting the other organisations referred to in paragraph (a) above on problems of transport in their respective fields. This consultation shall, as far as possible, be on a reciprocal basis.

(2) If the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation considers that a question studied by the Conference is of general economic importance, it may unanimously request to be consulted, it being understood that the Conference may equally request, under the same conditions, to be consulted by the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation on problems falling within its own competence.

Article 12

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Rules of the Procedure annexed hereto shall govern the work of the Conference.

2. The Council may, by unanimous decision, revise or make additions to the Rules of Procedure.

Article 13

AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this Protocol may be adopted by the Council, the Ministers acting unanimously and furnished with full powers from their Governments. Any such amendments shall enter into force when all the member Governments have approved them.

Article 14

SIGNATURE, RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. The present Protocol shall remain open for signature, in Brussels, until 1st May, 1954, to all Governments represented at the European Conference of Transport Ministers held at Brussels from 13th to 17th October 1953.

2. Any such Government may become a contracting party to the present Protocol :

a) by signature without reservation as to ratification;

b) by signature with reservation as to ratification, followed by ratification.

3. In the cases referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above, the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Belgian Government, and shall take effect upon deposit. The Belgian Government shall notify the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 above of the deposit of instruments of ratification.

4. The present Protocol shall enter into force when six Governments have finally approved it, either by signature without reservation as to ratification or by signature followed by ratification, as the case may be. For each Government signing without reservation as to ratification or ratifying after the entry into force of the present Protocol, the Protocol shall enter into force upon signature or ratification, as the case may be.

5. Nevertheless, pending the entry into force of this Protocol, those Governments who have signed with reservation as to ratification agree, in order to avoid delay, to put it into operation upon signature on a provisional basis in so far as their several constitutional requirements permit.

Article 15

ACCESSION

1. Any non-signatory European Government may become a contracting party to the present Protocol by accession thereto, after its application for membership of the Conference has been unanimously approved by the Council.

2. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Belgian Government and shall take effect upon deposit.

Article 16

WITHDRAWAL

Any member Government may withdraw from the present Protocol by giving six months' notice to the Belgian Government, which shall notify other member Governments.

EN FOI DE QUOI, les Plénipotentiaires soussignés, dûment autorisés à cet effet, ont signé le présent Protocole.

FAIT à Bruxelles, le 17 octobre 1953, en français et en anglais, les deux textes faisant également foi, en un seul exemplaire qui restera déposé aux archives du Gouvernement de la Belgique, qui en communiquera copie certifiée conforme à tous les gouvernements participants.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries being duly authorized to that effect have signed the present Protocol.

DONE at Brussels this 17th day of October 1953, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Belgian Government by which certified copies will be communicated to all the participating Governments.

Pour la République fédérale
d'Allemagne :

For the Federal Republic of
Germany :

SEEBOHM

Pour l'Autriche :
Pour la Belgique :

For Austria :
For Belgium :

*Sous réserve de ratification*¹

P.-W. SEGERS

Pour le Danemark :

For Denmark :

Ad referendum

Palle CHRISTENSEN

Pour l'Espagne :

For Spain :

*Sous réserve de ratification*¹

Le Comte DE VALLELLANO

Pour la France :

For France :

J. CHASTELLAIN

Pour le Royaume-Uni de Grande-
Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord :

For the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland :

*Subject to ratification*²

SELKIRK

¹ Subject to ratification.

² Sous réserve de ratification.

Pour la Grèce :

For Greece :

Pour l'Italie :

For Italy :

Bernardo MATTARELLA

Pour le Luxembourg :

For Luxembourg :

Ad referendum et sous la réserve expresse de l'approbation de l'arrangement à conclure, conformément à l'article 10, c¹

V. BODSON

Pour la Norvège :

For Norway :

*Subject to ratification*²

Jakob PETTERSEN

Pour les Pays-Bas :

For the Netherlands :

*Sous réserve de ratification*³

J. ALGERA

Pour le Portugal :

For Portugal :

Ad referendum

M. GOMES DE ARAUJO

Pour la Suède :

For Sweden :

*Subject to ratification*²

Sven ANDERSSON

Pour la Suisse :

For Switzerland :

ESCHER

Pour la Turquie :

For Turkey :

*Sous réserve de ratification*³

K. ZEYTINGLU

Pour la Zone Anglo-américaine
du Territoire libre de Trieste :

For the British United-States Zone
of the free territory of Trieste :

*Sous réserve de ratification*³

COSULICH

¹ Ad referendum and subject to the express reservation that the arrangement to be concluded in conformity with article 10 (c) shall be approved.

² Sous réserve de ratification.

³ Subject to ratification.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

Rule 1

COUNCIL

a) The Council shall elect on the agreement of the majority of members present a Bureau consisting of a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. This Bureau shall in principle be re-elected annually and shall remain in office until new officers are elected.

b) The outgoing Chairman shall normally be replaced by the senior Vice-Chairman of the previous year and the latter by the junior Vice-Chairman of the previous year.

c) If, while holding office, a member of the Bureau should relinquish his responsibilities for transport in his own Government, he shall automatically be succeeded by his successor in his Government.

Rule 2

The Council shall in principle be convened by its Chairman at least once a year. In addition, a meeting of the Council shall be convened by the Chairman on the express request of not less than one-third of the members.

Rule 3

COMMITTEE

The Bureau of the Committee shall consist of a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. In order to ensure close co-operation between the Bureaux of the Council and the Committee, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee shall be respectively the deputies of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Council.

Rule 4

The Committee shall meet as often as it considers necessary and, in any case, at each session of the Council. In addition, a meeting of the Committee shall be convened by the Chairman at the request or with the agreement of not less than one-third of the members.

Rule 5

Unless the Council decides otherwise, meetings of both the Council and of the Committee shall be held in private.

Rule 6

RESTRICTED GROUPS

The restricted groups formed in accordance with Article 8 of the Protocol shall determine their own methods of work.

Rule 7

AGENDA

a) Before each meeting of the Council or of the Committee the Bureau concerned shall draw up a provisional agenda.

b) The first item on the agenda shall be a discussion of the measures taken by member countries to implement the Conclusions of the Conference.

c) The provisional agenda shall be made available to all members not less than six weeks before the date of each session of the Council and not less than three weeks before the date of each session of the Committee.

d) At the opening of each session any member shall have the right to propose an item for inclusion in the provisional agenda. Thereafter the agenda shall be adopted by a majority of members present.

Rule 8

VOTING

The Resolutions agreed upon by the Council or the Committee on matters of procedure relating to the progress of their work shall be adopted by a majority of the members present, unless otherwise specially provided.

Rule 9

QUORUM

The Council and the Committee shall not meet unless a minimum of two-thirds of the members are present or represented.

Rule 10

RECORDS

Records shall be prepared of all meetings of the Council and of the Committee.

Rule 11

HEARINGS

When the Conference discusses a subject which comes within the competence of an international organisation, arrangements may be made by a majority of the Committee to hear the views of that Organisation.

Rule 12

MISCELLANEOUS

Except where the Bureau of the Council or of the Committee may decide otherwise, documents originating in the Conference shall be communicated only to member and associate Governments.

Rule 13

The Bureau of the Council may with the agreement of the Council issue press communiqués on the work of the Conference.

FINAL ACT

The European Conference of Ministers of Transports held at Brussels from 13th - 17th October, 1953,

With a view to reaching common accord on questions concerning European Inland Transports,

Has adopted and opened for signature the text of a Protocol concerning the European Conference of Ministers of Transports, with an Annex containing Rules of Procedure;

And has in addition adopted the following Resolutions concerning :

1) Rail Transport problems :

- Joint use of goods wagons;
- Adoption of rational routes for the transport of goods by rail and the unification of tariff rates;
- Standardisation of equipment and electrification;
- International financing of purchases of railways rolling stock;
- Measures to increase the number of signatories to the International Conventions on Rail Transports and to expedite the ratification of International Conventions drafted by specialised Agencies.

2) Road Transport problems :

- Development of international traffic arteries;
- Road signs and signals;
- Weights and dimensions of motor vehicles;
- Regulations for international transport;
- Road traffic;
- Provision of frontier posts on main international traffic arteries.

3) Inland Waterways Transport Problems :

- Compilation of a list of development projects for inland waterways of interest to Europe as a whole;
- International problems involved in the use of inland waterways.

4) General problems relating to the three modes of transport :

- Capital investment in transport;
- Perishable goods.

EN FOI DE QUOI les soussignés ont
signé le présent Acte Final.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the under-
signed representatives have signed
the Present Final Act.

FAIT à Bruxelles, le 17 octobre
1953, en un seul exemplaire, en lan-
gues française et anglaise.

DONE at Brussels the 17th day
October, 1953, in a single copy in
the English and French languages.

Pour la République fédérale d'Alle-
magne :

For the Federal Republic of Germany:

SEEBOHM

Pour l'Autriche :

For Austria :

Pour la Belgique :

For Belgium :

P.-W. SEGERS

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