

No. 2954

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

**European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading  
to Admission to Universities. Signed at Paris, on 11 De-  
cember 1953**

*Official texts: English and French.*

*Registered on 29 September 1955 by the Council of Europe acting on behalf of the  
Contracting Parties, in accordance with Resolution (54) 6 of the Committee  
of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted on 3 April 1954.*

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

**Convention européenne relative à l'équivalence des diplômes  
donnant accès aux établissements universitaires. Signée  
à Paris, le 11 décembre 1953**

*Textes officiels anglais et français.*

*Enregistrée le 29 septembre 1955 par le Conseil de l'Europe agissant au nom des  
Parties contractantes, conformément à la résolution (54) 6 du Comité des Ministres  
du Conseil de l'Europe adoptée le 3 avril 1954.*

No. 2954. EUROPEAN CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> ON THE EQUIVALENCE OF DIPLOMAS LEADING TO ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES. SIGNED AT PARIS, ON 11 DECEMBER 1953

The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

Considering that one of the objects of the Council of Europe is to pursue a policy of common action in cultural and scientific matters ;

Considering that this object would be furthered by making the intellectual resources of Members freely available to European youth ;

Considering that the university constitutes one of the principal sources of the intellectual activity of a country ;

Considering that students who have successfully completed their secondary school education in the territory of one Member should be afforded all possible facilities to enter a university of their choice in the territory of other Members ;

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with article 5, the Convention came into force on 20 April 1954, the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification, in respect of the following signatories on behalf of which the instruments of ratification were deposited on the dates indicated :

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (with declaration*) . . . . .	22 March 1954
Ireland . . . . .	31 March 1954
Denmark . . . . .	20 April 1954

The Convention came into force subsequently in respect of the following signatories on the dates indicated upon deposit of the instrument of ratification :

Norway . . . . .	21 May 1954
Iceland . . . . .	5 August 1954
Saar . . . . .	8 September 1954
Luxembourg . . . . .	12 January 1955
Federal Republic of Germany (with declaration**) . . .	3 March 1955
France . . . . .	11 March 1955
Belgium (with declaration***) . . . . .	14 June 1955

#### DECLARATIONS

\* « The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, having considered the Convention aforesaid, hereby confirm and ratify the same in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but not of the other territories for whose international relations they are responsible, and undertake faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein contained. »

#### [TRANSLATION]

\*\* The Federal Government declares that the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities applies equally to the *Land* Berlin.

On this occasion, the Federal Government repeats the reservation which it made on signing the Convention and which is to the effect that ratification in no way implies recognition of the present status of the Saar.

\*\*\* In depositing the instruments of ratification of His Majesty the King of the Belgians relating to the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities, signed in Paris on 11 December 1953, I declare that the said instruments of ratification apply solely to the metropolitan territories, the territory of the Belgian Congo and the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi being explicitly excluded.

Considering that such facilities, which are also desirable in the interests of freedom of movement from country to country, require the equivalence of diplomas leading to admission to universities,

Have agreed as follows :

#### *Article 1*

1. Each Contracting Party shall recognise for the purpose of admission to the universities situated in its territory, admission to which is subject to State control, the equivalence of those diplomas awarded in the territory of each other Contracting Party which constitute a requisite qualification for admission to similar institutions in the country in which these diplomas were awarded.

2. Admission to any university shall be subject to the availability of places.

3. Each Contracting Party reserves the right not to apply the provisions of paragraph 1 to its own nationals.

4. Where admission to universities situated in the territory of a Contracting Party is outside the control of the State, that Contracting Party shall transmit the text of this Convention to the universities concerned and use its best endeavours to obtain the acceptance by the latter of the principles stated in the preceding paragraphs.

#### *Article 2*

Each Contracting Party shall, within a year of the coming into force of this Convention, provide the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe with a written statement of the measures taken to implement the previous Article.

#### *Article 3*

The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall communicate to the other Contracting Parties the information received from each of them in accordance with Article 2 above and shall keep the Committee of Ministers informed of the progress made in the implementation of this Convention.

#### *Article 4*

For the purpose of this Convention :

(a) the term "diploma" shall mean any diploma, certificate or other qualification, in whatever form it may be awarded or recorded, which entitles the holder or the person concerned to apply for admission to a university ;

(b) the term "universities" shall mean :

(i) universities ;

- (ii) institutions regarded as being similar in character to universities by the Contracting Party in whose territory they are situated.

#### *Article 5*

1. This Convention shall be open to the signature of the Members of the Council of Europe. It shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

2. The Convention shall come into force as soon as three instruments of ratification have been deposited.<sup>1</sup>

3. As regards any signatory ratifying subsequently, the Convention shall come into force at the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

4. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify all the Members of the Council of Europe of the entry into force of the Convention, the names of the Contracting Parties which have ratified it, and the deposit of all instruments of ratification which may be effected subsequently.

#### *Article 6*

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any State which is not a Member of the Council to accede to this Convention. Any State so invited may accede by depositing its instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the Council, who shall notify all the Contracting Parties thereof. As regards any acceding State, this Convention shall come into force on the date of the deposit of its instrument of accession.

<sup>1</sup> See Certificate of Correction of the French text (article 5, para. 2), p. 136 of this volume.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed the present Convention.

DONE at Paris, this 11th day of December, 1953, in English and French, both texts being equally authoritative, in a single copy which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary-General shall transmit certified copies to each of the Signatories.

EN FOI DE QUOI, les soussignés, dûment autorisés à cet effet, ont signé la présente Convention.

FAIT à Paris, le 11 décembre 1953, en français et en anglais, les deux textes faisant également foi, en un seul exemplaire qui sera déposé dans les archives du Conseil de l'Europe. Le Secrétaire Général en communiquera des copies certifiées conformes à tous les signataires.

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Belgium :

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Belgique :

P. VAN ZEELAND

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Denmark :

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Danemark :

E. WAERUM

For the Government  
of the French Republic :

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République française :

BIDAULT

For the Government of the  
Federal Republic of Germany :

Pour le Gouvernement de la  
République Fédérale d'Allemagne :

ADENAUER

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Greece :

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Grèce :

STEPHANOPOULOS

For the Government  
of the Icelandic Republic :

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République islandaise :

Kristinn GUDMUNDSSON

For the Government  
of Ireland :

Pour le Gouvernement  
d'Irlande :

Próinsias MAC AOGÁIN

For the Government  
of the Italian Republic :

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République italienne :

Ludovico BENVENUTI

For the Government of the Grand  
Duchy of Luxembourg :

Pour le Gouvernement du Grand-  
Duché de Luxembourg :

BECH

For the Government of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands :

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume des Pays-Bas :

J. W. BEYEN

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Norway :

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Norvège :

Halvard LANGE

For the Government  
of the Saar :

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la Sarre :

*(in application of resolution (53) 30 of  
the Committee of Ministers)*

*(par application de la résolution (53)  
30 du Comité des Ministres)*

P. VAN ZEELAND

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Sweden :

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Suède :

Östen UNDÉN

For the Government  
of the Turkish Republic :

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République turque :

F. KÖPRÜLÜ

For the Government  
of the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

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

Anthony NUTTING

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
FOR THE CORRECTION OF THE FRENCH TEXT OF ARTICLE 5, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE EQUIVALENCE  
OF DIPLOMAS LEADING TO ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES, SIGNED  
AT PARIS ON 11th DECEMBER 1953

HAVING REGARD to the decision of the Ministers Advisers at their meeting held at Paris on 15th, 17th and 18th March, 1952 whereby at least three ratifications are required for the entry into force of the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas ;

NOTING that the English text of Article 5, paragraph 2, of the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to admission to Universities, signed at Paris on 11th December, 1953, lays down that the Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit of three instruments of ratification, whereas the French text states that only two instruments of ratification shall be necessary ;

NOTING therefore that a technical error has occurred ;

CONSIDERING that, at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, held at Strasbourg from 8th to 18th February, 1954, the Committee of Ministers signified the consent of the Contracting Parties to the correction of the French text of the above-mentioned provision ;

The Secretary-General hereby certifies as follows :

In the French text of Article 5, paragraph 2, of the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to admission to Universities, signed at Paris on 11th December, 1953, the word "deux" has been replaced by the word "trois".

DONE at Strasbourg, on 18th February 1954.

Léon MARCHAL  
Secretary-General