

No. 4844

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**AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FINLAND,  
FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, etc.**

**Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles for Private  
Use in International Traffic (with Protocol of Signature).  
Done at Geneva, on 18 May 1956**

*Official texts: English and French.*

*Registered ex officio on 18 August 1959.*

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**AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE, FINLANDE,  
FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, etc.**

**Convention relative au régime fiscal des véhicules routiers  
à usage privé en circulation internationale (avec Proto-  
cole de signature). Faite à Genève, le 18 mai 1956**

*Textes officiels anglais et français.*

*Enregistrée d'office le 18 août 1959.*

No. 4844. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> ON THE TAXATION OF ROAD VEHICLES FOR PRIVATE USE IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. DONE AT GENEVA, ON 18 MAY 1956

*The Contracting Parties,*

Considering that some European States have concluded bilateral agreements or taken other steps introducing a more liberal procedure than that of the Convention of 30 March 1931<sup>2</sup> on the Taxation of Foreign Motor Vehicles,

*Desiring* to facilitate the development of international touring,  
*Have agreed* as follows :

*Article 1*

For the purpose of this Convention :

(a) The term " vehicles " shall mean all cycles, all self-propelled road vehicles and all trailers for coupling to such vehicles whether imported with the vehicle or separately, with the exception, however, of vehicles or combinations of coupled vehicles for the transport of persons having more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat;

(b) The term " private use " shall exclude the transport of persons for remuneration, reward or other consideration and the industrial or commercial transport of goods with or without remuneration.

*Article 2*

Vehicles registered in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, and vehicles allowed to be brought into circulation on such territory and exempted

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with article 6, the Convention came into force on 18 August 1959, the ninetieth day after the following five countries had signed it without reservation as to ratification (\*) or had deposited their instruments of ratification on the dates indicated :

Austria . . . . .	12 November 1958	Netherlands (for the	
Finland . . . . .	18 May 1956(*)	Realm in Europe,	
France . . . . .	20 May 1959	Surinam, the Nether-	
		lands Antilles and	
		Netherlands New	
		Guinea) . . . . .	20 April 1959
		Sweden . . . . .	16 January 1958

In addition, the instrument of accession by the Government of Ghana was deposited on 18 August 1959, to take effect on 16 November 1959.

\* League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXXXVIII, p. 149; Vol. CXLII, p. 393; Vol. CXLVII, p. 356; Vol. CLVI, p. 260; Vol. CLX, p. 418; Vol. CLXIV, p. 403; Vol. CLXXII, p. 426; Vol. CLXXXI, p. 397; Vol. CLXXXV, p. 407; Vol. CLXXXIX, p. 483, and Vol. CLXXXXVI, p. 422.

on that territory from the obligation to be registered, shall, when temporarily imported for private use in the territory of another Contracting Party, be exempted, under the conditions laid down below, from taxes and charges levied on the circulation or possession of vehicles in the territory of that Contracting Party. This exemption shall not apply to tolls or to taxes or charges on consumption.

### *Article 3*

1. This exemption shall be granted in the territory of each Contracting Party so long as the conditions laid down in the Customs regulations in force in that territory for the temporary admission, without payment, of import duties and import taxes of vehicles covered by article 2 are fulfilled.

2. Nevertheless, each Contracting Party may limit the duration of this exemption to three hundred and sixty-five consecutive days, even if the vehicle is temporarily admitted without payment of import duties and import taxes for a longer period.

### *Article 4*

As soon as a country which is a Contracting Party to the Convention of 30 March 1931 on the Taxation of Foreign Motor Vehicles becomes a Contracting Party to the present Convention, it shall take the measures laid down in article 17 of the 1931 Convention to denounce that Convention.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### *Article 5*

1. Countries members of the Economic Commission for Europe and countries admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 of the Commission's terms of reference, may become Contracting Parties to this Convention :

- (a) By signing it;
- (b) By ratifying it after signing it subject to ratification;
- (c) By acceding to it.

2. Such countries as may participate in certain activities of the Economic Commission for Europe in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference may become Contracting Parties to this Convention by acceding thereto after its entry into force.

3. The Convention shall be open for signature until 31 August 1956, inclusive. Thereafter, it shall be open for accession.

4. Ratification or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*Article 6*

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day after five of the countries referred to in article 5, paragraph 1, have signed it without reservation of ratification or have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.

2. For any country ratifying or acceding to it after five countries have signed it without reservation of ratification or have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the said country has deposited its instrument of ratification or accession.

*Article 7*

1. Any Contracting Party may denounce this Convention by so notifying the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Denunciation shall take effect fifteen months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the notification of denunciation.

*Article 8*

This Convention shall cease to have effect if, for any period of twelve consecutive months after its entry into force, the number of Contracting Parties is less than five.

*Article 9*

1. Any country may, at the time of signing this Convention without reservation of ratification or of depositing its instrument of ratification or accession or at any time thereafter, declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that this Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible. The Convention shall extend to the territory or territories named in the notification as from the ninetieth day after its receipt by the Secretary-General or, if on that day the Convention has not yet entered into force, at the time of its entry into force.

2. Any country which has made a declaration under the preceding paragraph extending this Convention to any territory for whose international relations it is responsible may denounce the Convention separately in respect of that territory in accordance with the provisions of article 7.

*Article 10*

1. Any dispute between two or more Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention shall so far as possible be settled by negotiation between them.

2. Any dispute which is not settled by negotiation shall be submitted to arbitration if any one of the Contracting Parties in dispute so requests and shall be referred accordingly to one or more arbitrators selected by agreement between the Parties in dispute. If within three months from the date of the request for arbitration the Parties in dispute are unable to agree on the selection of an arbitrator or arbitrators, any of those Parties may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate a single arbitrator to whom the dispute shall be referred for decision.

3. The decision of the arbitrator or arbitrators appointed under the preceding paragraph shall be binding on the Contracting Parties in dispute.

#### *Article 11*

1. Each Contracting Party may at the time of signing, ratifying, or acceding to, this Convention, or at any time thereafter, declare that it will not apply the Convention to cycles without engines.

2. Each Contracting Party may, at the time of signing, ratifying, or acceding to, this Convention, declare that it does not consider itself as bound by article 10 of the Convention. Other Contracting Parties shall not be bound by article 10 in respect of any Contracting Party which has entered such a reservation.

3. Any Contracting Party having entered a reservation as provided for in paragraph 1 or in paragraph 2 may at any time withdraw such reservation by notifying the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. No other reservation to this Convention shall be permitted.

#### *Article 12*

1. After this Convention has been in force for three years, any Contracting Party may, by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, request that a conference be convened for the purpose of reviewing the Convention. The Secretary-General shall notify all Contracting Parties of the request and a review conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General if, within a period of four months following the date of notification by the Secretary-General, not less than one third of the Contracting Parties notify him of their concurrence with the request.

2. If a conference is convened in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the Secretary-General shall notify all the Contracting Parties and invite them to submit within a period of three months such proposals as they may wish the Conference to consider. The Secretary-General shall circulate to all Contracting Parties the provisional agenda for the conference together with the texts of such

proposals at least three months before the date on which the conference is to meet.

3. The Secretary-General shall invite to any conference convened in accordance with this article all countries referred to in article 5, paragraph 1, and countries which have become Contracting Parties under article 5, paragraph 2.

### *Article 13*

1. Any Contracting Party may propose one or more amendments to this Convention. The text of any proposed amendments shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall transmit it to all Contracting Parties and inform all other countries referred to in article 5, paragraph 1.

2. Any proposed amendment circulated in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall be deemed to be accepted if no Contracting Party expresses an objection within a period of six months following the date of circulation of the proposed amendment by the Secretary-General.

3. The Secretary-General shall, as soon as possible, notify all Contracting Parties whether an objection to the proposed amendment has been expressed. If an objection to the proposed amendment has been expressed, the amendment shall be deemed not to have been accepted and shall be of no effect whatever. If no such objection has been expressed the amendment shall enter into force for all Contracting Parties three months after the expiry of the period of six months referred to in the preceding paragraph.

### *Article 14*

In addition to the notifications provided for in articles 12 and 13, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify the countries referred to in article 5, paragraph 1, and the countries which have become Contracting Parties under article 5, paragraph 2, of :

- (a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions under article 5;
- (b) The dates of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with article 6;
- (c) Denunciations under article 7;
- (d) The termination of this Convention in accordance with article 8;
- (e) Notifications received in accordance with article 9;
- (f) Declarations and notifications received in accordance with article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2;
- (g) The entry into force of any amendment in accordance with article 13.

*Article 15*

The Protocol of Signature<sup>1</sup> of this Convention shall have the same force, effect and duration as the Convention itself of which it shall be considered to be an integral part.

*Article 16*

After 31 August 1956, the original of this Convention shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit certified true copies to each of the countries mentioned in article 5, paragraphs 1 and 2.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Geneva, this eighteenth day of May one thousand nine hundred and fifty-six, in a single copy in the English and French languages, each text being equally authentic.

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 20 of this volume.

For Albania :

Pour l'Albanie :

For Austria :

Pour l'Autriche :

Sous réserve de ratification<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Josef STANGELBERGER

For Belgium :

Pour la Belgique :

Sous réserve de ratification<sup>1</sup>

LEROY

For Bulgaria :

Pour la Bulgarie :

For Byelorussian SSR :

Pour la Biélorussie :

For Czechoslovakia :

Pour la Tchécoslovaquie :

For Denmark :

Pour le Danemark :

For the Federal Republic of Germany : Pour la République Fédérale  
d'Allemagne :

For Finland :

Pour la Finlande :

Torsten TIKANVAARA

<sup>1</sup>Subject to ratification.



For France :

Pour la France :

Sous réserve de ratification<sup>1</sup>  
DE CURTON

For Greece :

Pour la Grèce :

For Hungary :

Pour la Hongrie :

For Iceland :

Pour l'Islande :

For Ireland :

Pour l'Irlande :

For Italy :

Pour l'Italie :

For Luxembourg :

Pour le Luxembourg :

Sous réserve de ratification<sup>1</sup>  
R. LOGELIN

For the Netherlands :

Pour les Pays-Bas :

Pour le Royaume en Europe  
Sous réserve de ratification<sup>2</sup>  
W. H. J. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK

<sup>1</sup> Subject to ratification.

<sup>2</sup> For the Realm in Europe.  
Subject to ratification.

For Norway :

Pour la Norvège :

For Poland :

Pour la Pologne :

Sous réserve de ratification et sous réserve que le Gouvernement de la République Populaire de Pologne ne se considère pas lié par l'Article 10 de la Convention<sup>1</sup>.

Jerzy KOSZYK

For Portugal :

Pour le Portugal :

For Romania :

Pour la Roumanie :

For Spain :

Pour l'Espagne :

For Sweden :

Pour la Suède :

Sous réserve de ratification<sup>2</sup>  
G. DE SYDOW

For Switzerland :

Pour la Suisse :

<sup>1</sup> Subject to the reservation that the Government of the People's Republic of Poland does not consider itself as bound by Article 10 of the Convention.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to ratification.

For Turkey :

Pour la Turquie :

For Ukrainian SSR :

Pour l'Ukraine :

For the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics :Pour l'Union des Républiques Socia-  
listes Soviétiques :For the United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland :Pour le Royaume-Uni de Grande-  
Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord :Subject to ratification<sup>1</sup>  
James C. WARDROP

For the United States of America :

Pour les États-Unis d'Amérique :

For Yugoslavia :

Pour la Yougoslavie :

Sous réserve de ratification<sup>2</sup>  
Ljubisa VESELINOVIC<sup>1</sup> Sous réserve de ratification.<sup>2</sup> Subject to ratification.

## PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE

On proceeding to sign the Convention of this day's date on the Taxation of Road Vehicles for Private Use in International Traffic,<sup>1</sup> the undersigned, duly authorized, have agreed on the following stipulations and taken due note of the following reservations :

1. For the purpose of this Convention, the use of a hired vehicle shall be regarded as private use of the vehicle if the vehicle is hired without a driver, even if the person hiring it himself engages a driver.

2. The transport of personal luggage belonging to the passengers, or in the case of commercial travellers, the transport of samples, shall not prevent the use of the vehicle from being regarded as private use.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Geneva, this eighteenth day of May one thousand nine hundred and fifty-six, in a single copy in the English and French languages, each text being equally authentic.

*[The signatures following the Protocol of Signature are the same as those which follow the Convention. See pp. 16 to 19 of this volume.]*

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 4 of this volume.