

No. 5245

**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS, ALBANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY,
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, POLAND,
ROMANIA and CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**Charter of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.
Signed at Sofia, on 14 December 1959**

Official text: Russian.

Registered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 14 July 1960.

**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES, ALBANIE, BULGARIE, HONGRIE,
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE,
POLOGNE,
ROUMANIE et TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

**Statuts du Conseil d'entraide économique. Signés à Sofia,
le 14 décembre 1959**

Texte officiel russe.

Enregistrés par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques le 14 juillet 1960.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5245. CHARTER¹ OF THE COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SIGNED AT SOFIA, ON 14 DECEMBER 1959

The Governments of the People's Republic of Albania, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Romanian People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Republic,

BEARING IN MIND that the economic co-operation which is successfully taking place between their countries helps to promote the most rational development of the national economy, to raise the level of living of the people and to strengthen the unity and solidarity of those countries;

DETERMINED to continue the development of comprehensive economic co-operation based on consistent implementation of the international socialist division of labour in the interests of the building of socialism and communism in their countries and the maintenance of lasting peace throughout the world;

CONVINCED that the development of economic co-operation between their countries contributes to the achievement of the purposes set forth in the Charter of the United Nations;

AFFIRMING their readiness to develop economic relations with all countries, irrespective of their social and political structure, on the basis of equality, mutual advantage and non-intervention in each other's domestic affairs;

RECOGNIZING the increasing importance of the part played by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the organizing of economic co-operation between their countries,

HAVE AGREED, to these ends, to adopt the present Charter.

Article I

PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

1. The purpose of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is to promote, by uniting and co-ordinating the efforts of the member countries of the Council, the planned development of the national economies and the acceleration of the economic and technical progress of those countries, the raising of the level of industrialization of the countries with a less-developed industry, and a continual growth in the productivity, together with a steady increase in the well-being of the peoples, of the member countries of the Council.

¹ Came into force on 13 April 1960, the date of deposit with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the instruments of ratification by all the countries which had signed the Charter, in accordance with article XV.

2. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all the member countries of the Council.

Economic and scientific-technical co-operation between the member countries of the Council shall take place in accordance with the principles of complete equality of rights, respect for sovereignty and national interest, mutual advantage and friendly mutual aid.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP

1. The original members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall be the countries which have signed and ratified the present Charter.

2. Membership in the Council shall be open to other European countries which subscribe to the purposes and principles of the Council and declare that they agree to accept the obligations contained in the present Charter.

New members shall be admitted by a decision of the Session of the Council, on the basis of official requests by countries for their admission to membership in the Council.

3. Any member country of the Council may leave the Council, after notifying the depositary of the present Charter to that effect. Such notice shall take effect six months after its receipt by the depositary. Upon receiving such notice, the depositary shall inform the member countries of the Council thereof.

4. The member countries of the Council agree :

(a) To ensure implementation of the recommendations, accepted by them, of organs of the Council;

(b) To render to the Council and its officers the necessary assistance in the execution of the duties laid upon them by the present Charter;

(c) To make available to the Council the material and information essential to the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to it;

(d) To keep the Council informed of progress in the implementation of the recommendations adopted in the Council.

Article III

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

1. In conformity with the purposes and principles set forth in article I of the present Charter, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall :

(a) Organize :

Comprehensive economic and scientific-technical co-operation among the member countries of the Council, with a view to the most rational use of their natural resources and the more rapid development of their productive forces;

The preparation of recommendations on the most important questions in the economic relations resulting from the plans for the development of the national economies of the member countries of the Council, for the purpose of co-ordinating those plans;

The study of economic problems which are of interest to the member countries of the Council;

(b) Assist the member countries of the Council in the preparation and execution of joint measures regarding :

The development of industry and agriculture in the member countries of the Council, based on consistent implementation of the international socialist division of labour and on specialization and co-operation in production;

The development of transport, for the primary purpose of ensuring the conveyance of the increasing volume of export-import and transit freight between member countries of the Council;

The most effective use of the capital invested by member countries of the Council in projects to be carried out on the basis of joint participation;

The development of the exchange of goods and services between member countries of the Council and with other countries;

The exchange of experience in the matter of scientific-technical achievements and advanced methods of production;

(c) Undertake other action required for achieving the purposes of the Council.

2. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, through its organs acting within their competence, is authorized to adopt recommendations and decisions in accordance with the present Charter.

Article IV

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. Recommendations shall be adopted on questions of economic and scientific-technical co-operation. Such recommendations shall be communicated to the member countries of the Council for consideration.

Recommendations adopted by member countries of the Council shall be implemented by them through decisions of the Governments or competent authorities of those countries, in conformity with their laws.

2. Decisions shall be adopted on organizational and procedural questions. Such decisions shall take effect, unless it is specified otherwise in them, from the date on which the record of the meeting of the Council organ concerned is signed.

3. All recommendations and decisions of the Council shall be adopted only with the consent of the member countries concerned, each country being entitled to state its interest in any question under consideration by the Council.

Recommendations and decisions shall not apply to countries which state that they have no interest in the question at issue. Nevertheless, each such country may subsequently associate itself with the recommendations and decisions adopted by the remaining member countries of the Council.

Article V

ORGANS

1. For the discharge of the functions and the exercise of the powers mentioned in article III of the present Charter, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall have the following principal organs :

The Session of the Council,

The Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council,

The Standing Commissions,

The Secretariat.

2. Other organs may be established, as necessary, in conformity with the present Charter.

Article VI

THE SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Session of the Council shall be the highest organ of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. It shall be authorized to discuss all questions falling within the competence of the Council, and to adopt recommendations and decisions in accordance with the present Charter.

2. The Session of the Council shall consist of delegations from all the member countries of the Council. The composition of the delegation of each country shall be determined by the Government of the country concerned.

3. The regular sessions of the Council shall be convened twice a year in the capital of each member country of the Council in turn, under the chairmanship of the head of the delegation of the country in which the session is held.

4. A special session of the Council may be convened at the request or with the consent of not less than one third of the member countries of the Council.

5. The Session of the Council shall :

(a) Consider :

Proposals on questions of economic and scientific-technical co-operation submitted by member countries of the Council, as well as by the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council, the Standing Commissions and the Secretariat of the Council;

The report of the Secretariat of the Council on the activity of the Council;
(b) Determine the course of action of the other organs of the Council, and the main questions for the agenda of the next session of the Council;

(c) Perform such other functions as may be found necessary for achieving the purposes of the Council.

6. The Session of the Council is authorized to establish such organs as it may consider necessary for the discharge of the functions entrusted to the Council.

7. The Session of the Council shall establish its own rules of procedure.

Article VII

THE CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE COUNCIL

1. The Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall consist of representatives of all member countries of the Council, one for each country.

The representative of a country in the Council shall have, at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Council, a deputy together with the necessary number of advisers and other staff. The deputy, when so authorized by the representative, shall perform the functions of representative in the Conference.

2. The Conference shall hold its meetings as necessary.

3. Within its field of competence, the Conference shall have the right to adopt recommendations and decisions in conformity with the present Charter. The Conference may also submit proposals for consideration by the Session of the Council.

4. The Conference shall :

(a) Consider proposals from the member countries of the Council, the Standing Commissions and the Secretariat of the Council regarding the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the Session of the Council, as well as other questions connected with economic and scientific-technical co-operation which need to be settled in the period between sessions of the Council;

(b) Engage in preliminary discussion, where necessary, of the proposals made by member countries of the Council, by the Standing Commissions and by the Secretariat of the Council regarding items for the agenda of the next session of the Council;

(c) Co-ordinate the work of the Standing Commissions of the Council, and study their reports on the work completed and on future activities;

(d) Approve :

The personnel and budget of the Secretariat of the Council, and the report of the Secretariat on the operation of the budget;

The regulations for the Standing Commissions and Secretariat of the Council;

(e) Establish control organs for supervising the financial activity of the Secretariat of the Council;

(f) Perform other functions arising from the present Charter and from the recommendations and decisions of the Session of the Council.

5. The Conference may set up auxiliary organs for preparatory work in regard to items of the agenda.

6. The Conference shall establish its own rules of procedure.

Article VIII

THE STANDING COMMISSIONS

1. Standing Commissions of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall be set up by the Session of the Council for the purpose of promoting the further development of economic relations between the member countries of the Council and organizing comprehensive economic and scientific-technical co-operation in the various sectors of the national economies of those countries.

The regulations for the Standing Commissions shall be approved by the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council.

2. Each member country of the Council shall appoint its representatives to the Standing Commissions.

3. The Standing Commissions shall have the right, within their field of competence, to adopt recommendations and decisions in conformity with the present Charter. The Commissions may also submit proposals for consideration by the Session of the Council and the Conference of Representatives of the countries in the Council.

4. The Standing Commissions shall work out measures and prepare proposals for implementing the economic and scientific-technical co-operation mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article; they shall also perform other functions arising from the present Charter and from the recommendations and decisions of the Session of the Council and of the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council.

The Standing Commissions shall submit to the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council annual reports on the work done and on their future activities.

5. The meetings of the Standing Commissions shall, as a rule, be held at their permanent headquarters, which shall be designated by the session of the Council.

6. The Standing Commissions may establish auxiliary organs, as necessary. The composition and terms of reference of such organs, and their place of meeting, shall be determined by the Commissions.

7. Each Standing Commission shall have a secretariat, headed by the secretary of the Commission. The establishment pertaining to the secretariat of a Commission shall be a part of the Secretariat of the Council and shall be maintained from the budget of the Council.

8. The Standing Commissions shall establish their own rules of procedure.

Article IX

THE SECRETARIAT

1. The Secretariat of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall consist of the Secretary of the Council, his deputies and such personnel as may be required for the performance of the functions entrusted to the Secretariat.

The Secretary and his deputies shall be appointed by the Session of the Council and shall direct the work of the Secretariat of the Council. The personnel of the Secretariat shall be recruited from citizens of the member countries of the Council, in accordance with the regulations for the Secretariat of the Council.

The Secretary of the Council shall be the chief officer of the Council. He shall represent the Council vis-à-vis officials and organizations of the member countries of the Council and other countries, and vis-à-vis international organizations. The Secretary of the Council may authorize his deputies, as well as other members of the Secretariat to act on his behalf.

The Secretary and his deputies may take part in all meetings of the organs of the Council.

2. The Secretariat of the Council shall :

(a) Submit a report on the Council's activity to the regular session of the Council;

(b) Assist in the preparation and conduct of meetings of the Session of the Council, the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council and the Standing Commissions of the Council, and of meetings convened by decision of those organs of the Council;

(c) Prepare, when so instructed by the Session of the Council or by the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council, economic surveys and studies on the basis of material submitted by member countries of the Council, and publish material on questions regarding economic and scientific-technical co-operation between those countries;

(d) Prepare :

Proposals concerning the work of the Council, for consideration in the appropriate organs of the Council;

Information and guidance on questions involved in economic and scientific-technical co-operation between member countries of the Council;

(e) Organize, jointly with the Standing Commissions of the Council, the preparation of draft multilateral agreements on questions arising from economic and scientific-technical co-operation, on the basis of recommendations and decisions adopted by the Session of the Council and by the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council;

(f) Undertake other action arising out of the present Charter, the recommendations and decisions adopted in the Council, and the regulations for the Secretariat of the Council.

3. The Secretary of the Council, his deputies and the personnel of the Secretariat, when fulfilling the duties entrusted to them, act as international officials.

4. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Council shall be in Moscow.

Article X

PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance may invite countries which are not members of the Council to take part in the work of the organs of the Council.

The conditions under which the representatives of such countries may participate in the work of the organs of the Council shall be determined by the Council in agreement with the countries concerned.

Article XI

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance may establish and maintain relations with the economic organizations of the United Nations and with other international organizations.

The nature and form of such relations shall be determined by the Council in agreement with the international organizations concerned.

Article XII

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

1. The member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall bear the cost of maintaining the Secretariat and of financing its activity.

The share of this cost falling to each member country shall be determined by the Session of the Council. Other financial questions shall be dealt with by the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council.

2. The Secretariat of the Council shall submit to the Conference of Representatives of the countries in the Council a report on the operation of the budget for each calendar year.

3. The maintenance expenses of participants in the meetings of the Session of the Council, the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council and the Standing Commissions of the Council, and in all meetings held within the framework of the Council, shall be borne by the country sending its representatives to those meetings.

4. The expenses involved in the servicing of the meetings mentioned in paragraph 3 of this article shall be borne by the country in which those meetings are held.

Article XIII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall enjoy, on the territories of all member countries of the Council, the legal capacity essential to the performance of its functions and the achievement of its purposes.

2. The Council, as also the representatives of the member countries of the Council and the officers of the Council, shall enjoy, on the territory of each of those countries, the privileges and immunities which are necessary for the performance of the functions and the achievements of the purposes set forth in the present Charter.

3. The legal capacity, privileges and immunities mentioned in this article shall be defined in a special Convention.

4. The provisions of the present Charter shall not affect the rights and obligations of the member countries of the Council arising out of their membership of other international organizations, or out of international treaties which they have concluded.

Article XIV

LANGUAGES

The official languages of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall be the languages of all the member countries of the Council.

The working language of the Council shall be Russian.

Article XV

RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CHARTER

1. The present Charter shall be ratified by the signatory countries, in accordance with their constitutional procedure.
2. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the depositary of the present Charter.
3. The present Charter shall enter into force immediately after the deposit of instruments of ratification by all the countries which have signed the Charter, and the depositary shall notify those countries thereof.
4. With respect to each country which in accordance with article II, paragraph 2, is admitted to membership in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and which ratifies the Charter, this Charter shall enter into force from the date of the deposit by such country of its instrument of ratification of the Charter, and the depositary shall notify the other member countries of the Council thereof.

Article XVI

PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER

Each member country of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance may make proposals for the amendment of the present Charter.

Amendments to the Charter, when approved by the Session of the Council, shall come into force immediately after the ratifications of those amendments have been deposited with the depositary by all member countries of the Council.

Article XVII

FINAL PROVISIONS

This Charter has been drawn up in a single copy, in the Russian language. It shall be deposited with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which shall send certified true copies of the Charter to the Governments of all the other member countries of the Council and shall notify those Governments, and the Secretary of the Council, of the deposit of the instruments of ratification with the Government of the USSR.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of the Governments of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance have signed the present Charter.

DONE at Sofia, on 14 December 1959.

For the Government of the People's Republic of Albania :

A. KELLEZI

For the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

R. DAMYANOV

For the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic :

A. APRO

For the Government of the German Democratic Republic :

B. LEUSCHNER

For the Government of the Polish People's Republic :

P. JAROSZEWICZ

For the Government of the Romanian People's Republic :

A. BIRLADEANU

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

A. KOSYGIN

For the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic :

O. ŠIMUNEK