

No. 5417

**YUGOSLAVIA
and
BULGARIA**

Convention concerning preventive sanitary and epidemic control measures in the frontier zone. Signed at Belgrade, on 11 December 1955

Official texts: Serbo-Croat and Bulgarian.

Registered by Yugoslavia on 1 November 1960.

**YOUGOSLAVIE
et
BULGARIE**

Convention sur les mesures prophylactiques et contre-épidémiques à prendre dans la région frontalière. Signée à Belgrade, le 11 décembre 1955

Textes officiels serbo-croate et bulgare.

Enregistrée par la Yougoslavie le 1^{er} novembre 1960.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5417. CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING PREVENTIVE SANITARY AND EPIDEMIC CONTROL MEASURES IN THE FRONTIER ZONE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA. SIGNED AT BELGRADE, ON 11 DECEMBER 1955

Desiring to secure their common interest in the health protection of the peoples of both Contracting Parties, and mindful of the need, for the purpose of such protection, to achieve unity, co-ordination and synchronization in applying preventive sanitary and epidemic control measures against certain communicable diseases in the frontier zone, the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria have decided to conclude this Convention.

PART I
DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of the application of this Convention, the expression :

“ Central health administration ” shall mean : in the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, the Federal Institute for National Health and, in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Ministry of National Health and Social Welfare;

“ Spread of an epidemic ” shall mean an increase in the number of cases at one centre of infection or in the number of centres of infection;

“ Frontier zone ” shall mean, for the purpose of notification, the frontier districts of either Contracting Party; for the purpose of the application of measures, the area up to a distance of forty kilometres on either side of the frontier;

“ Centre of infection with exanthematous typhus or relapsing fever ” shall mean the appearance of not less than two related cases of these diseases;

“ Infected area ” shall mean the territory of the commune in the event of the appearance therein of the diseases referred to in article 1 (1), (2), (3) or (4);

“ Adjacent area ” shall mean the commune which borders on the infected area.

¹ Came into force on 11 August 1956 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Sofia, in accordance with article 13.

PART II
NOTIFICATION

Article 1

Each Contracting Party shall notify the other concerning :

(1) The occurrence of any case or suspected case of plague, cholera, smallpox or yellow fever in any part of its territory;

(2) The detection of an enzootic centre of infection with, or an epizootic outbreak of, rodent plague in any part of its territory;

(3) The appearance of a centre of infection with, or the spread of an epidemic of, louse-borne exanthematous typhus or relapsing fever in the frontier zone;

(4) The spread of an epidemic of typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, infantile paralysis, malaria, dengue, haemorrhagic fever, influenza or any notifiable zoonosis in the frontier zone.

Article 2

(1) The reciprocal notification provided for in article 1 (1) and (2) shall be effected by telegraph through the central health administrations at Belgrade and Sofia immediately, and in any case not later than twenty-four hours after the detection of the disease. In the cases provided for in article 1 (3) and (4), such notification shall be effected in writing not later than forty-eight hours after detection.

The said notifications shall specify : (a) the place; (b) the type and seriousness of the disease; (c) the number of cases; (d) the number of deaths; (e) the circumstances of spread; and (f) the measures taken.

In addition to the said notifications, the central health administrations at Belgrade and Sofia shall, until the infected area is free from the infection referred to in article 1 (1) or (2), exchange every seven days reports giving particulars of the course of the infection and the effectiveness of the measures taken.

(2) When the infected area is free from infection, the fact shall be reported to the central health administration of the other Contracting Party. The infected area shall be deemed free from infection :

(a) With the diseases referred to in article 1 (1), (2) or (3), excepting yellow fever : when a period twice the length of the incubation period has elapsed, since the last case of infection, without an outbreak of the same disease in the adjacent area. In the case of plague, the provisions of sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph must be taken into account;

(b) With yellow fever : when not less than three months have elapsed, since the occurrence of the last case of infection, without an outbreak of the disease in the adjacent area, or when not less than one month has elapsed since the *Aedes aegypti* index fell to a maximum of 1 per cent;

(c) With enzootic or epizootic rodent plague : when not less than one month has elapsed, since the occurrence of the last case of infection in the enzootic centre of infection, or since the end of the epidemic, without an outbreak of the disease in the adjacent area.

(3) The central health administrations at Belgrade and Sofia shall exchange monthly reports, with respect to the frontier zone of either Contracting Party, on the course of the communicable diseases referred to in article 1 of this Convention.

PART III

ORGANIZATION AND MEASURES

Article 4

The two Contracting Parties shall provide, each in its own part of the frontier zone :

(a) Sufficient specialized personnel to undertake general control, preventive sanitary and epidemic control measures, such personnel to be stationed in the zone itself or in the neighbourhood thereof;

(b) Sufficient materials and technical equipment to carry out general and specific preventive sanitary and epidemic control measures, such materials and equipment to be kept in the zone itself or in the neighbourhood thereof;

(c) Facilities for the isolation of cases or suspected cases of the diseases referred to in article 1 (1), (3) or (4), and appropriate transport for such cases to the nearest hospital;

(d) Facilities, in the frontier zone itself or in the neighbourhood thereof, for the prompt and rapid microbiological diagnosis of communicable diseases.

Article 5

(1) The general and specific preventive sanitary and epidemic control measures which the legal provisions of either Contracting Party prescribe for adoption against the communicable diseases referred to in article 1 shall be applied in the frontier zone of each Contracting Party.

(2) The following may be subjected to sanitary control and to preventive sanitary and epidemic control measures, in the frontier zone, according to the epidemiological indications :

(a) Persons who proceed from an area in the territory of one Contracting Party which is infected with a disease referred to in article 1 (1) or (3) to the territory of the other Contracting Party;

(b) Food products carried or transported from an area in the territory of one Contracting Party which is infected with cholera, typhoid, paratyphoid or dysentery into the territory of the other Contracting Party;

(c) Personal baggage carried or transported from an area in the territory of one Contracting Party which is infected with a disease referred to in article 1 (1) or (3) into the territory of the other Contracting Party;

(d) Wool, hides, clothing and similar articles carried or transported from an area in the territory of one Contracting Party which is infected with plague, smallpox, exanthematous typhus or relapsing fever into the territory of the other Contracting Party;

(e) In the event of an outbreak of a disease referred to in article 1 (1), (2) or (3), means of transport proceeding from the territory of one Contracting Party to the territory of the other;

(f) Running surface waters which flow through the territory of both Contracting Parties and standing surface waters which border on the territory of both Contracting Parties.

(3) The following measures shall be taken in the frontier zone :

(a) The extermination of insect and rodent vectors of communicable diseases, stray dogs, wolves and foxes;

(b) The registration and vaccination of dogs.

(4) Correspondence and printed matter shall not be subject to sanitary measures.

(5) In the application to persons, and to their movable and immovable property, of the measures provided for in this Convention, every care shall be taken to ensure that :

(a) The measures taken do not interfere, save as absolutely necessary, with the work or movement of the persons concerned and have no adverse effect on their health;

(b) The said measures have no adverse effect on the movable or immovable property of the said persons.

Article 6

(1) The central health administrations at Belgrade and Sofia shall exchange the legal provisions relating to the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

(2) The competent sanitary, hygiene and epidemiological services of the two Contracting Parties shall arrange to exchange experience in matters relating to

the prevention and control of communicable diseases, through meetings of experts and the exchange of specialized literature and through the scientific institutes, which shall jointly study individual matters of common interest.

(3) Where a need is shown to exist in the frontier zone of one of the Contracting Parties, and at the request of either Contracting Party, assistance in the prevention and control of communicable diseases by means of qualified personnel, materials and technical equipment shall be rendered by agreement and against payment at cost for services and materials.

(4) All obligations arising out of this Convention may be extended, by agreement between the central health administrations at Belgrade and Sofia, to cover communicable diseases not referred to in article 1, as well as new or hitherto unknown communicable diseases, where it is confirmed that they represent a serious epidemiological problem to the frontier zone.

(5) In an emergency and at the request of either Contracting Party, qualified personnel of the Health Service may proceed from the territory of one Contracting Party to the territory of the other Contracting Party for the purpose of urgent arrangements, communication, consultation and the adoption of urgent measures.

PLAGUE

Article 7

With a view to protection from and control of plague, in the event of an outbreak of the disease the following measures shall be applied over and above the pertinent measures provided for in article 5 of this Convention :

(1) Where a danger of plague exists, every facility shall be provided for keeping rats and their ectoparasites under constant control in the threatened area of the frontier zone, and the central health administration at Belgrade or Sofia shall be informed of the results achieved.

(2) Any person coming from an area infected or suspected of being infected with plague must be in possession of evidence that an interval of more than six days has elapsed since he was exposed to infection. Failing such evidence, he shall be placed in quarantine for a period of six days from the date of arrival in the frontier area of the other Contracting Party.

(3) Where a train or other land vehicle arriving from the territory of one Contracting Party at the frontier zone station of the other Contracting Party has on board one or more persons suffering from plague or from a disease suspected of being plague, it shall be disinfested and disinfected.

(4) Where a national of one Contracting Party entering the territory of the other Contracting Party is suffering from plague or from a disease suspected of

being plague or has to the knowledge of the health authorities been exposed to infection within the past six days, he shall undergo all necessary measures of isolation, hospitalization and sanitary treatment. The central health administration of the other Contracting Party shall be given full particulars immediately by the most rapid means.

CHOLERA

Article 8

With a view to protection from and control of cholera, in the event of an outbreak of the disease the following measures shall be applied over and above the pertinent measures provided for in article 5 of this Convention :

(1) Any person coming from an area infected or suspected of being infected with cholera must be in possession of a certificate showing that he has been properly inoculated or of evidence that an interval of more than five days has elapsed since he was exposed to infection. Failing such certificate or evidence, he shall be placed in quarantine for a period of five days from the date of arrival in the frontier zone of the other Contracting Party.

(2) Where a train or other land vehicle arriving from the territory of one Contracting Party at the frontier zone station of the other Contracting Party has on board one or more persons suffering or suspected of suffering from cholera, it shall be disinfected and any food products on board suspected of being contaminated shall be destroyed.

(3) Where a national of one Contracting Party entering the territory of the other Contracting Party is suffering from cholera or from a disease suspected of being cholera or has to the knowledge of the health authorities of the said territory been exposed to infection within the past five days, he shall undergo all necessary measures of isolation, hospitalization and sanitary treatment. The central health administration of the other Contracting Party shall be given full particulars immediately by the most rapid means.

(4) A specimen of the faeces for bacteriological examination shall be taken from any person who proceeds from the territory of one Contracting Party to the territory of the other Contracting Party during the incubation period or under suspicion of suffering from cholera.

SMALLPOX

Article 9

With a view to protection from and control of smallpox, when an outbreak occurs the following measures shall be applied over and above the pertinent measures provided for in article 5 of this Convention :

(1) Any person coming from an area infected or suspected of being infected with smallpox must be in possession of a certificate showing that he has been properly vaccinated against smallpox or of evidence that an interval of more than fourteen days has elapsed since he was exposed to infection. Failing such certificate or evidence, he shall be placed in quarantine for a period of fourteen days from the date of arrival in the frontier zone of the other Contracting Party.

(2) Where a train or other land vehicle arriving from the territory of one Contracting Party at the frontier zone station of the other Contracting Party has on board one or more persons suffering or suspected of suffering from smallpox, it shall be disinfected.

(3) Where a national of one Contracting Party entering the territory of the other Contracting Party is suffering or suspected of suffering from smallpox or has to the knowledge of the health authorities of the said territory been exposed to infection within the past fourteen days, he shall undergo all necessary measures of isolation, hospitalization and sanitary treatment. The central health administration of the other Contracting Party shall be given full particulars immediately by the most rapid means.

YELLOW FEVER

Article 10

(1) Any person coming from an area infected or suspected of being infected with yellow fever must be in possession of a certificate showing that he has been properly inoculated against yellow fever or of evidence that an interval of more than six days has elapsed since he was exposed to infection. Failing such certificate or evidence, he shall be placed in quarantine for a period of six days from the date of his arrival in the frontier zone of the other Contracting Party.

(2) Where a train or other land vehicle arriving from the territory of one Contracting Party at the frontier zone station of the other Contracting Party has on board one or more persons suffering or suspected of suffering from yellow fever, or is contaminated with *Aedes aegypti*, it shall be disinfested.

(3) Where a national of one Contracting Party entering the territory of the other Contracting Party is suffering from yellow fever or from a disease suspected of being yellow fever or has to the knowledge of the health authorities of the said territory been exposed to infection within the past six days, he shall undergo the necessary measures of isolation and hospitalization. The central health administration of the other Contracting Party shall be given full particulars immediately by the most rapid means.

PART IV
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 11

All measures of protection against plague, cholera, smallpox, yellow fever and exanthematous typhus at Danube ports and on board vessels in the frontier zone shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Convention concerning sanitary control on the Danube, concluded at Galati in 1954.

Article 12

Technical questions relating to the application of article 6 (3) and (5) of this Convention shall be settled by an exchange of notes through the diplomatic channel.

Article 13

This Convention shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional provisions of each Contracting Party and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Sofia. It shall remain in force for five years from the date of entry into force and shall be extended automatically for successive terms of one year unless it is denounced by either Contracting Party through the diplomatic channel not later than six months before the expiry of the prescribed term.

Article 14

DONE in two original copies, each in the Serbo-Croat and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Belgrade, 11 December 1955.

For the Government
of the Federal People's
Republic of Yugoslavia :
(Signed) Dr. R. GERIĆ

For the Government
of the People's Republic
of Bulgaria :
(Signed) Dr. E. K. KAMENOV