

**No. 5558**

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**ROMANIA  
and  
BULGARIA**

**Convention regulating the citizenship of persons having  
dual citizenship. Signed at Sofia, on 24 September 1959**

*Official texts : Romanian and Bulgarian.*

*Registered by Romania on 26 January 1961.*

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**ROUMANIE  
et  
BULGARIE**

**Convention réglementant la nationalité des personnes ayant  
la double nationalité. Signée à Sofia, le 24 septembre 1959**

*Textes officiels roumain et bulgare.*

*Enregistrée par la Roumanie le 26 janvier 1961.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5558. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA REGULATING THE CITIZENSHIP OF PERSONS HAVING DUAL CITIZENSHIP. SIGNED AT SOFIA, ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1959

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The Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Romanian People's Republic and the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria,

Considering that in the territory of the two States there are a number of persons whom both Contracting Parties, in accordance with their legislation, regard as their citizens, and

Desiring to eliminate cases of Romanian-Bulgarian dual citizenship on the basis of free choice of citizenship by the persons concerned and to prevent such cases from arising in the future,

Have decided to conclude this Convention and for this purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Romanian People's Republic :  
Mihail Rosianu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Romanian People's Republic at Sofia ;

The Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :  
Georgi Mikhailov, Deputy Minister of Justice,  
who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

I. PROVISIONS FOR THE REGULATION OF CASES OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP

*Article 1*

Persons resident in the territory of one Contracting Party whom both Contracting Parties, under their legislation, regard as their citizens may, under the conditions specified in this Convention, opt for the citizenship of either Party.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 24 December 1959, the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Bucharest, in accordance with article 12.

*Article 2*

1. Persons to whom article 1 of this Convention applies who are resident in the territory of one Contracting Party and who wish to opt for the citizenship of the other Contracting Party shall file a declaration to that effect with the diplomatic or consular mission of the latter Party.

2. The time-limit for filing declarations of option shall be one year from the date of the entry into force of this Convention.

*Article 3*

1. The declarations referred to in article 2 may be filed only by persons of full age.

2. For the purposes of this Convention, "persons of full age" means persons who have attained the age of eighteen years or persons under the age of eighteen years who are married.

*Article 4*

1. Persons under full age shall follow the citizenship of their parents, where the latter are, in accordance with this Convention, citizens of the same Contracting Party. This provision shall also apply where both parents have the same citizenship by virtue of the fact that one of them has, in accordance with this Convention, acquired the citizenship of the Contracting Party of which the other is a citizen.

2. Where one parent has or chooses the citizenship of one Contracting Party and the other the citizenship of the other Contracting Party, the citizenship of their children under full age who have dual citizenship shall be determined by agreement between the parents. If the parents do not choose for their child the citizenship of the Contracting Party in whose territory the child is resident, they shall file a declaration in accordance with article 2 of this Convention.

Where the parents fail to reach agreement concerning the citizenship of their children under full age, the latter shall retain the citizenship of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are resident on the date of the expiry of the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention.

Where the parents reside separately and they fail to reach agreement concerning the citizenship of their children under full age, the latter shall acquire the citizenship of the parent who is exercising his parental rights on the date of the expiry of the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention.

3. Children under full age whose parents are dead or the whereabouts of whose parents are unknown shall retain the citizenship of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are resident on the date of the expiry of the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention.

4. Persons under full age who, on the expiry of the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention, have attained the age of at least fourteen years may, by filing a declaration, opt for the citizenship of either Contracting Party, if they wish to prevent the application to them of the preceding provisions of this article.

#### *Article 5*

1. Persons referred to in article 1 of this Convention whose declarations of option are accepted shall be regarded as citizens solely of the Contracting Party for whose citizenship they have opted.

2. Persons who fail to file a declaration of option within the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention shall be regarded as citizens of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are resident on the date of the expiry of the said time-limit.

3. Persons whose declarations of option are not accepted shall be regarded as having filed no declaration and shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article.

#### *Article 6*

Each Contracting Party shall notify the other Contracting Party, not later than one year after the expiry of the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention, concerning persons whose citizenship it has fixed on the basis of declarations filed by them.

#### *Article 7*

Persons whose citizenship has been fixed on the basis of declarations filed in accordance with article 2 of this Convention and who continue to reside in the territory of the Contracting Party whose citizenship they have lost shall be subject to the same legal regulations as foreign citizens.

## II. PROVISIONS FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF CASES OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP

#### *Article 8*

Citizens of one Contracting Party may acquire the citizenship of the other Contracting Party if they fulfil the latter's legal requirements and present an authorization from the Contracting Party of which they are citizens.

#### *Article 9*

1. The citizenship of children born after the expiry of the time-limit specified in article 2, paragraph 2, of this Convention, one of whose parents is a citizen of one Contracting Party and the other a citizen of the other Contracting Party, shall be determined by agreement between the parents. For this purpose, the parents shall, within three months after the birth of the child in question, personally file a declara-

tion with or transmit a notarized declaration to the civil registration authorities which registered the birth, indicating that they have determined the child's citizenship by agreement between them.

In the absence of such a declaration, the child shall acquire the citizenship of the Contracting Party in whose territory the parents were resident at the time of his birth.

2. Where the parents reside separately and no agreement is reached concerning the citizenship of the child, the latter shall acquire the citizenship of the Contracting Party of which the parent who is exercising his parental rights on the date of the expiry of the time-limit specified in paragraph 1 of this article is a citizen.

3. Upon the entry into force of this Convention, each Contracting Party shall notify the other Contracting Party, at the end of each calendar year, concerning children who have acquired the latter's citizenship in accordance with the provisions of this article.

### III. FINAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 10*

Declarations of option and decisions relating to them shall not be subject to any charges.

#### *Article 11*

Any questions arising in connexion with the application and interpretation of this Convention shall be settled through the diplomatic channel.

#### *Article 12*

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Bucharest.

2. The Convention shall remain in force until the expiry of six months after the date on which one of the Contracting Parties notifies the other Contracting Party in writing of its desire to terminate the Convention.

3. As soon as possible after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, the Contracting Parties shall publish a summary of the Convention in the daily Press for the information of the persons concerned.

4. This Convention was drawn up at Sofia, on 24 September 1959, in duplicate, in the Romanian and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Presidium  
of the Grand National Assembly  
of the Romanian People's Republic :

M. ROSLANU

For the Presidium  
of the National Assembly  
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

G. MIKHAILOV