

No. 8017

**GREECE
and
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

**Agreement concerning German war graves in Greece.
Signed at Athens, on 26 September 1963**

Official texts : Greek and German.

Registered by Greece on 29 December 1965.

**GRÈCE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE**

**Accord relatif aux cimetières militaires allemands en
Grèce. Signé à Athènes, le 26 septembre 1963**

Textes officiels grec et allemand.

Enregistré par la Grèce le 29 décembre 1965.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 8017. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF GREECE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY CONCERNING GERMAN WAR GRAVES IN GREECE. SIGNED AT ATHENS, ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1963

The Kingdom of Greece and the Federal Republic of Germany,

Desirous that the German war dead interred in Greece should be laid to rest in cemeteries to be permanently constructed for the purpose,

Wishing to ensure the maintenance and care of the German military cemeteries in Greece,

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

For the purpose of this Agreement, the expression " German war dead " means members of the German armed forces or persons of equivalent status and persons of German nationality who died in Greece as a result of hostilities during the Second World War.

Article 2

The German war dead buried in Greece shall be grouped together in two special war burial grounds on sites to be agreed upon at a later date, which shall be the property of the Royal Greek Government. The Royal Greek Government shall acquire one of these sites at its own expense by compulsory expropriation or otherwise, and the other by purchase at the expense of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The selection of the necessary plots of land shall be made by agreement between the Royal Greek Government and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The exhumation and transfer of German war dead shall be carried out by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany at its own expense. The Royal Greek Government shall facilitate these operations so far as possible and shall in particular assist in the transport of the dead.

¹ Came into force on 12 October 1965, the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Bonn, in accordance with article 13.

Article 3

The Royal Greek Government shall grant the Federal Republic of Germany the free use of the plots of land required for German war burial grounds for the entire period of their use for that purpose. It undertakes to protect the war burial grounds and the right of permanent repose of German war dead interred therein.

Article 4

The German war burial grounds shall be constructed at the expense of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the basis of plans approved by the Royal Greek Government.

Article 5

War burial grounds which have been permanently constructed at the expense of the Federal Republic of Germany shall not be disturbed unless this is strictly necessary in the public interest. In such event, the selection of the new land, the transfer of the dead and the construction of the new war burial grounds shall be effected in agreement with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Article 6

The Royal Greek Government shall make available the information in its possession concerning German war dead and war graves, and shall assist the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in registering German war graves and identifying the dead.

Article 7

The Royal Greek Government agrees that the "Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V.", acting on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, shall assume responsibility for giving effect to this Agreement. The Royal Greek Government shall facilitate the work of this organization in every possible way.

In order to carry out its tasks, the "Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V." may send skilled personnel to Greece and set up the necessary workshops.

Article 8

Motor vehicles, machinery and tools required for the construction of the German war burial grounds in Greece may be imported free of customs duties, subject to a personal guarantee that the appropriate customs duties

and taxes will be paid if the articles imported are not re-exported within six months after the completion of operations.

Materials and articles needed for the preparation of the war burial grounds and the transfer of the dead, and materials, tools, trees, plants, seeds, bulbs and other articles required for the beautification, maintenance and other needs of the war burial grounds, shall be exempt from customs duties and other charges on importation. This exemption shall not apply to fuel, lubricants or private motor vehicles. The plant protection regulations in force shall apply.

The exemptions and facilities provided for in this article shall be granted on the application of the "Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V."

Article 9

The Royal Greek Government shall ensure that the German war graves in Greece are preserved and maintained until the transfers have been completed.

The Royal Greek Government shall grant the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany the right to provide at its own expense for the maintenance, care and protection of the German war burial grounds in Greece and to engage the necessary personnel for this purpose; among such personnel one German national may be engaged, with the consent of the competent Greek authorities, for each of the two war burial grounds provided for in this Agreement.

Article 10

Any exhumation and transfer of German war dead from Greece to Germany shall be subject to the prior authorization of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Royal Greek Government shall permit such transfers only upon the production of such authorization.

All expenses of exhumation and transfer shall be borne by the applicant.

Before applications for the transfer of war dead from German war burial grounds to other countries are granted, they shall be forwarded by the Royal Greek Government to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in order that the exact position of the grave and the identity of the body to be exhumed may be established.

Article 11

Details regarding the practical application of this Agreement shall be settled directly between the German organization referred to in article 7 and the competent Greek authorities.

Article 12

This Agreement shall also apply to *Land* Berlin unless the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany makes a declaration to the contrary to the Royal Greek Government within three months after the entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 13

This Agreement shall be ratified and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Bonn.

DONE at Athens on 26 September 1963 in two original copies, each in the German and Greek languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Kingdom
of Greece :

(Signed) PIPINELIS

For the Federal Republic
of Germany :

(Signed) FORSTER