

No. 9379

**FRANCE
and
CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**Agreement concerning the co-production and exchange of
films. Signed at Paris on 6 March 1968**

Authentic texts: French and Czech.

Registered by France on 13 January 1969.

**FRANCE
et
TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

**Accord de coproduction et d'échanges cinématographiques.
Signé à Paris le 6 mars 1968**

Textes authentiques : français et tchèque.

Enregistré par la France le 13 janvier 1969.

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC CONCERNING
THE CO-PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF FILMS

The Government of the French Republic and
The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic,
Desiring to develop and increase co-operation between their film industries,
Wishing to promote the co-production of films which by their artistic and
technical qualities will serve to enhance the prestige of the two countries, and
also to develop the exchange of films,
Have agreed as follows :

I. CO-PRODUCTION

Article 1

Co-production films covered by this Agreement shall be treated as national films by the authorities of the two countries.

Such films shall automatically benefit from the privileges accorded under the provisions which are at present in force or which may in future be promulgated in either country.

Films to be co-produced by the two countries must receive the prior approval of the competent authorities of the two countries, after due consultation between them.

Article 2

In order to qualify for the benefits of co-production, films must be made by producers who have good technical organization, sound financial backing and professional standing recognized by their national authority.

Article 3

Of each co-production film there shall be two negatives or one negative and one duplicate negative.

Each co-producer shall be the owner of one negative or one duplicate negative. In cases where there is only one negative, this shall be freely available to each co-producer.

¹ Came into force on 19 July 1968, i.e., thirty days after the notification of its approval by the two Governments, in accordance with article 17.

Article 4

Production of the films shall be governed by the following conditions :

The respective contribution of the co-producers of the two countries to each film may vary between thirty and seventy per cent; each co-production film shall entail effective artistic and technical participation by both parties.

The value of the participation of each co-producer shall be established on the basis of current prices in international film production.

Article 5

The films shall be made by directors, technicians and artists who are French nationals or have privileged resident status in the case of the French Republic, or are Czechoslovak nationals in the case of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

In exceptional cases, the participation of a performer of repute who is not of the nationality of either of the countries may be permitted.

Article 6

In principle, an over-all balance must be achieved both in regard to artistic participation and in the use of the technical facilities of the two countries (studios and laboratories).

Article 7

Co-production contracts shall specify the method of apportioning receipts, which shall be subject to the following provisions :

Receipts shall be divided in proportion to the total contribution of each of the co-producers.

This apportionment shall be effected either by a mathematical sharing of the receipts or by a geographical division, in which case allowance shall be made for any possible difference in the size of the markets of the signatory countries, or by a combination of both.

Under the apportionment, receipts from the exhibition of co-production films in France shall belong to the French co-producer and receipts from the exhibition of co-production films in Czechoslovakia shall belong to the Czechoslovak co-producer.

Article 8

In principle, co-production films shall be exported by the major co-producer.

Films in which both countries have participated in equal proportions shall be included in the quota of the country which has the better export possibilities. If any difficulties should arise, the film shall be included in the quota of the country of which the director is a national.

If the films of one of the co-producing countries enjoy the privilege of free entry into the importing country, the co-production films shall automatically enjoy the same privilege, on the same basis as national films.

Article 9

Credit titles, trailers and publicity material for co-production films shall carry notice to the effect that the films are Franco-Czechoslovak co-productions.

The showing of co-production films at festivals shall be the responsibility of the country to which the major co-producer belongs. In the case of a co-production involving equal participation, the film shall be shown by the country of which the director is a national, unless otherwise decided by the two competent authorities.

Article 10

The competent authorities of the two countries shall consider favourably the co-production of films of international standing by the French Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and countries with which either of them has a co-production agreement.

Conditions for the acceptance of such films shall be determined on the merits of each individual case.

Article 11

Every facility shall be afforded, in conformity with the agreements existing between the two countries, for the travel and accommodation of artistic and technical personnel working on the production of these films, as well as for the import and export by either country of the material needed for the production and showing of co-production films (raw film, technical equipment, costumes, *décor*, publicity material, etc.).

II. EXCHANGE OF FILMS

Article 12

The competent authorities of the two countries undertake to facilitate the sale, import and export of exposed films which are not subject in either country to any restriction under the laws and regulations in force.

Article 13

The "release duty" (*taxe de sortie*) payable in respect of dubbed versions of Czechoslovak films exhibited in the territory of the French Republic shall be reimbursed.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 14

The competent authorities of the two countries shall exchange information of every kind concerning co-productions, the exchange of films and, in general, all matters affecting relationships between the film industries of the two countries.

Article 15

A Mixed Commission shall be established; its functions shall be to supervise the application of this Agreement, to settle any difficulties which may arise and to consider any amendments which may be necessary for developing co-operation if the film industry in the common interest of both countries.

During the period of validity of this Agreement, this Commission shall meet each year alternately in the French Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. It may also be convened at the request of either of the contracting parties, particularly if any significant changes are made in the laws or regulations relating to the film industry.

Article 16

The Agreement on co-production shall, even after the date of its expiry, continue to have effect for the settlement of receipts from co-production films produced in accordance with this Agreement.

Article 17

This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after notification of its approval by each of the two Governments. It has been concluded for a period of two years from the date of its entry into force. It shall be renewed by tacit agreement for successive periods of two years, unless it is denounced by either of the parties three months prior to the date of its expiry.

DONE at Paris on 6 March 1968, in two copies in the French and Czech languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the French Republic :

André HOLLEAUX

For the Government
of the Czechoslovak Socialist
Republic :

Alois POLEDNAK