

No. 10846

**FRANCE
and
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF WEIGHTS AND
MEASURES**

**Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the International
Bureau of Weights and Measures and its privileges
and immunities on French territory (with annex).
Signed at Paris on 25 April 1969**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 1 December 1970.

**FRANCE
et
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DES POIDS ET MESURES**

**Accord relatif au siège du Bureau international des poids
et mesures et à ses privilèges et immunités sur le
territoire français (avec annexe). Signé à Paris le
25 avril 1969**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la France le 1^{er} décembre 1970.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REGARDING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND ITS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ON FRENCH TERRITORY

The Government of the French Republic and the International Committee of Weights and Measures,

Considering that the permanent headquarters of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures has been established in Paris,

Desiring to regulate, by this Agreement, all questions relating to the establishment in Paris of the permanent headquarters of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures and consequently to define the privileges and immunities of the Bureau in France,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Government of the French Republic recognizes the legal personality of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, hereinafter called « the Bureau », and its capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of the movable and immovable property necessary for its activity and to institute legal proceedings.

Article 2

The headquarters of the Bureau shall comprise the land granted to it by the French Republic, situated within the national estate at Saint-Cloud, and all the buildings that are or may be in future built thereon.

Article 3

1. The headquarters shall be inviolable. Agents and officials of the French Republic shall not enter the headquarters to discharge any official duty save with the consent or at the request of the Director of the Bureau or his representative.

¹ Came into force on 24 July 1970, i.e. 30 days after the date (24 June 1970) of the second notification by which each Contracting Party notified the other of the completion of their respective formalities of approval, in accordance with article 16.

2. The Bureau shall not permit its headquarters to become a refuge from justice for persons being prosecuted for a crime or an offence committed *in flagrante delicto* or against whom a warrant of arrest, a penal judgement or a deportation order has been issued by the competent French authorities.

Article 4

The property and assets of the Bureau shall be immune from seizure, confiscation, requisition, expropriation or any other form of administrative or legislative restraint.

Article 5

1. The Bureau may, without being subject to any financial controls, regulations or moratoria :

- (a) Receive and hold funds and foreign currency of all kinds and have accounts in any currency and in any country;
- (b) Freely transfer its funds and foreign currency within French territory or from France to another country and vice versa.

2. In exercising its rights under this article, the Bureau shall take into account all representations made to it by the Government of the French Republic.

Article 6

The Bureau, its assets, its income and other property shall be exempt from all direct taxation. This exemption shall not, however, extend to charges for services rendered.

Article 7

1. Buildings acquired or rented by the Bureau for operating purposes shall be exempt from the registration tax and the tax on real estate advertisements.

2. Insurance contracts entered into by the Bureau in the context of its official activities shall be exempt from the special tax on insurance agreements.

Article 8

The Bureau shall pay, under general laws and regulations, all indirect taxes which form a part of the cost of goods sold and services rendered.

Nevertheless, turnover taxes levied by the State in respect of purchases of a certain size made by the Bureau for its official use and in respect of publications issued in connexion with the Bureau's functions shall be reimbursed under conditions to be agreed between the Bureau and the competent French authorities.

Article 9

Furniture, furnishings and office supplies imported or exported by the Bureau which are essential to its administrative or scientific operations, and publications pertaining to its functions, shall be exempt from customs duties and turnover taxes.

The import and export of articles belonging to the categories of goods specified in the preceding paragraph shall also be exempt from all prohibitions or restrictions.

Articles imported under such exemption may not be transferred or loaned in French territory, either free of charge or against payment, save on conditions previously agreed upon by the competent French authorities.

Article 10

Except where it is not in the interests of public policy, the French Government undertakes to authorize the entry into France of the following persons without delay and without charge for visas, and their stay in France for the term of their duty or mission with the Bureau:

- (a) Representatives of States Parties to the *Convention du mètre* attending sessions of the General Conferences of Weights and Measures;
- (b) Members of the International Committee of Weights and Measures;
- (c) Advisers and advisory experts engaged by the International Committee of Weights and Measures;
- (d) Members of the staff of the Bureau and their families.

Article 11

1. Members of the staff of the Bureau permanently included in categories I, II and III as specified in the annex to this Agreement shall be exempt from all taxes on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Bureau. Nevertheless, the Government of the French Republic reserves the right to take such salaries and emoluments into account in calculating the effective or mean rate of the taxes levied on income derived from other sources by French nationals or by permanent residents in France.

2. The Director shall in addition, provided that he engages in no remunerated activity unrelated to his official duties, be exempt from the movable property tax in respect of his principal place of residence and from taxes levied on any income derived from outside sources.

Article 12

1. The staff members of the Bureau referred to in the annex of this Agreement shall enjoy:

- (a) Immunity from legal process in respect of all acts performed by them in their official capacity; this immunity shall not extend to violations of traffic regulations by staff members of the Bureau or to damage caused by a motor vehicle belonging to them or driven by them;
- (b) In the case of staff members who formerly resided abroad, the right to import free of duty their furniture and personal effects at the time of their installation in France;
- (c) Special residence permits issued by the competent French authorities for themselves and their spouses and their minor children;
- (d) In time of international crisis, the same facilities for repatriation as are granted to members of diplomatic missions.

2. In addition, members of the Bureau included in categories I and II as specified in the annex to this Agreement shall benefit from arrangements for the temporary importation of their automobiles free of duty.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 (a) and (d) of this article shall apply for the term of their mission with the Bureau to the persons referred to in article 10 (a), (b) and (c).

Article 13

The privileges and immunities referred to in this Agreement are granted in the interests of the efficiency of the Bureau. The International Committee or the Director of the Bureau shall agree to waive the immunity of any staff member where such immunity might impede the cause of justice and provided it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Bureau.

The Bureau shall co-operate on a continuing basis with the competent French authorities to facilitate the proper administration of justice, to ensure compliance with police regulations and to prevent any abuse in connexion with the immunities and facilities provided for in article 3-12 of this Agreement.

Article 14

The Government of the French Republic shall be under no obligation to grant to French nationals or to permanent residents in France the privileges and immunities referred to in article 11, paragraph 2, article 12, paragraph 1 (b), (c) and (d), and article 12, paragraph 2.

Article 15

Any dispute between the Government of the French Republic and the International Committee concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement which is not settled by negotiation shall be referred for final decision without the right of appeal to a tribunal composed of:

- One arbitrator appointed by the Government of the French Republic,
- One arbitrator appointed by the International Committee,
- One arbitrator appointed by those two or, if they should fail to agree on the choice of the third, by the President of the International Court of Justice.

Article 16

This Agreement shall be approved by the Government of the French Republic and by the International Committee and each shall notify the other upon completion of their respective formalities of approval.

It shall come into force 30 days after the date of the second such notification.

DONE at Paris, in two copies in the French language, on 25 April 1969.

For the Government of the French Republic:

GILBERT DE CHAMBRUN

Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Administrative Conventions
and Consular Affairs

For the International Committee of Weights and Measures:

JOSÉ MARÍA OTERO NAVASCUES

Marquis of Hermosilla

President, International Committee of Weights and Measures

ANNEX

The Bureau shall have four categories of staff, as follows :

I. The Director, that is, the person appointed by the International Committee as the Bureau's chief executive officer;

II. The officials of the Bureau, other than the Director, appointed by the International Committee to positions of responsibility in fields relating to the administrative and technical activities of the Organization;

III. The administrative and technical executive staff appointed by the Director;

IV. Service staff, that is, persons employed for the maintenance, or as domestic staff, of the Organization, not including those employed as domestics by individual staff members of the Organization.

This annex shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.
