

No. 11581

**GREECE
and
SWITZERLAND**

Agreement concerning international road transport (with exchange of letters). Signed at Athens on 8 August 1970

Authentic text : French.

Registered by Greece on 9 February 1972.

**GRÈCE
et
SUISSE**

Accord relatif aux transports internationaux par route (avec échange de lettres). Signé à Athènes le 8 août 1970

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la Grèce le 9 février 1972.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF GREECE AND
THE SWISS CONFEDERATION CONCERNING INTER-
NATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

The Government of the Kingdom of Greece and
The Swiss Federal Council

Desiring to regulate the transport of passengers and goods by means of
motor vehicles between the two countries and in transit through their territory,

Have agreed as follows :

I. PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Article 1

The transport of passengers shall not require authorization when the same
persons are carried by the same vehicle :

- (a) In the course of a closed-door tour which starts and is to end in the country
in which the vehicle is registered;
- (b) In the course of a journey with a point of departure in a locality of the
country in which the vehicle is registered and a point of destination in the
territory of the other Contracting Party, on condition that the vehicle
returns empty to the country in which it is registered, unless otherwise
authorized.

Article 2

Passenger transport services between the two countries or in transit through
their territory which are not in the categories referred to in article 1 shall require
an authorization (license).

Applications for such authorization shall be submitted prior to the in-
auguration of the service to the competent authorities of the country in which
the vehicle is registered.

The services shall be approved by agreement between the competent
authorities of the Contracting Parties, each of which shall issue the authorization
for the section of the route situated in its territory.

¹ Came into force on 6 September 1971, the date by which the Contracting Parties had
notified each other of their approval as provided for by their national legislation, in accordance with
article 13.

II. GOODS TRANSPORT

Article 3

The transport of goods to or from one of the two Contracting States or in transit through its territory by means of vehicles registered in the other contracting country shall be freely permitted.

Carriers domiciled in the territory of one Contracting Party may not carry out transport operations from the territory of the other Contracting Party to a third country without the consent of the competent authorities of the latter Contracting Party.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. INLAND TRANSPORT

Article 4

Domestic transport of passengers or goods from one point to another in the territory of one Contracting Party by means of a vehicle registered in the other country shall be forbidden.

B. EXCHANGE OF STATISTICAL DATA

Article 5

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall agree on the procedure for exchanging statistical data.

C. CUSTOMS ARRANGEMENTS

Article 6

The fuel contained in the ordinary supply tank of a vehicle, as designed by the manufacturer for the type of vehicle in question, shall be exempt from entry duties and taxes and import prohibitions and restrictions.

Spare parts imported for the repair of a temporarily imported vehicle which has broken down in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be exempt from entry duties and taxes and import prohibitions and restrictions, provided they are covered by temporary admission papers. Replaced parts shall be re-exported or destroyed under the supervision of the customs authorities.

D. PENALTIES

Article 7

If the provisions of this Agreement are violated in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the competent authorities of the country in which the vehicle is registered shall, at the request of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, apply one of the following penalties :

- (a) An ordinary warning;
- (b) A warning specifying that, in case of any further breach, the action provided for in (c) of this article will be taken;
- (c) Suspension or revocation of the right to engage in transport operations in the territory of the country in which the violation occurred.

The authorities applying the penalty shall inform the requesting authorities of the action taken.

When a penalty is applied in the territory of one Contracting Party in respect of the crew of a vehicle registered in the other Contracting State, the competent authorities of the latter shall be so informed.

E. TRANSFER OF PAYMENTS

Article 8

Payments which must be made on the basis of obligations arising out of this Agreement shall be settled in accordance with the payments procedure in force governing the settlement of commercial transactions between the two countries.

F. EXEMPTION FROM TAXES AND DUTIES

Article 9

Enterprises which, by means of vehicles registered in one Contracting Party, engage in transport operations governed by this Agreement in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be exempt from all duties connected with transport authorizations, all transport taxes and all traffic charges, with the exception of tolls levied for the use of roads, bridges and tunnels.

G. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Article 10

Each Contracting Party shall inform the other Contracting Party which authorities are competent to settle matters relating to the application of this Agreement. The said authorities shall maintain direct contact.

H. MIXED COMMISSION

Article 11

A Mixed Commission, consisting of delegates of the two Governments shall, at the request of one Contracting Party, be set up to deal with questions specified in advance by the competent authorities of the two countries and any matters which have not been settled by direct agreement between those authorities.

The findings of the Mixed Commission shall be subject to the approval of the two Governments.

I. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Article 12

National legislation governing customs, road-traffic and police matters, as well as regulations concerning driving and rest periods for professional drivers, shall remain unaffected; international agreements covering these matters to which the two countries are party shall likewise remain unaffected.

With respect to the dimensions and weight of motor vehicles, each Contracting Party undertakes not to apply to vehicles registered in the other country conditions that are more restrictive than those applicable to vehicles registered in its own territory.

J. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND PERIOD OF VALIDITY

Article 13

This Agreement shall be approved by each Contracting Party in accordance with its national legislation and shall enter into force following the exchange of notes signifying such approval.

The Agreement shall remain in force for a term of one year from the date of its entry into force. It shall be extended automatically from year to year unless it is denounced by one of the Contracting Parties three months before the expiry of its term.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Athens on 8 August 1970 in two original copies in the French language.

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Greece :

CHRISTIAN XANTHOPOULOS-PALAMAS

For the Swiss Federal Council :

EGBERT DE GRAFFENRIED

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

I

EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND

Athens, 8 August 1970

Sir,

At the time of signing the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Greece concerning international road transport, I have the honour to inform you of the following :

Article 9 of the Agreement reads as follows :

“Enterprises which, by means of vehicles registered in one Contracting Party, engage in transport operations governed by this Agreement in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be exempt from all duties connected with transport authorizations, all transport taxes and all traffic charges, with the exception of tolls levied for the use of roads, bridges and tunnels.”

In the negotiations held at Athens between a Swiss delegation and a Greek delegation, from 18 to 20 November 1968, the Swiss delegation requested that its carriers be exempt from Greek taxes as a counterpart measure reflecting the legal situation existing in Switzerland, where at the present time no taxes, duties or charges are levied on transport operations and vehicular traffic. The Greek delegation granted the reciprocity on which article 9 quoted above is based.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I would like to state that the agreed text of article 9 should be reviewed and redrafted in the event that duties, charges or taxes are introduced in Switzerland in the future. It is understood that Switzerland would request the amendment of the Agreement to reflect the new legal situation should such a change occur, although none is planned or envisaged.

I would be grateful if you would confirm your agreement to this interpretation of article 9.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[EGBERT DE GRAFFENRIED]
Ambassador of Switzerland

His Excellency Mr. Christian Xanthopoulos-Palamas
Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Greece

Athens

II

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Athens, 8 August 1970

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8 August which reads as follows :

[See letter I]

In reply, I have the honour to confirm the agreement of my Government to the contents of that letter.

Accept, Sir, etc.

CHR. XANTHOPOULOS-PALAMAS

His Excellency Mr. Egbert von Graffenried
Ambassador of Switzerland
Athens
