

No. 11768

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**FRANCE  
and  
YUGOSLAVIA**

**Agreement on mutual administrative assistance in the prevention, investigation and punishment of customs frauds.  
Signed at Belgrade on 28 April 1971**

*Authentic texts: French and Serbo-Croatian.*

*Registered by France on 19 April 1972.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
YOUGOSLAVIE**

**Accord sur l'assistance administrative mutuelle pour la prévention, la recherche et la répression des fraudes douanières. Signé à Belgrade le 28 avril 1971**

*Textes authentiques: français et serbo-croate.*

*Enregistré par la France le 19 avril 1972.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN THE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT OF CUSTOMS FRAUDS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

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The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Considering that offences against customs provisions are prejudicial to their economic and fiscal interests and to commercial interests;

Convinced that action against these offences could be made more effective through co-operation between the customs administrations of the two States;

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties shall assist each other, under the conditions laid down below, for the purpose of preventing, investigating and punishing offences against the customs provisions which they are respectively responsible for applying.

*Article 2*

For the purposes of this Agreement:

(a) “Customs provisions” means all laws and regulations which may be applied when goods, capital or monetary instruments are imported, exported or in transit, whether these provisions concern the collection of duties or taxes, the application of measures of prohibition, restriction or inspection, or exchange control;

(b) “Customs administrations” means the administrations responsible for applying the provisions referred to in subparagraph (a) above.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 22 November 1971, i.e. one month after the date (22 October 1971) of the later of the notifications by which each of the two Governments notified the other that it had completed the procedures constitutionally required, in accordance with article 10.

*Article 3*

The customs administration of each Contracting Party shall strive to prevent the export of goods which would to its knowledge be subjected to import prohibitions in the other State or which presumably are to be smuggled into it.

*Article 4*

The customs administration of each Contracting Party shall, at the express request of the customs administration of the other State, keep special watch, within the zone for which its offices are responsible, over:

(a) The movements and more particularly the entry into and departure from its territory of persons suspected of being professionally or habitually involved in fraud in respect of the customs provisions of the requesting State;

(b) Suspicious movements of goods which have been indicated as being intended for large-scale traffic into the territory of the requesting State in violation of its customs provisions;

(c) Vehicles, ships or aircraft which presumably are used to commit offences against the customs provisions of the requesting State.

*Article 5*

The customs administration of each Contracting Party shall communicate to the customs administration of the other State, as rapidly as possible and on the basis of reciprocity:

- (a) Voluntarily, all information which it might have on the subject of:
- Actual or planned illegal operations which are or seem to be of a fraudulent nature in respect of the customs provisions of that State;
  - New means or methods of smuggling;
  - Categories of goods known to be the subject of fraudulent import, export or transit traffic;
  - Individuals, vehicles, boats and aircraft suspected of being involved in or being used for smuggling;

(b) Following a written request, either all information from customs documents relating to trade in goods between the two States which is or might be the subject of fraudulent traffic in respect of the customs provisions of the requesting State or duly certified or authenticated copies of the aforesaid documents.

*Article 6*

The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties may take into account, as proof, in their records, reports and evidence and during court proceedings and prosecutions, information received and documents, or duly authenticated and certified copies, produced under the conditions laid down in article 5.

*Article 7*

The sphere of application of this Agreement shall extend to the customs territory of each of the Contracting Parties.

*Article 8*

The practical procedures for applying this Agreement shall be arranged jointly by the customs administrations of the Contracting Parties.

*Article 9*

For the purpose of applying this Agreement, the customs administrations of the Contracting Parties may set up working groups responsible, through personal and direct contacts, for collaborating in the investigation and punishment of customs frauds.

*Article 10*

Each of the two Governments shall notify the other when it has completed the procedures constitutionally required for it to apply this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force one month after the date of the later notification.

*Article 11*

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. It may be denounced at any time by either of the Contracting Parties, the denunciation taking effect upon expiry of a period of six months starting from the date of its notification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the other State.

DONE at Belgrade, on 28 April 1971, in duplicate in the French and Serbo-Croatian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

PIERRE SEBILLEAU

For the Government  
of the Socialist Federal  
Republic of Yugoslavia:

[Signed]

MILOVAN DJOKANOVIĆ