

No. 12291

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**FRANCE**  
**and**  
**BULGARIA**

**Agreement concerning co-operation in the field of  
cinematography (with annex). Signed at Sofia on 11  
September 1971**

*Authentic texts: French and Bulgarian.*

*Registered by France on 8 February 1973.*

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**FRANCE**  
**et**  
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**Accord en matière de coopération dans le domaine  
cinématographique (avec annexe). Signé à Sofia le 11  
septembre 1971**

*Textes authentiques: français et bulgare.*

*Enregistré par la France le 8 février 1973.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH  
REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN  
THE FIELD OF CINEMATOGRAPHY

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, desiring to develop and expand co-operation between the film industries of the two countries, have resolved to encourage the making on a co-production basis of films which, by virtue of their artistic merit and technical excellence, are likely to enhance the prestige, particularly the cultural prestige, of the two countries, and to develop the exchange of films between them; to that end, they have agreed as follows:

I. CO-PRODUCTION

*Article 1.* Co-production films made under this Agreement shall be treated as films of national origin by the authorities of the two countries.

Such films shall be entitled to the full enjoyment of any benefits stemming from the provisions which are currently in force in the two countries.

The making of co-production films by the two countries shall be subject to approval by the competent authorities of the two countries after consultations between them:

In France: the National Centre for Cinematography (Centre national de la Cinématographie).

In Bulgaria: The Administrative Board for the Bulgarian Film Industry.

*Article 2.* In order to enjoy the benefits of co-production, films must be made by producers with a good technical and financial organization and possessing professional experience recognized by the competent authority of their own country.

*Article 3.* There shall be one negative and either one dupe positive or one dupe negative made for each co-production film. Each co-producer shall be the owner of one of the copies specified above.

*Article 4.* Films shall be produced subject to the following conditions:

The contribution made to each film by the producer from each of the two countries may vary between 30 and 70 per cent; each party must make an actual artistic and technical contribution to each co-production film.

The value of each co-producer's contribution shall be established by the co-producers themselves on the basis of the prices prevailing in the international film production industry.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 June 1972, i.e. 30 days after the second notification of approval (17 May 1972), in accordance with article 18.

*Article 5.* Films shall be made by directors, technicians and artists who, in the case of France, are either nationals or privileged residents in France, or, in the case of Bulgaria, Bulgarian nationals.

Exceptionally a performer who is not a national of either country may be permitted to participate.

*Article 6.* Receipts shall be divided in proportion to the total contribution of each co-producer.

Such division shall take the form of either a sharing of receipts or a geographical division, having regard in the latter case to any difference in size between the markets of the signatory countries, or a combination of the two. Such division shall be subject to the approval of the competent authorities of the two countries.

In such a division, receipts from the showing of co-production films in France shall accrue to the French co-producer and those from the showing of the same films in Bulgaria shall accrue to the Bulgarian co-producer.

*Article 7.* The exportation of co-production films shall, in principle, be handled by the co-producer with the majority interest.

In the case of films in which there is equal participation, exportation shall, unless otherwise agreed by the two parties, be handled by the co-producer from the country of which the director is a national.

In the case of countries which impose import restrictions, the film shall be charged against the quota of the country having the better export opportunities. In the event of difficulties, the film shall be charged against the quota of the country of which the director is a national.

*Article 8.* Credits, trailers and publicity material for films made under this Agreement shall state that the film is a Franco-Bulgarian co-production.

Unless otherwise agreed, co-production films shall be presented at international shows and festivals by the country of the producer with the majority interest or, in cases of films in which there is equal participation, by the country of which the director is a national.

*Article 9.* Action shall be taken to achieve an over-all balance both in artistic matters and in the use of the technical facilities of the two countries, particularly studios and laboratories.

*Article 10.* The competent authorities of the two countries shall give favourable consideration to the making of co-production films of international quality by the French Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and those countries with which either party has co-production agreements.

The conditions governing the making of such films shall be examined separately in each case.

*Article 11.* Every facility shall be accorded for the travel and accommodation of artistic and technical personnel working on the making of the films, and for the importation and exportation of equipment needed for the making and showing of co-production films (film, technical equipment, costumes, sets, publicity material, etc.).

## II. EXCHANGE OF FILMS

*Article 12.* The exportation, importation and showing of film prints shall not be subject in either country to any limitation other than the legal provisions in force.

*Article 13.* Bulgarian films shall be eligible in the territory of the French Republic, for a refund of the release tax levied on the showing of the French version of the film.

## III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Article 14.* The competent authorities of the two countries shall exchange any information regarding co-productions and exchanges of films and, in general, any information regarding film-industry relations between the two countries.

*Article 15.* The competent authorities of the two countries shall, subject to the legislative provisions in force, facilitate the shooting in their territory of national films of the other country.

*Article 16.* A Mixed Commission shall be established by the Parties to consider the conditions governing the implementation of this Agreement, to resolve such difficulties as may arise and to study modifications that may be required in order to further film-industry co-operation in the mutual interest of the two countries.

For such time as this Agreement remains in force, the Commission shall meet each year, alternately in France and in Bulgaria. It may also be convened at the request of either Contracting Party, particularly in the event of a significant change in the laws or regulations applicable to the film industry.

*Article 17.* Accounting in respect of receipts from co-production films made under this Agreement shall not be affected by the termination of this Agreement and shall continue, in the event of such termination, on the terms previously established in pursuance of article 6.

*Article 18.* This Agreement is concluded for a period of two years from the date of its entry into force; it shall be renewed for additional two-year periods by tacit agreement unless denounced by either Party three months before the date of its expiry.

The two Governments shall inform each other of their approval of this Agreement, which shall enter into force 30 days after the second such notification.

*Article 19.* This Agreement shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter.

It shall be registered by the country in whose territory the Agreement was signed.

DONE at Sofia on 11 September 1971, in duplicate in the French and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

MAURICE SCHUMANN  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government  
of the People's Republic  
of Bulgaria:

[Signed]

IVAN BACHEV  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

## ANNEX

### IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

In order to benefit from the provisions of this Agreement, producers from either country must attach to the co-production application submitted (one month before the start of shooting) to the competent authorities of their country the following documentation:

- A shooting script;
- A document to show that copyright has been acquired;
- The co-production contract concluded between the co-producing firms;
- A cost estimate and a detailed finance plan;
- A list of the technical and artistic contributions to be made by the two countries;
- A production schedule.

The authorities of the country having the minority financial interest shall give their approval only after receiving the opinion of the authorities of the country having the majority financial interest.

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