

No. 15499

**FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY and SWITZERLAND**

**Exchanges of letters constituting an agreement concerning
the establishment of an intergovernmental Commission
on contiguity problems in frontier regions. Paris,
22 October 1975**

Authentic texts: French and German.

Registered by France on 27 February 1977.

**FRANCE, RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE
D'ALLEMAGNE et SUISSE**

**Échanges de lettres constituant un accord concernant la
création d'une Commission intergouvernementale pour
les problèmes de voisinage dans les régions frontalières.
Paris, 22 octobre 1975**

Textes authentiques : français et allemand.

Enregistré par la France le 27 février 1977.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGES OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON CONTIGUITY PROBLEMS IN FRONTIER REGIONS

I a

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE
SECRETARY GENERAL

22 October 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that during the talks between the representatives of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic and the Swiss Confederation, the last of which took place on 5 March 1975 at Bonn, it was agreed as follows:

1. An intergovernmental Commission shall be established to facilitate the study and solution of contiguity problems in the following frontier regions:

- the Cantons of Basel (Town) and Basel (Rural);
- in Land Baden-Württemberg: the territory of the Mittlerer Oberrhein and Südlicher Oberrhein Regions and Landkreis Lörrach;
- the Alsace Region (Departments of Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin);
- in Land Rhineland-Palatinate: the territory of the present Southern Palatinate Region.

2. The Commission shall deal in particular with questions concerning:

- (a) physical planning;
- (b) environment;
- (c) regional economic policy;
- (d) energy;
- (e) transport and communications;
- (f) employment and social affairs, particularly frontier workers;
- (g) creation of industries and agricultural enterprises;
- (h) town planning and human settlements, housing construction, land policy;
- (i) education, vocational training and research;
- (j) health and hygiene;
- (k) culture, leisure, sport and tourism;
- (l) assistance in case of emergency;

This Agreement shall not affect the activities of official bodies which have been or may hereafter be established under international agreements.

¹ Came into force on 22 October 1975, the date of the last of the letters in reply, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

3. The Commission shall formulate recommendations to the Contracting Parties and, if necessary, prepare draft agreements.

4. The Commission shall be composed of three delegations, the members of which shall be appointed by their respective Governments.

Each delegation shall have a maximum of eight members.

Each delegation may call upon the services of experts.

5. The Commission shall normally meet once a year, in each of the three States in turn. It may establish working groups.

It shall determine its own rules of procedure.

6. (a) The Commission shall be kept informed of the activities of the two regional committees in the frontier regions shown on the map annexed hereto and defined in paragraph 1 above:

- one for the southern part of those regions;
- the other for the northern part of those regions.

The Commission shall make a recommendation concerning the determination of the geographical scope of activity of the two committees.

(b) The Commission shall be kept informed of the decisions taken by the regional authorities concerned, within their fields of competence, on the proposal of the committees.

(c) The Commission may instruct the committees to submit to it proposals and draft agreements.

(d) The regional authorities may request their Governments to refer to the Commission questions of common interest which are beyond the competence of the committees.

(e) The regional authorities referred to in this paragraph are:

- the Council of Government of the Canton of Basel (Town) and the Council of Government of the Canton of Basel (Rural);
- the Government of Land Baden-Württemberg;
- the Prefect of the Alsace Region or the Prefect of the Department of Haut-Rhin;
- the Government of Land Rhineland-Palatinate.

If the terms of this letter are acceptable to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and to the Swiss Federal Council, this letter and the replies of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of Switzerland shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the French Republic, which shall enter into force on the date of the last acceptance. The Government of the French Republic shall inform the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Swiss Federal Council of the acceptances it has received.

This Agreement may be denounced at any time by any Contracting Party. Such denunciation shall take effect three months after it has been notified to the other Contracting Parties.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

G. DE COURCEL

His Excellency Baron Sigismund von Braun
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Paris

II a

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Paris, 22 October 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22 October 1975, reading as follows, in an agreed text:

[See letter I a]

I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing is acceptable to my Government. Accordingly, your letter of 22 October 1975 and the replies of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of Switzerland shall constitute an Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the French Republic, which shall take effect on the date of the last acceptance. At the same time, I hereby declare that this Agreement shall also apply to *Land Berlin* provided that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has not made a contrary declaration to the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council within three months from the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

I would also inform you that I have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Embassy of Switzerland, together with a request that I should be supplied with a copy of the reply from the Embassy of Switzerland.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

SIGISMUND Frhr. v. BRAUN

His Excellency Mr. Geoffroy de Courcel
Ambassador of France
Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Paris

I b

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE
SECRETARY GENERAL

22 October 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, during the talks between the representatives of the Governments of the Swiss Confederation, the French Republic and the

Federal Republic of Germany, the last of which took place on 5 March 1975 at Bonn, it was agreed as follows:

[See letter I a]

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

G. DE COURCEL

His Excellency Mr. Pierre Dupont
Ambassador of Switzerland in Paris

II b

THE AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND

Paris, 22 October 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22 October 1975, reading as follows in an agreed text:

[See letter I b]

I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing is acceptable to the Swiss Federal Council. Accordingly, your letter of 22 October 1975 and the replies of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of Switzerland shall constitute an Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the intergovernmental Commission for frontier regions, which shall take effect on the date of the last reply to your letter.

I would also inform you that I have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, together with a request that I should be supplied with a copy of the reply from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

PIERRE DUPONT

His Excellency Ambassador Geoffroy de Courcel
Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Paris