

No. 17577

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**FRANCE**  
**and**  
**INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS BUREAU**

**Agreement regarding the headquarters of the International Exhibitions Bureau and its privileges and immunities on French territory (with annex). Signed at Paris on 11 January 1965**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 20 February 1979.*

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**FRANCE**  
**et**  
**BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES EXPOSITIONS**

**Accord relatif au siège du Bureau international des expositions et à ses privilèges et immunités sur le territoire français (avec annexe). Signé à Paris le 11 janvier 1965**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistré par la France le 20 février 1979.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS BUREAU REGARDING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS BUREAU AND ITS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ON FRENCH TERRITORY

The Government of the French Republic and the International Exhibitions Bureau,

Considering that the permanent headquarters of the International Exhibitions Bureau has been established in Paris,

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

Have appointed as their representatives for this purpose:

The Government of the French Republic: Mr. F. Leduc, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Administrative Agreements and Consular Affairs;

The International Exhibitions Bureau: Mr. L. Baret, President, and Mr. R. Chalon, Director;

who have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* The Government of the French Republic recognizes the legal personality of the International Exhibitions Bureau, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, and its capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property necessary for its activities and to institute legal proceedings.

*Article 2.* The headquarters of the Bureau shall comprise the premises it occupies or may occupy for the purpose of carrying out its activities, not including premises used as living quarters by its staff.

*Article 3.* (1) The headquarters shall be inviolable. Officers 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.

(2) The Bureau shall not permit its headquarters to become a refuge for persons being prosecuted for a crime or offence committed *in flagrante delicto* or against whom a warrant of arrest 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.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 July 1966 by the exchange of the instruments of approval, in accordance with article 16.

*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, 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 part of the cost of goods sold and services rendered to it.

Nevertheless, turnover taxes levied by the State in respect of large purchases of operating equipment by the Bureau for its official use and in respect of publications issued in connection 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 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 exemptions may not be transferred or loaned in French territory save on conditions previously agreed upon by the competent French authorities.

*Article 10.* Except where it is not in the interest of national security, 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 terms of their duty or mission with the Bureau:

- (a) Representatives of member Governments attending sessions of the various organs of the Bureau or conferences and meetings called by it;
- (b) 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. However, the Government of the French Republic reserves the right to take such salaries and emoluments into account in calculating the effective or average rate

which shall be applied to income from other sources received by its own nationals and permanent residents in France.

(2) The Director of the Bureau shall, provided 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 to 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) A special system of social security under conditions established by mutual agreement between the Bureau and the competent French authorities;
- (c) 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;
- (d) Special residence permits issued by the competent French authorities for themselves and their spouses and minor children;
- (e) 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 belonging to categories I and II as specified in the annex to this Agreement shall benefit from arrangements for the temporary importation of their automobiles.

(3) The provisions of paragraph 1 (a) and (e) of this article shall apply to representatives and experts of member countries during the time they are in France for the purpose of participating in the work of the Bureau.

*Article 13.* The privileges and immunities referred to in this Agreement are granted in the interest of the efficiency of the Bureau. The Governing Council or Director shall agree to waive the immunity of any staff member where such immunity might impede the course 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, compliance with police regulations and to prevent any abuse in connection with the exercise of the immunities and facilities provided for in articles 3 to 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 articles 11, paragraph 2; 12, paragraph 1 (c), (d) and (e); and 12, paragraph 2.

*Article 15.* Any dispute between the Government of the French Republic and the Bureau 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 Bureau;

—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 enter into force following the exchange of the instrument of approval of the Government of the French Republic and the notification of approval of the Bureau.

DONE in Paris in two copies, both in the French language, on 11 January 1965.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[F. LEDUC]

For the International Exhibitions  
Bureau:

[L. BARETY]

[R. CHALON]

#### ANNEX

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

- (I) The Director of the Bureau, that is, the person appointed by the members of the Bureau as its chief executive officer;
- (II) The officials of the Bureau, that is, persons other than the Director who hold positions of responsibility in fields relating to the administrative and technical activities of the Bureau;
- (III) The employees, that is, persons performing duties in the administrative or technical departments of the Bureau;
- (IV) Service staff, that is, persons employed as domestic staff of the Bureau, not including those employed as domestics by individual staff members of the Bureau.

This annex shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.