

**No. 17982**

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**GREECE  
and  
POLAND**

**Agreement on mutual co-operation and assistance in customs matters. Signed at Athens on 14 November 1978**

*Authentic texts: Greek, Polish and English.  
Registered by Greece on 9 October 1979.*

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**GRÈCE  
et  
POLOGNE**

**Accord relatif à la coopération et l'assistance mutuelle en matière de douane. Signé à Athènes le 14 novembre 1978**

*Textes authentiques : grec, polonais et anglais.  
Enregistré par la Grèce le 9 octobre 1979.*

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC  
REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC ON MUTUAL CO-OPERATION AND  
ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

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The Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic,

Prompted by the desire to foster trade flow and smooth movement of persons between their two Countries and to establish a close co-operation between their Customs Administrations by, *inter alia*, effectively combating Customs offences,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* For the purposes of this Agreement:

a) The term "Customs law" means all statutory or regulatory provisions concerning the importation, exportation, carriage and storage of goods, and Customs duties or other charges on importation or exportation, to the extent that their enforcement lies within the responsibility of the Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

b) The term "Customs Administrations" means the General Directorate of Customs of the Ministry of Finance—in the Hellenic Republic; and the Central Board of Customs—in the Polish People's Republic.

c) The term "Customs offence" means any breach or attempted breach, of Customs law.

*Article 2.* The Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall cooperate, within the framework of this Agreement, by exchanging information and affording each other mutual assistance, in order to prevent, combat and prosecute Customs offences.

*Article 3.* The Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall exchange with each other:

- a) Professional information, publications, scientific and professional works and experience, especially with regard to the application and use of modern technological means for Customs control, and
- b) The texts of Customs laws and other regulations concerning matters covered by this Agreement.

*Article 4.* In affording the assistance provided for in this Agreement, the law of the Contracting Party to which the request is addressed shall be applied.

*Article 5.* In cases where, in preventing, detecting and prosecuting Customs offences, assistance is required to be furnished by a Customs Administration on a Customs offence, the Customs Administration of the other Contracting Party shall

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 17 September 1979, i.e., 60 days after the date of the exchange of notes confirming the fulfilment of the required procedures in conformity with the internal laws of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with article 15.

provide such assistance, provided that and to such extent that it is permissible under legislation of that Contracting Party.

*Article 6.* 1. On request by the Customs Administration of one of the Contracting Parties, the Customs Administration of the other Contracting Party will provide information:

- a) Whether the Customs seals and identification marks, or documents issued or authenticated by the competent organs of the requested Contracting Party and submitted to the Customs organs of the requesting Contracting Party, are authentic;
- b) Whether the exportation of the goods from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties into the territory of the other Contracting Party has been made in accordance with the Customs law of the requested Party;
- c) Whether the goods exported from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties into the territory of the other Contracting Party have been brought into this territory in accordance with the Customs law of the requested Contracting Party and what kind of Customs procedure they have been subject to;
- d) On the circumstances arising from the documents concerning the movement of goods, if those circumstances give rise to the suspicion that an infringement of the Customs law has taken place on the territory of one or both Contracting Parties.

2. The Customs Administration of one of the Contracting Parties shall, on its own initiative and as promptly as possible, provide the Customs Administration of the other Contracting Party with information concerning:

- a) The circumstances giving rise to a suspicion that a Customs offence is in the offing on the territory of the other Contracting Party;
- b) Disclosure of new means and methods of committing Customs offences.

*Article 7.* 1. The Customs Administration of one of the Contracting Parties, on the request of the Customs Administration of the other Contracting Party, will exert surveillance within its field of competence over:

- a) Arrivals and departures of persons reasonably suspected to be engaged in committing Customs offences;
- b) Goods, which, according to the information provided by the requesting Contracting Party, are the subject of mass illicit traffic from the territory of the requested Contracting Party into the territory of the requesting Contracting Party;
- c) Road vehicles, ships and aircraft suspected of being used for committing Customs offences on the territory of the requesting Contracting Party.

2. The results of the surveillance provided in paragraph 1 should be made known to the Customs Administration of the requesting Contracting Party.

*Article 8.* 1. The Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall exchange, on their own initiative or on request and as promptly as possible, all information on Customs offences the combating of which lies in the particular interest of the Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties. This concerns, in particular, the illicit traffic in narcotic and psychotropic substances, arms, ammunition, explosives, objects of historical, artistic or cultural value, as well as the traffic of goods subject to high taxation, such as alcohol and tobacco products.

2. The Customs Administration of one of the Contracting Parties shall inform the Customs Administration of the other Contracting Party about the instances of Customs offences committed on its territory by persons permanently residing on the territory of the other Contracting Party. The providing of information on own citizens is not obligatory.

*Article 9.* 1. Assistance may be refused, or it may be made contingent on the fulfillment of specified terms, if the affording of assistance might involve infringing upon the sovereignty, security, public order or other relevant interests of the requested Contracting Party.

2. If a request cannot be positively resolved in whole or in part, the requesting Contracting Party should be notified about this without delay and provided with information which may facilitate the further conduct of the matter by the requesting Contracting Party.

*Article 10.* 1. Information received as part of assistance can be used only for the purposes of the present Agreement and only on the terms defined by the Customs Administration of the Contracting Party. It may be made available to other persons, authorities or services only if the Customs Administration of the Contracting Party, which has supplied the information, gives its express consent to this. The above does not apply to information concerning the infringement of the regulations relative to narcotic and psychotropic substances, arms, ammunition and explosives.

2. Files and other documents shall be sent by either Customs Administration, as a rule, in the form of authenticated copies or duplicates.

3. Information provided according to the procedure of this Agreement shall be officially classified on the territory of the recipient Contracting Party, according to the procedure applicable in that territory to own information of the same kind.

*Article 11.* 1. Co-operation and assistance envisaged under the present Agreement will be effected through direct contacts between the Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties shall co-operate in solving the difficulties or doubts that may be arising in the interpretation or implementation of the present Agreement.

2. If necessary, representatives of the Customs Administrations of the two Contracting Parties will hold meetings to enhance implementation of the tasks arising from the present Agreement.

*Article 12.* The correspondence on matters relative to the present Agreement will be conducted by the two Contracting Parties in their official languages, with an English translation being enclosed every time.

*Article 13.* The Customs Administrations of the Contracting Parties may conclude executive agreements indispensable for the implementation of the present Agreement.

*Article 14.* The two Contracting Parties waive any claims towards each other concerning refunding of the costs arising from the implementation of this Agreement.

*Article 15.* The present Agreement is subject to approval according to the law of each of the Contracting Parties.

The present Agreement will come into effect within 60 days of the exchange of the notes stating that the prerequisites indispensable for bringing the Agreement into effect have been fulfilled in accordance with the internal law of each of the Contracting Parties.

*Article 16.* This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time. It may be denounced in writing through diplomatic channels by each of the Contracting Parties. Should it be so, it will expire within one year of the denouncement.

DONE at Athens the 14th day of November 1978 in two originals, each in the Greek, Polish and English languages, each text being equally authentic; in the event of differences arising from their interpretation, the English text shall be decisive.

For the Government  
of the Hellenic Republic:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>1</sup>

For the Government  
of the Polish People's Republic:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Signed by G. Apostolopoulos — Signé par G. Apostolopoulos.

<sup>2</sup> Signed by E. Dostojewski — Signé par E. Dostojewski.