

No. 20760

**FRANCE
and
GABON**

Convention on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters. Signed at Paris on 12 February 1974

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 25 February 1982.

**FRANCE
et
GABON**

Convention d'assistance administrative mutuelle en matière de douane. Signée à Paris le 12 février 1974

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistrée par la France le 25 février 1982.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION¹ ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE
IN CUSTOMS MATTERS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
GABONESE REPUBLIC

The Government of the French Republic and
The Government of the Gabonese Republic,

Considering that customs offences are prejudicial to the economic and fiscal interests of each Contracting State, and to legitimate commercial interests,

Convinced that the struggle against such offences would be rendered more effective by co-operation between their customs administrations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I. The customs administrations of the Contracting States shall assist each other for the purpose of preventing, investigating and punishing customs offences committed in their respective countries.

Article II. The customs administrations of the Contracting States shall voluntarily communicate to each other such information as they may 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 regulations of the other Contracting State;
- New means or methods of smuggling;
- Categories of goods known to be the subject of fraudulent import, export or transit traffic;
- Individuals, boats, aircraft and other means of transport suspected of being involved in or used for smuggling.

Article III. In order to facilitate the punishment of customs offences, each customs administration, at the request of the other administration, shall institute or cause to be instituted, to the extent permitted by its own domestic legislation, inquiries or investigations, shall interrogate suspects, shall examine witnesses and shall notify the requesting administration of the results of these proceedings.

Article IV. The customs administrations of the Contracting States shall assist each other in the recording and the enforcement of settlements awarded in favour of persons resident in the territory of the other Contracting State and in the recovery of the penalties imposed by the settlements.

Article V. The customs administrations of the Contracting States may take into account as proof, in their records, reports and evidence and, during court

¹ Came into force on 28 October 1980, the date of the last of the notifications of its approval (effected on 19 January 1976 and 28 October 1980) in conformity with the constitutional regulations of each Contracting Party, in accordance with article IX.

proceedings and prosecutions, information collected or provided and documents produced under the conditions laid down in articles II and III above.

Article VI. The sphere of application of this Convention shall extend to:

- On the one hand, French customs territory and the Principality of Monaco and their territorial waters;
- On the other hand, the Gabonese borders within the territory of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC).

Article VII. The practical procedures for applying this Convention shall be arranged jointly by the representatives of the customs administrations of the Contracting States in the Mixed Commission called for by the joint Franco-Gabonese Committee to deal with economic and financial relations.

Article VIII. This Convention supersedes the Convention of 27 January 1962. It is concluded for a period of five years, renewable automatically, either Contracting State being able to denounce it at any time.

Denunciation shall take effect upon the expiry of a period of six months commencing on the date of notification of denunciation.

Article IX. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later notification that it has been approved in accordance with the constitutional regulations of each Contracting Party.

DONE in Paris on 12 February 1974, in two original copies in the French language.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

JEAN-FRANÇOIS DENIAU
The Secretary of State to the Minister
for Foreign Affairs

For the Government
of the Gabonese Republic:

[Signed]

GEORGES RAWIRI
Minister of State, Delegate to the Presi-
dential Office of the Gabonese Re-
public responsible for Foreign Affairs
and Co-operation