

No. 24813

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**MULTILATERAL**

**Convention concerning international co-operation in administrative assistance to refugees (with annex). Concluded at Basel on 3 September 1985**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by Switzerland on 13 May 1987.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Convention relative à la coopération internationale en matière d'aide administrative aux réfugiés (avec annexe). Conclue à Bâle le 3 septembre 1985**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistrée par la Suisse le 13 mai 1987.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

The States which have signed this Convention, members of the International Commission on Civil Status, desiring to organize, with a view to the application of article 25 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, signed at Geneva on 28 July 1951,<sup>2</sup> international administrative co-operation in order to determine the identity and civil status of refugees, referring furthermore to the provisions of the European Convention on the Obtaining Abroad of Information and Evidence in Administrative Matters, concluded at Strasbourg on 15 March 1978,<sup>3</sup> have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* 1. With a view to obtaining documents or certificates in application of article 25 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, signed at Geneva on 28 July 1951, the Contracting State on the territory of which a refugee, as defined by the aforementioned Convention and the Protocol of 1967 relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>4</sup>, resides on a regular basis, may request from any other Contracting State, on the territory of which the party concerned has previously resided, information concerning the identity and civil status under which that party was admitted to or registered in that State.

2. Such a request may under no circumstances be made to the State of origin of the party concerned. With respect to all other States, the State of residence shall abstain from making such a request where it might affect the security of the refugee or of members of his family.

3. The requesting State may not use the information furnished in application of this Convention for purposes other than those specified in the first paragraph.

*Article 2.* 1. The information shall be exchanged between the authorities specified in article 3, either directly or through the diplomatic or consular channel, by means of a multilingual form, the model of which shall be annexed to this Convention.

2. The requested authority must indicate, on the form and with regard to the information requested by the requesting authority, any information to which it has

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 March 1987, i.e., the first day of the third month following the month of deposit with the Government of Switzerland of the second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, in accordance with article 10 (1):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of acceptance (A) or approval (AA)</i>
Netherlands* .....	28 November 1986 A
(For the Kingdom in Europe and Aruba.)	
France .....	17 December 1986 AA

\* See p. 303 of this volume for the designation of authorities made in accordance with article 3, upon deposit of the instruments of acceptance or approval.

Subsequently, the Government of France has effected a designation of authority on 6 April 1987; see p. 303 of this volume.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, p. 137.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1299, p. 33.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, p. 267.

access, except in the event that it considers that disclosure of such information might result in a breach of its public order or might affect the security of the refugee or of members of his family.

3. The form shall be returned as soon as possible and without charge.

*Article 3.* At the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, each State shall indicate the central authority that it has designated, on the one hand, to formulate the request for information and, on the other hand, to respond to such requests. Federal States shall be free to designate more than one authority.

*Article 4.* 1. All of the entries on the form shall be written in block capital letters, using the Roman alphabet; these entries may in addition be written in the characters of the language of the requesting authority.

2. If the requesting authority or the requested authority is unable to fill out one box or part thereof, that box or part thereof shall be crossed out.

*Article 5.* 1. The dates, which shall be written in Arabic numerals, shall indicate respectively, under the symbols “Dy”, “Mo” and “Yr”, the day, the month and the year. The day and the month shall be indicated by two numbers and the year shall be indicated by four numbers. The first nine days of the month and the first nine months of the year shall be indicated by the numbers from 01 to 09.

2. Every place name referred to on the form shall be followed by the name of the State in which it is located, whenever the State concerned is not that of the requesting authority.

3. Only the following symbols shall be utilized:

- To indicate the masculine sex, the letter “M”; to indicate the feminine sex, the letter “F”;
- To indicate nationality, the letters used to designate the country of registration for motor vehicles;
- To indicate marital status, the letter “S” to designate a single person, the letters “Ma” to designate a married person, “Dh” to designate a deceased husband, “Dw” to designate a deceased wife, “Div” to designate divorce, “Se” to designate legal separation and “A” to designate the annulment of a marriage;
- To indicate refugee status, the letters “REF”;
- To indicate stateless persons, the letters “SP”.

4. In the case of marriage, legal separation, divorce or annulment, the date and place of the event shall be indicated after the corresponding symbol.

*Article 6.* 1. On the front of each form, the standard items of information except for the symbols referred to in article 5 concerning the dates, shall be printed in at least two languages, which shall include the language or one of the official languages of the requesting State and the French language.

2. The meaning of the symbols must be indicated in at least the language or one of the official languages of each of the States which, at the time of the signature of this Convention, are members of the International Commission on Civil Status, and in the English language.

3. The reverse side of each form must contain:

- A reference to the Convention, in the languages specified in paragraph 2 of this article;
- A translation of the standard items of information into those languages specified in paragraph 2 of this article, if these languages have not been used on the front side of the form;
- A summary of articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, in at least the language or one of the official languages of the requesting authority.

4. All translations must be approved by the Bureau of the International Commission on Civil Status.

*Article 7.* The forms shall be dated and shall be signed by and stamped with the seal of the requesting authority and the requested authority. The forms shall be exempt from legalization or any equivalent formality on the territory of the Contracting States.

*Article 8.* Documents concerning identity and civil status which are produced by refugees and which have been issued by their authorities of origin shall be exempt from legalization or any equivalent formality on the territory of each State which is bound by this Convention.

*Article 9.* This Convention shall be ratified, accepted or approved and the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Swiss Federal Council.

*Article 10.* 1. This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month in which the second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession has been deposited.

2. In respect of any State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after its entry into force, the Convention shall take effect on the first day of the third month following the month in which that State has deposited the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

*Article 11.* Any member State of the International Commission on Civil Status, the European Community or the Council of Europe may accede to this Convention. The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Swiss Federal Council.

*Article 12.* Reservations to the provisions of this Convention are not admissible.

*Article 13.* 1. Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession or at any time thereafter, declare that this Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible.

2. Notification of this declaration shall be made to the Swiss Federal Council and the extension shall take effect from the date of the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned or, thereafter, the first day of the third month following the month in which the notification is received.

3. Any declaration of extension may be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Swiss Federal Council and the Convention shall cease to be

applicable in the designated territory on the first day of the third month following the month in which the notification is received.

*Article 14.* 1. This Convention shall remain in force for an unlimited period.

2. Any State Party to this Convention may nevertheless denounce it at any time after a period of one year has expired from the date of entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned. Notification of this denunciation shall be made to the Swiss Federal Council and it shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month following the month in which the notification is received. The Convention shall remain in force among the other States.

*Article 15.* 1. The Swiss Federal Council shall notify the member States of the International Commission on Civil Status and any other State which has acceded to this Convention of:

- (a) The deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- (b) Any date of entry into force of this Convention;
- (c) Any declaration in respect of the territorial extension of the Convention or of the withdrawal of such extension, with the date on which it will take effect;
- (d) Any denunciation of the Convention and the date on which such denunciation will take effect;
- (e) Any declaration made by virtue of article 3.

2. The Swiss Federal Council shall advise the Secretary-General of the International Commission on Civil Status of any notification made pursuant to paragraph 1.

3. Upon the entry into force of this Convention, a certified true copy shall be transmitted by the Swiss Federal Council to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order that it may be registered and published in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized for this purpose, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Basel, on 3 September 1985, in a single copy in the French language, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Swiss Federal Council, and a certified true copy of which shall be delivered, through the diplomatic channel, to all the member States of the International Commission on Civil Status and to the States which have acceded. A certified true copy shall also be delivered to the Secretary-General of the International Commission on Civil Status.

For the Federal Republic of Germany:

For the Republic of Austria:

[WALTER ZEYRINGER]

For the Kingdom of Belgium:

[A. COESENS]

For the Kingdom of Spain:

[DIEGO ESPIN CANOVAS]

For the French Republic:

[J. MASSIP]

For the Greek Republic:

[CHRISTOFOROS CHRISTOFORIDES]

For the Italian Republic:

[RICCARDO MONACO]

For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

[HENRY DELVAUX]

For the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

[W. BRENKELAAR]

For the Republic of Portugal:

For the Swiss Confederation:

[JOSEPH VOYAME]

For the Turkish Republic:

ANNEX

1 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING A REFUGEE DECLARING RESIDENCE

in .....

from ..... to ..... 19 .....

2 REQUESTING AUTHORITY

3 REQUESTED AUTHORITY

4	Information requested	Information known to the requesting authority	6			Information provided by the requested authority		
			Same*	No information*	Different information	7	8	9
10	CONCERNING THE REFUGEE	5						
11	Surname							
12	first name(s)							
13	sex	14	nationality					
15	date and place of birth	Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□					Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□	
16	father's surname and first name(s)							
17	mother's surname and first name(s)							
18	marital status							
19	date and place	Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□					Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□	
20	CONCERNING THE CURRENT OR LAST SPOUSE OF THE REFUGEE							
11	Surname							
12	first name(s)							
14	nationality							
15	date and place of birth	Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□					Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□	
16	father's surname and first name(s)							
17	mother's surname and first name(s)							
21	CONCERNING CHILDREN OF THE REFUGEE							
11	Surname							
12	first name(s)							
13	sex	14	nationality					
15	date and place of birth	Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□					Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□	
11	Surname							
12	first name(s)							
13	sex	14	nationality					
15	date and place of birth	Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□					Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□	
11	Surname							
12	first name(s)							
13	sex	14	nationality					
15	date and place of birth	Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□					Dy Mo Yr □□ □□ □□□□	





DESIGNATION OF AUTHORITIES MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION, UPON DEPOSIT OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL

*NETHERLANDS*

With respect to the Kingdom in Europe: Chief, Main Division of Private Law, Ministry of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands.

With respect to Aruba: Director, Central Bureau for Legal and General Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Oranjestad, Aruba.

*FRANCE*

French Bureau for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (FBPRSP).

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