

N° 427.

ALLEMAGNE,
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE,
RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE,
AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE, etc.

Convention internationale modifiant
la Convention signée à Paris le
20 mai 1875 concernant la créa-
tion d'un bureau international des
poids et mesures, et le Règlement
annexé à cette Convention, signée
à Sèvres le 6 octobre 1921.

GERMANY,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC,
AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, etc.

International Convention modifying
the Convention signed at Paris,
May 20, 1875, respecting the
creation of an International Office
of Weights and Measures and
the Regulations annexed thereto,
signed at Sèvres, October 6, 1921.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 427. — INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION² MODIFYING THE CONVENTION SIGNED AT PARIS, MAY 20, 1875³, RESPECTING THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND THE REGULATIONS ANNEXED THERETO, SIGNED AT SEVRES, OCTOBER 6, 1921.

Official French text communicated by the Danish Minister at Berne. The registration of this Convention took place May 29, 1923.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION MODIFYING :

1. The Convention signed at Paris May 20, 1875, with a view to the international unification and the perfecting of the metric system ;
2. The Regulations annexed thereto,

CONCLUDED BETWEEN :

Germany, the Argentine Republic, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Spain, the United States of America, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Roumania, the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay.

The undersigned plenipotentiaries of the above-named Governments, having met in Conference at Paris, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article 1.

Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention of May 20, 1875, shall be replaced by the following provisions :

Article 7. — When the Committee shall have co-ordinated the various standards for the measurement of electric units, and when the General Conference shall have come to a unanimous decision on this matter, the Bureau shall be entrusted with the duty of fixing and preserving the electric standard units, together with the certificates appertaining to them, and also with the duty of comparing them with the national or other standards.

The Bureau shall further be entrusted with the duty of determining data relative to the " physical constants ", a more exact knowledge of which is desirable in order to promote accuracy and uniformity in the provinces of science which involve the use of the above-mentioned units. (See Article 6 and first paragraph of Article 7.)

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² Ratified by Denmark November 6, 1922.

³ British and Foreign State papers, vol. 66, page 562.

It shall also be entrusted with the duty of co-ordinating similar results which have been obtained by other institutes.

Article 8. — The international fundamental units (prototypes) and standards, together with the certificates appertaining to them, shall be kept in the custody of the Bureau ; the International Committee shall alone have access to the place in which they are deposited.

Article 2.

Articles 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18 and 20 of the Regulations annexed to the Convention of May 20, 1875, shall be replaced by the following provisions :

Article 6. — The annual subvention of the International Bureau shall consist of two portions : a fixed and a supplementary portion.

The fixed portion shall, as a rule, be 250,000 francs, but may be raised to 300,000 fr. by a unanimous vote of the Committee. This sum shall be provided by all the States and self-governing colonies which adhered to the Metric Convention before the Sixth General Conference.

The supplementary portion shall consist of the contributions from States and self-governing colonies which adhered to the Convention after the above-named General Conference.

The Committee shall, on the motion of the Director, draw up the annual budget, which shall not exceed the total laid down in the two preceding paragraphs. This budget shall be brought to the notice of the Governments of the High Contracting Parties each year by means of a special financial report.

If the Committee should think fit to increase the fixed portion of the annual subvention beyond 300,000 fr. or to alter the contributions which have been assessed in accordance with Article 20 of the present Regulations, it must inform the Governments so as to enable them to give the necessary instructions, in sufficient time, to their delegates to the next General Conference, in order that the latter may be in a position to discuss the question. The decision of the Conference shall only have effect provided that none of the Contracting States has raised any objection either before or during the Conference.

If any State shall have neglected for three years to pay its contribution, the latter shall be divided among the other States in the same ratio as their own contributions. The additional sums thus paid in by the States to make up the total of the subvention of the Bureau shall be considered as advances made to the State which is in arrears and they shall be refunded whenever the latter State pays the arrears of its contributions.

The advantages and prerogatives conferred by adherence to the Metric Convention shall be suspended as regards States which are three years in arrears.

After a further period of three years the defaulting State shall be excluded from the Convention and the contributions of the remainder shall be assessed afresh in conformity with Article 20 of the present Regulations.

Article 8. — The International Committee referred to in Article 3 of the Convention shall consist of 18 members each belonging to a different State.

When the membership of the International Committee is renewed, one-half at a time, the outgoing members shall, in the first instance, be those who have been provisionally elected to fill vacancies in the interval between two sessions of the Conference. The other outgoing members shall be designated by lot.

The outgoing members are eligible for re-election.

Article 9. — The International Committee shall elect its own president and secretary by secret ballot. These appointments shall be notified to the Governments of the High Contracting Parties.

The president and the secretary of the Committee and the director of the Bureau must belong to different countries. When once the Committee has appointed its officers, it shall not proceed to hold new elections or to make fresh appointments until three months after the date on which all the members shall have been informed of the vacancy which is to be the subject of the election.

Article 10. — The International Committee shall direct all the metrological work which the High Contracting Parties shall decide to carry out in common.

It shall further be entrusted with the duty of seeing that the international fundamental units (prototypes) and standards are properly preserved.

The Committee may also arrange for specialists to co-operate in metrological questions and may co-ordinate the results of their labours.

Article 11. — The Committee shall meet at least once every two years.

Article 12. — The decisions of the Committee shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes ; in case of equality, the president shall have a casting vote. Decisions shall not be valid unless the number of members present is at least half that of the elected members who form the Committee.

Subject to this reservation, absent members shall be entitled to delegate their votes to members who are present ; the latter must produce evidence authorising them to act in this way. The same rule applies in the case of appointments made by secret ballot.

The Director of the Bureau may take part in the discussions of the Committee.

Article 15. — The International Committee shall draw up detailed regulations for the organisation and work of the Bureau and it shall fix the charges to be levied in respect of the extraordinary work referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention.

These charges shall be allocated to the improvement of the scientific material of the Bureau. A sum may be previously deducted every year from the total amount of the charges collected by the Bureau and appropriated to the pension fund.

Article 17. — The maximum numbers of each category of the staff of the Bureau shall be laid down in a statute which shall be drawn up by the Committee.

The director and his assistants shall be appointed, by secret ballot, by the International Committee and their appointments shall be notified to the High Contracting Parties.

The director shall appoint the other members of the staff up to the maximum numbers laid down in the statute referred to in the first paragraph of this article.

Article 18. — The Director of the Bureau shall not have access to the place in which the international fundamental units (prototypes) are preserved except in virtue of the resolution of the Committee and provided that he is accompanied by at least one of its members.

Access to the place in which the fundamental units (prototypes) are preserved shall only be possible by means of three keys, one of which shall be in the custody of the Director of the French Archives, the second in that of the President of the Committee and the third in that of the Director of the Bureau.

Only the standards belonging to the category of national fundamental units (prototypes) shall be used for the ordinary comparative work of the Committee.

Article 20. — The scale of contribution referred to in Article 9 of the Convention has been based, as regards the fixed portion, on the amount of the subvention referred to in Article 6 of the present Regulations and also on the numbers of the populations ; the normal contribution of any State shall not be less than 5 per thousand, nor above 15 per cent, of the total subvention, no matter what may be the total of its population.

In order to draw up this scale it shall first be ascertained what States fall within the prescribed limits as regards this minimum and maximum ; the remainder of the total to be contributed shall be divided between the other States in direct proportion to the totals of their populations.

When the contributions have been assessed in this way they shall remain valid for the whole period between two consecutive general Conferences, and they may only be modified, in the interval, in the following cases :

(a) If one of the adherent States has allowed three successive years to pass without paying its contributions ;

(b) If a State which has been in arrears for more than three years has paid in the arrears of its contributions and it thus becomes necessary to refund to the other Governments the sums which they had advanced.

Supplementary contributions shall be computed in the same way, on the basis of population, and shall be of the same amounts as those paid, under the same conditions, by the States which formerly adhered to the Convention.

If a State which has adhered to the Convention shall announce that it is desirous of extending the benefits of the Convention to one or more of its non-autonomous colonies, the total population of the said colonies shall be added to that of the State in question for the purpose of computing the scale of contributions.

If a colony which has been recognised as self-governing desires to adhere to the Convention, it shall be considered, for the purposes of its inclusion in this Convention, either as a dependency of its mother-country or as a contracting State, as may be decided by its mother-country.

Article 3.

Any State may adhere to the present Convention by notifying its adherence to the French Government, which shall in turn notify the fact to all the participating States and to the President of the International Committee for Weights and Measures.

Any fresh adhesions to the Convention of May 20, 1875, shall automatically entail adherence to the present Convention.

Article 4.

The present Convention shall be ratified. All the Powers shall forward their ratifications as early as possible to the French Government, which shall notify their receipt to the other signatory States. The ratifications shall be preserved in the archives of the French Government. The present Convention shall come into force, as regards each signatory State, from the day on which its minutes of ratification are deposited with the French Government.

Done at Sèvres on October 6, 1921, in one copy which shall be preserved in the archives of the French Government, duly authenticated copies being transmitted to the other signatory States.

The said copy of the Convention, dated as described above, shall be open for signature till March 31, 1922.

In faith whereof the plenipotentiaries enumerated below, whose full powers have been found in good and due form, have signed the present Convention.

For Germany :	FORSTER KÖSTERS
For the Argentine Republic :	M. T. DE ALVEAR LUIS BEMBERG
For Austria :	MAYRHAUSER
For Belgium :	ERN. PASQUIER
For Brazil :	FRANC. RAMOS DE ANDRADE NEVES
For Bulgaria :	SAVOFF
For Canada :	HARDINGE OF PENSHURST J. E. SEARS, jr.
For Chile :	M. AMUNATEGUI
For Denmark	K. PRYTZ

For Spain :	SEVERO GOMEZ NUÑEZ
For the United States :	SHELDON WHITEHOUSE SAMUEL -W. STRATTON
For Finland :	G. MELANDER
For France :	P. APPELL PAUL JANET A. PEROT J. VIOLLE
For Great Britain :	HARDINGE OF PENSHURST J. -E. SEARS, jr. P. A. MACMAHON
For Hungary :	BODOLA LAJOS
For Italy :	VITO VOLTERRA NAPOLEONE REGGIANI
For Japan :	A. TANAKADATE SAISHIRO KOSHIDA
For Mexico :	JUAN F. URQUIDI
For Norway :	D. ISAACHSEN
For Peru :	G. TIRADO
For Portugal :	ARMANDO NAVARRO
For Roumania :	ST. HEPITES C. STATESCU
For the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom :	M. BOCKKOVITCH CELESTIN KARGATCHIN
For Siam :	DAMRAS
For Sweden :	K. A. WALLROTH IVAR FREDHOLM
For Switzerland :	RAOUL GAUTIER
For Uruguay :	J.-C. BLANCO