

N° 3301.

ALLEMAGNE, AUTRICHE,
BELGIQUE,
GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET IRLANDE DU NORD,
DANEMARK, etc.

Convention relative au droit de
timbre en matière de chèques,
avec protocole. Signés à Genève,
le 19 mars 1931.

GERMANY, AUSTRIA,
BELGIUM,
GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND,
DENMARK, etc.

Convention on the Stamp Laws in
connection with Cheques, and
Protocol. Signed at Geneva,
March 19, 1931.

No. 3301. — CONVENTION¹ ON THE STAMP LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH CHEQUES. SIGNED AT GENEVA, MARCH 19, 1931.

Official texts in French and English. This Convention was registered with the Secretariat, in accordance with its Article 10, on November 29, 1933, the date of its entry into force.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REICH ; THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND THE BRITISH DOMINIONS BEYOND THE SEAS, EMPEROR OF INDIA ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK AND ICELAND ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC, FOR THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC ; HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE REGENT OF THE KINGDOM OF HUNGARY ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY ; HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN ; HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBURG ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF MEXICO ; HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF MONACO ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY ; HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC ; HIS MAJESTY THE

¹ *Deposit of ratifications in Geneva :*

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND January 13, 1932.

This ratification does not include any British Colony or Protectorate or any mandated territory in respect of which the mandate is exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

DENMARK July 27, 1932.

The Government of the King, by its acceptance of this Convention, does not intend to assume any obligations as regards Greenland.*

NORWAY July 27, 1932.

SWEDEN July 27, 1932.

SWITZERLAND August 26, 1932.

This ratification will take effect only after the adoption of a law revising Sections XXIV to XXXIII of the Federal Code of Obligations or, if necessary, of a special law regarding bills of exchange, promissory notes and cheques.*

FINLAND August 31, 1932.

MONACO February 9, 1933.

JAPAN August 25, 1933.

ITALY August 31, 1933.

GERMANY October 3, 1933.

THE NETHERLANDS (for the Kingdom in Europe) April 2, 1934.

GREECE June 1st, 1934.

PORTUGAL June 8, 1934.

This ratification is given subject to the reservation that the provisions of the Convention do not apply to the colonial territory of Portugal.*

Accession :

NICARAGUA March 16, 1932.

* Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

KING OF ROUMANIA ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN ; THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA ;

Being desirous of settling certain problems concerning the stamp laws in their relations with cheques, have appointed as their plenipotentiaries the following :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REICH :

M. Leo QUASSOWSKI, Ministerial Counsellor in the Reich Ministry of Justice ;
Dr. Erich ALBRECHT, Counsellor of Legation in the Reich Ministry for Foreign Affairs ;

Dr. Erwin PÄTZOLD, " Landgerichtsrat " at the Court of Schweidnitz.

THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC :

Dr. Guido STROBELE, Ministerial Counsellor in the Federal Ministry of Justice.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. J. DE LA VALLÉE POUSSIN, Honorary Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science and Arts.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND THE BRITISH DOMINIONS BEYOND THE SEAS, EMPEROR OF INDIA :

FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND ALL PARTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHICH ARE NOT SEPARATE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS :

Professor H. C. GUTTERIDGE, K.C., Professor of Commercial and Industrial Law and Dean of the Faculty of Laws in the University of London.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK AND ICELAND :

M. Axel HELPER, Ministerial Counsellor in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry ;
M. Valdemar EIGTVED, General Manager of the " Privatbanken ", Copenhagen.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC, FOR THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG :

M. Józef SUŁKOWSKI, Professor at the University of Poznań, Member of the Polish Codification Commission.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR :

Dr. Alejandro GASTELÚ, Consul at Geneva.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN :

Professor FRANCISCO BERNIS, Secretary-General of the " Consejo superior Bancario ".

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND :

M. Filip GRÖNWALL, Counsellor of State, Member of the High Administrative Court.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

M. Louis Jean PERCEROU, Professor in the Faculty of Law of the University of Paris.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC :

M. R. RAPHAËL, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations ;
M. A. CONTOUMAS, First Secretary of the Permanent Delegation accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE REGENT OF THE KINGDOM OF HUNGARY :

M. Jean PELÉNYI, Resident Minister, Head of the Royal Delegation accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY :

M. Amedeo GIANNINI, Counsellor of State, First-Class Minister Plenipotentiary ;
M. Giovanni ZAPPALÀ, Barrister-at-Law, Head of Section in the Ministry of Finance.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN :

M. Nobutaro KAWASHIMA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the
President of the Hellenic Republic ;
M. Ukitsu TANAKA, Judge at the Supreme Court of Japan.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBURG :

M. Charles VERMAIRE, Consul at Geneva.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF MEXICO :

M. Antonio CASTRO-LEAL, Observer accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF MONACO :

M. Conrad E. HENTSCH, Consul-General of the Principality at Geneva.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY :

M. C. Stub HOLMBOE, Advocate at the Supreme Court.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS :

Dr. J. KOSTERS, Counsellor at the High Court of Justice, former Professor at the
University of Groningen.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC :

M. Józef SUŁKOWSKI, Professor at the University of Poznań, Member of the Polish
Codification Commission.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC :

Dr. José CAEIRO DA MATTA, Rector of the University of Lisbon, Professor in the Faculty
of Law, Director of the Bank of Portugal, Deputy Judge at the Permanent Court
of International Justice.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA :

M. Constantin ANTONIADE, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary accredited
to the League of Nations.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN :

Baron Erik Teodor MARKS VON WÜRTEMBERG, President of the Stockholm Court of
Appeal, former Minister for Foreign Affairs ;
M. L. Birger EKEBERG, former Minister of Justice, President of the Civil Legislation
Commission, former Counsellor of the Supreme Court ;
M. Knut DAHLBERG, former Minister of Agriculture, Director of the Association of
Swedish Banks.

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL :

Dr. Max VISCHER, Barrister-at-Law and Notary, First Secretary of the Swiss Bankers'
Association at Basle ;
Dr. O. HULFTEGGER, First Secretary to the Board of the Swiss Commercial and Industrial
Union at Zurich.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC :

Dr. Karel HERMANN-OTAVSKÝ, Professor at the University of Prague, President of the
Codification Commission for Commercial Law in the Ministry of Justice.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC :

CEMAL HÜSNÜ Bey, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Federal Council, Former Minister of Public Instruction.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA :

M. I. CHOUMENKOVITCH, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article 1.

If their laws do not already make provision to this effect, the High Contracting Parties undertake to alter their laws in all the territories placed under their sovereignty or authority to which the present Convention is applicable, so that the validity of obligations arising out of a cheque or the exercise of the rights that flow therefrom shall not be subordinated to the observance of the provisions concerning the stamp.

Nevertheless, the High Contracting Parties may suspend the exercise of these rights until payment of the stamp duties they prescribe or of any penalties incurred. They may also decide that the quality and effects of an instrument " immediately executory " which, according to their legislation may be attributed to a cheque, shall be subject to the condition that the stamp law has, from the issue of the instrument, been duly complied with in accordance with their laws.

Article 2.

The present Convention, the French and English texts of which shall be equally authentic, shall bear this day's date.

It may be signed thereafter until July 15th, 1931, on behalf of any Member of the League of Nations or non-member State.

Article 3.

The present Convention shall be ratified.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited before September 1st, 1933, with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who shall forthwith notify receipt thereof to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States on whose behalf the present Convention has been signed or acceded to.

Article 4.

As from July 15th, 1931, any Member of the League of Nations and any non-member State may accede thereto.

Such accession shall be effected by a notification to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, such notification to be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General shall notify such deposit forthwith to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States on whose behalf the present Convention has been signed or acceded to.

Article 5.

The present Convention shall not come into force until it has been ratified or acceded to on behalf of seven Members of the League of Nations or non-member States, which shall include three of the Members of the League permanently represented on the Council.

The date of entry into force shall be the ninetieth day following the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the seventh ratification or accession in accordance with the first paragraph of the present Article.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations, when making the notification provided for in Articles 3 and 4, shall state in particular that the ratifications or accessions referred to in the first paragraph of the present Article have been received.

Article 6.

Every ratification or accession effected after the entry into force of the Convention in accordance with Article 5 shall take effect on the ninetieth day following the date of receipt thereof by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Article 7.

The present Convention may not be denounced before the expiry of two years from the date on which it has entered into force in respect of that Member of the League or non-member State ; such denunciation shall take effect as from the ninetieth day following the receipt by the Secretary-General of the notification addressed to him.

Every denunciation shall be immediately communicated by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States on whose behalf the present Convention has been signed or acceded to.

Each denunciation shall take effect only as regards the Member of the League of Nations or the non-member State, on whose behalf it has been made.

Article 8.

Every Member of the League of Nations and every non-member State in respect of which the present Convention is in force may forward to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, after the expiry of the fourth year following the entry into force of the Convention, a request for the revision of some or all of the provisions of that Convention.

If such request, after being communicated to the other Members or non-member States between whom the Convention is at that time in force, is supported within one year by at least six of them, the Council of the League of Nations shall decide whether a Conference shall be convened for the purpose.

Article 9.

Any High Contracting Party may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that, in accepting the present Convention, he does not assume any obligations in respect of all or any of his colonies, protectorates or territories under suzerainty or mandate ; and the present Convention shall not apply to any territories named in such declaration.

Any High Contracting Party may give notice to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations at any time subsequently that he desires that the Convention shall apply to all or any of his territories which have been made the subject of a declaration under the preceding paragraph, and the Convention shall apply to all the territories named in such notice ninety days after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Any High Contracting Party may at any time declare that he desires that the present Convention shall cease to apply to all or any of his colonies, protectorates or territories under suzerainty or mandate and the Convention shall cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration one year after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Article 10.

The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations as soon as it comes into force.

En foi de quoi les plénipotentiaires sus-nommés ont signé la présente convention.

Fait à Genève, le dix-neuf mars mil neuf cent trente et un, en simple expédition qui sera déposée dans les archives du Secrétariat de la Société des Nations ; copie conforme en sera transmise à tous les Membres de la Société des Nations et à tous les Etats non membres représentés à la Conférence.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done at Geneva, the nineteenth day of March one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, in a single copy, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and of which authenticated copies shall be delivered to all Members of the League of Nations and non-member States represented at the Conference.

Allemagne

L. QUASSOWSKI
Dr. ALBRECHT
Erwin PÄTZOLD

Germany

Autriche

Dr. Guido STROBELE

Austria

Belgique

DE LA VALLÉE POUSSIN

Belgium

*Grande-Bretagne
et Irlande du Nord*

ainsi que toutes parties de
l'Empire britannique non
membres séparés de la
Société des Nations.

*Great Britain
and Northern Ireland*

and all parts of the British
Empire which are not separate
Members of the League of
Nations.

H. C. GUTTERIDGE

Danemark

HELPER
V. EIGTVED

Denmark

Ville libre de Dantzig

Józef SUŁKOWSKI.

Free City of Danzig

Equateur

Alex GASTELÚ

Ecuador

Espagne

FRANCISCO BERNIS

Spain

Finlande

F. GRÖNWALL

Finland

France

J. PERCEROU

France

Grèce

R. RAPHAËL
A. CONTOUMAS

Greece

<i>Hongrie</i>	PELÉNYI	<i>Hungary</i>
<i>Italie</i>	Amedeo GIANNINI Giovanni ZAPPALÀ	<i>Italy</i>
<i>Japon</i>	N. KAWASHIMA. Ukitsu TANAKA.	<i>Japan</i>
<i>Luxembourg</i>	Ch. G. VERMAIRE	<i>Luxemburg</i>
<i>Mexique</i>	Antonio CASTRO-LEAL	<i>Mexico</i>
<i>Monaco</i>	C. HENTSCH. <i>ad referendum</i>	<i>Monaco</i>
<i>Norvège</i>	Stub HOLMBOE	<i>Norway</i>
<i>Pays-Bas</i>	J. KOSTERS	<i>The Netherlands</i>
<i>Pologne</i>	Józef SUŁKOWSKI.	<i>Poland</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	José CAEIRO DA MATTA	<i>Portugal</i>
<i>Roumanie</i>	C. ANTONIADE	<i>Roumania</i>
<i>Suède</i>	E. MARKS VON WÜRTEMBERG Birger EKEBERG K. DAHLBERG Sous réserve de ratification par S. M. le Roi de Suède avec l'approbation du Riksdag. ¹	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Suisse</i>	VISCHER HULFTEGGER	<i>Switzerland</i>
<i>Tchécoslovaquie</i>	Dr. Karel HERMANN-OTAVSKÝ	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>
<i>Turquie</i>	Cemal HÜSNÜ	<i>Turkey</i>
<i>Yougoslavie</i>	I. CHOUMENKOVITCH	<i>Yugoslavia</i>

¹ Subject to ratification by His Majesty the King of Sweden with the approval of the Riksdag.

PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION.

At the time of signing the Convention of this day's date on the stamp laws in connection with cheques, the undersigned, duly authorised, have agreed upon the following provisions :

A.

The Members of the League of Nations and the non-member States which may not have been able to deposit their ratifications of the said Convention before September 1st, 1933, undertake to forward within fifteen days from that date a communication to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations informing him of their situation as regards ratification.

B.

If, on November 1st, 1933, the conditions laid down in Article 5, paragraph 1, for the entry into force of the Convention are not fulfilled, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall convene a meeting of the Members of the League and the non-member States on whose behalf the Convention has been signed or acceded to.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to examine the situation and any measures to be taken to meet it.

C.

The High Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other, immediately upon their coming into force, the legislative measures taken by them in execution of the Convention in their respective territories.

En foi de quoi les plénipotentiaires ont signé le présent protocole.

Fait à Genève, le dix-neuf mars mil neuf cent trente et un, en simple expédition, qui sera déposée dans les archives du Secrétariat de la Société des Nations; copie conforme en sera transmise à tous les Membres de la Société des Nations et à tous les Etats non membres représentés à la Conférence.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Protocol.

Done at Geneva the nineteenth day of March one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, in a single copy, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and of which authenticated copies shall be delivered to all Members of the League of Nations and non-member States represented at the Conference.

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DE LA VALLÉE POUSSIN

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