

N° 3585.

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ALBANIE,  
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE,  
AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE,  
GRANDE-BRETAGNE  
ET IRLANDE DU NORD, etc.

Convention pour faciliter la circulation internationale des films ayant un caractère éducatif. Signée à Genève, le 11 octobre 1933.

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ALBANIA,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
AUSTRIA, BELGIUM,  
GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND, etc.

Convention for facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character. Signed at Geneva, October 11th, 1933.

No. 3585. — CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> FOR FACILITATING THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION OF FILMS OF AN EDUCATIONAL CHARACTER. SIGNED AT GENEVA, OCTOBER 11TH, 1933.

*Official texts in French and English. This Convention was registered with the Secretariat, in accordance with its Article XVIII, on January 15th, 1935, the date of its entry into force.*

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE ALBANIANS ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ; 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 ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK AND ICELAND ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF EGYPT ; 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 ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC ; HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF MONACO ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA ; HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN ; THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL ; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

Convinced that it is highly desirable to facilitate the international circulation of educational films of every kind, which contribute towards the mutual understanding of peoples, in conformity with the aims of the League of Nations and consequently encourage moral disarmament or which constitute especially effective means of ensuring physical, intellectual and moral progress ;

Noting that educational films are insufficiently known and that their international circulation encounters numerous difficulties ;

Considering that Customs duties often constitute a serious obstacle to the production and circulation of these films and that States do not obtain any appreciable compensating financial advantage :

Have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries the following :

<sup>1</sup> *Deposit of ratifications in Geneva :*

SWITZERLAND . . . . .	April 20th, 1934.
MONACO . . . . .	September 11th, 1934.
INDIA . . . . .	October 17th, 1934.
ITALY . . . . .	November 21st, 1934.
CHILE . . . . .	March 20th, 1935.
ROUMANIA . . . . .	June 19th, 1935.
NORWAY . . . . .	June 26th, 1935.
DENMARK . . . . .	July 10th, 1935.
AUSTRIA . . . . .	August 26th, 1935.
NICARAGUA . . . . .	September 7th, 1935.
LATVIA . . . . .	October 21st, 1935.

*Accessions :*

BULGARIA . . . . .	July 10th, 1934.
IRISH FREE STATE . . . . .	July 24th, 1934.
IRAN . . . . .	April 12th, 1935.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE ALBANIANS :

M. Lec KURTI, Resident Minister, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

M. Curtis T. EVERETT, Consul at Geneva.

## THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC :

M. Emerich PFLÜGL, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative accredited to the League of Nations.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. Eugène DU BOIS, First Secretary of the Legation at Berne.

## 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 :

The Right Honourable Douglas H. HACKING, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office.

## FOR INDIA :

Sir Brojendra Lal MITTER, K.C.S.I., Law Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE :

M. Enrique J. GAJARDO, Head of the Permanent Office accredited to the League of Nations.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF DENMARK AND ICELAND :

M. William BORBERG, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF EGYPT :

Mahmoud FAKHRY Pacha, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the President of the French Republic.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND :

Dr. Rudolf HOLSTI, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Federal Council, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

M. René MASSIGLI, Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of the French League of Nations Office.

## 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. Ladislas TAHY DE TAHVÁR ET TARKEÖ, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Federal Council, Head of the Delegation accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY :

M. Giovanni Cesare MAJONI, Ambassador.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC :

M. Jules FELDMANS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Federal Council, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF MONACO :

M. Xavier-John RAISIN, Consul-General at Geneva.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA :

Dr. Tomás Francisco MEDINA, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY :

M. Peter Hersleb BIRKELAND, Counsellor of Legation, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA :

Dr. Raoul A. AMADOR, Resident Minister.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC :

M. Edouard RACZYŃSKI, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate accredited to the League of Nations.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA :

Professor V. V. PELLA, Minister Plenipotentiary.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN :

M. K. I. WESTMAN, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Federal Council.

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL :

M. Camille GORGÉ, First Head of Section in the Federal Political Department.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY :

Dr. Alfredo DE CASTRO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Federal Council, to His Majesty the King of the Belgians and to Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands.

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

#### *Article I.*

The present Convention shall apply to films which, based on didactic methods, have eminently international educational aims and fall within one of the five following categories :

(a) Films designed to supply information with regard to the work and aims of the League of Nations and other international organisations which are generally recognised by the High Contracting Parties ;

(b) Films intended for use in education of all grades ;

- (c) Films intended for vocational training and guidance, including technical films relating to industry and films relating to scientific management ;
- (d) Films dealing with scientific or technical research or designed to spread scientific knowledge ;
- (e) Films dealing with health questions, physical training, social welfare and relief.

*Article II.*

The High Contracting Parties agree that the provisions of the preceding paragraph apply to educational films in either of the following forms :

- (a) Negatives, exposed and developed ;
- (b) Positives, printed and developed.

The present Convention applies equally to all forms of sound reproduction, such as gramophone records supplementary to the film and acoustic films.

*Article III.*

The High Contracting Parties undertake to accord, within six months from the coming into force of the present Convention, exemption from all Customs duties and accessory charges of any kind in respect of the importation, permanent or temporary, transit and exportation of films of an international educational character produced by concerns or institutions established in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties.

This exemption does not apply to such charges as may be imposed for the purpose of defraying any expenses incurred in connection with the submission of a film to the national authority under Article V.

Neither does it apply to such other charges as are made in all cases on the importation of goods, even when the latter are exempt from Customs duty, and irrespective of their origin or nature, as, for example, statistical fees and stamp duties.

The High Contracting Parties further undertake not to subject the films exempted from duty under the Convention to internal taxes other or higher than, or to rules, formalities or any treatment (relating to sale, circulation or other matters) different from, those to which educational films produced in the country concerned are subject.

*Article IV.*

Every film, including any form of sound reproduction supplementary to it, for which exemption from Customs duties is to be claimed in accordance with the present Convention, shall be submitted to the International Educational Cinematographic Institute for examination, and the Institute, if satisfied that the film is of an international educational character within the meaning of Article I, shall issue a certificate to that effect in the form shown in the Executive Regulations mentioned in Article XIII.

If one of the High Contracting Parties considers that a film for which a certificate has been issued by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute is not in conformity with the clauses of Article I, it may ask that the film be submitted for a second examination, stating its reasons for the request. The Institute will withdraw the certificate if it considers that the reasons stated are adequate.

*Article V.*

On presentation of such certificate and where exemption from Customs duty is not already given by internal legislation, the necessary facilities for the submission of the film to the national authority competent to grant exemption from Customs duties shall be accorded by the Customs or other departments concerned of the country into which it is desired to import the film.

The decision of the competent national authority as to whether, having regard to their educational system, the film is to be accepted as educational from a national point of view and

thus entitled to exemption from Customs duties in accordance with the present Convention shall be final.

The national authority will communicate its decision to the International Educational Cinematographic Institute.

The decision may form the subject of friendly conversation between the countries concerned, as provided for in Article VI.

*Article VI.*

If the authorities of the importing country refuse to grant exemption from Customs duties to a film because they do not admit its educational character from the point of view of their country, the Government of the country where the concern or institution which has produced the film is established may, if it considers that it has an interest in the circulation of the film on national culture grounds, make friendly representations to the Government of the importing country. The two Governments shall consult together on the question, and in so doing they shall take full advantage of the advice of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute.

*Article VII.*

The International Educational Cinematographic Institute shall prepare as soon as possible and periodically publish a catalogue of the films to which it has issued a certificate in accordance with Article IV.

The catalogue shall also state the decisions taken by the competent authorities of the countries into which importation has been sought. It shall be published in the five official languages of the Institute (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish) and shall reproduce in respect of each film the information contained in the certificates. It shall be communicated to the Governments of the High Contracting Parties.

The said Parties undertake to encourage, by such means as appear to them to be the most effective, the circulation of the catalogue published by the Institute.

*Article VIII.*

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect the right of the High Contracting Parties to censor films in accordance with their own laws or to adopt measures to prohibit or to limit the importation or transit of films for reasons of public security or order.

*Article IX.*

Each High Contracting Party to the present Convention, when signing or acceding to it, may reserve the right to take measures to prohibit or restrict importation for reasons based on the necessity for defending its market against invasion by films of foreign origin.

Each High Contracting Party making use of this reserved right must indicate the reasons for its attitude to the International Educational Cinematographic Institute.

These reasons shall be communicated by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute to the Governments of the States Parties to the Convention.

*Article X.*

The High Contracting Parties undertake jointly to consider means of reducing to a minimum the restrictions which might interfere with the international circulation of the educational films referred to in Article I.

*Article XI.*

Disputes as to the interpretation or application of the present Convention, except the clauses of Articles V, VIII and IX, shall be submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

If the High Contracting Parties between which a dispute has arisen, or any one of them, are not parties to the Protocol<sup>1</sup> dated December 16th, 1920, relating to the Permanent Court of International Justice, the dispute shall, if they so desire, be submitted, in accordance with the constitutional rules of each of them, either to the Permanent Court of International Justice or to an arbitral tribunal established in conformity with the Convention<sup>2</sup> of October 18th, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, or to any other arbitral tribunal.

*Article XII.*

The High Contracting Parties shall communicate to the International Educational Cinematographic Institute within six months following the coming into force in their territories of the present Convention :

(a) The names of the organisations entitled to grant exemption from Customs duties in accordance with Article V ;

(b) The measures taken to ensure the execution of the provisions of the present Convention.

The International Educational Cinematographic Institute shall communicate to the High Contracting Parties the information referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article.

*Article XIII.*

The Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute shall draw up regulations concerning the procedure to be followed by it in order to carry out the present Convention and the fees to be charged by it for issuing certificates in accordance with Article IV and publishing the catalogue referred to in Article VII. These regulations, including the form of the certificate and the fees to be charged, shall be submitted for approval to the Council of the League of Nations.

*Article XIV.*

The present Convention, of which both the French and English texts shall be authentic, may be signed at any time before April 11th, 1934, on behalf of any Member of the League of Nations or any non-member State to which the Council of the League of Nations shall have communicated a copy of the present Convention for this purpose.

*Article XV.*

The present Convention shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will notify the deposit thereof to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States referred to in Article XIV, including the date at which such deposit has been effected.

*Article XVI.*

On and after April 12th, 1934, any Member of the League of Nations and any non-member State to which the Council of the League of Nations shall have communicated a copy of the present Convention may accede to it.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. VI, page 379 ; Vol. XI, page 405 ; Vol. XV, page 305 ; Vol. XXIV, page 153 ; Vol. XXVII, page 417 ; Vol. XXXIX, page 165 ; Vol. XLV, page 96 ; Vol. L, page 159 ; Vol. LIV, page 387 ; Vol. LXIX, page 70 ; Vol. LXXII, page 452 ; Vol. LXXXVIII, page 435 ; Vol. LXXXVIII, page 272 ; Vol. XCII, page 362 ; Vol. XCVI, page 180 ; Vol. C, page 153 ; Vol. CIV, page 492 ; Vol. CVII, page 461 ; Vol. CXI, page 402 ; Vol. CXVII, page 46 ; Vol. CXXVI, page 430 ; Vol. CXXX, page 440 ; Vol. CXXXIV, page 392 ; Vol. CXLVII, page 318 ; and Vol. CLII, page 282, of this Series.

<sup>2</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 100, page 298.

The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will notify such deposit and the date thereof to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States referred to in the preceding paragraph.

*Article XVII.*

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations will draw up a procès-verbal when the ratifications or accessions of five Members of the League of Nations or non-member States have been received.

A certified true copy of this procès-verbal shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to all the Members of the League and to all non-member States mentioned in Article XIV.

*Article XVIII.*

The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations ninety days after the date of the procès-verbal mentioned in Article XVII. It will come into force on that date.

In respect of each Member or non-member State on whose behalf any instrument of ratification or accession is subsequently deposited, the Convention shall come into force ninety days after the date of the deposit of such instrument.

*Article XIX.*

1. The present Convention may be denounced after the expiration of a period of three years from the date at which it comes into force.

2. The denunciation of the Convention shall be effected by a written notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who will inform all the Members of the League and the non-member States referred to in Articles XIV and XVI of each notification and of the date of the receipt thereof.

3. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the receipt of the notification.

*Article XX.*

1. Any High Contracting Party may declare, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, that, in accepting the present Convention, he is not assuming any obligation in respect of all or any of his colonies, protectorates, overseas territories, or the territories under his suzerainty or territories in respect of which a mandate has been confided to him; the present Convention shall, in that case, not be applicable to the territories named in such declaration.

2. Any High Contracting Party may subsequently notify the Secretary-General of the League of Nations that he desires the present Convention to apply to all or any of the territories in respect of which the declaration provided for in the preceding paragraph has been made. The Convention shall, in that case, apply to all the territories named in such notification ninety days after the receipt thereof by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

3. Any High Contracting Party may, at any time after the expiration of the period of three years provided for in Article XIX, declare that he desires the present Convention to cease to apply to all or any of his colonies, protectorates, overseas territories, or the territories under his suzerainty or territories in respect of which a mandate has been confided to him. The Convention shall, in that case, cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration six months after the receipt thereof by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

4. The Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall communicate to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States the declarations and notifications received in virtue of the present Article, together with the dates of the receipt thereof.



En foi de quoi les plénipotentiaires susmentionnés ont signé la présente convention.

Fait à Genève, le onze octobre mil neuf cent trente-trois, en un seul exemplaire, qui sera conservé dans les archives du Secrétariat de la Société des Nations et dont copie certifiée conforme sera remise à tous les Membres de la Société et aux Etats non membres, visés à l'article XIV.

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

Done at Geneva the eleventh day of October one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three, in a single copy, which shall be preserved in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations and of which a certified true copy shall be delivered to all the Members of the League and to non-member States, referred to in Article XIV.

ALBANIE

Lec KURTI.

ALBANIA

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Under the terms of Article 20 of this Convention, the Government of the United States of America assumes no obligation in respect of the Philippine Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Island of Guam. <sup>1</sup>

Curtis T. EVERETT.

AUTRICHE

En signant la présente convention, je déclare que l'Autriche se réserve le droit prévu à l'article IX. <sup>2</sup>

E. PFLÜGL.

AUSTRIA

BELGIQUE

En signant la convention, le Gouvernement belge se réserve le droit de prendre des mesures de prohibition ou de restriction à l'importation pour des raisons tirées de la nécessité de se défendre contre un envahissement de son marché par des films de provenance étrangère.

Le Gouvernement belge déclare n'assumer aucune obligation en ce qui concerne le Congo belge et le territoire du Ruanda-Urundi. <sup>3</sup>

E. Du Bois.

BELGIUM

GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE DU  
NORD

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND

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

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

Douglas H. HACKING.

*Traduction du Secrétariat de la Société des Nations : Translation by the Secretariat of the League of Nations :*

<sup>1</sup> Conformément aux dispositions de l'article 20 de cette convention, le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique n'assume aucune obligation en ce qui concerne les Iles Philippines, les Iles Vierges, le Samoa américain et l'Ile de Guam.

<sup>2</sup> On signing the present Convention, I declare that Austria reserves the right provided for in Article IX.

<sup>3</sup> On signing the Convention, the Belgian Government reserves the right to take measures to prohibit or restrict importation for reasons based on the necessity for defending its market against invasion by films of foreign origin.

The Belgian Government declares that it does not assume any obligation as regards the Belgian Congo and the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

INDE	<p>Under the terms of Article XX of this Convention, I declare that my signature is not binding as regards the enforcement of its provisions in the territories in India of any Prince or Chief under the suzerainty of His Majesty. <sup>1</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brojendra Lal MITTER.</p>	INDIA
CHILI	<p>En signant la présente convention, je déclare que le Chili se réserve le droit prévu à l'article IX. <sup>2</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enrique J. GAJARDO V.</p>	CHILE
DANEMARK	<p>Conformément à l'article XX, alinéa premier, de la convention, le Danemark n'entend assumer aucune obligation en ce qui concerne le Groenland. <sup>3</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">William BORBERG.</p>	DENMARK
ÉGYPTE	<p style="text-align: center;">Mahmoud FAKHRY.</p>	EGYPT
FINLANDE	<p style="text-align: center;">Rudolf HOLSTI.</p>	FINLAND
FRANCE	<p>Sous la réserve énoncée à l'article IX et en spécifiant que la signature de la convention n'aura effet qu'à l'égard de la France métropolitaine. <sup>4</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">R. MASSIGLI.</p>	FRANCE
GRÈCE	<p style="text-align: center;">R. RAPHAËL. A. CONTOUMAS.</p>	GREECE
HONGRIE	<p>En signant la convention je réserve, pour mon gouvernement, le droit, prévu à l'article IX, de prendre des mesures de prohibition ou de restriction à l'importation pour des raisons tirées de la nécessité de se défendre contre un envahissement de son marché par des films de provenance étrangère. <sup>5</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ladislav DE TAHY.</p>	HUNGARY

*Traduction du Secrétariat de la Société des Nations : Translation by the Secretariat of the League of Nations :*

<sup>1</sup> Conformément aux termes de l'article XX de cette convention, je déclare, en ce qui concerne l'application de ses dispositions, que ma signature n'engage pas les territoires de l'Inde appartenant à un prince ou chef placé sous la suzeraineté de Sa Majesté.

<sup>2</sup> On signing the present Convention, I declare that Chile reserves the right provided for in Article IX.

<sup>3</sup> In conformity with paragraph 1 of Article XX of the Convention, Denmark does not assume any obligation as regards Greenland.

<sup>4</sup> Subject to the reservation mentioned in Article IX and declaring that the signature of the Convention shall be effective only as regards the home territory of France.

<sup>5</sup> When signing the Convention, I reserve, on behalf of my Government, the right provided in Article IX to take measures to prohibit or restrict importation for reasons based on the necessity for defending its market against invasion by films of foreign origin.