

No. 4844

**AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FINLAND,
FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, etc.**

**Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles for Private
Use in International Traffic (with Protocol of Signature).
Done at Geneva, on 18 May 1956**

Official texts: English and French.

Registered ex officio on 18 August 1959.

**AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE, FINLANDE,
FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, etc.**

**Convention relative au régime fiscal des véhicules routiers
à usage privé en circulation internationale (avec Proto-
cole de signature). Faite à Genève, le 18 mai 1956**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée d'office le 18 août 1959.

No. 4844. CONVENTION¹ ON THE TAXATION OF ROAD VEHICLES FOR PRIVATE USE IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. DONE AT GENEVA, ON 18 MAY 1956

The Contracting Parties,

Considering that some European States have concluded bilateral agreements or taken other steps introducing a more liberal procedure than that of the Convention of 30 March 1931² on the Taxation of Foreign Motor Vehicles,

Desiring to facilitate the development of international touring,
Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

For the purpose of this Convention :

(a) The term "vehicles" shall mean all cycles, all self-propelled road vehicles and all trailers for coupling to such vehicles whether imported with the vehicle or separately, with the exception, however, of vehicles or combinations of coupled vehicles for the transport of persons having more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat;

(b) The term "private use" shall exclude the transport of persons for remuneration, reward or other consideration and the industrial or commercial transport of goods with or without remuneration.

Article 2

Vehicles registered in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, and vehicles allowed to be brought into circulation on such territory and exempted

¹ In accordance with article 6, the Convention came into force on 18 August 1959, the ninetieth day after the following five countries had signed it without reservation as to ratification (*) or had deposited their instruments of ratification on the dates indicated :

Austria	12 November 1958	Netherlands (for the	
Finland	18 May 1956(*)	Realm in Europe,	
France	20 May 1959	Surinam, the Netherlands Antilles and	
		Netherlands New Guinea)	20 April 1959
		Sweden	16 January 1958

In addition, the instrument of accession by the Government of Ghana was deposited on 18 August 1959, to take effect on 16 November 1959.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXXXVIII, p. 149; Vol. CXLII, p. 393; Vol. CXLVII, p. 356; Vol. CLVI, p. 260; Vol. CLX, p. 418; Vol. CLXIV, p. 403; Vol. CLXXII, p. 426; Vol. CLXXXI, p. 397; Vol. CLXXXV, p. 407; Vol. CLXXXIX, p. 483, and Vol. CLXXXXVI, p. 422.

on that territory from the obligation to be registered, shall, when temporarily imported for private use in the territory of another Contracting Party, be exempted, under the conditions laid down below, from taxes and charges levied on the circulation or possession of vehicles in the territory of that Contracting Party. This exemption shall not apply to tolls or to taxes or charges on consumption.

Article 3

1. This exemption shall be granted in the territory of each Contracting Party so long as the conditions laid down in the Customs regulations in force in that territory for the temporary admission, without payment, of import duties and import taxes of vehicles covered by article 2 are fulfilled.

2. Nevertheless, each Contracting Party may limit the duration of this exemption to three hundred and sixty-five consecutive days, even if the vehicle is temporarily admitted without payment of import duties and import taxes for a longer period.

Article 4

As soon as a country which is a Contracting Party to the Convention of 30 March 1931 on the Taxation of Foreign Motor Vehicles becomes a Contracting Party to the present Convention, it shall take the measures laid down in article 17 of the 1931 Convention to denounce that Convention.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 5

1. Countries members of the Economic Commission for Europe and countries admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 of the Commission's terms of reference, may become Contracting Parties to this Convention :

- (a) By signing it;
- (b) By ratifying it after signing it subject to ratification;
- (c) By acceding to it.

2. Such countries as may participate in certain activities of the Economic Commission for Europe in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference may become Contracting Parties to this Convention by acceding thereto after its entry into force.

3. The Convention shall be open for signature until 31 August 1956, inclusive. Thereafter, it shall be open for accession.

4. Ratification or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 6

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day after five of the countries referred to in article 5, paragraph 1, have signed it without reservation of ratification or have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.

2. For any country ratifying or acceding to it after five countries have signed it without reservation of ratification or have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the said country has deposited its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 7

1. Any Contracting Party may denounce this Convention by so notifying the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Denunciation shall take effect fifteen months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the notification of denunciation.

Article 8

This Convention shall cease to have effect if, for any period of twelve consecutive months after its entry into force, the number of Contracting Parties is less than five.

Article 9

1. Any country may, at the time of signing this Convention without reservation of ratification or of depositing its instrument of ratification or accession or at any time thereafter, declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that this Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible. The Convention shall extend to the territory or territories named in the notification as from the ninetieth day after its receipt by the Secretary-General or, if on that day the Convention has not yet entered into force, at the time of its entry into force.

2. Any country which has made a declaration under the preceding paragraph extending this Convention to any territory for whose international relations it is responsible may denounce the Convention separately in respect of that territory in accordance with the provisions of article 7.

Article 10

1. Any dispute between two or more Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention shall so far as possible be settled by negotiation between them.

2. Any dispute which is not settled by negotiation shall be submitted to arbitration if any one of the Contracting Parties in dispute so requests and shall be referred accordingly to one or more arbitrators selected by agreement between the Parties in dispute. If within three months from the date of the request for arbitration the Parties in dispute are unable to agree on the selection of an arbitrator or arbitrators, any of those Parties may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate a single arbitrator to whom the dispute shall be referred for decision.

3. The decision of the arbitrator or arbitrators appointed under the preceding paragraph shall be binding on the Contracting Parties in dispute.

Article 11

1. Each Contracting Party may at the time of signing, ratifying, or acceding to, this Convention, or at any time thereafter, declare that it will not apply the Convention to cycles without engines.

2. Each Contracting Party may, at the time of signing, ratifying, or acceding to, this Convention, declare that it does not consider itself as bound by article 10 of the Convention. Other Contracting Parties shall not be bound by article 10 in respect of any Contracting Party which has entered such a reservation.

3. Any Contracting Party having entered a reservation as provided for in paragraph 1 or in paragraph 2 may at any time withdraw such reservation by notifying the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. No other reservation to this Convention shall be permitted.

Article 12

1. After this Convention has been in force for three years, any Contracting Party may, by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, request that a conference be convened for the purpose of reviewing the Convention. The Secretary-General shall notify all Contracting Parties of the request and a review conference shall be convened by the Secretary-General if, within a period of four months following the date of notification by the Secretary-General, not less than one third of the Contracting Parties notify him of their concurrence with the request.

2. If a conference is convened in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the Secretary-General shall notify all the Contracting Parties and invite them to submit within a period of three months such proposals as they may wish the Conference to consider. The Secretary-General shall circulate to all Contracting Parties the provisional agenda for the conference together with the texts of such