

No. 8844

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (with Final Protocol and annexes), and

General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union (with Final Protocol). Signed at Vienna, on 10 July 1964

Official text: French.

Registered by Austria and Switzerland on 1 December 1967.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

Constitution de l'Union postale universelle (avec Protocole final et annexes), et

Règlement général de l'Union postale universelle (avec Protocole final). Signés à Vienne, le 10 juillet 1964

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrés par l'Autriche et la Suisse le 1^{er} décembre 1967.

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]

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CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.
SIGNED AT VIENNA, ON 10 JULY 1964

¹ Translation by the British General Post Office.

² Traduction de l'Administration postale britannique.

CONSTITUTION¹ OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

PREAMBLE

With a view to developing communications between peoples by the efficient operation of the postal services, and to contributing to the attainment of the noble aims of international collaboration in the cultural, social and economic fields.

The Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the Contracting Countries have, subject to ratification, adopted this Constitution.

Section I ORGANIC PROVISIONS

Chapter I

GENERAL

ARTICLE 1

Scope and objectives of the Union

1. The Countries adopting this Constitution comprise, under the title of the Universal Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter post items. Freedom of transit is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.
2. The aim of the Union is to secure the organisation and improvement of the postal services and to promote in this sphere the development of international collaboration.
3. The Union takes part, as far as possible, in postal technical assistance sought by its Member Countries.

ARTICLE 2

Members of the Union

Member Countries of the Union are:

- a) Countries which have membership status at the date on which this Constitution comes into force.
- b) Countries admitted to membership in accordance with Article 11.

ARTICLE 3

Jurisdiction of the Union

The Union has within its jurisdiction:

- a) the territories of Member Countries;
- b) post offices set up by Member Countries in territories not included in the Union;
- c) territories which, without being members of the Union, are included in it because from the postal point of view they are dependent on Member Countries.

¹ Put into effect on 1 January 1966, in accordance with article 33. See after the Final Protocol to the Detailed Regulations for the list of States which ratified, or acceded to, the Constitution.

ARTICLE 4**Exceptional relations**

Postal Administrations which provide a service with territories not included in the Union are bound to act as intermediaries for other Administrations. The provisions of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations are applicable to such exceptional relations.

ARTICLE 5**Seat of the Union**

The seat of the Union and of its permanent organs shall be at Berne.

ARTICLE 6**Official language of the Union**

The official language of the Union is French.

ARTICLE 7**Monetary standard**

The franc adopted as the monetary unit in the Acts of the Union is the gold franc of 100 centimes weighing 10/31 of a gramme and of a fineness of 0.900.

ARTICLE 8**Restricted Unions. Special Agreements**

1. Member Countries, or their Postal Administrations if the legislation of those Countries so permits, may establish Restricted Unions and make Special Agreements concerning the international postal service, provided always that they do not introduce provisions less favourable to the public than those provided for by the Acts to which the Member Countries concerned are parties.

2. Restricted Unions may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of the Union, to the Executive Council and to the Consultative Committee for Postal Studies.

3. The Union may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of Restricted Unions.

ARTICLE 9**Relations with the United Nations**

The relations between the Union and the United Nations are governed by the Agreements whose texts are annexed to this Constitution.

ARTICLE 10**Relations with international organisations**

In order to secure close co-operation in the international postal sphere, the Union may collaborate with international organisations having related interests and activities.

Chapter II**ACCESSION OR ADMISSION TO THE UNION
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNION****ARTICLE 11****Accession or admission to the Union. Procedure**

1. Any member of the United Nations may accede to the Union.
2. Any sovereign Country which is not a member of the United Nations may apply for admission as a Member Country of the Union.
3. Accession or application for admission to the Union entails a formal declaration of accession to the Constitution and to the obligatory Acts of the Union. It shall be addressed through diplomatic channels to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and by that Government to Member Countries.
4. A Country which is not a member of the United Nations will be deemed to be admitted as a Member Country if its application is approved by at least two-thirds of the Member Countries of the Union. Member Countries which have not replied within a period of four months are considered as having abstained.
5. Accession or admission to membership shall be notified by the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the Governments of Member Countries. It shall take effect from the date of such notification.

ARTICLE 12**Withdrawal from the Union. Procedure**

1. Each Member Country may withdraw from the Union by notice of denunciation of the Constitution given through diplomatic channels to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and by that Government to the Governments of Member Countries.
2. Withdrawal from the Union becomes effective one year after the day on which the notice of denunciation provided for in paragraph 1 is received by the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

Chapter III**ORGANISATION OF THE UNION****ARTICLE 13****Organs of the Union**

1. The organs of the Union are Congress, Administrative Conferences, the Executive Council, the Consultative Committee for Postal Studies, Special Committees and the International Bureau.
2. The permanent organs of the Union are the Executive Council, the Consultative Committee for Postal Studies and the International Bureau.

ARTICLE 14**Congress**

1. Congress is the supreme organ of the Union.
2. Congress consists of the representatives of Member Countries.

ARTICLE 15**Extraordinary Congresses**

An Extraordinary Congress may be convened at the request or with the consent of at least two thirds of the Member Countries of the Union.