

**No. 26843**

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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
and  
OSLO COMMISSION ESTABLISHED  
BY THE CONVENTION  
FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF MARINE POLLUTION BY DUMPING  
FROM SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT 1972  
AND PARIS COMMISSION ESTABLISHED  
BY THE CONVENTION  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION  
FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES 1974**

**Agreement relating to the status, privileges and immunities of  
the Commissions in the United Kingdom. Signed at Lon-  
don on 27 July 1979**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on  
29 September 1989.*

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> RELATING TO THE COMMISSIONS ESTABLISHED  
BY THE CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF MARINE  
POLLUTION BY DUMPING FROM SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT 1972<sup>2</sup>  
AND THE CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF MARINE  
POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES 1974<sup>3</sup>

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the one part, and the Commission established by the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft signed at Oslo on 15th February 1972,<sup>2</sup> and the Commission established by the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources signed at Paris on 4th June 1974,<sup>3</sup> of the other part;

Desiring to define the status, privileges and immunities in the United Kingdom of the Commissions, in particular of their Secretariat;

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

USE OF TERMS

For the purpose of this Agreement:

(a) "The Commissions" means the Commission established by the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft 1972, known as the Oslo Commission, and the Commission established by the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources 1974, known as the Paris Commission;

(b) "Government" means the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) "Official activities" in relation to each Commission means its administrative activities and those which it is authorised to undertake pursuant to the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft 1972 or the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources 1974 as the case may be; and

(d) "Staff member" means the Secretary of the Commissions, and all persons appointed or recruited for full-time employment with either Commission and subject to its staff regulations, other than experts, persons in the domestic service of a Commission and persons recruited locally and assigned to hourly rates of pay.

*Article 2*

INTERPRETATION

This Agreement shall be interpreted in the light of the primary objective of enabling the Commissions, in particular their Secretariat in the United Kingdom, fully and efficiently to discharge their responsibilities and fulfil their purposes and functions.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 27 July 1979 by signature, in accordance with article 17 (1).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 932, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 103 of this volume.

*Article 3*

## LEGAL PERSONALITY

Each Commission shall have legal personality in the United Kingdom. It shall in particular have the capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and to institute legal proceedings.

*Article 4*

## INVIOABILITY OF ARCHIVES

(1) The archives of each Commission in the United Kingdom shall be inviolable. The term "archives" includes all records, correspondence, documents, manuscripts, photographs, films and recordings belonging to or held by each Commission and to all information contained therein.

(2) The location of the archives shall be made known to the Government by the Secretary who shall also inform the Government of any change in their location.

*Article 5*

## EXEMPTION FROM TAXES

(1) Within the scope of its official activities, each Commission and its property and income shall be exempt from all direct United Kingdom taxes including income tax, capital gains tax and corporation tax. The Commissions shall be granted the like relief from municipal rates on the official premises of the Secretariat of the Commissions as is accorded to a diplomatic mission. Municipal rates shall in the first instance be paid by the Government and the proportion which represents payments for specific services rendered shall be recovered by them from the Commissions.

(2) Each Commission shall be accorded a refund of car tax and value added tax paid on the purchase of new motor cars of United Kingdom manufacture, and where it is readily identifiable, value added tax paid on the supply of goods or services of substantial value, necessary for the official activities of that Commission. In this connection it is envisaged that claims for refund will be made only in respect of goods or services supplied on a recurring basis or involving considerable quantities of goods or involving considerable expenditure such as the furnishing of the premises of the Commissions. No refund shall be made in respect of any claim for goods or services where the value of the goods or services does not amount in the aggregate to £100 sterling or more.

*Article 6*

## EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES

(1) Goods imported or exported by each Commission and necessary for the exercise of its official activities shall be exempt from all United Kingdom customs and excise duties and other such charges (except mere payments for services) and from all United Kingdom prohibitions and restrictions on import or export.

(2) Each Commission shall be accorded a refund of the duty (whether of customs or excise) paid on imported hydrocarbon oil or value added tax paid on the importation of such oil purchased by it and necessary for the exercise of its official activities.

*Article 7*

## EXEMPTION FROM TAXES, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES

Exemption in respect of taxes, duties or other charges under Article 5 or Article 6 of this Agreement shall not be granted in respect of goods or service which may be purchased or imported for the personal benefit of a staff member.

*Article 8*

## RE-SALE

Goods which have been acquired under Article 5 or imported under Article 6 of this Agreement shall not be given away, sold, hired out or otherwise disposed of unless the appropriate authorities have been notified in advance and any necessary duties and taxes paid.

*Article 9*

## FUNDS, CURRENCY AND SECURITIES

Each Commission may in the United Kingdom receive, acquire, hold and dispose of freely any kind of funds, currencies or securities.

*Article 10*

## CIRCULATION OF PUBLICATIONS

The circulation of publications and other information material sent by or to the Secretariat within the scope of the official activities of the Commissions shall not be restricted in any way.

*Article 11*

## STAFF MEMBERS

(1) Staff members shall in the United Kingdom:

(a) Enjoy (even after they have left the service of the Commissions) immunity from jurisdiction in respect of acts done by them in the exercise of their functions, including words written or spoken; this immunity shall not, however, apply in the case of a motor traffic offence committed by a staff member nor in the case of damage caused by a motor vehicle belonging to or driven by him;

(b) Be exempt from any obligations in respect of military service; and members of their families forming part of their households shall enjoy the same exemption, provided that this exemption shall not apply to any person who is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies;

(c) Enjoy inviolability for all their official papers and documents;

(d) Enjoy exemption from all measures restricting immigration from charges for visas and from registration formalities; and members of their families forming part of their households shall enjoy the same facilities;

(e) Be accorded, unless they are citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies or permanently resident in the United Kingdom the same treatment in the matter of currency and exchange control as is accorded to a diplomatic agent in the United