

**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE PUBLICATION
OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS**

CONVENTION OF JULY 5, 1890

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN *INTERNATIONAL UNION* FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS

The undersigned, being duly authorized, have, subject to approbation, laid down the following Convention :

Art. 1. — Between the above-named countries (1) and such other countries as shall, in the future, become parties to the present Convention, is formed an Association under the style of *International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs*.

Art. 2. — The object for which the *Union* has been formed is to publish, on joint account, and to make known, as promptly and as accurately as possible, the Customs tariffs of the various Countries of the Globe and any amendments made thereto in the future.

Art. 3. — For that purpose, there shall be created at Brussels an International Bureau charged with the translation and publication of said tariffs together with any legislative or administrative provisions amending the same.

Art. 4. — The above publication will be issued in the form of a journal entitled *The International Customs Journal*, published by the International Customs Tariffs Bureau.

For that purpose, the commercial languages mostly in use shall be adopted.

Art. 5. — The staff of the International Bureau shall be appointed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, who will advance the necessary funds and otherwise ensure the proper working of the institution.

Art. 6. — All correspondence addressed by the International Bureau to the adhering Governments shall be in the French language.

Art. 7. — Each year, a report of the work and financial management of the International Bureau shall be forwarded to the adhering Governments.

Art. 8. — The annual budget of expenditure of the International Bureau is fixed at the maximum figure of 125,000 francs.

(1) See the following Lists.

Moreover, a capital sum of 50,000 francs shall be placed the first year at the disposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, towards the expenses of installation of the Bureau.

Should any States and Colonies hereafter avail themselves of the option to adhere provided for in Article 14, they will have to pay their share of said sum of 50,000 francs according to the proportion fixed by Article 9.

States and Colonies withdrawing from the *Union* on the expiration of the first seven years shall forfeit their right of joint ownership to the assets.

In case of liquidation, the joint assets shall be divided between the States and Colonies of the *Union*, according to the proportions fixed by Article 9.

Art. 9. — With the view of fairly assessing the contributive share of the contracting States, these will be divided according to the volume of their respective trade, into six Classes each contributing in the proportion of a certain number of units, namely :

1st class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to more than 4,000 million francs : 55 units.

2nd class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 2,000 to 4,000 million francs : 40 units.

3rd class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 500 million to 2,000 million francs : 25 units.

4th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 100 to 500 million francs : 20 units.

5th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 50 to 100 million francs : 15 units.

6th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to less than 50 million francs : 5 units.

Art. 10. — In regard to countries whose language will not be used by the International Bureau the foregoing figures will respectively be reduced by two-fifths, so that they will stand namely :

For the 1st class	at 33 units.
— 2nd —	at 24 —
— 3rd —	at 15 —
— 4th —	at 12 —
— 5th —	at 9 —
— 6th —	at 3 —

Art. 11. — The aggregate yearly expenditure, when divided by the total amount of units allotted to the different contracting States in accordance with the foregoing provisions, will give as quotient the unit of expenditure. The latter shall be multiplied by the number of units allotted to each State in order to ascertain its quota of the expenses of the International Bureau.

Art. 12. — In order to enable the Bureau to publish the *International Customs Journal* as accurately as possible, the contracting States shall send direct, and without delay, two copies :

A. Of their Customs laws and tariffs, carefully revised up to date;

B. Of all dispositions which, in the future, may modify the said laws and tariffs;

C. Of all circulars and instructions, which can be rendered public, issued by the aforesaid Governments to their Customs authorities in reference to the application of the tariffs and the classification of goods.

D. Of their Commercial Treaties, International Conventions and home laws directly relating to the Customs tariffs in force.

Art. 13. — Regulations for the implementing of the present Convention, having the same force and effect as the latter, will determine the mode of publication of the *Journal of the Union* and all matters connected with the budget of the International Bureau and its internal organization.

Art. 14. — States and colonies which have not taken part in the present Convention will be authorized to become parties thereto hereafter.

The accession shall be notified in writing to the Belgian Government who will communicate it to all the other contracting Governments. The accession will « ipso facto » involve compliance with all the terms and conditions of the present Convention and admission to all the advantages stipulated therein.

Art. 15. — The present Convention shall commence to have effect on the 1st April, 1891 and remain in operation during seven years.

If, twelve months prior to the expiration of the first seven years, the present Convention should not have been denounced, the *Union* shall subsist for a further term of seven years and so on, for periods of seven years.

The denunciation shall be addressed to the Belgian Government. It will only have effect as regards the country notifying the same, the Convention remaining operative as to the other countries of the *Union*.

The Governments may at any time, by mutual agreement, insert in the present Convention such amendments as may be deemed expedient or necessary.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have signed the present Convention and affixed their seals thereto.

Made at Brussels on the 5th July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety.

Regulations for the implementing of the Convention instituting an International Bureau for the publication of Customs Tariffs

(Article 13 of the Convention.)

Art. 1. — The *International Customs Journal* shall be published in five languages, namely : English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Art. 2. — It will be optional for each State party to the *Union* to translate and publish, at its own expense, all or part of the *Journal* in such language as may be deemed useful provided, however, that it not be one of the languages adopted by the International Bureau.

Each State of the *Union* shall further be entitled to quote mere extracts from tariffs or, exceptionally, portions of the *Journal*, either in some local official publication or in parliamentary papers, it being fully agreed that each State shall continue to be at liberty to publish in the language of the country or by way of translation, all customs tariffs provided that the text so issued is not a reprint of the International Bureau's work.

Art. 3. — The International Bureau undertakes to employ the greatest care in the translation of the customs laws, but it is understood that the Governments concerned do not assume any responsibility as to the accuracy of these translations and that in the case of dispute the original text shall be their only guide.

A notice to that effect shall be printed in bold type at the foot of the first page of every number of the *Journal*.

Art. 4. — The form of the *Journal* will be determined by the Bureau.

Art. 5. — Each Government shall notify in which of the languages adopted by the International Bureau they desire to receive those copies of the *Journal* which represent their share of the expenditure of the institution.

Any Government will be entitled to take a certain number of copies in one language and the remainder in other languages.

Art. 6. — The International Bureau can only furnish the *Customs Journal* to the Governments of the different countries adhering to the *Union*.

Art. 7. — The amount of the proportional contribution of each State will be returned in the form of subscriptions to the International Journal calculated at the rate of 15 francs each.

Art. 8. — The expenses are estimated approximately as follows :

A. Salaries of the functionaries and employees of the International Bureau (including an additional 15 %)fr.	75,000
B. Costs of printing and distributing the Customs Journal.	30,000
C. Rental and repair of the premises occupied by the International Bureau, fuel, light, supplies, office expenses, etc. . . .	20,000
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Total . . .fr.	125,000

Art. 9. — The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium is charged with the adoption of the necessary measures for the organization and operation of the International Bureau within the limits laid down by the Convention and present Regulations.

Art. 10. — The head of the International Bureau is authorized, subject to the approbation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, to carry over to the current year unemployed sums of the previous year. These sums will so far as they extend be allocated to the formation of a reserve fund intended to provide for contingent expenses, but said reserve fund shall, in no case, exceed 25,000 francs. The surplus will, if so deemed fit, enable the price of the subscription to the *Journal* to be reduced but it shall not be used to increase the number of copies guaranteed by the contracting States; such surplus may also go towards payment of the expenses involved by the translation into another language than those enumerated in Article I.

This last-mentioned measure may only be carried out subject to the joint assent of the States and Colonies parties to the *Union*.

Made in Brussels on the 5th July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety, to be annexed to the Convention of even date.

Memorandum of Signature

The undersigned delegates this day assembled for the purpose of proceeding with the signature of the Convention and Regulations concerning the institution of an International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs, have exchanged the following declarations :

1. Regarding the classification of the countries of the Union in respect to the quota of expenses of the International Bureau (Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Convention) :

The delegates declare that during the whole duration of the Convention, the adhering countries shall be divided into the following classes and shall respectively be bound to contribute in the proportion of the number of units hereinafter set forth.

The amounts of the contributions appearing in the expenditure allotment table settled on the 26th February, 1890, are shown below merely for the sake of information, inasmuch as the actual quota of each State can only be reliably ascertained after all the adhesions have become final. It is understood, however, that under no circumstances can such amounts as aforesaid be increased during the duration of the Convention.

2. Regarding the payment of the contributions to become due by the Contracting Parties :

The delegates declare that the same shall be paid in Brussels *during the first quarter of each financial year and in money of legal tender in Belgium.*

3. Regarding the date of operation of the Convention, fixed for the 1st April, 1891 :

The delegates declare that it shall, if possible, be preceded by a notification of final adhesion on the part of the Governments concerned; that this formality is not, however, to be indispensable and that all such signatories of the present Convention as shall not, on or before the 1st April, 1891, have expressly notified their intention to withdraw therefrom shall be maintained on the list of adhering countries.

In witness whereof, the respective delegates have signed the present memorandum.

Made at Brussels, on the 5th July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety.

International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs

Instituted by the Convention of 5th July, 1890

ADHERING COUNTRIES	Yearly contribution (in gold francs). (1).	Number of copies of the <i>Journal</i> to which the adhering countries are entitled (1).
First class.		
<i>Countries whose trade exceeds 4,000 million gold francs.</i>		
Belgium	6,833	456
Canada	6,833	456
China	4,100	274
Denmark	4,100	274
France	6,833	456
Germany	6,833	456
Great Britain	6,833	456
Italy	6,833	456
Netherlands	4,100	274
Sweden	4,100	274
United States of America	6,833	456
Second class.		
<i>Countries whose trade is from 2,000 to 4,000 million gold francs.</i>		
Argentine Republic	4,970	332
Australia (Commonwealth of)	4,970	332
India	4,970	332
Norway	2,982	199
Poland	2,982	199
South Africa (Union of)	4,970	332
Spain	4,970	332
Switzerland	4,970	332
Third class.		
<i>Countries whose trade is from 500 to 2,000 million gold francs.</i>		
Brazil	1,863	124
Chile	3,106	207
Cuba	3,106	207
Czechoslovakia	1,863	124
Finland	1,863	124
Hungary	1,863	124

(1) In regard to countries whose language is not one of the five languages adopted for the publication of the *International Customs Journal*, the amount of the annual contribution is reduced by two-fifths (Article 10 of the Convention of 5th July, 1890); the number of copies of the *Journal* is reduced in the same proportion.

ADHERING COUNTRIES	Yearly contribution (in gold francs).	Number of copies of the <i>Journal</i> to which the adhering countries are entitled.
Portugal	1,863	124
Uruguay	3,106	207
U. S. S. R.	1,863	124
Venezuela	3,106	207
Yugoslavia	1,863	124

Fourth class.

Countries whose trade is from 100 to 500 million gold francs.

Colombia	2,485	166
Ecuador	2,485	166
Egypt	1,491	100
Estonia	1,491	100
Greece	1,491	100
Iran	1,491	100
Iraq	1,491	100
Japan	1,491	100
Latvia	1,491	100
Lithuania	1,491	100
Mexico	2,485	166
Pakistan	2,485	166
Roumania	1,491	100

Fifth class.

Countries whose trade is from 50 to 100 million gold francs.

Bolivia	1,863	124
Bulgaria	1,118	75
Costa-Rica	1,863	124
Haïti	1,863	124
Peru	1,863	124
Siam	1,118	75
Turkey	1,118	75

Sixth class.

Countries whose trade is below 50 million gold francs.

Albania	372	25
Austria	621	42
Belgian Congo	372	25
Dominican Republic	621	42
Honduras	621	42
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of)	621	42
Panama	621	42
Paraguay	621	42

PROTOCOL

modifying the Convention of July 5, 1890, concerning the creation of an International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs as well as the Regulations for the Implementing of the Convention instituting an International Bureau for the publication of Customs Tariffs, and the memorandum of signature.

Signed at Brussels on the 16th December, 1949.

The Representatives of the signatory Governments :

Convinced of the importance of the work of the International Bureau for the publication of Customs Tariffs instituted by the Convention of July 5, 1890,

Considering that the funds authorized by the said Convention are not sufficient to enable the Bureau to carry out its task adequately,

Duly authorized, hereby agree to make the following modifications to the Convention of July 5, 1890, concerning the creation of an International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs and to the Regulations for the implementing of the Convention instituting an International Bureau for the publication of Customs Tariffs as well as to the memorandum of signature :

Convention of July 5, 1890, concerning the creation of an International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs.

Articles 8 to 10 are replaced by the following articles :

Art. 8. — The annual budget of expenditure of the International Bureau is fixed at the maximum figure of 500,000 gold francs.

Art. 9. — With the view of fairly assessing the contributive share of the contracting States, these will be divided according to the amount of their respective trade, into seven classes each contributing in the proportion of a certain number of units, namely :

1st class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to more than 5,000 million gold francs : 53 units.

2nd class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 3,000 to 5,000 million gold francs : 36.5 units.

3rd class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 1,500 to 3,000 million gold francs : 25 units..

4th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 500 to 1,500 million gold francs : 20 units.

5th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 300 to 500 million gold francs : 13 units.

6th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to from 100 to 300 million gold francs : 8 units.

7th class. — Countries whose trade regularly amounts to less than 100 million gold francs : 3 units.

Art. 10. — In regard to countries whose language will not be used by the International Bureau the foregoing figures will respectively be reduced by two-fifths, so that they will stand namely :

For the 1st class	at 31.8 units.
— 2nd —	at 21 —
— 3rd —	at 15 —
— 4th —	at 12 —
— 5th —	at 8 —
— 6th —	at 5 —
— 7th —	at 1 unit.

Regulations for the Implementing of the Convention instituting an International Bureau for the publication of Customs Tariffs.

Articles 7, 8 and 10 are replaced by the following articles :

Art. 7. — The amount of the proportional contribution of each State will be returned in the form of subscriptions to the International Journal calculated at the rate of 100 gold francs each.

Art. 8. — The expenses are estimated approximately as follows :

A. Salaries of the functionaries and employees of the International Bureau (including an additional 15 %)	gold fr. 250,000
B. Costs of printing and distributing the <i>Customs Journal</i>	gold fr. 180,000
C. Provision for Staff Provident Fund	gold fr. 25,000
D. Rental and repair of the premises occupied by the International Bureau, fuel, light, supplies, office expenses, etc.	gold fr. 30,000
E. Contingency Fund	gold fr. 15,000
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Total	gold fr. 500,000

Art. 10. — The head of the International Bureau is authorized, subject to the approbation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, to carry over to the current year unemployed sums of the previous year. These sums will so far as they extend be allocated to the formation

of a reserve fund intended to provide for contingent expenses, but said reserve fund shall, in no case exceed 100,000 gold francs. The surplus will, if so deemed fit, enable the price of the subscription to the *Journal* to be reduced but it shall not be used to increase the number of copies guaranteed by the contracting States; such surplus may also go towards payment of the expenses involved by the translation into another language than those enumerated in Article 1.

This last-mentioned measure may only be carried out subject to the joint assent of the States and Colonies parties to the *Union*.

MEMORANDUM OF SIGNATURE ⁽¹⁾

The memorandum of Signature annexed to the Convention of July 5, 1890, is replaced by the following :

The undersigned delegates this day assembled for the purpose of modifying the Convention and Regulations concerning the International Union for the publication of Customs Tariffs, have exchanged the following declarations :

1. Regarding the classification of the countries of the *Union* in respect to the quota of expenses of the International Bureau (Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Convention) :

The delegates declare that the adhering countries are divided into the following classes and shall respectively be bound to contribute in the proportion of the number of units hereinafter set forth.

First class.

France	53	units.
Germany	53	—
Great Britain	53	—
United States of America	53	—

Second class.

Australia (Commonwealth of)	36.5	units.
Belgium	36.5	—
Canada	36.5	—
China	21.9	—
India	36.5	—
Italy	36.5	—
Japan	21.9	—
Netherlands	21.9	—
Pakistan	21.9	—
Sweden	21.9	—
U. S. S. R.	21.9	—

(1) Up-to-date as at January 1, 1963.

Third class.

Argentine Republic	25	units.
Brazil	15	—
Czechoslovakia	15	—
Denmark	15	—
South Africa (Republic of)	25	—
Spain	25	—
Switzerland	25	—

Fourth class.

Austria	20	units.
Chile	20	—
Colombia	20	—
Cuba	20	—
Egypt	12	—
Finland	12	—
Greece	12	—
Indonesia	12	—
Iran	12	—
Mexico	20	—
Norway	12	—
Philippines	20	—
Poland	12	—
Portugal	12	—
Roumania	12	—
Turkey	12	—
Venezuela	20	—
Yugoslavia	12	—

Fifth class.

Bolivia	13	units.
Bulgaria	8	—
Hungary	8	—
Israel	8	—
Malaya (Federation of)	8	—
Morocco	8	—
Peru	13	—
Thailand	8	—
Tunisia	8	—
Uruguay	13	—

Sixth class.

Belgian Congo	5	units.
Irak	5	—
Sudan	3	—
Vietnam	5	—

Seventh class.

Albania	1	unit.
Costa-Rica	3	units.
Dominican Republic	3	—
Ecuador	3	—
Haïti	3	—
Honduras	3	—
Iceland	1	unit.
Jordan	1	—
Lebanon	1	—
Libya	1	—
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of)	3	units.
Panama	3	—
Paraguay	3	—
Saudi Arabia	1	unit.
Syria	1	—

The amounts of the contributions are established provisionally according to the following table. These contributions shall be revised when circumstances change to an appreciable extent and in any event before 31st March 1954.

	Yearly contribution (in gold francs).	Number of copies of the <i>Journal</i> to which the adhering countries are entitled.
First class.		
France	26,500	265
Germany	26,500	265
Great Britain	26,500	265
United States of America	26,500	265
Second class.		
Australia (Commonwealth of)	18,250	182
Belgium	18,250	182
Canada	18,250	182
China	10,950	110
India	18,250	182
Italy	18,250	182
Japan	10,950	110
Netherlands	10,950	110
Pakistan	10,950	110
Sweden	10,950	110
U. S. S. R.	10,950	110

	Yearly contribution (in gold francs).	Number of copies of the <i>Journal</i> to which the adhering countries are entitled.
Third class.		
Argentine Republic	12,500	125
Brazil	7,500	75
Czechoslovakia	7,500	75
Denmark	7,500	75
South Africa (Republic of)	12,500	125
Spain	12,500	125
Switzerland	12,500	125
Fourth class.		
Austria	10,000	100
Chile	10,000	100
Colombia	10,000	100
Cuba	10,000	100
Egypt	6,000	60
Finland	6,000	60
Greece	6,000	60
Indonesia	6,000	60
Iran	6,000	60
Mexico	10,000	100
Norway	6,000	60
Philippines	10,000	100
Poland	6,000	60
Portugal	6,000	60
Roumania	6,000	60
Turkey	6,000	60
Venezuela	10,000	100
Yugoslavia	6,000	60
Fifth class.		
Bolivia	6,500	65
Bulgaria	4,000	40
Hungary	4,000	40
Israel	4,000	40
Malaya (Federation of).	4,000	40
Morocco	4,000	40
Peru	6,500	65
Thailand	4,000	40
Tunisia	4,000	40
Uruguay	6,500	65

	Yearly contribution (in gold francs).	Number of copies of the <i>Journal</i> to which the adhering countries are entitled.
Sixth class.		
Belgian Congo	2,500	25
Iraq	2,500	25
Sudan	1,500	15
Vietnam	2,500	25
Seventh class.		
Albania	500	5
Costa-Rica	1,500	15
Dominican Republic	1,500	15
Ecuador	1,500	15
Haiti	1,500	15
Honduras	1,500	15
Iceland	500	5
Jordan	500	5
Lebanon	500	5
Libya	500	5
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of)	1,500	15
Panama	1,500	15
Saudi Arabia	500	5
Syria	500	5

2. Regarding the payment of the contributions to become due by the Contracting Parties :

The delegates declare that the same shall be paid in Brussels during the first quarter of each financial year and in money of legal tender in Belgium.

Should any of the Contracting Parties leave outstanding more than two yearly contributions, in spite of the reminders addressed to such Party by the Belgium Government, it will be the right of the International Customs Tariffs Bureau to temporarily discontinue the despatch of its publications to the said Contracting Party.

The present Protocol shall remain open for signature at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Belgium until 31st March, 1950, inclusive.

As from that date, the present Protocol shall be deposited in the archives of the Belgian Government.

The present Protocol shall become effective between the States which have signed, notified their acceptance or sent in their ratifications, at such date as the aggregate of their annual contributions to the International Customs Tariff Bureau shall exceed one half of the authorized budget of expenditure of the said Bureau, as specified in the present Protocol.

After the present Protocol has come into effect the States which have not signed the present Protocol or who have signed it with a reservation as to acceptance, may adhere to it upon request. These adhesions shall be notified through diplomatic channels to the Belgian Government, which in turn, shall notify the Governments of each of the other Contracting States; these adhesions shall take effect thirty days after the dispatch of the notifications by the Belgian Government.

Done at Brussels, in single copy, on the 16th of December, 1949.