

Agreement concerning the relations between the United Kingdom and the ECSC (London, 21 December 1954)

Caption: On 21 December 1954, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the United Kingdom sign an agreement on the basis of which the two parties intend to establish an intimate and enduring association.

Source: Bundesgesetzblatt 1955 II. Hrsg. Der Bundesminister der Justiz. 25.03.1955, n° 7. Bonn: Bundesanzeiger Verlagsges. m. b. H. "Agreement concerning the relations between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Coal and Steel Community", p. 838-850.

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Agreement concerning the relations between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Coal and Steel Community (London, 21 December 1954)

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the one part and

the Governments of the States members of the European Coal and Steel Community and the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community of the other part:

CONSIDERING that at the time when the European Coal and Steel Community (hereinafter referred to as "the Community") was formed, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the United Kingdom Government") declared their desire to establish an intimate and enduring association with the Community, and that this Declaration was warmly welcomed by the High Authority of the Community (hereinafter referred to as "the High Authority");

CONSIDERING that the United Kingdom Government, as a first step towards this objective, established on September 1, 1952, a Delegation at the seat of the High Authority in Luxembourg;

CONSIDERING that substantial progress has since then been made in the creation of a common market in coal and steel within the area of the Community;

DESIRING to take a further step in the development of the relations between the United Kingdom and the Community;

HAVE AGREED as follows: -

Article 1

(1) There is hereby established a Standing Council of Association (hereinafter referred to as "the Council of Association") between the United Kingdom Government and the High Authority.

(2) There shall be provision for special meetings of the Council of Ministers of the Community (hereinafter referred to as "the Council of Ministers") with the United Kingdom Government as set out in Article 10 below.

Article 2

(1) The Council of Association shall consist of not more than four persons representing the High Authority and not more than four persons representing the United Kingdom Government.

(2) A representative of the Government of a State member of the Community may attend and participate in any meeting of the Council of Association, at which restrictions contemplated by, or particularly affecting, that State are being considered in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.

(3) A representative of the Government of any State member of the Community may attend as an observer any meeting of the Council of Association at which proposals are being considered in accordance with the provisions of Article 8.

Article 3

There shall be two Joint Secretaries of the Council of Association, one being appointed by the High Authority and one by the United Kingdom Government.

Article 4

(1) The Council of Association shall determine the procedure for the conduct of its business and may appoint any necessary Committees.

(2) The Council of Ministers shall be kept regularly informed by the High Authority of the work of the Council of Association and of its Committees. The High Authority may, in particular, communicate to the Council of Ministers the Agenda and agreed records of the Council of Association and of any of its Committees.

(3) The proceedings and papers of the Council of Association shall not be made public except in so far as the Council of Association may agree otherwise.

Article 5

Unless the Council of Association agrees otherwise, it shall meet alternately at the seat of the High Authority and in London.

Article 6

(1) The Council of Association shall provide a means for the continuous exchange of information and for consultation in regard to matters of common interest concerning coal and steel and, where appropriate, in regard to the co-ordination of action on these matters.

(2) For the purposes of this Article, matters of common interest concerning coal and steel shall include the following: -

(a) Conditions of trade in coal and steel between the Community and the United Kingdom;

(b) Supplies of coal and steel;

(c) Supplies of raw materials for the coal and steel industries;

(d) Pricing arrangements and factors affecting the structure of prices, including subsidies, but not including those questions which are normally the subject of negotiation between employers and employees;

(e) Market and price trends;

(f) General objectives of development and main lines of investment policy;

(g) Trends of production, consumption, exports and imports;

(h) Effects of the development of other sources of energy and substitute materials on requirements of coal and steel;

(i) Technical developments and research;

(j) Arrangements for the promotion of the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in the coal and steel industries.

(3) For the purposes of this Article, matters of common interest concerning coal and steel shall not include any matter to which the application of the Treaty constituting the Community does not extend.

Article 7

The High Authority or any of the Governments of the States members of the Community or the United Kingdom Government shall, if any of them should at any time contemplate introducing additional

restrictions upon trade in coal or steel between the Community, or any part of it, and the United Kingdom to meet difficulties arising from a decline in the demand for coal or steel or from a shortage of supplies of coal or steel, actual or anticipated, bring the matter before the Council of Association before instituting such restrictions or, in circumstances in which prior consultation is impracticable, immediately after doing so, with a view to considering co-ordinated action in the markets of the Community and of the United Kingdom to meet the situation and to provide mutual assistance in dealing with it.

Article 8

The Council of Association shall, at the request of either the High Authority or the United Kingdom Government, examine restrictions or other factors affecting the normal flow of trade in coal and steel between the United Kingdom and the Community, such as quantitative restrictions on imports and exports, tariffs and other charges on imports and exports, exchange control restrictions, dumping and anti-dumping measures, and export subsidies, with a view to making such proposals for their reduction or elimination as may be agreed for the mutual benefit of the Community and the United Kingdom. The first such examination shall be undertaken in time to enable the Governments of the States members of the Community, when reviewing their tariff policy within reviewing their transitional period provided for in a Treaty constituting the Community, to take into account any proposals which may be made by the Council of Association under this article.

Article 9

In fulfilling their functions, the Council of Association shall, among other considerations, have regard to: -

- (a) the interests of consumers, as well as of producers, of coal and steel in the Community and the United Kingdom;
- (b) the interest of third countries;
- (c) the special relationship between the United Kingdom and other members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Article 10

(1) Matters which, under the terms of the Treaty constituting the Community, fall to be considered by the Council of Ministers or the Governments of the States members of the Community and which are also of common interest to the Community and the United Kingdom shall be the subject of special meetings in which the United Kingdom Government, represented by one of its members together with persons discharging public responsibilities in regard to coal and steel in the United Kingdom, shall meet with the Council of Ministers. The High Authority shall participate fully in these meetings.

(2) The aforesaid special meetings shall be convened at the request of the Government of any State member of the Community or of the High Authority, such request to be notified to the United Kingdom Government through the President of the Council of Ministers; or at the request of the United Kingdom Government, such request to be notified to the President of the Council of Ministers.

(3) Such special meetings shall not be used for the purpose of conducting negotiations which the High Authority is empowered, under the Treaty constituting the Community, to conduct as joint representatives of the States members of the Community.

(4) The place for such special meetings shall be fixed by agreement between the Council of Ministers and the United Kingdom Government and the High Authority.

(5) Matters to be considered at such meetings shall be referred for prior examination to the Council of Association.

Article 11

The Council of Association shall present an agreed annual report to the High Authority and to the United Kingdom Government, which shall be published.

Article 12

For the purposes of the present Agreement: -

(a) The terms "coal" and "steel" shall be deemed to mean those products which are listed in the Annex hereto;

(b) The term "the Community" shall be deemed to apply to those territories to which the Treaty constituting the Community applies;

(b) The term "The United Kingdom" shall be deemed to apply to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Article 13

(1) The present Agreement shall be ratified by the United Kingdom and by the States members of the Community, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures, and is accepted by the High Authority by virtue of its signature.

(2) Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the United Kingdom Government, which shall notify the High Authority and the Governments of the States members of the Community of each such deposit and of the date of entry into force of the present Agreement in accordance with paragraph (3) of this Article.

(3) The present Agreement shall enter into force on the deposit of all Instruments of ratification referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article.

Article 14

This Agreement shall remain in force for the present duration of the Treaty constituting the Community.

Article 15

The present Agreement shall be deposited in the archives of the United Kingdom Government, which shall transmit certified copies thereof to the High Authority and the Governments of the States members of the Community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the United Kingdom Government, of the Governments of the States members of the Community and of the High Authority, duly authorised thereto, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at London on the 21st day of December 1954 in a single copy in the Dutch, English, French, German and Italian languages, all five texts being equally authoritative.

FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT:

Duncan Sandys

H. S. Houldsworth

A. F. Forbes

FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

For the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium:
Marquis Du Parc
Locmaria

For the Government of the French Republic:
R. Massigli

For the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany:
Oskar Schlitter

For the Government of the Italian Republic:
L. Theodoli

For the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:
A. J. Clasen

For the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:
Stikker

FOR THE HIGH AUTHORITY:
Jean Monnet
Franz Etzel
Spierenburg