

## Convention on relations between the Three Powers and the FRG (Paris, 23 October 1954)

**Caption:** Convention on relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany as amended by Schedule I to the Protocol on the Termination of the Occupation Regime in the Federal Republic of Germany, signed at Paris on 23 October 1954.

**Source:** Bundesgesetzblatt 1955 II. Hrsg. Der Bundesminister der Justiz. 25.03.1955, n° 7. Bonn: Bundesanzeiger Verlagsges. m. b. H. "Convention on relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany", p. 305-320.

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## Convention on relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany (Paris, 23 October 1954)

Charter of the Arbitration Tribunal.....  
PART IComposition, Organisation and Seat of the Tribunal.....  
PART IICompetence and Powers of the Tribunal.....  
PART IIIProceedings.....  
PART IVAdvisory Opinions.....

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

and

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

HAVE entered into the following Convention setting forth the basis for their new relationship:

#### **Article 1**

1. On the entry into force of the present Convention the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the French Republic (hereinafter and in the related Conventions sometimes referred to as "the Three Powers") will terminate the Occupation regime in the Federal Republic, revoke the Occupation Statute and abolish the Allied High Commission and the Offices of the Land Commissioners in the Federal Republic.

2. The Federal Republic shall have accordingly the full authority of a sovereign State over its internal and external affairs.

#### **Article 2**

In view of the international situation, which has so far prevented the reunification of Germany and the conclusion of a peace settlement, the Three Powers retain the rights and the responsibilities, heretofore exercised or held by them, relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole, including the reunification of Germany and a peace settlement. The rights and responsibilities retained by the Three Powers relating to the stationing of armed forces in Germany and the protection of their security are dealt with in Articles 4 and 5 of the present Convention.

#### **Article 3**

1. The Federal Republic agrees to conduct its policy in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and with the aims defined in the Statute of the Council of Europe.

2. The Federal Republic affirms its intention to associate itself fully with the community of free nations through membership in international organizations contributing to the common aims of the free world. The Three Powers will support applications for such membership by the Federal Republic at appropriate times.

3. In their negotiations with States with which the Federal Republic maintains no relations, the Three Powers will consult with the Federal Republic in respect of matters directly involving its political interests.

4. At the request of the Federal Government, the Three Powers will arrange to represent the interests of the Federal Republic in relations with other States and in certain international organizations or conferences, whenever the Federal Republic is not in a position to do so itself.

#### **Article 4**

1. Pending the entry into force of the arrangements for the German Defence Contribution, the Three Powers retain the rights, heretofore exercised or held by them, relating to the stationing of armed forces in the

Federal Republic. The mission of these forces will be the defence of the free world, of which Berlin and the Federal Republic form part. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the present Convention, the rights and obligations of these forces shall be governed by the Convention on the Rights and Obligations of Foreign Forces and their Members in the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter referred to as "the Forces Convention") referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the present Convention.

2. The rights of the Three Powers, heretofore exercised or held by them, which relate to the stationing of armed forces in Germany and which are retained, are not affected by the provisions of this Article insofar as they are required for the exercise of the rights referred to in the first sentence of Article 2 of the present Convention. The Federal Republic agrees that, from the entry into force of the arrangements for the German Defence Contribution, forces of the same nationality and effective strength as at that time may be stationed in the Federal Republic. In view of the status of the Federal Republic as defined in Article 1, paragraph 2 of the present Convention and in view of the fact that the Three Powers do not desire to exercise their rights regarding the stationing of armed forces in the Federal Republic, insofar as it is concerned, except in full accord with the Federal Republic, a separate Convention deals with this matter.

### **Article 5**

1. Pending the entry into force of the arrangements for the German Defence Contribution, the following provisions shall be applicable to the forces stationed in the Federal Republic:

(a) the Three Powers will consult with the Federal Republic, insofar as the military situation permits, with regard to all questions concerning the stationing of these forces. The Federal Republic will, according to the present Convention and the related Conventions, co-operate, within the framework of its Basic Law, to facilitate the mission of these forces;

(b) the Three Powers will obtain the consent of the Federal Republic before bringing into the Federal territory, as part of their forces, contingents of the armed forces of any nation not now providing such contingents. Such contingents may nevertheless be brought into the Federal territory without the consent of the Federal Republic in the event of external attack or imminent threat of such attack, but, after the elimination of the danger, may only remain with its consent.

2. The rights of the Three Powers, heretofore held or exercised by them, which relate to the protection of the security of armed forces stationed in the Federal Republic and which are temporarily retained, shall lapse when the appropriate German authorities have obtained similar powers under German legislation enabling them to take effective action to protect the security of those forces, including the ability to deal with a serious disturbance of public security and order. To the extent that such rights continue to be exercisable they shall be exercised only after consultation, insofar as the military situation does not preclude such consultation, with the Federal Government and with its agreement that the circumstances require such exercise. In all other respects the protection of the security of those forces shall be governed by the Forces Convention or by the provisions of the Agreement which replaces it and, except as otherwise provided in any applicable agreement, by German law.

### **Article 6**

1. The Three Powers will consult with the Federal Republic in regard to the exercise of their rights relating to Berlin.

2. The Federal Republic, on its part, will co-operate with the Three Powers in order to facilitate the discharge of their responsibilities with regard to Berlin.

### **Article 7**

1. The Signatory States are agreed that an essential aim of their common policy is a peace settlement for the whole of Germany, freely negotiated between Germany and her former enemies, which should lay the

foundation for a lasting peace. They further agree that the final determination of the boundaries of Germany must await such a settlement.

2. Pending the peace settlement, the Signatory States will co-operate to achieve, by peaceful means, their common aim of a reunified Germany enjoying a liberal-democratic constitution, like that of the Federal Republic, and integrated within the European community.

3. Deleted.

4. The Three Powers will consult with the Federal Republic on all matters involving the exercise of their rights relating to Germany as a whole.

### **Article 8**

1. (a) The Signatory States have concluded the following related Conventions:

Convention on the Rights and Obligations of Foreign Forces and their Members in the Federal Republic of Germany;

Finance Convention;

Convention on the Settlement of Matters Arising out of the War and the Occupation.

(c) The Convention on the Rights and Obligations of Foreign Forces and their Members in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Agreement on the Tax Treatment of the Forces and their Members, signed at Bonn on 26 May 1952, as amended by the Protocol signed at Bonn on 26 July 1952, shall remain in force until the entry into force of new arrangements setting forth the rights and obligations of the forces of the Three Powers and other States having forces in the territory of the Federal Republic. The new arrangements will be based on the Agreement Between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of Their Forces, signed at London on 19 June 1951, supplemented by such provisions as are necessary in view of the special conditions existing in regard to the forces stationed in the Federal Republic.

(c) The Finance Convention shall remain in force until the entry into force of the new arrangements negotiated in pursuance of paragraph 4 of Article 4 of that Convention with other member Governments of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization who have forces stationed in the Federal territory.

2. During the transitional period provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of Chapter One of the Convention on the Settlement of Matters Arising out of the War and the Occupation, the rights of the three Signatory States referred to in that paragraph shall be retained.

### **Article 9**

1. There shall be established an Arbitration Tribunal which shall function in accordance with the provisions of the annexed Charter.

2. The Arbitration Tribunal shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all disputes arising between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic under the provisions of the present Convention or the annexed Charter or any of the related Conventions which the parties are not able to settle by negotiation or by other means agreed between all the Signatory States, except as otherwise provided by paragraph 3 of this Article or in the annexed Charter or in the related Conventions.

3. Any dispute involving the rights of the Three Powers referred to in Article 2, the first two sentences of paragraph 1 of Article 4, the first sentence of paragraph 2 of Article 4 and the first two sentences of paragraph 2 of Article 5, or action taken thereunder, shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Tribunal or of any other tribunal or court.

**Article 10**

The Signatory States will review the terms of the present Convention and the related Conventions

(a) upon request of any one of them, in the event of the reunification of Germany, or an international understanding being reached with the participation or consent of the States parties to the present Convention on steps towards bringing about the reunification of Germany, or the creation of a European federation; or

(b) in any situation which all of the Signatory States recognize has resulted from a change of a fundamental character in the conditions prevailing at the time of the entry into force of the present Convention.

In either case they will, by mutual agreement, modify, the present Convention and the related Conventions to the extent made necessary or advisable by the fundamental change in the situation.

**Article 11**

1. Deleted.

2. Deleted.

3. The present Convention and the related Conventions shall be deposited in the Archives of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, which will furnish each Signatory State with certified copies thereof and notify each such State of the date of the entry into force of the present Convention and the related Conventions.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the undersigned representatives duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments have signed the present Convention.

Done at BONN this twenty-sixth day of May, 1952, in three texts, in the English, French and German languages, all being equally authentic.

For the United States of America  
signed:  
Dean Acheson

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
signed:  
Anthony Eden

For the French Republic  
signed:  
Robert Schuman

For the Federal Republic of Germany  
signed:  
Adenauer

ANNEX A  
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ANNEX B

to the Convention on Relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany

## Charter of the Arbitration Tribunal

### PART 1

#### Composition, Organisation and Seat of the Tribunal

##### Article 1

1. The Tribunal shall be composed of nine members who shall have the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices or shall be lawyers of recognized competence in international law.
2. The nine members of the Tribunal shall be appointed as follows:
  - (a) three members appointed by the Governments of the Three Powers, one by each Government;
  - (b) three members appointed by the Federal Government;
  - (c) a President and two Vice-Presidents (hereinafter referred to also as "the neutral members") appointed by agreement between the Governments of the Three Powers and the Federal Government, none of whom shall be a national of any one of the Three Powers or a German national.
3. The Governments of the Three Powers and the Federal Government shall make known their first appointments not later than sixty days after the entry into force of the present Charter. Within the same period the Governments of the Three Powers and the Federal Government shall agree upon the three neutral members, one of whom shall be nominated as President and the other two as Vice-Presidents. If, after the expiry of such period, one or more of the neutral members shall not have been agreed upon, either the Governments of the Three Powers or the Federal Government may request the President of the International Court of Justice to nominate such neutral member or members.
4. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made in the same manner as the appointment of the member to be replaced. However, if a vacancy to be filled by the Government of one of the Three Powers or the Federal Government is not so filled within one month of its occurring, either the Governments of the Three Powers or the Federal Government may request the President of the International Court of Justice to make an interim appointment to the vacancy of a person who shall not be a national of any one of the Three Powers or a German national and who shall serve for a period of six months or until the vacancy is filled in the normal manner, whichever is longer. If the member to be replaced is a neutral member, the Governments of the Three Powers or the Federal Government may request the President of the International Court of Justice to make such appointment, if the agreement envisaged by sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 2 of this Article has not been reached within one month of the vacancy occurring.
5. The Tribunal may, by majority vote, declare a vacancy if, in its opinion, a member has, without reasonable excuse, failed or refused to participate in the hearing or decision of a case to which he has been assigned.

##### Article 2

1. The members of the Tribunal shall be appointed for four years. They may be reappointed after the expiration of their terms of office.
2. A member whose term of office has expired shall nevertheless continue to discharge his duties until his successor is appointed. After such appointment he shall, unless the President of the Tribunal directs otherwise, continue to discharge his duties respecting pending cases in which he has participated until such cases have been finally decided.

Member of the Tribunal shall not engage in any activity incompatible with the proper exercise of their duties, nor shall they participate in the adjudication of any case with which they have previously been concerned in another capacity or in which they have a direct interest. Differences of opinion regarding the applicability of this paragraph shall be resolved by the Tribunal.

4. (a) During and after their terms of office, the members of the Tribunal shall enjoy immunity from suit in respect of acts performed in the exercise of their official duties.

(b) The members of the Tribunal who are not of German nationality shall, moreover, enjoy in the Federal territory the same privileges and immunities as are accorded chiefs of diplomatic missions. If sittings or official acts take place in the territory of one of the Three Powers, the members of the Tribunal who are not of the nationality of the country in which the sitting or act takes place shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities in such country.

5. Every member of the Tribunal shall, before taking office, make a declaration at a public session that he will exercise his duties impartially and conscientiously.
6. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article 1 of the present Charter, no member may be dismissed before the expiry of his term of office, or before the termination of his duties in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article, except by agreement between the Governments of the Three Powers and the Federal Government; or, in the case of a member appointed by the President of the International Court of Justice, by agreement between the Governments of the Three Powers and the Federal Government, with the consent of the President of the International Court of Justice.

### **Article 3**

Deleted.

### **Article 4**

1. The Tribunal, presided over by the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, shall sit either in plenary session or in Chambers of three members.
2. A plenary session shall, in principle, include all the members of the Tribunal. A quorum of five members shall suffice to constitute a plenary session; it shall be composed of an uneven number of members and in any case shall consist of an equal number of the members appointed by the Governments of the Three Powers and of those appointed by the Federal Government, and at least one neutral member.
3. Chambers shall be composed of one of the members appointed by the Governments of the Three Powers,



one of the members appointed by the Federal Government and one neutral member.

4. The Tribunal in plenary session shall nominate the members of such Chambers, define the categories of cases with which a Chamber will be concerned or assign a particular case to a Chamber.

5. Any decision of a Chamber, on a case assigned to it, shall be deemed to be a decision of the Tribunal.

6. The final decision on a case assigned to a Chamber must be taken by the Tribunal in plenary session, if one of the parties so requests before the Chamber itself has pronounced a final decision.

#### **Article 5**

The Tribunal shall sit in public unless it decides otherwise. The deliberations of the Tribunal shall be and shall remain secret as shall all facts brought to its attention in closed session.

#### **Article 6**

1. A Registrar shall be responsible for the administration of the Tribunal; he shall have the necessary staff at his disposal. The Registrar shall handle the transmission of documents, keep a record of petitions submitted to the Tribunal and be responsible for the archives and accounts of the Tribunal.

2. The first Registrar shall be appointed by agreement between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic. The Registrar shall be a permanent official subject to dismissal and replacement only by the Tribunal.

3. The Registrar, upon receipt of the first petition filed pursuant to Article 14 of the present Charter, shall immediately notify the President, who shall thereupon call the first meeting of the Tribunal in plenary session at the seat of the Tribunal as soon as practicable, for the purpose of determining the Rules of Procedure and attending to other business. Thereafter the Tribunal shall meet as business requires.

4. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 2 of the present Charter shall not become effective until the first meeting in plenary session referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

#### **Article 7**

The seat of the Tribunal shall be located within the Federal territory at such place as shall be determined by a subsidiary administrative agreement between the Governments of the Three Powers and the Federal Government. The Tribunal may, however, sit and exercise its functions elsewhere, when it deems it desirable to do so.

#### **Article 8**

Questions pertaining to the operating costs of the Tribunal, including the official emoluments of members, as well as arrangements for securing the inviolability of the premises of the Tribunal, shall be regulated by the subsidiary administrative agreement referred to in Article 7 of the present Charter.

### **PART II**

#### **Competence and Powers of the Tribunal**

## Article 9

1. The Tribunal shall have jurisdiction over all disputes arising between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic under the provisions of the Convention on Relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") or the present Charter or any of the related Conventions, listed in Article 8 of the Convention, which the parties are not able to settle by negotiation or by other means agreed between all the Signatory States, except disputes expressly excluded from its jurisdiction by the provisions of the Convention or the present Charter or any of the related Conventions.

2. (a) The Tribunal shall, moreover, have jurisdiction in respect of any question as to the extent of the competence of the following authorities:

The Board of Review referred to in Chapter One of the Convention on the Settlement of Matters Arising out of the War and the Occupation;

The Supreme Restitution Court referred to in Chapter Three of that Convention;

The Arbitral Commission on Property, Rights and Interests in Germany referred to in Chapters Five and Ten of that Convention.

(b) A question as to the extent of the competence of these authorities may be raised at any time after the institution of proceedings before them and also after a final decision.

(c) The decisions of the Tribunal on these questions shall be binding on the authorities whose competence has been questioned.

3. The decisions of the authorities specified in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal only to the extent contemplated in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article, unless the contrary is expressly provided in one of the related Conventions.

4. Decisions of the authorities provided for or referred to in the related Conventions, other than those specified in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be subject to review by the Tribunal, whether on questions as to the extent of competence or on the merits, only to the extent contemplated by paragraph 1 of this Article, unless the contrary is expressly provided in one of the related Conventions.

5. Only the Governments of one or more of the Three Powers, on the one hand, and the Federal Government, on the other, may be parties before the Tribunal. If the Federal Government brings a complaint against one or two of the Governments of the Three Powers, or if one or two of the Governments of the Three Powers brings a complaint against the Federal Government, the other Government or Governments of the Three Powers may apply to the Tribunal to be joined as parties.

## Article 10

The tribunal shall render its decisions in the form of judgments or directives which shall be binding on the parties.

**Article 11**

1. The Signatory States undertake to comply with the decisions of the Tribunal and to take the action required of them by such decisions or necessary to remedy the situation.
2. If a Signatory State required by a decision of the Tribunal to take action to give effect to that decision is unable, or fails, to take such action within the time specified by the Tribunal, or if no time is specified, within a reasonable time, then that State, or any other Signatory State a party to the dispute, may apply to the Tribunal for a further decision as to alternative action to be taken by the defaulting State.

**Article 12**

1. The Tribunal or, in a case of urgency, the President shall have the power, by the issue of directives, to take such measures as may be necessary to conserve the respective rights of the parties pending the judgment of the Tribunal. Any directive issued by the President under this Article may be confirmed, amended or annulled by the Tribunal within seventytwo hours after the notification thereof to the parties.
2. The parties shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard prior to the issue of any directive by the Tribunal or by the President under this Article.
3. In the absence of the President, his powers under this Article shall be exercised by one of the Vice-Presidents to be designated by the President for this purpose.

**PART III  
Proceedings****Article 13**

The official languages of the Tribunal shall be French, English, and German.

**Article 14**

Proceedings before the Tribunal shall be instituted by a written petition filed with the Tribunal which shall contain a statement of the facts giving rise to the dispute, reference to the provisions of the Convention or the present Charter or the related Conventions which are invoked, legal argument, and conclusions.

**Article 15**

1. The parties shall be represented by agents. They may be assisted by counsel.
2. Such agents and counsel shall enjoy immunity from suit in respect of acts performed in the exercise of their duties.

**Article 16**

1. The presiding member may summon the agents in order to be informed of their wishes concerning the time limits and conduct of the proceedings.

2. The presiding member shall set the time limits for the submission of pleadings and shall prescribe all the measures necessary for the conduct of the proceedings.

3. Certified copies of all documents submitted by either party shall be immediately forwarded to the other party through the Registrar.

#### **Article 17**

The proceedings shall consist of two parts; written and oral. Oral proceedings may be dispensed with if both parties so request.

#### **Article 18**

1. Written proceedings shall consist of a statement of the complainant's case, the defendant's answer and, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, a reply and a rejoinder.

2. Counterclaims shall be permissible.

#### **Article 19**

1. Oral proceedings shall consist of the complainant's argument, the defendant's argument and, unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, a reply and a rejoinder, as well as hearings of witnesses and experts.

2. The Tribunal shall have power to demand the production of evidence, documentary or other, to require the attendance of witnesses to testify, to request expert opinion, and to direct inquiries to be made.

3. In the event that a party does not produce evidence which in the opinion of the Tribunal is relevant to the issues before it and which such party possesses or is in a position to procure, the Tribunal shall proceed to give its decision notwithstanding the absence of such evidence.

4. The presiding member or any other member of the Tribunal may put questions to the parties, witnesses and experts.

5. A written record of the oral proceedings shall be kept and shall be signed by the presiding member and the Registrar.

#### **Article 20**

All decisions of the Tribunal shall be based on the Convention, the present Charter and the related Conventions. The Tribunal shall, in the interpretation of such Conventions, apply the generally accepted rules of international law governing the interpretation of treaties.

#### **Article 21**

1. The Tribunal shall decide by majority vote.

2. Judgments shall state the reasons on which they are based.

3. Judgments shall be signed by the presiding member and by the Registrar.
4. Judgments shall be final and not subject to appeal.
5. In the case of a difference of opinion as to the meaning or scope of a judgment, the Tribunal may construe it by an interpretative judgment, on the application of either party and after having heard both parties.

#### **Article 22**

The revision of a judgment may not be requested of the Tribunal except upon the grounds of the discovery of a fact which is of such a nature as to exercise a decisive influence, and of which the Tribunal and the party requesting revision had been unaware before the pronouncement of the judgment, always provided that such ignorance was not due to negligence on the part of the party requesting the revision.

#### **Article 23**

1. Unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, each party to proceedings before the Tribunal shall pay its own costs.
2. The Tribunal shall bear the costs in respect of witnesses whose attendance it has required and expert opinions and inquiries which it has ordered.

#### **Article 24**

The Tribunal shall determine its own rules of procedure consistent with the present Charter.

### **PART IV Advisory Opinions**

#### **Article 25**

1. The Tribunal may, at the joint request of the Governments of the Three Powers and of the Federal Government, give an advisory opinion on any matter arising out of the Convention or the present Charter or the related Conventions, with the exception of those questions with which it would not have been competent to deal if they had been referred to it in the form of a dispute.
2. The Tribunal may, at the request of an authority referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 9 of the present Charter or at the request of the presiding member of such an authority, give an advisory opinion on the competence of such authority.
3. Advisory opinions shall not be binding.