

**Convention on the Stamp Laws in connection with Cheques, and Protocol  
(Geneva, 19 March 1931)**

Entry into force: 29 November 1933

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**CONVENTION ON THE STAMP LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH  
CHEQUES**

The President of the German Reich; the Federal President of the Austrian Republic; His Majesty the King of the Belgians; His Majesty the King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India; His Majesty the King of Denmark and Iceland; the President of the Polish Republic, for the Free City of Danzig; the President of the Republic of Ecuador, His Majesty the King of Spain; the President of the Republic of Finland, the President of the French Republic; the President of the Hellenic Republic, His Serene Highness the Regent of the Kingdom of Hungary; His Majesty the King of Italy; His Majesty the Emperor of Japan; Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxemburg; the President of the United States of Mexico; His Serene Highness the Prince of Monaco; His Majesty the King of Norway; Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands; the President of the Polish Republic; the President of the Portuguese Republic; His Majesty the King of Roumania; His Majesty the King of Sweden; the Swiss Federal Council; the President of the Czechoslovak Republic; the President of the Turkish Republic; His Majesty the King of Yugoslavia;

Being desirous of settling certain problems concerning the stamp laws in their relations with cheques, have appointed as their plenipotentiaries the following:

[Names of plenipotentiaries not reproduced here.]

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article 1

If their laws do not already make provision to this effect, the High Contracting Parties undertake to alter their laws in all the territories placed under their sovereignty or authority to which the present Convention is applicable, so that the validity of obligations arising out of a cheque or the exercise of the rights that flow therefrom shall not be subordinated to the observance of the provisions concerning the stamp.

Nevertheless, the High Contracting Parties may suspend the exercise of these rights until payment of the stamp duties they prescribe or of any penalties incurred. They may also decide that the quality and effects of an instrument "immediately executory" which, according to their legislation may be attributed to a cheque, shall be subject to the condition that the stamp law has, from the issue of the instrument, been duly complied with in accordance with their laws.

Article 2

The present Convention, the French and English texts of which shall be equally authentic, shall bear this day's date.

It may be signed thereafter until 15 July 1931 on behalf of any Member of the League of Nations or non-member State.

Article 3

The present Convention shall be ratified.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited before 1 September 1933 with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who shall forthwith notify receipt thereof

to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States on whose behalf the present Convention has been signed or acceded to.

#### Article 4

As from 15 July 1931, any Member of the League of Nations and any non-member State may accede thereto.

Such accession shall be effected by a notification to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, such notification to be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat. [\[1\]](#)

The Secretary-General shall notify such deposit forthwith to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States on whose behalf the present Convention has been signed or acceded to.

#### Article 5

The present Convention shall not come into force until it has been ratified or acceded to on behalf of seven Members of the League of Nations or non-member States, which shall include three of the Members of the League permanently represented on the Council.

The date of entry into force shall be the ninetieth day following the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the seventh ratification or accession in accordance with the first paragraph of the present Article. [\[2\]](#)

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations, when making the notification provided for in Articles 3 and 4, shall state in particular that the ratifications or accessions referred to in the first paragraph of the present Article have been received.

#### Article 6

Every ratification or accession effected after the entry into force of the Convention in accordance with Article 5 shall take effect on the ninetieth day following the date of receipt thereof by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations. [\[3\]](#)

#### Article 7

The present Convention may not be denounced before the expiry of two years from the date on which it has entered into force in respect of that Member of the League or non-member State; such denunciation shall take effect as from the ninetieth day following the receipt by the Secretary-General of the notification addressed to him.

Every denunciation shall be immediately communicated by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to all the Members of the League of Nations and to the non-member States on whose behalf the present Convention has been signed or acceded to.

Each denunciation shall take effect only as regards the Member of the League of Nations or the non-member State, on whose behalf it has been made.

#### Article 8

Every Member of the League of Nations and every non-member State in respect of which the present Convention is in force may forward to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, after the expiry of the fourth year following the entry into force of the Convention, a request for the revision of some or all of the provisions of that Convention.

If such request, after being communicated to the other Members or non-member States between whom the Convention is at that time in force, is supported within one year by at least six of them, the Council of the League of Nations shall decide whether a Conference shall be convened for the purpose.

#### Article 9

Any High Contracting Party may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that, in accepting the present Convention, he does not assume any obligations

in respect of all or any of his colonies, protectorates or territories under suzerainty or mandate; and the present Convention shall not apply to any territories named in such declaration.

Any High Contracting Party may give notice to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations at any time subsequently that he desires that the Convention shall apply to all or any of his territories which have been made the subject of a declaration under the preceding paragraph, and the Convention shall apply to all the territories named in such notice ninety days after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Any High Contracting Party may at any time declare that he desires that the present Convention shall cease to apply to all or any of his colonies, protectorates or territories under suzerainty or mandate and the Convention shall cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration one year after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

#### Article 10

The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations as soon as it comes into force.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF** the abovementioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

**DONE** at Geneva, the nineteenth day of March one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, in a single copy, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and of which authenticated copies shall be delivered to all Members of the League of Nations and non-member States represented at the Conference.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

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#### **PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION**

At the time of signing the Convention of this day's date on the stamp laws in connection with cheques, the undersigned, duly authorised, have agreed upon the following provisions:

##### A

The Members of the League of Nations and the non-member States which may not have been able to deposit their ratifications of the said Convention before 1 September 1933, undertake to forward within fifteen days from that date a communication to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations informing him of their situation as regards ratification.

##### B

If, on 1 November 1933, the conditions laid down in Article 5, paragraph 1, for the entry into force of the Convention are not fulfilled, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall convene a meeting of the Members of the League and the non-member States on whose behalf the Convention has been signed or acceded to.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to examine the situation and any measures to be taken to meet it.

##### C

The High Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other, immediately upon their coming into force, the legislative measures taken by them in execution of the Convention in their respective territories.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF** the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Protocol.

**DONE** at Geneva the nineteenth day of March one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, in a single copy, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the

League of Nations, and of which authenticated copies shall be delivered to all Members of the League of Nations and non-member States represented at the Conference.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

[\[1\]](#) Notification of accession of Australia deposited for Australia 3 September 1938.

[\[2\]](#) The Convention entered into force generally 29 November 1933.

[\[3\]](#) The Convention entered into force for Australia 2 December 1938.