

CONVENTION INSTITUTING AN INTERNATIONAL SERICULTURAL COMMISSION

(Translation)

The States which are parties to the present Convention, aware of the importance of sericultural production in the economic field and of the interest of studies on silk-producing insects, in the scientific field, agreed to convert the "Permanent Commission of the International Sericultural Congresses" into an international organisation which will be called the "International Sericultural Commission", and the present Convention of which is the charter.

TITLE I OBJECT

Art. One. The aims of the International Sericultural Commission are: to encourage and promote the development and improvement from the technical, scientific and economic points of view, of all the activities dealing with sericulture in general (including moriculture, egg production, sericulture and raw silk reeling).

Art. 2. In order to attain those targets, the activities of the International Sericultural Commission will be as follows:

- a) The exchange of information among the Member States;
- b) The publishing of a periodical bulletin, of proceedings of meetings and of any specialised publications;
- c) General information with the setting-up of a sericultural documentation centre;
- d) The organisation of international meetings dealing with sericulture science;
- e) The carrying-out of research and investigations;
- f) The development and co-ordination of works which may contribute to making the silkworm or any other silk-producing insect a "biological model".
- g) Co-operation with any organisation, the interest and functions of which are related to and compatible with its own.

TITLE II SEAT

Art. 3. The seat of the International Sericultural Commission is at Alès (France).*

It will not be removed except by decision of the Conference and at the request of the Executive Committee.

TITLE III MEMBERS

Art. 4. The Member States which have ratified the present Convention, or have joined it, become members of the Commission. Each one of the delegates of these States holds the title of national delegate.

Each Member State appoints its own head of delegation.

TITLE IV ORGANS

Art. 5. The organs of the Commission are the Conference, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat-General.

The Conference

Art. 6. The Conference is composed of national delegates appointed by the Member States. Each Member State may have up to five delegates (one of whom at least shall belong to a sericultural association).

Art. 7. The Conference deals with all the questions detailed in Article One of the present Convention. It receives and debates the reports submitted by the Executive Committee and approves the decisions of the latter.

Art. 8. The Conference meets at least every three years. It determines its own rules of procedure, elects its chairman and settles the location of its next Conference.

Art. 9. The national associations of non member States, whose activities are in accordance with those of the Commission, may, on the Secretary-General's proposal and with the agreement of the Executive Committee, attend the meetings of the Conference as observers, at the rate of one association per State.

Art. 10. The votes of the Conference are taken on the absolute majority of the attending national delegates, each of them is allowed one vote.

The Executive Committee

Art. 11. The Executive Committee is composed of the heads of delegation of each Member State.

Art. 12. The Executive Committee pursues the achievement of the aims detailed in Article One, according to the decisions of the Conference.

Art. 13. The Executive Committee meets once a year. It approves the budget which is submitted to it by the Secretary-General and gives its opinion upon the proposed agenda of the Conference prepared by the latter.

Art. 14. When it comprises more than eleven members, the Executive Committee will be able to delegate its power to a board composed of a quarter of its membership.

The choice of the members of this board as well as the duration of their mandates shall be approved by the Conference.

Art. 15. The votes of the Executive Committee are taken on the absolute majority of its members. Postal votes are allowed.

The Secretary-General

Art. 16. The Secretary-General is elected by the Conference on proposal of the Executive Committee.

Art. 17. The Secretary-General oversees, under the control of the Executive Committee, the application of the resolutions approved by the Conference.

Art. 18. The Secretary-General prepares and submits the budget to the Executive Committee for approval. He administers the budget and presents a financial report to the Conference; the Conference alone is entitled to give him *quietus*.

Art. 19. The Secretary-General organises the meetings of the Conference and of the Executive Committee.

Art. 20. Between sessions of the Executive Committee, the Secretary-General may ask advice of its members by individual written consultation.

Art. 21. The Secretary-General may take any initiative liable to contribute to the efficiency and influence of the Commission, under the control of the Executive Committee which may entrust to him any duty or mission it thinks necessary.

TITLE V FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Art. 22. The revenue of the Commission is made up of the financial contributions of the Member States and of the participating national associations.

Financial contributions are composed of two yearly subscriptions:

- A scientific one, based on population;
- A technical and economic one, calculated in proportion to the production of fresh cocoons in that country.

The national associations which join pay half the financial contribution.

Art. 23. The Commission may receive subsidies and donations from different sources in pursuance of its aims. The Secretary-General shall give an account of their utilisation to the Executive Committee.

TITLE VI GENERAL CONDITIONS

Art. 24. The present Convention will be submitted for signature from 1st July 1957 to 31st October 1957 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

It will be ratified.

The instruments of ratification will be deposited to the French Government which will notify the date of this deposit to each of the signatory States.

Art. 25. The States which have not signed the Convention will be allowed to join it at the end of the above-mentioned period.

The procedure for joining will be deposited to the French Government which will notify the date of this deposit to all the Member States.

Art. 26. The present Convention will come into force thirty days after the deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification or joining.

The Government of the French Republic will notify to each of the contracting parties the date of the coming into force of the Convention.

Art. 27. Any Member State may propose amendments to the present Convention.

No proposal of amendment may be introduced by a Member State within the year when the Convention comes into force.

The proposal of amendment should be sent to the French Government which will transmit it, for study, to the Executive Committee of the Commission. The latter, after examination, will present it to the Conference and let the French Government know the opinion of the Conference.

Any amendment declared admissible will be submitted by the French Government to all the Member States for approval or rejection.

The Member States will notify their written approval to the French Government and to the Commission. If the amendment is approved by the majority of the States, it will be inserted in the Convention.

The instruments of approval of the amendment will be deposited to the French Government which will inform the Member States and the Commission of them.

After the coming into force of an amendment, none of the States will be able to join the Convention or to ratify it without accepting the amendment.

Art. 28. Any Member state can, at any time, denounce the Convention by sending a notification to the French Government. The French Government will immediately inform each of the Member States, as well as the Commission, about it.

Art. 29. The present Convention will be written in French in one original which will be deposited in the archives of the French Government. The latter will provide with true copies all the signatory Governments.

Art. 30. Any State may, at the time of ratification or at any time, declare by notification to the French Government, that the present Convention is applicable to the whole or a part of the territories of which it assumes foreign relations.

Art. 31. The official language of the International Sericultural Commission is French.

However, the Conference will be able to allow the use of one or several other languages for its works and debates.

Art. 32. The Commission will be liable to dissolution on decision of the Conference, provided that the delegates are, when voting, empowered to do so.

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- Since the Conference held in Alès (1976) the seat was transferred to the Lyon area. The address is: 25, quai Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 69350 La Mulatière, France.

** The Conference of Bangkok (1987) decided that the technical and economic subscription will be calculated in proportion to the production of raw silk.