ACORD
PENTRU INSTITUIREA LA PARIS A UNUI OFICIU INTERNAȚIONAL AL VIEI ȘI VINULUI*

ÎNTOCMIT LA PARIS LA 29 NOIEMBRIE 1924

AGREEMENT
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN PARIS OF AN INTERNATIONAL WINE OFFICE,

DONE AT PARIS ON NOVEMBER 29, 1924

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* *În vigoare pentru Republica Moldova din 1993 (prin cererea de aderare a Guvernului Republicii Moldova din 11 iunie 1991, reconfirmată în 1997)*

The Governments of Spain, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Tunis, considering it expedient to organise an International Wine Office, have resolved to conclude an Agreement for this purpose and

have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article 1

There shall be instituted an International Wine Office, having its headquarters at Paris, whose duty it shall be:

(a) To collect, study and publish information calculated to demonstrate the beneficial effects of wine;

(b) To work out a programme of new scientific experiments which should be undertaken in order to demonstrate the health-giving qualities of wine and its importance as a means of combating alcoholism;

(c) To indicate to the acceding Governments suitable measures for the protection of viticultural interests and the improvement of conditions on the international wine-market, after having collected all necessary information such as recommendations and opinions expressed by academics, learned societies, international or other congresses on the production of and trade in wines;

(d) To bring to the notice of Governments the international conventions it would be desirable to accede to, for instance those aiming at: (1) uniform method of presenting the results of wine analyses; (2) comparative study of the methods of analysis employed by various States, in order to draw up comparative tables;

(e) To submit to the Governments all proposals which, both in the interests of the consumer and of the producer are likely to ensure:

(i) The protection of the trade names of wines based on locality;

(ii) The guarantee of the purity and genuineness of the products until their sale to the consumer, this to be effected by all suitable means, in particular by certificates of origin issued in conformity with national laws;

(iii) The suppression of fraud and unfair competition by the seizure of products which contravene the law and by civil and criminal proceedings, either individual or collective, in order to abolish illicit practices, compensate the injured parties and punish the perpetrators of the frauds;

(f) To take all possible steps, in conformity with the legislation of each country, with a view to developing the wine trade, and to communicate to private, national or international organisations and on request to private persons also, the information and documents required by them.

Article 2

The International Wine Office shall be a Government institution, in which each acceding country shall be represented by delegates selected by it.

The meeting of the delegates shall constitute the Committee, whose composition and powers are defined in the following Articles.

Article 3

The Committee shall each year elect from its members a Bureau consisting of a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. They shall hold office until the first meeting of the following year and shall be eligible for re-election. Meetings shall take place twice a year. Extraordinary meetings may be summoned at the request of one of the Governments belonging to the Office.

The agenda to be submitted to the Committee at its ordinary meetings shall be drawn up by the Committee at its previous meeting. Any Government requesting that an extraordinary meeting be summoned shall notify the agenda which it desires to discuss.

Article 4

The Committee shall have the general direction of the International Wine Office. It shall discuss and adopt regulations referring to the organisation and internal working of the Office. It shall draw up the revenue and expenditure budget within the limits of the credits available and shall examine and approve the accounts.

It shall submit to the acceding Governments for their approval any modifications whatsoever which would involve an increase of expenditure or an extension of the powers of the Office.

If shall appoint and dismiss the Director. On the proposal of the latter the Bureau of the Committee shall appoint and dismiss officials and employees.

The attendance of delegates from one-third of the acceding countries, representing at least two-thirds of the votes, shall be required in order to constitute a quorum. The representation of one country may be entrusted to the delegation of another acceding country, but no delegation may represent more than one country in addition to its own.

Article 5

Each acceding country shall be at liberty to fix the number of its del-

egates but shall only have votes in proportion to the number of contribution units subscribed by it.

Each acceding country may subscribe up to five contribution units. The contribution unit shall be 3.000 gold francs.

A group consisting of a Power, its colonies, possessions, dominions, protectorates and mandated territories, shall, not, however, under any circumstances, have more than five votes. The same shall apply in the case of a group consisting of the colonies, possessions, dominions, protectorates and mandated territories of a non-acceding Power.

The sums representing the contribution of each of the acceding countries shall be paid to the Office at the beginning of each year.

Article 6

Any country not a party to the present Agreement may accede thereto by notifying its desire to accede through the body responsible for its diplomatic representation, accredited to the French Government. The latter will forward the request to the Governments of the other participating States. Accession shall be definitive if the majority of the said States notify their consent within a period of six months as from the receipt of the request.

Article 7

Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the preceding Article 4, it shall be in order to proceed to the revision of the present Agreement if at least two-thirds of the acceding countries approve of such a proposal. In that case a Conference of the acceding countries shall be summoned within six months by the French Government. Its agenda shall be communicated to the acceding Governments two months prior to the meeting of the Conference. The Conference thus assembled shall itself fix its procedure. The Director of the Office shall act as Secretary-General of the Conference.

Article 8

Each of the acceding Governments may in so far as it is concerned denounce the present Agreement by giving six months' previous notice. Failure to pay two consecutive contributions shall be regarded as equivalent to denunciation.

Article 9

The present Agreement shall be ratified. It shall come into force as soon as five of the signatory countries have deposited their instruments of ratification. Each Power shall forward its instruments of ratification as soon as

possible to the French Government, which shall notify their receipt to the other signatory countries.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the archives of the French Government.

DONE at Paris on 29 November 1924, in a single copy, which shall remain deposited in the archives of the French Government, and of which certified copies shall be transmitted to the Contracting Parties.

The said copy bearing the above-mentioned date shall be open for signature until 31 March 1925.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Plenipotentiaries of the aforementioned countries have drawn up the present Agreement and have thereto appended their signatures.

PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE

At the moment of signing the Agreement of today's date providing for the establishment at Paris of an International Wine Office, the representative of the Spanish Government has made the following reservation:

"It shall be understood that the powers conferred on the Office in virtue of Nos. *(i)* and *(iii)* of paragraph (e) of Article 1 of the present Agreement shall not constitute a right to modify the text or to decide on the interpretation of the international agreements in force on this subject, in particular, the Madrid Convention of 1891, with regard to which in all circumstances the Government of His Majesty the King of Spain reserves the right of interpretation until such time as the question shall have been finally settled, either by means of bilateral agreements or by a decision adopted at a general Conference by all the High Contracting Parties to the international conventions in force.

Subject to this reservation with regard to the scope of the agreement established in the passages of the present Agreement referred to, and with regard to the obligatory character of the proposals which might be submitted to it by the Office, even in the case of decisions adopted by the latter by a majority vote, the Government of His Majesty the King of Spain accedes to Nos. *(i)* and *(iii)* of paragraph (e) of Article 1 of the present Agreement".

DONE at Paris, 29 November 1924.