

Seventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

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Seventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

The plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, met in Congress at Bucharest, in view of article 30.2 of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have adopted, subject to ratification, the following amendments to that Constitution.

Article I (Preamble amended)

With a view to developing communications between peoples by the efficient operation of the postal services, and to contributing to the attainment of the noble aims of international collaboration in the cultural, social and economic fields, the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the contracting countries have, subject to ratification, adopted this Constitution.

The mission of the Union is to stimulate the lasting development of efficient and accessible universal postal services of quality in order to facilitate communication between the inhabitants of the world by:

- **guaranteeing the free circulation of postal items over a single postal territory composed of interconnected networks;**
- **encouraging the adoption of fair common standards and the use of technology;**
- **ensuring cooperation and interaction among stakeholders;**
- **promoting effective technical cooperation;**
- **ensuring the satisfaction of customers' changing needs.**

Article II **(Article 1bis added)** **Definitions**

1 For the purposes of the Acts of the Universal Postal Union, the following terms shall have the meanings defined below:

- 1.1 Postal service: all postal services, whose scope is determined by the bodies of the Union. The main obligations of postal services are to satisfy certain social and economic objectives of member countries, by ensuring the collection, sorting, transmission and delivery of postal items.**
- 1.2 Member country: a country that fulfils the conditions of article 2 of the Constitution.**

- 1.3 **Single postal territory (one and the same postal territory): the obligation upon the contracting parties to the UPU Acts to provide for the reciprocal exchange of letter-post items, including freedom of transit, and to treat postal items in transit from other countries like their own postal items, without discrimination.**
- 1.4 **Freedom of transit: obligation for intermediate postal administrations to transport postal items passed on to them in transit by another UPU postal administration, providing similar treatment to that given to domestic items.**
- 1.5 **Letter-post item: items described in the Convention.**
- 1.6 **International postal service: postal operations or services regulated by the Acts; set of these operations or services.**

Article III
(Article 22 amended)
Acts of the Union

1 The Constitution shall be the basic Act of the Union. It shall contain the organic rules of the Union **and shall not be subject to reservations.**

2 The General Regulations shall embody those provisions which ensure the application of the Constitution and the working of the Union. They shall be binding on all member countries **and shall not be subject to reservations.**

3 The Universal Postal Convention, the Letter Post Regulations and the Parcel Post Regulations shall embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post and postal parcels services. These Acts shall be binding on all member countries.

4 The Agreements of the Union, and their Regulations, shall regulate the services other than those of the letter post and postal parcels between those member countries which are parties to them. They shall be binding on those countries only.

5 The Regulations, which shall contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the Postal Operations Council, bearing in mind the decisions taken by Congress.

6 The Final Protocols annexed to the Acts of the Union referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall contain the reservations to those Acts.

Article IV
(Article 30 amended)
Amendment of the Constitution

1 To be adopted, proposals submitted to Congress and relating to this Constitution must be approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union **having the right to vote.**

2 Amendments adopted by a Congress shall form the subject of an additional protocol and, unless that Congress decides otherwise, shall enter into force at the same time as the Acts renewed in the course of the same Congress. They shall be ratified as soon as possible by member countries and the instruments of such ratification shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 26.

Article V

(Article 31 amended)

Amendment of the General Regulations, the Convention and the Agreements

1 The General Regulations, the Convention and the Agreements shall define the conditions to be fulfilled for the approval of proposals which concern them.

2 The **Convention and the Agreements** shall enter into force simultaneously and shall have the same duration. As from the day fixed by Congress for the entry into force of these Acts, the corresponding Acts of the preceding Congress shall be abrogated.

Article VI

Accession to the Additional Protocol and to the other Acts of the Union

1 Member countries which have not signed the present Protocol may accede to it at any time.

2 Member countries which are party to the Acts renewed by Congress but which have not signed them shall accede thereto as soon as possible.

3 Instruments of accession relating to the cases set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be sent to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

Article VII

Entry into force and duration of the Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

This Additional Protocol shall come into force on **1 January 2006** and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have drawn up this Additional Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Constitution itself, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the **International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union**.

Done at **Bucharest, 5 October 2004**