

No. 5245

**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS, ALBANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY,
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, POLAND,
ROMANIA and CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**Charter of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.
Signed at Sofia, on 14 December 1959**

Official text: Russian.

Registered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 14 July 1960.

**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES, ALBANIE, BULGARIE, HONGRIE,
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE,
POLOGNE,
ROUMANIE et TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

**Statuts du Conseil d'entraide économique. Signés à Sofia,
le 14 décembre 1959**

Texte officiel russe.

Enregistrés par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques le 14 juillet 1960.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5245. CHARTER¹ OF THE COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SIGNED AT SOFIA, ON 14 DECEMBER 1959

The Governments of the People's Republic of Albania, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Romanian People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Republic,

BEARING IN MIND that the economic co-operation which is successfully taking place between their countries helps to promote the most rational development of the national economy, to raise the level of living of the people and to strengthen the unity and solidarity of those countries;

DETERMINED to continue the development of comprehensive economic co-operation based on consistent implementation of the international socialist division of labour in the interests of the building of socialism and communism in their countries and the maintenance of lasting peace throughout the world;

CONVINCED that the development of economic co-operation between their countries contributes to the achievement of the purposes set forth in the Charter of the United Nations;

AFFIRMING their readiness to develop economic relations with all countries, irrespective of their social and political structure, on the basis of equality, mutual advantage and non-intervention in each other's domestic affairs;

RECOGNIZING the increasing importance of the part played by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the organizing of economic co-operation between their countries,

HAVE AGREED, to these ends, to adopt the present Charter.

Article I

PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

1. The purpose of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is to promote, by uniting and co-ordinating the efforts of the member countries of the Council, the planned development of the national economies and the acceleration of the economic and technical progress of those countries, the raising of the level of industrialization of the countries with a less-developed industry, and a continual growth in the productivity, together with a steady increase in the well-being of the peoples, of the member countries of the Council.

¹ Came into force on 13 April 1960, the date of deposit with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the instruments of ratification by all the countries which had signed the Charter, in accordance with article XV.

2. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all the member countries of the Council.

Economic and scientific-technical co-operation between the member countries of the Council shall take place in accordance with the principles of complete equality of rights, respect for sovereignty and national interest, mutual advantage and friendly mutual aid.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP

1. The original members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall be the countries which have signed and ratified the present Charter.

2. Membership in the Council shall be open to other European countries which subscribe to the purposes and principles of the Council and declare that they agree to accept the obligations contained in the present Charter.

New members shall be admitted by a decision of the Session of the Council, on the basis of official requests by countries for their admission to membership in the Council.

3. Any member country of the Council may leave the Council, after notifying the depositary of the present Charter to that effect. Such notice shall take effect six months after its receipt by the depositary. Upon receiving such notice, the depositary shall inform the member countries of the Council thereof.

4. The member countries of the Council agree :

(a) To ensure implementation of the recommendations, accepted by them, of organs of the Council;

(b) To render to the Council and its officers the necessary assistance in the execution of the duties laid upon them by the present Charter;

(c) To make available to the Council the material and information essential to the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to it;

(d) To keep the Council informed of progress in the implementation of the recommendations adopted in the Council.

Article III

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

1. In conformity with the purposes and principles set forth in article I of the present Charter, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall :

(a) Organize :

Comprehensive economic and scientific-technical co-operation among the member countries of the Council, with a view to the most rational use of their natural resources and the more rapid development of their productive forces;

The preparation of recommendations on the most important questions in the economic relations resulting from the plans for the development of the national economies of the member countries of the Council, for the purpose of co-ordinating those plans;

The study of economic problems which are of interest to the member countries of the Council;

(b) Assist the member countries of the Council in the preparation and execution of joint measures regarding :

The development of industry and agriculture in the member countries of the Council, based on consistent implementation of the international socialist division of labour and on specialization and co-operation in production;

The development of transport, for the primary purpose of ensuring the conveyance of the increasing volume of export-import and transit freight between member countries of the Council;

The most effective use of the capital invested by member countries of the Council in projects to be carried out on the basis of joint participation;

The development of the exchange of goods and services between member countries of the Council and with other countries;

The exchange of experience in the matter of scientific-technical achievements and advanced methods of production;

(c) Undertake other action required for achieving the purposes of the Council.

2. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, through its organs acting within their competence, is authorized to adopt recommendations and decisions in accordance with the present Charter.

Article IV

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. Recommendations shall be adopted on questions of economic and scientific-technical co-operation. Such recommendations shall be communicated to the member countries of the Council for consideration.

Recommendations adopted by member countries of the Council shall be implemented by them through decisions of the Governments or competent authorities of those countries, in conformity with their laws.

2. Decisions shall be adopted on organizational and procedural questions. Such decisions shall take effect, unless it is specified otherwise in them, from the date on which the record of the meeting of the Council organ concerned is signed.

3. All recommendations and decisions of the Council shall be adopted only with the consent of the member countries concerned, each country being entitled to state its interest in any question under consideration by the Council.

Recommendations and decisions shall not apply to countries which state that they have no interest in the question at issue. Nevertheless, each such country may subsequently associate itself with the recommendations and decisions adopted by the remaining member countries of the Council.

Article V

ORGANS

1. For the discharge of the functions and the exercise of the powers mentioned in article III of the present Charter, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance shall have the following principal organs :

The Session of the Council,
The Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council,
The Standing Commissions,
The Secretariat.

2. Other organs may be established, as necessary, in conformity with the present Charter.

Article VI

THE SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Session of the Council shall be the highest organ of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. It shall be authorized to discuss all questions falling within the competence of the Council, and to adopt recommendations and decisions in accordance with the present Charter.

2. The Session of the Council shall consist of delegations from all the member countries of the Council. The composition of the delegation of each country shall be determined by the Government of the country concerned.

3. The regular sessions of the Council shall be convened twice a year in the capital of each member country of the Council in turn, under the chairmanship of the head of the delegation of the country in which the session is held.

4. A special session of the Council may be convened at the request or with the consent of not less than one third of the member countries of the Council.

5. The Session of the Council shall :

(a) Consider :

Proposals on questions of economic and scientific-technical co-operation submitted by member countries of the Council, as well as by the Conference of representatives of the countries in the Council, the Standing Commissions and the Secretariat of the Council;