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UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Universal Postal Convention (with Final Protocol and Detailed Regulations). Signed at Vienna, on 10 July 1964

Official text: French.

Registered by Austria and Switzerland on 1 December 1967.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

Convention postale universelle (avec Protocole final et Règlement d'exécution). Signée à Vienne, le 10 juillet 1964

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrée par l'Autriche et la Suisse le 1^{er} décembre 1967.

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]

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**UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION. SIGNED
AT VIENNA, ON 10 JULY 1964**

¹ Translation by the British General Post Office.

² Traduction de l'Administration postale britannique.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

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UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION¹

The undersigned, Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of Member-Countries of the Union, having regard to Article 22, § 3, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union² have drawn up by common consent in this Convention the rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter post services.

PART I

Rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service

ARTICLE 1

Freedom of transit

1. Freedom of transit, the principle of which is set forth in Article 1 of the Constitution, carries with it the obligation for each Postal Administration to forward always by the quickest routes which it uses for its own items, closed mails and *à découvert* letter post items which are passed to it by another Administration. This obligation applies equally to air-mail correspondence, whether or not the intermediate Postal Administrations take part in reforwarding it.

2. Member-Countries which do not participate in the exchange of letters containing perishable biological substances or radioactive substances have the option of not admitting these items in transit *à découvert* through their territory. The same applies to the items referred to in Article 28, § 5.

3. Member-Countries not providing the insured letters and boxes service or not accepting responsibility for insured items in respect of carriage by their sea or air services cannot, however, refuse transit of such items in closed mails through their territory or conveyance of them by their sea or air services; but those Countries' responsibility is limited to that laid down for registered items.

4. Freedom of transit for postal parcels to be forwarded by land and sea routes is limited to the territory of the Countries taking part in this service.

5. Freedom of transit for air parcels is guaranteed through the entire territory of the Union. Nevertheless, Member-Countries which are not parties to the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels cannot be required to forward air parcels by surface.

6. Member-Countries which are parties to the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels are bound to provide transit for insured postal parcels despatched in closed mails, even if those Countries do not themselves admit such items or do not accept responsibility for them in respect of carriage by their sea or air services, in which case their responsibility is limited to that laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight.

ARTICLE 2

Failure to give freedom of transit

When a Member-Country fails to observe the provisions of Article 1 of the Constitution and of Article 1 of the Convention regarding freedom of transit, Postal Administrations of other Member-Countries are at liberty to discontinue their postal service with that Country. They must give prior notice of this step to the Administrations concerned by telegram.

¹ Put into effect on 1 January 1966, in accordance with article 70. See below after the Forms for the list of States which ratified, approved, or acceded to, the Convention.

² See above in this volume.