No. 17828

MULTILATERAL

European Convention on the suppression of terrorism. Concluded at Strasbourg on 27 January 1977

Authentic texts: English and French.
Registered by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 30 May 1979.

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention européenne pour la répression du terrorisme. Conclue à Strasbourg le 27 janvier 1977

Textes authentiques : anglais et français.
EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM

The member States of the Council of Europe, signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members,

Aware of the growing concern caused by the increase in acts of terrorism,

Wishing to take effective measures to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts do not escape prosecution and punishment,

Convinced that extradition is a particularly effective measure for achieving this result,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. For the purposes of extradition between Contracting States, none of the following offences shall be regarded as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence inspired by political motives:

(a) An offence within the scope of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970;  
(b) An offence within the scope of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971;  
(c) A serious offence involving an attack against the life, physical integrity or liberty of internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents;

1 Came into force on 4 August 1978, i.e., three months after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, in accordance with article 11 (1) and (2). Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval were deposited as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>11 August 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden*</td>
<td>15 September 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany, Federal Republic of*</td>
<td>3 May 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(With a declaration of application to Land Berlin.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subsequently, the Convention came into force for the following States three months after the date of deposit of their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, in accordance with article 11 (1) and (3):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark*</td>
<td>27 June 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(With effect from 28 September 1978. With a declaration of non-application to the Faroe Islands and Greenland.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
<td>24 July 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(With effect from 25 October 1978. With a declaration of application to the bailiwick of Jersey, the bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus*</td>
<td>26 February 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(With effect from 27 May 1979.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See p. 110 of this volume for the texts of the reservations and declarations made upon ratification.


3 Ibid., vol. 974, p. 177.

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(d) An offence involving kidnapping, the taking of a hostage or serious unlawful detention;
(e) An offence involving the use of a bomb, grenade, rocket, automatic firearm or letter or parcel bomb if this use endangers persons;
(f) An attempt to commit any of the foregoing offences or participation as an accomplice of a person who commits or attempts to commit such an offence.

Article 2. 1. For the purposes of extradition between Contracting States, a Contracting State may decide not to regard as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence inspired by political motives a serious offence involving an act of violence, other than one covered by article 1, against the life, physical integrity or liberty of a person.

2. The same shall apply to a serious offence involving an act against property, other than one covered by article 1, if the act created a collective danger for persons.

3. The same shall apply to an attempt to commit any of the foregoing offences or participation as an accomplice of a person who commits or attempts to commit such an offence.

Article 3. The provisions of all extradition treaties and arrangements applicable between Contracting States, including the European Convention on Extradition,1 are modified as between Contracting States to the extent that they are incompatible with this Convention.

Article 4. For the purposes of this Convention and to the extent that any offence mentioned in article 1 or 2 is not listed as an extraditable offence in any extradition convention or treaty existing between Contracting States, it shall be deemed to be included as such therein.

Article 5. Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as imposing an obligation to extradite if the requested State has substantial grounds for believing that the request for extradition for an offence mentioned in article 1 or 2 has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of his race, religion, nationality or political opinion, or that that person’s position may be prejudiced for any of these reasons.

Article 6. 1. Each Contracting State shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over an offence mentioned in article 1 in the case where the suspected offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite him after receiving a request for extradition from a Contracting State whose jurisdiction is based on a rule of jurisdiction existing equally in the law of the requested State.

2. This Convention does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised in accordance with national law.

Article 7. A Contracting State in whose territory a person suspected to have committed an offence mentioned in article 1 is found and which has received a request for extradition under the conditions mentioned in article 6, paragraph 1, shall, if it does not extradite that person, submit the case, without exception whatso-

ever and without undue delay, to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution. Those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as in the case of any offence of a serious nature under the law of that State.

Article 8. 1. Contracting States shall afford one another the widest measure of mutual assistance in criminal matters in connection with proceedings brought in respect of the offences mentioned in article 1 or 2. The law of the requested State concerning mutual assistance in criminal matters shall apply in all cases. Nevertheless this assistance may not be refused on the sole ground that it concerns a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives.

2. Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as imposing an obligation to afford mutual assistance if the requested State has substantial grounds for believing that the request for mutual assistance in respect of an offence mentioned in article 1 or 2 has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of his race, religion, nationality or political opinion or that that person's position may be prejudiced for any of these reasons.

3. The provisions of all treaties and arrangements concerning mutual assistance in criminal matters applicable between Contracting States, including the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, are modified as between Contracting States to the extent that they are incompatible with this Convention.

Article 9. 1. The European Committee on Crime Problems of the Council of Europe shall be kept informed regarding the application of this Convention.

2. It shall do whatever is needful to facilitate a friendly settlement of any difficulty which may arise out of its execution.

Article 10. 1. Any dispute between Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, which has not been settled in the framework of article 9, paragraph 2, shall, at the request of any Party to the dispute, be referred to arbitration. Each Party shall nominate an arbitrator and the two arbitrators shall nominate a referee. If any Party has not nominated its arbitrator within the three months following the request for arbitration, he shall be nominated at the request of the other Party by the President of the European Court of Human Rights. If the latter should be a national of one of the Parties to the dispute, this duty shall be carried out by the Vice-President of the Court or, if the Vice-President is a national of one of the Parties to the dispute, by the most senior judge of the Court not being a national of one of the Parties to the dispute. The same procedure shall be observed if the arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of referee.

2. The arbitration tribunal shall lay down its own procedure. Its decisions shall be taken by majority vote. Its award shall be final.

Article 11. This Convention shall be open to signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2. The Convention shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.
3. In respect of a signatory State ratifying, accepting or approving subsequently, the Convention shall come into force three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 12. 1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.

2. Any State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval or at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend this Convention to any other territory or territories specified in the declaration and for whose international relations it is responsible or on whose behalf it is authorized to give undertakings.

3. Any declaration made in pursuance of the preceding paragraph may, in respect of any territory mentioned in such declaration, be withdrawn by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Such withdrawal shall take effect immediately or at such later date as may be specified in the notification.

Article 13. 1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, declare that it reserves the right to refuse extradition in respect of any offence mentioned in article 1 which it considers to be a political offence, an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives, provided that it undertakes to take into due consideration, when evaluating the character of the offence, any particularly serious aspects of the offence, including:

(a) That it created a collective danger to the life, physical integrity or liberty of persons; or
(b) That it affected persons foreign to the motives behind it; or
(c) That cruel or vicious means have been used in the commission of the offence.

2. Any State may wholly or partly withdraw a reservation it has made in accordance with the foregoing paragraph by means of a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe which shall become effective as from the date of its receipt.

3. A State which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article may not claim the application of article 1 by any other State; it may, however, if its reservation is partial or conditional, claim the application of that article in so far as it has itself accepted it.

Article 14. Any Contracting State may denounce this Convention by means of a written notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Any such denunciation shall take effect immediately or at such later date as may be specified in the notification.

Article 15. This Convention ceases to have effect in respect of any Contracting State which withdraws from or ceases to be a Member of the Council of Europe.

Article 16. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of:

(a) Any signature;
(b) Any deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval;
(c) Any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with article 11 thereof;
(d) Any declaration or notification received in pursuance of the provisions of article 12;
(e) Any reservation made in pursuance of the provisions of article 13, paragraph 1;
(f) The withdrawal of any reservation effected in pursuance of the provisions of article 13, paragraph 2;
(g) Any notification received in pursuance of article 14 and the date on which denunciation takes effect;
(h) Any cessation of the effects of the Convention pursuant to article 15.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Strasbourg, this 27th day of January 1977, in English and in French, both texts being equally authoritative, in a single copy which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each of the signatory States.

For the Government of the Republic of Austria:

WILLIBALD PAHR

For the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium:

RENAAT VAN ELSLANDE

For the Government of the Republic of Cyprus:

IOANNIS CHRISTOPHIDES

For the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark:

K. B. ANDERSEN

For the Government of the French Republic:

P. C. TAITTINGER

For the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany:

HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER

For the Government of the Hellenic Republic:

DIMITRI S. BITSIOS

For the Government of the Icelandic Republic:

EINAR AGUSTSSON

EN FOI DE QUOI, les soussignés, dûment autorisés à cet effet, ont signé la présente Convention.

FAIT à Strasbourg, le 27 janvier 1977, en français et en anglais, les deux textes faisant également foi, en un seul exemplaire qui sera déposé dans les archives du Conseil de l'Europe. Le Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe en communiquera copie certifiée conforme à chacun des États signataires.

1 See p. 107 of this volume for the texts of the reservations and declarations made upon signature — Voir p. 107 du présent volume pour les textes des réserves et déclarations faites lors de la signature.
For the Government of Ireland:

Pour le Gouvernement d'Irlande:

GERARD DE GAULLE

GHERARDO CORNAGGIA MEDICI CASTIGLIONI

For the Government of the Italian Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement de la République italienne:

GASTON THORN

For the Government of Liechtenstein:

Pour le Gouvernement de la Principauté de Liechtenstein:

NIKOLAUS VON LIECHTENSTEIN

For the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

Pour le Gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg:

MAX VAN DER STOEL

For the Government of Malta:

Pour le Gouvernement de Malte:

KNUF FRYDENLUND

For the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

Pour le Gouvernement du Royaume des Pays-Bas:

JOSE MEDEIROS FERREIRA

For the Government of the Kingdom of Norway:

Pour le Gouvernement du Royaume de Norvège:

MARCELINO OREJA AGUIRRE

For the Government of the Kingdom of Spain:

Pour le Gouvernement du Royaume de l'Espagne:

KARIN SÖDER

For the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden:

Pour le Gouvernement du Royaume de Suède:

PIERRE GRABER

1 See p. 107 of this volume for the texts of the reservations and declarations made upon signature — Voir p. 107 du présent volume pour les textes des réserves et déclarations faites lors de la signature.
For the Government of the Turkish Republic:

I. S. ÇAGLAYANGIL

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

ANTHONY CROSLAND
RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS MADE UPON SIGNATURE

FRANCE

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]

In deciding to sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism today, the Government wished to demonstrate its solidarity with the other European countries in combating a danger which has created — and continues to create — a number of innocent victims and very properly arouses public feeling.

This signature is the logical consequence of the action we have been taking for several years and which has caused us on several occasions to strengthen our internal legislation and to ratify The Hague¹ and Montreal² Conventions on air terrorism.

It is self-evident that efficiency in this struggle must be reconciled with respect for the fundamental principles of our criminal law and of our Constitution, which states in its preamble that “anyone persecuted on account of his action for the cause of liberty has the right to asylum on the territory of the Republic”.

It is also clear that such a high degree of solidarity as is provided for in the Council of Europe Convention³ can only apply between States sharing the same ideals of freedom and democracy.

France will therefore subject the application of the Convention to certain conditions. On ratification it will make the reservations necessary to ensure that the considerations I have just mentioned will be taken into account and that human rights will at no time be endangered.

¹ Translation supplied by the Council of Europe.
² Traduction fournie par le Conseil de l'Europe.
⁴ Ibid., vol. 974, p. 177.
⁵ Ibid., vol. 87, p. 103.

RÉSERVES ET DÉCLARATIONS FAITES LORS DE LA SIGNATURE

FRANCE

«En décidant de signer aujourd'hui la Convention européenne sur la répression du terrorisme, le gouvernement a entendu marquer sa solidarité avec les autres pays européens dans la lutte contre un fléau qui a fait — et continue de faire — nombre de victimes innocentes et soulève à juste titre l'émotion de l'opinion publique.

«Cette signature est la suite logique d'une action entreprise depuis plusieurs années et qui nous a amenés à renforcer à différentes reprises notre législation interne aussi bien qu'à ratifier les conventions de La Haye¹ et de Montréal², dans le domaine du terrorisme aérien.

«Il va de soi que l'efficacité de la lutte à mener doit se concilier avec le respect des principes fondamentaux de notre droit pénal et de notre Constitution, laquelle proclame dans son préambule que «tout homme persécuté en raison de son action en faveur de la liberté a droit d'asile sur les territoires de la République».

«Il est bien évident aussi qu'une solidarité aussi poussée que celle qui est prévue par la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe³ ne peut s'exercer qu'entre États qui partagent les mêmes idéaux de liberté et de démocratie.

«La France mettra donc à l'application de la Convention certaines conditions. Elle formulera, lors de la ratification, les réserves voulues pour que soient prises en compte les préoccupations que je viens d'exprimer et qu'à aucun moment les Droits de l'Homme ne risquent d'être mis en danger.

² Ibid., vol. 974, p. 177.
³ Ibid., vol. 87, p. 103.
There is a further point of very special importance to the Government: this is the success of the work of the Nine in the same field following the decisions of the European Council on 13 July 1976. We wish to avoid risks of conflict between the two texts and the Government therefore does not intend to ratify the Strasbourg Convention before the instrument which will be prepared by the Nine.

Furthermore, taking action against terrorism does not absolve us from tackling the political problem of the causes of terrorism. For in many respects the real struggle against terrorism is a struggle for a just peace which guarantees everyone’s legitimate rights.

ITALY

[Translation¹ — Traduction²]

Italy declares that it reserves the right to refuse extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters in respect to any offence mentioned in article 1 which it considers to be a political offence, an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives: in this case Italy undertakes to take into due consideration, when evaluating the character of the offence, any particularly serious aspects of the offence, including:

(a) That it created a collective danger to the life, physical integrity or liberty of persons; or
(b) That it affected persons foreign to the motives behind it; or
(c) That cruel or vicious means have been used in the commission of the offence.

¹ Translation supplied by the Council of Europe.
² Traduction fournie par le Conseil de l’Europe.

«L’Italie déclare qu’elle se réserve le droit de refuser l’extradition, ainsi que l’entraide judiciaire, en ce qui concerne toute infraction énumérée dans l’article 1° qu’elle considère comme une infraction politique, comme une infraction connexe à une infraction politique ou comme une infraction inspirée par des mobiles politiques; dans ces cas, l’Italie s’engage à prendre dûment en considération, lors de l’évaluation du caractère de l’infraction, son caractère de particulière gravité, y compris :

(a) Qu’elle a créé un danger collectif pour la vie, l’intégrité corporelle ou la liberté des personnes; ou bien
(b) Qu’elle a atteint des personnes étrangères aux mobiles qui l’ont inspirée; ou bien
(c) Que des moyens cruels ou perfides ont été utilisés pour sa réalisation.»
NORWAY

"The Kingdom of Norway declares that it reserves the right to refuse, in conformity with the provisions laid down in article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention, extradition in respect of any offences mentioned in article 1 if it considers it to be a political offence or connected with a political offence or inspired by political motives."

NORVÈGE

Le Royaume de Norvège déclare qu'il se réserve le droit de refuser l'extradition, en conformité avec les dispositions de l'article 13, paragraphe 1, de la Convention, en ce qui concerne toute infraction énumérée dans l'article 1er qu'il considère comme une infraction politique ou comme une infraction connexe à une infraction politique ou comme une infraction inspirée par des mobiles politiques.

PORTUGAL

As requested State, Portugal will not grant extradition for offences punishable by death in the requesting State, this is, in accordance with article 11 of the European Convention on Extradition to which Portugal is not a Contracting Party.

PORTUGAL

Portugal is signing the Convention subject to the safeguard of the provisions of its constitution relating to non-extradition on political grounds.

1 Translation supplied by the Council of Europe.
2 Traduction fournie par le Conseil de l'Europe.

1 Traduction fournie par le Conseil de l'Europe.
2 Translation supplied by the Council of Europe.
RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS MADE UPON RATIFICATION

CYPRUS

"The Government of the Republic of Cyprus reserves the right to refuse extradition in respect of any offence mentioned in article 1 which it considers to be a political offence.

"(a) With respect to Article 7 of the Convention and pursuant to the Republic of Cyprus the Extension of Jurisdiction of National Courts with respect to certain Terrorist Offences Law of 1979 which has been enacted by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus on the 18th January 1979, the national courts of Cyprus can prosecute a person suspected to have committed an offence mentioned in article 1 of this Convention.

"(b) In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus wishes further to notify that its reservations and declarations made on 22nd January 1971 when depositing its instrument of ratification with regard to the European Convention on Extradition of 13th December 1957 are still valid."

DENMARK

"The Danish Government, in accordance with the provisions of article 13 of this Convention and subject to the undertaking contained in that article, reserves the right to refuse extradition in respect of any offence mentioned in article 1 which it considers to be a political offence."

RÉSERVES ET DÉCLARATIONS FAITES LORS DE LA RATIFICATION

CHYPRE

«Le Gouvernement de la République de Chypre se réserve le droit de refuser l'extradition en ce qui concerne toute infraction énumérée dans l'article 1 qu'il considère comme une infraction politique.

«(a) En ce qui concerne l'article 7 de la Convention et conformément à l'Extension of Jurisdiction of National Courts with respect to certain Terrorist Offences Law of 1979 qui a été adoptée par la Chambre des Représentants de la République de Chypre le 18 janvier 1979, les juridictions nationales de Chypre peuvent poursuivre une personne soupçonnée d'avoir commis l'une des infractions énumérées à l'article 1 de la Convention.

«(b) A ce sujet, le Gouvernement de la République de Chypre désire également notifier que les réserves et déclarations qu'il a faites le 22 janvier 1971 lors du dépôt de l'instrument de ratification de la Convention européenne d'Extradition demeurent valables.»

DANEMARK

«Le Gouvernement danois, en conformité avec les dispositions de l'article 13 de cette Convention et tenant compte de l'engagement contenu dans cet article, se réserve le droit de refuser l'extradition en ce qui concerne toute infraction énumérée dans l'article 1 qu'il considère comme une infraction politique.»
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

"With effect from the date on which the said Convention enters into force for the Federal Republic of Germany, it shall also apply to Land Berlin, subject to the rights, responsibilities and legislation of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

"In particular, nationals of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the United States of America shall not be extradited without the consent of the appropriate Sector Commandant."

SWEDEN

"The Swedish Government, in accordance with the provisions of article 13 of this Convention and subject to the undertaking contained in that article, reserves the right to refuse extradition in respect of any offence mentioned in article 1 which it considers to be a political offence."

RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE

«Avec effet de la date à laquelle la Convention entrera en vigueur pour la République fédérale d'Allemagne, elle s'appliquera également au Land de Berlin, sous réserve des droits, responsabilités et législations de la République française, du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord et des États-Unis d'Amérique.

«En particulier, des ressortissants de la République française, du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord ou des États-Unis d'Amérique ne devront pas être extradés sans l'assentiment du Commandant de secteur compétent.»

SUÈDE

[Traduction — Translation]

Le Gouvernement suédois, en conformité avec les dispositions de l'article 13 de cette Convention, et tenant compte de l'engagement contenu dans cet article, se réserve le droit de refuser l'extradition en ce qui concerne toute infraction énumérée dans l'article 1 qu'il considère comme une infraction politique.