

No. 13152

**FRANCE
and
SWITZERLAND**

Convention concerning protection of the waters of Lake Geneva against pollution. Signed at Paris on 16 November 1962

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement on the implementation of the above-mentioned Convention. Paris, 7 and 21 October 1971

Authentic texts: French.

Registered by France on 18 March 1974.

**FRANCE
et
SUISSE**

Convention concernant la protection des eaux du lac Léman contre la pollution. Signée à Paris le 16 novembre 1962

Échange de lettres constituant un accord concernant l'application de la Convention susmentionnée. Paris, 7 et 21 octobre 1971

Textes authentiques : français.

Enregistrés par la France le 18 mars 1974.

[TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL CONCERNING PROTECTION OF THE WATERS OF LAKE GENEVA AGAINST POLLUTION

The Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council,
Desiring to co-ordinate their efforts to protect the waters of Lake Geneva against pollution,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The Contracting Governments agree to collaborate closely with a view to protecting against pollution the waters of Lake Geneva and of its outlet up to the point where the latter leaves Swiss territory, including the surface and ground waters of the affluents in so far as such affluents contribute to the pollution of the waters of Lake Geneva and of its outlet.

Article 2. The Contracting Governments shall establish an International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Geneva against Pollution, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”.

Article 3. The Commission shall perform the following functions:

- (a) It shall organize and cause to be carried out all such investigations as are necessary in order to determine the nature, extent and sources of pollution, and shall utilize the results of the said investigations;
- (b) It shall recommend to the Contracting Governments action to deal with existing pollution and to prevent any future pollution;
- (c) It may draft the material for international regulations relating to cleanness of the waters of Lake Geneva;
- (d) It shall consider any other questions relating to pollution of the waters.

Article 4. The Commission shall be composed of representatives appointed by the Contracting Governments.

The Commission shall be assisted by an international technical sub-commission, hereinafter referred to as “the Technical Sub-Commission”, composed of water pollution control experts appointed by the Contracting Governments. The Commission may also establish other sub-commissions to study specific problems.

Each Contracting Government may, in addition, appoint other experts. The Commission shall determine the manner in which they are to participate in its work.

Article 5. Decision of the Commission shall be unanimous.

The Commission shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

Article 6. The Commission shall meet once a year in regular session upon convocation by its Chairman.

¹ Came into force on 1 November 1963, the date agreed upon between the Contracting Governments, in accordance with article 10.

In addition, the Chairman shall convene the Commission in special session at the request of either Contracting Government.

Article 7. Each Contracting Government shall consider the recommendations of the Commission and decide how the action necessary to implement them may be taken.

Article 8. Each Contracting Party shall defray the expenses of its delegation to the Commission and of experts appointed by it.

All other expenses arising out of the work of the Commission shall be shared between the Contracting Parties in accordance with arrangements determined in each case by the Commission.

Article 9. The Commission shall establish such relations as it deems necessary with the international organizations responsible for dealing with water pollution questions and with those responsible for Lake Geneva and the River Rhone as regards navigation, fishing and flow regulation.

Article 10. Each Contracting Government shall notify the other Contracting Government when it has performed the formalities constitutionally required for the entry into force of this Convention.

The Convention shall enter into force on a date agreed upon between the Contracting Governments. After a period of three years from the date of its entry into force, it may be denounced at any time on six months' notice, by either Contracting Government.

DONE at Paris on 16 November 1962, in two copies in the French language.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

[JORDAN]

For the Swiss
Federal Council:

[DIEZ]

[TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION OF 16 NOVEMBER 1962² CONCERNING PROTECTION OF THE WATERS OF LAKE GENEVA AGAINST POLLUTION

I

EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN FRANCE

Paris, 7 October 1971

Sir,

Pursuant to the recommendations formulated at its session of 6 November 1970 by the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Geneva against Pollution, established under the terms of the Franco-Swiss Convention concerning protection of the waters of Lake Geneva against pollution signed on 16 November 1962,² I have the honour to propose to you, on behalf of my Government, the adoption of the following proposals:

The Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the French Republic shall draw up a five-year research and study plan for the period 1971-1975 involving soundings of Lake Geneva to determine, *inter alia*, the sources of phosphorus, the biological prospects, the lake currents and the distribution of higher forms of aquatic plants.

As regards the funds allocated for implementation of the programme and the administrative expenses incurred by the Commission in supervising its execution, 75 per cent of the cost shall be defrayed by Switzerland and 25 per cent by France. On the basis of the current exchange rate, the contributions of each State will therefore amount to 3 million Swiss francs and 1,359,937 French francs respectively; they shall be payable to the Commission by each State at the end of each calendar year. The entire funds shall be administered by the Commission, which may allocate the funds contributed by each State on a preferential basis to laboratories in the State concerned and may make changes in the implementation of its research and study programme.

In addition, during the same period the Commission shall proceed with and co-ordinate studies and work with a view to acquiring information about the condition of the lake and improving the quality of its waters.

The Commission's recommendation that the efforts to set up purification plants in the Lake Geneva basin should be continued in order to make most of the basin pollution-free by the end of the period of implementation of the five-year programme is also approved by my Government, subject to the constitutionally required internal procedure.

I should be obliged if you would inform me whether the proposals set out above are acceptable to the French Government.

If so, this letter and your affirmative reply shall constitute an agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the French Republic on the financing of a research and study programme for the protection of the waters of Lake Geneva against pollution.

¹ Came into force on 7 September 1972, the date on which the two Parties informed each other that the formalities constitutionally required had been completed, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

² See p. 54 of this volume.

The said Agreement shall have effect as from the date on which the two Parties inform each other that the formalities constitutionally required for its entry into force have been completed.

The Parties to this Agreement shall give consideration to the possibility of a further five-year programme upon the conclusion of the current programme, after consultation in the Commission.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

PIERRE DUPONT
Ambassador of Switzerland

His Excellency Mr. Maurice Schumann
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Paris

II

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Paris, 21 October 1971

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Sir,

You have addressed to me a letter dated 7 October, reading as follows:

[See letter I]

I have the honour to inform you that the proposals contained in your letter are acceptable to the French Government and shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments.

Accept, Sir, etc.

MAURICE SCHUMANN

His Excellency Mr. Pierre Dupont
Ambassador of Switzerland
Paris
