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ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
(CAHDI)**

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**CONSIDERATION OF CONVENTIONS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CAHDI:
THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON STATE IMMUNITY (ETS 74)**

Secretariat memorandum
Prepared by the Directorate of Legal Affairs

Foreword

1. At its 15th meeting (Strasbourg, 3-4 March 1998) the CAHDI, following discussion on the proposals submitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation, decided to include in its agenda discussions on the legal instruments under its responsibility.
2. The CAHDI further decided that the first legal instrument to be examined would be the European Convention on State Immunity (European Treaty Series, No. 74).
3. The following document contains a presentation on the European Convention on State Immunity. It deals with the context in which the convention was prepared, the preparatory works, its object and purpose, an assessment of its usefulness. These elements are intended to provide a framework for discussion within the CAHDI about this instrument.
4. The text of the convention appears in Appendix 1, its additional protocol in Appendix 2 and the resolution of the Committee of Ministers on the Convention in Appendix 3. The current state of signatures and ratifications of the Convention and its Protocol appear respectively in Appendix 4 and 5, and the reservations and declarations thereto respectively in Appendix 6 and 7.

THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON STATE IMMUNITY

A. Attempted solutions pre-dating the European Convention on State Immunity

The European Convention on State Immunity, of 16 May 1972, was an important step in the achievement of the Council of Europe's aims. It is part of a substantial body of conventions and agreements on different aspects of the protection of private individuals under international law.

In the field of State immunity, various solutions had already been tried. The first such attempt dates back to 1891 (when the plenary assembly of the Institute of International Law passed a resolution on a draft set of international rules on the jurisdiction of courts in proceedings against sovereign States or heads of foreign States).

In practice, however, the only successful attempt at international unification in the field of State immunity was the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules relating to the Immunity of State-owned Vessels, signed in Brussels on 10 April 1926. A protocol to this convention was signed on 24 May 1934.

The League of Nations and, later on, the International Law Commission of the United Nations also addressed the problems of State immunity but achieved no practical results.

B. The European Convention on State Immunity

1. Preparation of the European Convention on State Immunity

The European Convention on State Immunity was signed during the 7th Conference of European Ministers of Justice, held in Basle from 15-18 May 1972.

It was signed at that time by the representatives of seven countries: Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

On the same day, 16 May 1972, the Ministers of Justice of those countries, with the exception of the United Kingdom, signed also the additional protocol to the convention.

Preparation for the convention dates back to 1963. At this time, the Committee of Ministers, in Resolution (63) 19, of 13 December 1963, agreed to include the question of State immunity in the Council of Europe's programme of activities.

At the 3rd Conference of European Ministers of Justice, in Dublin in May 1964, the Austrian delegation presented a detailed report on problems in relation to the basic concept of State immunity. At that conference, the European Justice Ministers recommended that the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) or a committee of experts should be instructed to examine the problems posed by State immunity.

The Committee of Ministers acted on the recommendation. Accordingly, after five years of work (1965-70), a committee of experts produced a draft European Convention on State Immunity, with an Additional Protocol.

2. The need for European rules

The Committee of Ministers had based its decision to include State immunity in the Council of Europe's programme of activities on a number of considerations.

Firstly, it was becoming necessary to take account of the growing tendency for private individuals to enter into legal relationships with States as a consequence of the States' increased involvement in private-sector-type activities.

Action was necessary inasmuch as no general international rules existed for settling disputes that might arise from these relationships.

Such disputes were settled according to the domestic laws of the different States, which provided for various solutions, some relying on the concept of absolute immunity, others on relative immunity.

It was therefore necessary, in the interests of private individuals, to introduce European rules, even if doing so would be a delicate task, given the range of existing legal systems.

3. Aim and purpose of the Convention

The European Convention on State Immunity, signed in Basle on 16 May 1972, marked the first attempt, at international regional level, to solve the problem of State immunity by concluding a general, multilateral convention, of a general character.

Its basic aim is to secure respect for and the protection of individuals' rights that might be infringed through the effects of immunity from jurisdiction and immunity from execution.

The Convention on State Immunity not only codified existing international law but also took the law on immunities one step forward.

Having listed – on the basis of the solutions accepted in most countries - the types of cases in which a foreign State may be brought before the courts of the State that has jurisdiction, the convention significantly restricts the scope of immunity, seeking to curb the encroachment of the rule of absolute immunity from execution.

This Convention thus lays down an exhaustive list of the cases in which a foreign State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a national court.

Concerned to ensure a maximum level of protection for individuals in private relationships with foreign States, the European Convention on State Immunity represents a compromise. The solutions it has adopted are flexible and strike a balance between the various imperatives that had to be taken into account.

That balance is evident in the Contracting Parties' commitments with regard to immunity from jurisdiction and immunity from execution. The convention had to take account of the fact that the systems in the Council of Europe's member States fell into two categories, which initially seemed difficult to reconcile. Some States remained wedded to the principle of absolute immunity, while others applied the doctrine of relative immunity.

The compromise that they reached, and the flexibility of the system instituted, led the authors of the convention to believe there was no need to permit any reservations in respect of its provisions (Article 39: "No reservation is permitted to the present conventions").

C. Additional Protocol to the European Convention on State Immunity

An Additional Protocol to the European Convention on State Immunity establishes a European Tribunal in matters of State Immunity.

The tribunal has the function of determining, by means of a final and binding judgment:

a) on application by one of the States concerned or by special agreement, disputes between States over the interpretation and application of the convention; and

b) on application by a private litigant, disputes as to whether a State is bound, under the convention, to give effect to a judgment delivered against it in the litigant's favour.

States Parties to the Protocol may declare that they do not accept the tribunal's jurisdiction over disputes of the second kind.

The European Tribunal in matters of State Immunity was officially established on 28 May 1985. Its functions are carried out by the European Court of Human Rights in the framework of its plenary meetings.

D. The effectiveness of the Convention and Additional Protocol:

The European Convention on State Immunity came into force on 11 June 1976. So far it has been ratified by eight States: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Portugal signed the convention in 1979.

The Additional Protocol came into force on 22 May 1985. To date it has been ratified by six States: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The Federal Republic of Germany signed the Additional Protocol in 1972 and Portugal did in 1979.

The most recent declarations to the European Convention on State Immunity are dated 27 November 1987 and 19 June 1997. Both were submitted by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom. They concern, respectively, the territorial application of the convention to the islands of Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man, and the United Kingdom's ceasing to be responsible for the international rights and obligations resulting from the application of the convention to Hong Kong, following the hand-over of that territory to China.

Clearly, the Convention on State Immunity and the Protocol thereto have not been ratified by a sufficient number of States to conclude that it is widely applied in Council of Europe member States.

Moreover it should be noted that the last Council of Europe member State to ratify it – on 15 May 1990 - was the Federal Republic of Germany. Since then no other member State has signed it despite the very significant enlargement of the organisation.

The European Tribunal in matters of State Immunity for its part has not yet been called upon to settle any disputes under the European Convention on State Immunity and the Additional Protocol thereto. The Tribunal may therefore be said to exist only potentially. It meets annually, in administrative session, to note and minute the absence of recent ratifications or signings of the European convention and the protocol thereto. The tribunal also notes, at these meetings, that no cases have been brought before it.

ANNEXE 1

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON STATE IMMUNITY

European Treaty Series No. 74

Basle, 16.V.1972

Preamble

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;

Taking into account the fact that there is in international law a tendency to restrict the cases in which a State may claim immunity before foreign courts;

Desiring to establish in their mutual relations common rules relating to the scope of the immunity of one State from the jurisdiction of the courts of another State, and designed to ensure compliance with judgments given against another State;

Considering that the adoption of such rules will tend to advance the work of harmonisation undertaken by the member States of the Council of Europe in the legal field,

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I – Immunity from jurisdiction**Article 1**

- 1 A Contracting State which institutes or intervenes in proceedings before a court of another Contracting State submits, for the purpose of those proceedings, to the jurisdiction of the courts of that State.
- 2 Such a Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts of the other Contracting State in respect of any counterclaim:
 - a arising out of the legal relationship or the facts on which the principal claim is based;
 - b if, according to the provisions of this Convention, it would not have been entitled to invoke immunity in respect of that counterclaim had separate proceedings been brought against it in those courts.
- 3 A Contracting State which makes a counterclaim in proceedings before a court of another Contracting State submits to the jurisdiction of the courts of that State with respect not only to the counterclaim but also to the principal claim.

Article 2

A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if it has undertaken to submit to the jurisdiction of that court either:

- a by international agreement;
- b by an express term contained in a contract in writing; or
- c by an express consent given after a dispute between the parties has arisen.

Article 3

- 1 A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if, before claiming immunity, it takes any step in the proceedings relating to the merits. However, if the State satisfies the Court that it could not have acquired knowledge of facts on which a claim to immunity can be based until after it has taken such a step, it can claim immunity based on these facts if it does so at the earliest possible moment.
- 2 A Contracting State is not deemed to have waived immunity if it appears before a court of another Contracting State in order to assert immunity.

Article 4

- 1 Subject to the provisions of Article 5, a Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts of another Contracting State if the proceedings relate to an obligation of the State, which, by virtue of a contract, falls to be discharged in the territory of the State of the forum.
- 2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply:
 - a in the case of a contract concluded between States;
 - b if the parties to the contract have otherwise agreed in writing;
 - c if the State is party to a contract concluded on its territory and the obligation of the State is governed by its administrative law.

Article 5

- 1 A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if the proceedings relate to a contract of employment between the State and an individual where the work has to be performed on the territory of the State of the forum.
- 2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply where:
 - a the individual is a national of the employing State at the time when the proceedings are brought;
 - b at the time when the contract was entered into the individual was neither a national of the State of the forum nor habitually resident in that State; or
 - c the parties to the contract have otherwise agreed in writing, unless, in accordance with the law of the State of the forum, the courts of that State have exclusive jurisdiction by reason of the subject-matter.
- 3 Where the work is done for an office, agency or other establishment referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 2.a and b of the present article apply only if, at the time the contract was entered into, the individual had his habitual residence in the Contracting State which employs him.

Article 6

- 1 A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if it participates with one or more private persons in a company, association

or other legal entity having its seat, registered office or principal place of business on the territory of the State of the forum, and the proceedings concern the relationship, in matters arising out of that participation, between the State on the one hand and the entity or any other participant on the other hand.
- 2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply if it is otherwise agreed in writing.

Article 7

- 1 A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if it has on the territory of the State of the forum an office, agency or other establishment through which it engages, in the same manner as a private person, in an industrial, commercial or financial activity, and the proceedings relate to that activity of the office, agency or establishment.
- 2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply if all the parties to the dispute are States, or if the parties have otherwise agreed in writing.

Article 8

A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if the proceedings relate:

- a to a patent, industrial design, trade-mark, service mark or other similar right which, in the State of the forum, has been applied for, registered or deposited or is otherwise protected, and in respect of which the State is the applicant or owner;
- b to an alleged infringement by it, in the territory of the State of the forum, of such a right belonging to a third person and protected in that State;
- c to an alleged infringement by it, in the territory of the State of the forum, of copyright belonging to a third person and protected in that State;
- d to the right to use a trade name in the State of the forum.

Article 9

A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if the proceedings relate to:

- a its rights or interests in, or its use or possession of, immovable property; or
- b its obligations arising out of its rights or interests in, or use or possession of, immovable property

and the property is situated in the territory of the State of the forum.

Article 10

A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State if the proceedings relate to a right in movable or immovable property arising by way of succession, gift or *bona vacantia*.

Article 11

A Contracting State cannot claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State in proceedings which relate to redress for injury to the person or damage to tangible property, if the facts which occasioned the injury or damage occurred in the territory of the State of the forum, and if the author of the injury or damage was present in that territory at the time when those facts occurred.

Article 12

- 1 Where a Contracting State has agreed in writing to submit to arbitration a dispute which has arisen or may arise out of a civil or commercial matter, that State may not claim immunity from the jurisdiction of a court of another Contracting State on the territory or according to the law of which the arbitration has taken or will take place in respect of any proceedings relating to:

- a the validity or interpretation of the arbitration agreement;
- b the arbitration procedure;
- c the setting aside of the award,

unless the arbitration agreement otherwise provides.

- 2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply to an arbitration agreement between States.

Article 13

Paragraph 1 of Article 1 shall not apply where a Contracting State asserts, in proceedings pending before a court of another Contracting State to which it is not a party, that it has a right or interest in property which is the subject-matter of the proceedings, and the circumstances are such that it would have been entitled to immunity if the proceedings had been brought against it.

Article 14

Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as preventing a court of a Contracting State from administering or supervising or arranging for the administration of property, such as trust property or the estate of a bankrupt, solely on account of the fact that another Contracting State has a right or interest in the property.

Article 15

A Contracting State shall be entitled to immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts of another Contracting State if the proceedings do not fall within Articles 1 to 14; the court shall decline to entertain such proceedings even if the State does not appear.

Chapter II – Procedural rules**Article 16**

- 1 In proceedings against a Contracting State in a court of another Contracting State, the following rules shall apply.
- 2 The competent authorities of the State of the forum shall transmit
 - the original or a copy of the document by which the proceedings are instituted;
 - a copy of any judgment given by default against a State which was defendant in the proceedings,
 through the diplomatic channel to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the defendant State, for onward transmission, where appropriate, to the competent authority. These documents shall be accompanied, if necessary, by a translation into the official language, or one of the official languages, of the defendant State.
- 3 Service of the documents referred to in paragraph 2 is deemed to have been effected by their receipt by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 4 The time-limits within which the State must enter an appearance or appeal against any judgment given by default shall begin to run two months after the date on which the document by which the proceedings were instituted or the copy of the judgment is received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 5 If it rests with the court to prescribe the time-limits for entering an appearance or for appealing against a judgment given by default, the court shall allow the State not less than two months after the date on which the document by which the proceedings are instituted or the copy of the judgment is received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 6 A Contracting State which appears in the proceedings is deemed to have waived any objection to the method of service.
- 7 If the Contracting State has not appeared, judgment by default may be given against it only if it is established that the document by which the proceedings were instituted has been transmitted in conformity with paragraph 2, and that the time-limits for entering an appearance provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 have been observed.

Article 17

No security, bond or deposit, however described, which could not have been required in the State of the forum of a national of that State or a person domiciled or resident there, shall be required of a Contracting State to guarantee the payment of judicial costs or expenses. A State which is a claimant in the courts of another Contracting State shall pay any judicial costs or expenses for which it may become liable.

Article 18

A Contracting State party to proceedings before a court of another Contracting State may not be subjected to any measure of coercion, or any penalty, by reason of its failure or refusal to disclose any documents or other evidence. However the court may draw any conclusion it thinks fit from such failure or refusal.

Article 19

- 1 A court before which proceedings to which a Contracting State is a party are instituted shall, at the request of one of the parties or, if its national law so permits, of its own motion, decline to proceed with the case or shall stay the proceedings if other proceedings between the same parties, based on the same facts and having the same purpose:
 - a are pending before a court of that Contracting State, and were the first to be instituted; or
 - b are pending before a court of any other Contracting State, were the first to be instituted and may result in a judgment to which the State party to the proceedings must give effect by virtue of Article 20 or Article 25.
- 2 Any Contracting State whose law gives the courts a discretion to decline to proceed with a case or to stay the the proceedings in cases where proceedings between the same parties, based on the same facts and having the same purpose, are pending before a court of another Contracting State, may, by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, declare that its courts shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1.

Chapter III – Effect of Judgment**Article 20**

- 1 A Contracting State shall give effect to a judgment given against it by a court of another Contracting State:
 - a if, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 1 to 13, the State could not claim immunity from jurisdiction; and
 - b if the judgment cannot or can no longer be set aside if obtained by default, or if it is not or is no longer subject to appeal or any other form of ordinary review or to annulment.
- 2 Nevertheless, a Contracting State is not obliged to give effect to such a judgment in any case:
 - a where it would be manifestly contrary to public policy in that State to do so, or where, in the circumstances, either party had no adequate opportunity fairly to present his case;
 - b where proceedings between the same parties, based on the same facts and having the same purpose:
 - i are pending before a court of that State and were the first to be instituted;
 - ii are pending before a court of another Contracting State, were the first to be instituted and may result in a judgment to which the State party to the proceedings must give effect under the terms of this Convention;

- c where the result of the judgment is inconsistent with the result of another judgment given between the same parties:
 - i by a court of the Contracting State, if the proceedings before that court were the first to be instituted or if the other judgment has been given before the judgment satisfied the conditions specified in paragraph 1.b; or
 - ii by a court of another Contracting State where the other judgment is the first to satisfy the requirements laid down in the present Convention;
 - d where the provisions of Article 16 have not been observed and the State has not entered an appearance or has not appealed against a judgment by default.
- 3 In addition, in the cases provided for in Article 10, a Contracting State is not obliged to give effect to the judgment:
- a if the courts of the State of the forum would not have been entitled to assume jurisdiction had they applied, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of jurisdiction (other than those mentioned in the annex to the present Convention) which operate in the State against which judgment is given; or
 - b if the court, by applying a law other than that which would have been applied in accordance with the rules of private international law of that State, has reached a result different from that which would have been reached by applying the law determined by those rules.

However, a Contracting State may not rely upon the grounds of refusal specified in sub-paragraphs a and b above if it is bound by an agreement with the State of the forum on the recognition and enforcement of judgments and the judgment fulfils the requirement of that agreement as regards jurisdiction and, where appropriate, the law applied.

Article 21

- 1 Where a judgment has been given against a Contracting State and that State does not give effect thereto, the party which seeks to invoke the judgment shall be entitled to have determined by the competent court of that State the question whether effect should be given to the judgment in accordance with Article 20. Proceedings may also be brought before this court by the State against which judgment has been given, if its law so permits.
- 2 Save in so far as may be necessary for the application of Article 20, the competent court of the State in question may not review the merits of the judgment.
- 3 Where proceedings are instituted before a court of a State in accordance with paragraph 1:
 - a the parties shall be given an opportunity to be heard in the proceedings;
 - b documents produced by the party seeking to invoke the judgment shall not be subject to legalisation or any other like formality;
 - c no security, bond or deposit, however described, shall be required of the party invoking the judgment by reason of his nationality, domicile or residence;
 - d the party invoking the judgment shall be entitled to legal aid under conditions no less favourable than those applicable to nationals of the State who are domiciled and resident therein.
- 4 Each Contracting State shall, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, designate the court or courts referred to in paragraph 1, and inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe thereof.

Article 22

- 1 A Contracting State shall give effect to a settlement to which it is a party and which has been made before a court of another Contracting State in the course of the proceedings; the provisions of Article 20 do not apply to such a settlement.
- 2 If the State does not give effect to the settlement, the procedure provided for in Article 21 may be used.

Article 23

No measures of execution or preventive measures against the property of a Contracting State may be taken in the territory of another Contracting State except where and to the extent that the State has expressly consented thereto in writing in any particular case.

Chapter IV – Optional provisions**Article 24**

- 1 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 15, any State may, when signing this Convention or depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, or at any later date, by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, declare that, in cases not falling within Articles 1 to 13, its courts shall be entitled to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to the extent that its courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against States not party to the present Convention. Such a declaration shall be without prejudice to the immunity from jurisdiction which foreign States enjoy in respect of acts performed in the exercise of sovereign authority (*acta jure imperii*).
- 2 The courts of a State which has made the declaration provided for in paragraph 1 shall not however be entitled to entertain such proceedings against another Contracting State if their jurisdiction could have been based solely on one or more of the grounds mentioned in the annex to the present Convention, unless that other Contracting State has taken a step in the proceedings relating to the merits without first challenging the jurisdiction of the court.
- 3 The provisions of Chapter II apply to proceedings instituted against a Contracting State in accordance with the present article.
- 4 The declaration made under paragraph 1 may be withdrawn by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The withdrawal shall take effect three months after the date of its receipt, but this shall not affect proceedings instituted before the date on which the withdrawal becomes effective.

Article 25

- 1 Any Contracting State which has made a declaration under Article 24 shall, in cases not falling within Articles 1 to 13, give effect to a judgment given by a court of another Contracting State which has made a like declaration:
 - a if the conditions prescribed in paragraph 1.b of Article 20 have been fulfilled; and
 - b if the court is considered to have jurisdiction in accordance with the following paragraphs.
- 2 However, the Contracting State is not obliged to give effect to such a judgment:
 - a if there is a ground for refusal as provided for in paragraph 2 of Article 20; or
 - b if the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 24 have not been observed.
- 3 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, a court of a Contracting State shall be considered to have jurisdiction for the purpose of paragraph 1.b:

- a if its jurisdiction is recognised in accordance with the provisions of an agreement to which the State of the forum and the other Contracting State are Parties;
 - b where there is no agreement between the two States concerning the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil matters, if the courts of the State of the forum would have been entitled to assume jurisdiction had they applied, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of jurisdiction (other than those mentioned in the annex to the present Convention) which operate in the State against which the judgment was given. This provision does not apply to questions arising out of contracts.
- 4 The Contracting States having made the declaration provided for in Article 24 may, by means of a supplementary agreement to this Convention, determine the circumstances in which their courts shall be considered to have jurisdiction for the purposes of paragraph 1.b of this article.
 - 5 If the Contracting State does not give effect to the judgment, the procedure provided for in Article 21 may be used.

Article 26

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 23, a judgment rendered against a Contracting State in proceedings relating to an industrial or commercial activity, in which the State is engaged in the same manner as a private person, may be enforced in the State of the forum against property of the State against which judgment has been given, used exclusively in connection with such an activity, if:

- a both the State of the forum and the State against which the judgment has been given have made declarations under Article 24;
- b the proceedings which resulted in the judgment fell within Articles 1 to 13 or were instituted in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 24; and
- c the judgment satisfies the requirements laid down in paragraph 1.b of Article 20.

Chapter V – General provisions

Article 27

- 1 For the purposes of the present Convention, the expression “Contracting State” shall not include any legal entity of a Contracting State which is distinct therefrom and is capable of suing or being sued, even if that entity has been entrusted with public functions.
- 2 Proceedings may be instituted against any entity referred to in paragraph 1 before the courts of another Contracting State in the same manner as against a private person; however, the courts may not entertain proceedings in respect of acts performed by the entity in the exercise of sovereign authority (*acta jure imperii*).
- 3 Proceedings may in any event be instituted against any such entity before those courts if, in corresponding circumstances, the courts would have had jurisdiction if the proceedings had been instituted against a Contracting State.

Article 28

- 1 Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 27, the constituent States of a Federal State do not enjoy immunity.
- 2 However, a Federal State Party to the present Convention, may, by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, declare that its constituent States may invoke the provisions of the Convention applicable to Contracting States, and have the same obligations.
- 3 Where a Federal State has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 2, service of documents on a constituent State of a Federation shall be made on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal State, in conformity with Article 16.

- 4 The Federal State alone is competent to make the declarations, notifications and communications provided for in the present Convention, and the Federal State alone may be party to proceedings pursuant to Article 34.

Article 29

The present Convention shall not apply to proceedings concerning:

- a social security;
- b damage or injury in nuclear matters;
- c customs duties, taxes or penalties.

Article 30

The present Convention shall not apply to proceedings in respect of claims relating to the operation of seagoing vessels owned or operated by a Contracting State or to the carriage of cargoes and of passengers by such vessels or to the carriage of cargoes owned by a Contracting State and carried on board merchant vessels.

Article 31

Nothing in this Convention shall affect any immunities or privileges enjoyed by a Contracting State in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by, or in relation to, its armed forces when on the territory of another Contracting State.

Article 32

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect privileges and immunities relating to the exercise of the functions of diplomatic missions and consular posts and of persons connected with them.

Article 33

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect existing or future international agreements in special fields which relate to matters dealt with in the present Convention.

Article 34

- 1 Any dispute which might arise between two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice on the application of one of the parties to the dispute or by special agreement unless the parties agree on a different method of peaceful settlement of the dispute.
- 2 However, proceedings may not be instituted before the International Court of Justice which relate to:
 - a a dispute concerning a question arising in proceedings instituted against a Contracting State before a court of another Contracting State, before the court has given a judgment which fulfils the condition provided for in paragraph 1.b of Article 20;
 - b a dispute concerning a question arising in proceedings instituted before a court of a Contracting State in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 21, before the court has rendered a final decision in such proceedings.

Article 35

- 1 The present Convention shall apply only to proceedings introduced after its entry into force.
- 2 When a State has become Party to this Convention after it has entered into force, the Convention shall apply only to proceedings introduced after it has entered into force with respect to that State.
- 3 Nothing in this Convention shall apply to proceedings arising out of, or judgments based on, acts, omissions or facts prior to the date on which the present Convention is opened for signature.

Chapter VI – Final provisions**Article 36**

- 1 The present Convention shall be open to signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It shall be subject to ratification or acceptance. Instruments of ratification or acceptance 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 or acceptance.
- 3 In respect of a signatory State ratifying or accepting subsequently, the Convention shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification or acceptance.

Article 37

- 1 After the entry into force of the present Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may, by a decision taken by a unanimous vote of the members casting a vote, invite any non-member State to accede thereto.
- 2 Such accession shall be effected by depositing with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe an instrument of accession which shall take effect three months after the date of its deposit.
- 3 However, if a State having already acceded to the Convention notifies the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of its objection to the accession of another non-member State, before the entry into force of this accession, the Convention shall not apply to the relations between these two States.

Article 38

- 1 Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, specify the territory or territories to which the present Convention shall apply.
- 2 Any State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession 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 authorised 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 according to the procedure laid down in Article 40 of this Convention.

Article 39

No reservation is permitted to the present Convention.

Article 40

- 1 Any Contracting State may, in so far as it is concerned, denounce this Convention by means of notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

- 2 Such denunciation shall take effect six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary General of such notification. This Convention shall, however, continue to apply to proceedings introduced before the date on which the denunciation takes effect, and to judgments given in such proceedings.

Article 41

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe and any State which has acceded to this Convention of:

- a any signature;
- b any deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession;
- c any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with Articles 36 and 37 thereof;
- d any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19;
- e any communication received in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 21;
- f any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 24;
- g the withdrawal of any notification made in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 24;
- h any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 28;
- i any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 3 or Article 37;
- j any declaration received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 38;
- k any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 40 and the date on which denunciation takes effect.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Basle, this 16th day of May 1972, in English and 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 and acceding States.

ANNEX

The grounds of jurisdiction referred to in paragraph 3, sub-paragraph a, of Article 20, paragraph 2 of Article 24 and paragraph 3, sub-paragraph b, of Article 25 are the following:

- a the presence in the territory of the State of the forum of property belonging to the defendant, or the seizure by the plaintiff of property situated there, unless:
 - the action is brought to assert proprietary or possessory rights in that property, or arises from another issue relating to such property; or
 - the property constitutes the security for a debt which is the subject-matter of the action;
- b the nationality of the plaintiff;
- c the domicile, habitual residence or ordinary residence of the plaintiff within the territory of the State of the forum unless the assumption of jurisdiction on such a ground is permitted by way of an exception made on account of the particular subject-matter of a class of contracts;
- d the fact that the defendant carried on business within the territory of the State of the forum, unless the action arises from that business;
- e a unilateral specification of the forum by the plaintiff, particularly in an invoice.

A legal person shall be considered to have its domicile or habitual residence where it has its seat, registered office or principal place of business.

APPENDIX 2

**ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE EUROPEAN
CONVENTION ON STATE IMMUNITY**

Basle, 16.V.1972

The member States of the Council of Europe, signatory to the present Protocol,

Having taken note of the European Convention on State Immunity – hereinafter referred to as “the Convention” – and in particular Articles 21 and 34 thereof;

Desiring to develop the work of harmonisation in the field covered by the Convention by the addition of provisions concerning a European procedure for the settlement of disputes,

Have agreed as follows:

Part I

Article 1

- 1 Where a judgment has been given against a State Party to the Convention and that State does not give effect thereto, the party which seeks to invoke the judgment shall be entitled to have determined the question whether effect should be given to the judgment in conformity with Article 20 or Article 25 of the Convention, by instituting proceedings before either:
 - a the competent court of that State in application of Article 21 of the Convention; or
 - b the European Tribunal constituted in conformity with the provisions of Part III of the present Protocol, provided that that State is a Party to the present Protocol and has not made the declaration referred to in Part IV thereof.

The choice between these two possibilities shall be final.

- 2 If the State intends to institute proceedings before its court in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 or Article 21 of the Convention, it must give notice of its intention to do so to the party in whose favour the judgment has been given; the State may thereafter institute such proceedings only if the party has not, within three months of receiving notice, instituted proceedings before the European Tribunal. Once this period has elapsed, the party in whose favour the judgment has been given may no longer institute proceedings before the European Tribunal.
- 3 Save in so far as may be necessary for the application of Articles 20 and 25 of the Convention, the European Tribunal may not review the merits of the judgment.

Part II

Article 2

- 1 Any dispute which might arise between two or more States parties to the present Protocol concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention shall be submitted, on the application of one of the parties to the dispute or by special agreement, to the European Tribunal constituted in conformity with the provisions of Part III of the present Protocol. The States parties to the present Protocol undertake not to submit such a dispute to a different mode of settlement.
- 2 If the dispute concerns a question arising in proceedings instituted before a court of one State Party to the Convention against another State Party to the Convention, or a question arising in proceedings instituted before a court of a State Party to the Convention in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, it may not be referred to the European Tribunal until the court has given a final decision in such proceedings.
- 3 Proceedings may not be instituted before the European Tribunal which relate to a dispute concerning a judgment which it has already determined or is required to determine by virtue of Part I of this Protocol.

Article 3

Nothing in the present Protocol shall be interpreted as preventing the European Tribunal from determining any dispute which might arise between two or more States parties to the Convention concerning the interpretation or application thereof and which might be submitted to it by special agreement, even if these States, or any of them, are not parties to the present Protocol.

Part III**Article 4**

- 1 There shall be established a European Tribunal in matters of State Immunity to determine cases brought before it in conformity with the provisions of Parts I and II of the present Protocol.
- 2 The European Tribunal shall consist of the members of the European Court of Human Rights and, in respect of each non-member State of the Council of Europe which has acceded to the present Protocol, a person possessing the qualifications required of members of that Court designated, with the agreement of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, by the government of that State for a period of nine years.
- 3 The President of the European Tribunal shall be the President of the European Court of Human Rights.

Article 5

- 1 Where proceedings are instituted before the European Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of Part I of the present Protocol, the European Tribunal shall consist of a Chamber composed of seven members. There shall sit as *ex officio* members of the Chamber the member of the European Tribunal who is a national of the State against which the judgment has been given and the member of the European Tribunal who is a national of the State of the forum, or, should there be no such member in one or the other case, a person designated by the government of the State concerned to sit in the capacity of a member of the Chamber. The names of the other five members shall be chosen by lot by the President of the European Tribunal in the presence of the Registrar.
- 2 Where proceedings are instituted before the European Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of Part II of the present Protocol, the Chamber shall be constituted in the manner provided for in the preceding paragraph. However, there shall sit as *ex officio* members of the Chamber the members of the European Tribunal who are nationals of the States parties to the dispute or, should there be no such member, a person designated by the government of the State concerned to sit in the capacity of a member of the Chamber.
- 3 Where a case pending before a Chamber raises a serious question affecting the interpretation of the Convention or of the present Protocol, the Chamber may, at any time, relinquish jurisdiction in favour of the European Tribunal meeting in plenary session. The relinquishment of jurisdiction shall be obligatory where the resolution of such question might have a result inconsistent with a judgment previously delivered by a Chamber or by the European Tribunal meeting in plenary session. The relinquishment of jurisdiction shall be final. Reasons need not be given for the decision to relinquish jurisdiction.

Article 6

- 1 The European Tribunal shall decide any disputes as to whether the Tribunal has jurisdiction.
- 2 The hearings of the European Tribunal shall be public unless the Tribunal in exceptional circumstances decides otherwise.
- 3 The judgments of the European Tribunal, taken by a majority of the members present, are to be delivered in public session. Reasons shall be given for the judgment of the European Tribunal. If the judgment does not represent in whole or in part the unanimous opinion of the European Tribunal, any member shall be entitled to deliver a separate opinion.

- 4 The judgments of the European Tribunal shall be final and binding upon the parties.

Article 7

- 1 The European Tribunal shall draw up its own rules and fix its own procedure.
- 2 The Registry of the European Tribunal shall be provided by the Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights.

Article 8

- 1 The operating costs of the European Tribunal shall be borne by the Council of Europe. States non-members of the Council of Europe having acceded to the present Protocol shall contribute thereto in a manner to be decided by the Committee of Ministers after agreement with these States.
- 2 The members of the European Tribunal shall receive for each day of duty a compensation to be determined by the Committee of Ministers.

Part IV

Article 9

- 1 Any State may, by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the moment of its signature of the present Protocol, or of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession thereto, declare that it will only be bound by Parts II to V of the present Protocol.
- 2 Such a notification may be withdrawn at any time.

Part V

Article 10

- 1 The present Protocol shall be open to signature by the member States of the Council of Europe which have signed the Convention. It shall be subject to ratification or acceptance. Instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- 2 The present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification or acceptance.
- 3 In respect of a signatory State ratifying or accepting subsequently, the Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification or acceptance.
- 4 A member State of the Council of Europe may not ratify or accept the present Protocol without having ratified or accepted the Convention.

Article 11

- 1 A State which has acceded to the Convention may accede to the present Protocol after the Protocol has entered into force.
- 2 Such accession shall be effected by depositing with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe an instrument of accession which shall take effect three months after the date of its deposit.

Article 12

No reservation is permitted to the present Protocol.

Article 13

- 1 Any Contracting State may, in so far as it is concerned, denounce the present Protocol by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- 2 Such denunciation shall take effect six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary General of such notification. The Protocol shall, however, continue to apply to proceedings introduced in conformity with the provisions of the protocol before the date on which such denunciation takes effect.
- 3 Denunciation of the Convention shall automatically entail denunciation of the present Protocol.

Article 14

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council and any State which has acceded to the Convention of:

- a any signature of the present Protocol;
- b any deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession;
- c any date of entry into force of the present Protocol in accordance with Articles 10 and 11 thereof;
- d any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of Part IV and any withdrawal of any such notification;
- e any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 13 and the date on which such denunciation takes effect.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed the present Protocol.

Done at Basle, this 16th day of May 1972, in English and 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 and acceding States.

APPENDIX 3

**RESOLUTION (72) 2 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
concerning the European Convention on State Immunity adopted at the 206th meeting of the Ministers'
Deputies on 18 January 1972**

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe,

Having taken note of the text of the European Convention on State Immunity;

Considering that one of the aims of this Convention is to ensure compliance with judgments given against a State,

Recommends the governments of those member States which shall become parties to this Convention to establish, for the purpose of Article 21 of the Convention, a procedure which shall be as expeditious and simple as possible.

APPENDIX 4

**Chart of signatures and ratifications of the European Convention on State Immunity
(24/08/98)**

APPENDIX 5

**Chart of signatures and ratifications of the Protocol to the
European Convention on State Immunity (24/08/98)**

APPENDIX 6

Reservations and declarations concerning the European Convention on State Immunity

AUSTRIA

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification, deposited on 10 July 1974 - Or. Germ.

The Republic of Austria declares according to Article 28 para. 2 of the European Convention on State Immunity that its constituent States Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna may invoke the provisions of the European Convention on State Immunity applicable to Contracting States and have the same obligations.

Declaration signed by the Federal President on 17 December 1976, transmitted by a letter from the Permanent Representative of Austria, dated 10 January 1976, registered at the Secretariat General on 11 January 1976 - Or. Germ

In compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 21 of the European Convention on State Immunity, the Republic of Austria declares that it designates the Vienna Regional Civil Court (Landesgericht für Zivilrechtssachen Wien) as solely competent to determine whether the Republic of Austria shall give effect, in accordance with Article 20 of the above-mentioned Convention, to any judgment given by a court of another Contracting States.

BELGIUM

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification, on 27 October 1975 - Or. Fr.

In accordance with Article 21, the Belgian Government designates the "Tribunal de première instance" for determining the question whether the Belgian State should give effect to a foreign judgment.

With reference to Article 24, the Belgian Government declares that, in cases not falling within Articles 1 to 13, its courts shall be entitled to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to the extent that its courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against States not Party to the present Convention. Such a declaration shall be without prejudice to the immunity from jurisdiction which foreign States enjoy in respect of acts performed in the exercise of sovereign authority (acta jure imperii).

GERMANY

Declarations contained in two letters from the Permanent Representative, dated 15 May 1990, handed to the Secretary General at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 15 May 1990 - Or. Germ.

I have the honour to declare on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Convention shall also apply to Land Berlin with effect from the date on which it enters into force for the Federal Republic of Germany.

I have the honour to make the following declarations on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany :

Paragraph 4 of Article 21 :

The question whether effect should be given by the Federal Republic of Germany or a Land to a judgment rendered by a court of another Contracting State in accordance with Article 20 or Article 25 or to a settlement in accordance with Article 22 of the Convention is determined by the competent Regional Court (Landgericht) in whose administrative district the Federal Government has its seat.

Article 24 :

The Federal Republic of Germany declares in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 24 of the Convention that, in cases not falling within Articles 1 to 13, its courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to the extent that its courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against States not Party to the Convention. Such a declaration is without prejudice to the immunity from jurisdiction which foreign States enjoy in respect of acts performed in the exercise of sovereign authority (acta jure imperii).

Paragraph 2 of Article 28 :

The Federal Republic of Germany declares in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 28 of the Convention that the Länder of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North-Rhine/Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Schleswig-Holstein may invoke the provisions of the Convention applicable to Contracting States and have the same obligations.

Declaration contained in a letter from the Permanent Representative, dated 3 June 1992, registered at the Secretariat General on 5 June 1992 - Or. Eng.

The Federal Republic of Germany hereby amends its declaration relating to Article 28 para. 2 of the Convention to the effect that all constituent states (Laender) of the Federal Republic of Germany, namely Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North-Rhine/Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatina, Saarland, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia shall be able to invoke the provisions of the Convention applying to the Contracting States and shall have the same duties as the latter.

LUXEMBOURG

Declarations made at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 11 December 1986 - Or. Fr.

1. The competent Court, under Article 21 of the Convention, to determine the question whether effect should be given to a judgment delivered in pursuance of Article 20, is the Court of Appeal of Luxembourg, judging in accordance with the procedure of civil appeals, as for summary and urgent matters. Its decision is subject to appeal to the Supreme Court in compliance with the ordinary rules in civil matters.

2. In accordance with Article 24 of the Convention, the Courts of Luxembourg are entitled, in cases falling outside Articles 1 to 13 of the Convention, to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to the extent to which its Courts are entitled to entertain such proceedings against States not Party to the Convention.

NETHERLANDS

Declarations made at the time of deposit of the instrument of acceptance, on 21 February 1985 - Or. Engl.

I have the honour, with reference to Article 24, first paragraph, of the European Convention on State Immunity, to declare, on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that in cases not falling within Articles 1 to 13, its courts shall be entitled to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to the extent that its courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against States not Party to the present Convention.

The district court ("Arrondissementsrechtbank") of The Hague has been designated as the competent court referred to in Article 21, first paragraph, of the Convention.

Declaration contained in the instrument of acceptance, deposited on 21 February 1985 - Or. Engl.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the said Convention and Protocol for the Kingdom in Europe.

SWITZERLAND

Declaration contained in a letter from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland, dated 6 July 1982, handed to the Secretary General at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on the same date - Or. Fr.

I have the honour to declare on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council and in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention, that in cases not falling within Articles 1 to 13, the Swiss courts shall be entitled to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to the extent that its courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against States not Party to the present Convention.

UNITED KINGDOM

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification, deposited on 3 July 1979 - Or. Engl.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is Party to the Convention on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Belize, British Antarctic Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands and dependencies, Gilbert Islands, Hong Kong, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, St. Helena and dependencies, Turks and Caicos Islands, UK Sovereign base areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in the Island of Cyprus.

Declarations contained in a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, dated 2 July 1979, handed to the Secretary General at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 3 July 1979 - Or. Engl.

1. a. In pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 24 thereof, the United Kingdom hereby declare that, in cases not falling within Article 1 to 13, their courts and the courts of any territory in respect of which they are a Party to the Convention shall be entitled to entertain proceedings against another Contracting State to extent that these courts are entitled to entertain proceedings against States not Party to the present Convention. This declaration is without prejudice to the immunity from jurisdiction which foreign States enjoy in respect of acts performed in the exercise of sovereign authority (*acta jure imperii*).

b. In pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, the United Kingdom hereby declare that their courts, and the courts of any territory in respect of which they are a Party to the Convention, shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of that Article.

c. In pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 21, the United Kingdom hereby designate as competent courts:

in England and Wales - the High Court of Justice;

in Scotland - the Court of Session;

in Northern Ireland - the Supreme Court of Judicature;

and any other territory in respect of which they are a Party to the Convention - the Supreme Court of the territory concerned.

The question whether effect is to be given to a judgment in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 21 may however also be justiciable in other civil courts in the exercise of their normal jurisdiction.

2. I also have the honour to inform you that simultaneously an instrument of ratification of the International Convention for the Unification of certain Rules concerning the Immunity of State-owned Ships, done at Brussels on 10 April 1926, and of the Protocol supplementary thereto, done at Brussels on 24 May 1934, is being deposited with the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium. This instrument of ratification, signed by Her Majesty The Queen in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, contains the following reservations:

"We reserve the right to apply Article 1 of the Convention to any claim in respect of a ship which falls within the Admiralty jurisdiction of Our courts, or of Our courts in any territory in respect of which We are party to the Convention.

We reserve the right, with respect to Article 2 of the Convention, to apply in proceedings concerning another High Contracting Party or ship of another High Contracting Party the rules of procedure set out in Chapter II of the European Convention on State Immunity, signed at Basle on the Sixteenth day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Nine hundred and Seventy-two.

In order to give effect to the terms of any international agreement with a non-Contracting State, We reserve the right to make special provision

a. as regards the delay or arrest of a ship or cargo belonging to such a State, and

b. to prohibit seizure of or execution against such a ship or cargo."

Declarations contained in a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, dated 25 November 1987, registered at the Secretariat General on 27 November 1987 - Or. Engl.

I have the honour to refer to the European Convention on State Immunity, done at Basle on 16 May 1972, which the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified on 3 July 1979. In accordance with Article 38, paragraph 2, thereof, I hereby declare, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, that the said Convention shall extend to Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

I have the further honour to state that the notifications made to your predecessor in paragraph 1.a and b of Mr Cape's letter of 2 July 1979 in connection with the said Convention shall apply equally to Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man as territories in respect of which the United Kingdom is a Party to the said Convention.

In addition, in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 21 of the said Convention, the United Kingdom designate as competent courts:

In Guernsey :

- in the Island of Guernsey : the Royal Court of Guernsey;
- in the Island of Alderney : the Court of Alderney;
- in the Island of Sark : the Court of the Seneschal;

In Jersey :

- the Royal Court of Jersey;

In the Isle of Man :

- the High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man.

The question whether effect is to be given to a judgment in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 21 may however also be justiciable in other civil courts in the exercise of their normal jurisdiction.

I further have the honour to inform you that the United Kingdom is also acceding, separately in the name of Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man, to the International Convention for the Unification of certain Rules concerning the Immunity of State-owned Ships, done at Brussels on 10 April 1926, and of the protocol supplementary thereto, done at Brussels on 24 May 1934, subject to the same reservations as are referred to in paragraph 2 of Mr Cape's aforementioned letter.

Declaration contained in a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, dated 19 June 1997, registered at the Secretariat General on 19 June 1997 - Or. Engl.

I am instructed by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to refer to the **European Convention on State Immunity signed at Basle on 16 May 1972** which applies to Hong Kong at present.

I am also instructed to state that, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong signed on 19 December 1984, the Government of the United Kingdom will restore Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China with effect from 1 July 1997. The Government of the United Kingdom will continue to have international responsibility for Hong Kong until that date. Therefore, from that date the Government of the United Kingdom will cease to be responsible for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to Hong Kong.

I should be grateful if the contents of this Note could be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of the other Parties to the Convention.

APPENDIX 7

**Reservations and declarations concerning the Protocol to the European Convention
on State Immunity**

NETHERLANDS

Declaration contained in the instrument of acceptance, deposited on 21 February 1985 - Or. Engl.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the said Convention and Protocol for the Kingdom in Europe.