

The agreement was  
previously published as  
Miscellaneous No. 6 (1998)  
Cm 3994

ECONOMIC AND  
FINANCIAL



Treaty Series No. 107 (2000)

# Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions

Paris, 17 December 1997

[The United Kingdom instrument of ratification was  
deposited on 14 December 1998 and the Convention  
entered into force for the United Kingdom on 15 February 1999]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
September 2000*

**© Crown Copyright 2000**

The text in this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or media without requiring specific permission. This is subject to the material not being used in a derogatory manner or in a misleading context. The source of the material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the document must be included when being reproduced as part of another publication or service.

Any enquiries relating to the copyright in this document should be addressed to HMSO, The Copyright Unit, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ. Fax: 01603 723000 or e-mail: [copyright@hmso.gov.uk](mailto:copyright@hmso.gov.uk)

# CONVENTION ON COMBATING BRIBERY OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

## Preamble

The Parties,

Considering that bribery is a widespread phenomenon in international business transactions, including trade and investment, which raises serious moral and political concerns, undermines good governance and economic development, and distorts international competitive conditions;

Considering that all countries share a responsibility to combat bribery in international business transactions;

Having regard to the Revised Recommendation on Combating Bribery in International Business Transactions, adopted by the Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 23 May 1997, C(97)123/FINAL, which, *inter alia*, called for effective measures to deter, prevent and combat the bribery of foreign public officials in connection with international business transactions, in particular the prompt criminalisation of such bribery in an effective and co-ordinated manner and in conformity with the agreed common elements set out in that Recommendation and with the jurisdictional and other basic legal principles of each country;

Welcoming other recent developments which further advance international understanding and co-operation in combating bribery of public officials, including actions of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation of American States, the Council of Europe and the European Union;

Welcoming the efforts of companies, business organisations and trade unions as well as other non-governmental organisations to combat bribery;

Recognising the role of governments in the prevention of solicitation of bribes from individuals and enterprises in international business transactions;

Recognising that achieving progress in this field requires not only efforts on a national level but also multilateral co-operation, monitoring and follow-up;

Recognising that achieving equivalence among the measures to be taken by the Parties is an essential object and purpose of the Convention, which requires that the Convention be ratified without derogations affecting this equivalence;

Have agreed as follows:

## ARTICLE 1

### **The Offence of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials**

1. Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish that it is a criminal offence under its law for any person intentionally to offer, promise or give any undue pecuniary or other advantage, whether directly or through intermediaries, to a foreign public official, for that official or for a third party, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in relation to the performance of official duties, in order to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage in the conduct of international business.
2. Each Party shall take any measures necessary to establish that complicity in, including incitement, aiding and abetting, or authorisation of an act of bribery of a foreign public official shall be a criminal offence. Attempt and conspiracy to bribe a foreign public official shall be criminal offences to the same extent as attempt and conspiracy to bribe a public official of that Party.

3. The offences set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are hereinafter referred to as “bribery of a foreign public official”.

4. For the purpose of this Convention:

- (a) “foreign public official” means any person holding a legislative, administrative or judicial office of a foreign country, whether appointed or elected; any person exercising a public function for a foreign country, including for a public agency or public enterprise; and any official or agent of a public international organisation;
- (b) “foreign country” includes all levels and subdivisions of government, from national to local;
- (c) “act or refrain from acting in relation to the performance of official duties” includes any use of the public official’s position, whether or not within the official’s authorised competence.

## ARTICLE 2

### **Responsibility of Legal Persons**

Each Party shall take measures as may be necessary, in accordance with its legal principles, to establish the liability of legal persons for the bribery of a foreign public official.

## ARTICLE 3

### **Sanctions**

1. The bribery of a foreign public official shall be punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties. The range of penalties shall be comparable to that applicable to the bribery of the Party’s own public officials and shall, in the case of natural persons, include deprivation of liberty sufficient to enable effective mutual legal assistance and extradition.

2. In the event that, under the legal system of a Party, criminal responsibility is not applicable to legal persons, that Party shall ensure that legal persons shall be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive non-criminal sanctions, including monetary sanctions, for bribery of foreign public officials.

3. Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to provide that the bribe and the proceeds of the bribery of a foreign public official, or property the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds, are subject to seizure and confiscation or that monetary sanctions of comparable effect are applicable.

4. Each Party shall consider the imposition of additional civil or administrative sanctions upon a person subject to sanctions for the bribery of a foreign public official.

## ARTICLE 4

### **Jurisdiction**

1. Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the bribery of a foreign public official when the offence is committed in whole or in part in its territory.
2. Each Party which has jurisdiction to prosecute its nationals for offences committed abroad shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction to do so in respect of the bribery of a foreign public official, according to the same principles.
3. When more than one Party has jurisdiction over an alleged offence described in this Convention, the Parties involved shall, at the request of one of them, consult with a view to determining the most appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution.
4. Each Party shall review whether its current basis for jurisdiction is effective in the fight against the bribery of foreign public officials and, if it is not, shall take remedial steps.

## ARTICLE 5

### **Enforcement**

Investigation and prosecution of the bribery of a foreign public official shall be subject to the applicable rules and principles of each Party. They shall not be influenced by considerations of national economic interest, the potential effect upon relations with another State or the identity of the natural or legal persons involved.

## ARTICLE 6

### **Statute of Limitations**

Any statute of limitations applicable to the offence of bribery of a foreign public official shall allow an adequate period of time for the investigation and prosecution of this offence.

## ARTICLE 7

### **Money Laundering**

Each Party which has made bribery of its own public official a predicate offence for the purpose of the application of its money laundering legislation shall do so on the same terms for the bribery of a foreign public official, without regard to the place where the bribery occurred.

## ARTICLE 8

### **Accounting**

1. In order to combat bribery of foreign public officials effectively, each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary, within the framework of its laws and regulations regarding the maintenance of books and records, financial statement disclosures, and accounting and auditing standards, to prohibit the establishment of off-the-books accounts, the making of off-the-books or inadequately identified transactions, the recording of non-existent expenditures, the entry of liabilities with incorrect identification of their object, as well as the use of false documents, by companies subject to those laws and regulations, for the purpose of bribing foreign public officials or of hiding such bribery.
2. Each Party shall provide effective, proportionate and dissuasive civil, administrative or criminal penalties for such omissions and falsifications in respect of the books, records, accounts and financial statements of such companies.

## ARTICLE 9

### **Mutual Legal Assistance**

1. Each Party shall, to the fullest extent possible under its laws and relevant treaties and arrangements, provide prompt and effective legal assistance to another Party for the purpose of criminal investigations and proceedings brought by a Party concerning offences within the scope of this Convention and for non-criminal proceedings within the scope of this Convention brought by a Party against a legal person. The requested Party shall inform the requesting Party, without delay, of any additional information or documents needed to support the request for assistance and, where requested, of the status and outcome of the request for assistance.
2. Where a Party makes mutual legal assistance conditional upon the existence of dual criminality, dual criminality shall be deemed to exist if the offence for which the assistance is sought is within the scope of this Convention.
3. A Party shall not decline to render mutual legal assistance for criminal matters within the scope of this Convention on the ground of bank secrecy.

## ARTICLE 10

### **Extradition**

1. Bribery of a foreign public official shall be deemed to be included as an extraditable offence under the laws of the Parties and the extradition treaties between them.
2. If a Party which makes extradition conditional on the existence of an extradition treaty receives a request for extradition from another Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider this Convention to be the legal basis for extradition in respect of the offence of bribery of a foreign public official.
3. Each Party shall take any measures necessary to assure either that it can extradite its nationals or that it can prosecute its nationals for the offence of bribery of a foreign public official. A Party which declines a request to extradite a person for bribery of a foreign public official solely on the ground that the person is its national shall submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution.
4. Extradition for bribery of a foreign public official is subject to the conditions set out in the domestic law and applicable treaties and arrangements of each Party. Where a Party makes extradition conditional upon the existence of dual criminality, that condition shall be deemed to be fulfilled if the offence for which extradition is sought is within the scope of Article 1 of this Convention.

## ARTICLE 11

### **Responsible Authorities**

For the purposes of Article 4, paragraph 3, on consultation, Article 9, on mutual legal assistance and Article 10, on extradition, each Party shall notify to the Secretary-General of the OECD an authority or authorities responsible for making and receiving requests, which shall serve as channel of communication for these matters for that Party, without prejudice to other arrangements between Parties.

## ARTICLE 12

### **Monitoring and Follow-up**

The Parties shall co-operate in carrying out a programme of systematic follow-up to monitor and promote the full implementation of this Convention. Unless otherwise decided by consensus of the Parties, this shall be done in the framework of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and according to its terms of reference, or within the framework and terms of reference of any successor to its functions, and Parties shall bear the costs of the programme in accordance with the rules applicable to that body.

## ARTICLE 13

### **Signature and Accession**

1. Until its entry into force, this Convention shall be open for signature by OECD members and by non-members which have been invited to become full participants in its Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions.
2. Subsequent to its entry into force, this Convention shall be open to accession by any non-signatory which is a member of the OECD or has become a full participant in the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions or any successor to its functions. For each such non-signatory, the Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date of deposit of its instrument of accession.

## ARTICLE 14

### **Ratification and Depositary**

1. This Convention is subject to acceptance, approval or ratification by the Signatories, in accordance with their respective laws.
2. Instruments of acceptance, approval, ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the OECD, who shall serve as Depositary of this Convention.

## ARTICLE 15

### **Entry into Force**

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date upon which five of the ten countries which have the ten largest export shares set out in the annexed document, and which represent by themselves at least sixty per cent of the combined total exports of those ten countries, have deposited their instruments of acceptance, approval, or ratification. For each Signatory depositing its instrument after such entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after deposit of its instrument.
2. If, after 31 December 1998, the Convention has not entered into force under paragraph 1 above, any Signatory which has deposited its instrument of acceptance, approval or ratification may declare in writing to the Depositary its readiness to accept entry into force of this Convention under this paragraph 2. The Convention shall enter into force for such a Signatory on the sixtieth day following the date upon which such declarations have been deposited by at least two Signatories. For each Signatory depositing its declaration after such entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date of deposit.

## ARTICLE 16

### **Amendment**

Any Party may propose the amendment of this Convention. A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Depositary which shall communicate it to the other Parties at least sixty days before convening a meeting of the Parties to consider the proposed amendment. An amendment adopted by consensus of the Parties, or by such other means as the Parties may determine by consensus, shall enter into force sixty days after the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval by all of the Parties, or in such other circumstances as may be specified by the Parties at the time of adoption of the amendment.

## ARTICLE 17

### **Withdrawal**

A Party may withdraw from this Convention by submitting written notification to the Depositary. Such withdrawal shall be effective one year after the date of the receipt of the notification. After withdrawal, co-operation shall continue between the Parties and the Party which has withdrawn on all requests for assistance or extradition made before the effective date of withdrawal which remain pending.

Done in Paris this seventeenth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Seven in the French and English languages, each text being equally authentic.



## ANNEX

**DAFFE/IME/BR(97)18/FINAL**  
**STATISTICS ON OECD EXPORTS**

<i>OECD EXPORTS</i>			
	<i>1990–1996</i>	<i>1990–1996</i>	<i>1990–1996</i>
	<i>US\$ million</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
		<i>of Total OECD</i>	<i>of 10 largest</i>
United States	287118	15,9%	19,7%
Germany	254746	14,1%	17,5%
Japan	212665	11,8%	14,6%
France	138471	7,7%	9,5%
United Kingdom	121258	6,7%	8,3%
Italy	112449	6,2%	7,7%
Canada	91215	5,1%	6,3%
Korea (1)	81364	4,5%	5,6%
Netherlands	81264	4,5%	5,6%
Belgium-Luxembourg	78598	4,4%	5,4%
<b>Total 10 largest</b>	<b>1459148</b>	<b>81,0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Spain	42469	2,4%	
Switzerland	40395	2,2%	
Sweden	36710	2,0%	
Mexico (1)	34233	1,9%	
Australia	27194	1,5%	
Denmark	24145	1,3%	
Austria*	22432	1,2%	
Norway	21666	1,2%	
Ireland	19217	1,1%	
Finland	17296	1,0%	
Poland (1)**	12652	0,7%	
Portugal	10801	0,6%	
Turkey*	8027	0,4%	
Hungary**	6795	0,4%	
New Zealand	6663	0,4%	
Czech Republic***	6263	0,3%	
Greece*	4606	0,3%	
Iceland	949	0,1%	
<b>Total OECD</b>	<b>1801661</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Notes: \* 1990–1995; \*\* 1991–1996; \*\*\* 1993–1996.

Source: OECD, (1) IMF.

Concerning Belgium-Luxembourg: Trade statistics for Belgium and Luxembourg are available only on a combined basis for the two countries. For purposes of Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Convention, if either Belgium or Luxembourg deposits its instrument of acceptance, approval or ratification, or if both Belgium and Luxembourg deposit their instruments of acceptance, approval or ratification, it shall be considered that one of the countries which have the ten largest exports shares has deposited its instrument and the joint exports of both countries will be counted towards the 60 percent of combined total exports of those ten countries, which is required for entry into force under this provision.

**SIGNATURES, RATIFICATIONS, EFFECTIVE DATE**

<i>State</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, with Declaration</i>	<i>% of Countries having ratified</i>	<i>1990-1996 % of 10 largest export shares</i>	<i>Effective date</i>
United States of America <sup>1</sup>	17 Dec., 1997	08 Dec., 1998	19.7	19.7	15 Feb., 1999
Germany	17 Dec., 1997	10 Nov., 1998	17.5	17.5	15 Feb., 1999
Japan	17 Dec., 1997	13 Oct., 1998	14.6	14.6	15 Feb., 1999
France	17 Dec., 1997			9.5	
United Kingdom	17 Dec., 1997	14 Dec., 1998	8.3	8.3	15 Feb., 1999
Italy	17 Dec., 1997			7.7	
Canada <sup>2</sup>	17 Dec., 1997	17 Dec., 1998	6.3	6.3	15 Feb., 1999
Korea	17 Dec., 1997			5.6	
The Netherlands	17 Dec., 1997			5.6	
Belgium-Luxembourg <sup>3</sup>				5.4	
<b>Total 10 Largest<sup>4</sup></b>			<b>66.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
Austria	17 Dec., 1997				
Brazil	17 Dec., 1997				
Bulgaria	17 Dec., 1997				
Chile	17 Dec., 1997				
Czech Republic	17 Dec., 1997				
Denmark	17 Dec., 1997				
Finland	17 Dec., 1997	10 Dec., 1998			15 Feb., 1999
Greece	17 Dec., 1997				
Hungary	17 Dec., 1997	04 Dec., 1998			15 Feb., 1999
Iceland	17 Dec., 1997	17 Aug., 1998			15 Feb., 1999
Ireland	17 Dec., 1997				
Luxembourg	17 Dec., 1997				
Mexico	17 Dec., 1997				
New Zealand	17 Dec., 1997				
Norway	17 Dec., 1997				
Poland	17 Dec., 1997				
Portugal	17 Dec., 1997				
Slovak Republic	17 Dec., 1997				
Spain	17 Dec., 1997				
Sweden	17 Dec., 1997				
Switzerland	17 Dec., 1997				
Turkey	17 Dec., 1997				

Notes:

1. Declaration included in the instrument of ratification deposited by the United States on 8 December 1998: "EXTRADITION—The United States shall not consider this Convention as the legal basis for extradition to any country with which the United States has no bilateral extradition treaty in force. In such cases where the United States does have a bilateral extradition treaty in force, that treaty shall serve as the legal basis for extradition for offenses covered under this Convention."

2. Declaration included in the instrument of ratification deposited by Canada on 17 December 1998: "As noted during the negotiations, in accepting the language of Article 5 of this Convention as written, Canada does so on the clear understanding that the obligation contained in this article is to ensure that investigation and prosecution of the bribery of foreign public official is not influenced by improper considerations of national economic interest, the potential effect on relations with another state, or the identity of the natural or legal entities involved".

3. Belgium-Luxembourg: Trade statistics for Belgium and Luxembourg are available only on a combined basis for the two countries. For purposes of Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Convention, if either Belgium or Luxembourg deposits its instrument of acceptance, approval or ratification, or if both Belgium and Luxembourg deposit their instruments of acceptance, approval or ratification, it shall be considered that one of the countries which have the ten largest exports shares has deposited its instrument and the joint exports of both countries will be counted towards the 60 per cent of combined total exports of those ten countries, which is required for entry into force under this provision.

4. According to Article 15.1 of the Convention “This Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date upon which five of the ten countries which have the ten largest export shares set out in DAFFE/IME/BR(97)18/FINAL (annexed), and which represent by themselves at least 60 per cent of the combined total exports of those ten countries, have deposited their instruments of acceptance, approval, or ratification.”



**Published by The Stationery Office Limited**  
and available from:

**The Stationery Office**

(Mail, telephone and fax orders only)

PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN

General enquiries 0870 600 5522

Order through the Parliamentary Hotline *Lo-call* 0845 7 023474

Fax orders 0870 600 5533

Email [book.orders@theso.co.uk](mailto:book.orders@theso.co.uk)

Internet <http://www.ukstate.com>

**The Stationery Office Bookshops**

123 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PQ

020 7242 6393 Fax 020 7242 6394

68–69 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AD

0121 236 9696 Fax 0121 236 9699

33 Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ

0117 9264306 Fax 0117 9294515

9–21 Princess Street, Manchester M60 8AS

0161 834 7201 Fax 0161 833 0634

16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD

028 9023 8451 Fax 028 9023 5401

The Stationery Office Oriel Bookshop

18–19 High Street, Cardiff CF1 2BZ

029 2039 5548 Fax 029 2038 4347

71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ

0870 606 5566 Fax 0870 606 5588

**Accredited Agents**

(See Yellow Pages)

and through good booksellers

ISBN 0-10-148522-0



9 780101 485227