



Treaty Series No. 21 (2011)

Agreement

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic concerning the Carrying of Service Weapons by the Officers of the UK Border Agency on French Territory in Application of the Treaty concerning the Implementation of the Frontier Controls at the Sea Ports of Both Countries on the Channel and North Sea

Paris, 24 May 2011

[The Agreement entered into force on 24 May 2011]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
June 2011*

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE
CARRYING OF SERVICE WEAPONS BY THE OFFICERS OF THE UK
BORDER AGENCY ON FRENCH TERRITORY IN APPLICATION OF THE
TREATY CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRONTIER
CONTROLS AT THE SEA PORTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ON THE
CHANNEL AND NORTH SEA**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic,

Hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

Having regard to the Treaty between the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Implementation of Frontier Controls at the Sea Ports on the Channel and North Sea, signed by the Parties at Le Touquet on 4 February 2003¹, and in particular to Articles 1(3), 13(2), and 19;

Hereinafter referred to as “the Treaty”,

Have agreed as follows:

TITLE I

General Provisions

ARTICLE 1

The term “officer” shall refer exclusively to persons appointed or authorised by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Home Department to carry out Frontier Controls (as defined in Article 2.a. of the Treaty).

ARTICLE 2

The term “service weapon” shall refer to the telescopic baton that has been assigned to an officer by the relevant UK authority.

ARTICLE 3

The terms “Control Zone”, “Restricted Zone” and “Sea Port” have the same meanings as in the Treaty.

¹ Treaty Series No. 018 (2004) Cm 6172

A reference to a “Sea Port” means a Sea Port designated under Article 1(3) of the Treaty and a reference to a “Control Zone” or a “Restricted Zone” means a Control Zone or a Restricted Zone established or modified under that Article, except that a reference to any of these terms is a reference solely to Control Zones or Sea Ports on French territory.

ARTICLE 4

The names of the officers authorised to carry a service weapon shall be notified in advance to the competent French authorities who shall provide temporary individual authorisations on the basis of that information. These authorisations must be individually reviewed every two years.

ARTICLE 5

Only officers wearing their national uniforms, or a visible distinctive symbol, shall be authorised to carry a service weapon. Service weapons may not be worn, or displayed, outside the United Kingdom Control Zone.

ARTICLE 6

Officers may only make use of their service weapons if required for self-defence or defence of their colleagues. The French authorities shall be informed immediately of any such use.

ARTICLE 7

Within the area allocated to the British authorities in the control zones of French Sea Ports where the Treaty applies, a secure storage facility intended for the temporary deposit of service weapons shall be installed within a protected location. This facility must be approved by the French authorities.

ARTICLE 8

1. Unless it is deposited in a secure location in the facility defined in Article 7 of this Agreement, a service weapon must not be left unattended.
2. Access to the secure storage referred to in Article 7 shall be restricted to the officers referred to in Article 4 who are acting in the performance of their duties.

ARTICLE 9

The French authorities shall be told immediately about the loss, theft or unauthorised use of a service weapon by an officer. They shall be informed of the result of the report of any enquiry.

TITLE II

Transportation of service weapons between the United Kingdom and the control zones of the Channel and North Sea Ports of the French Republic

ARTICLE 10

In order to exercise their functions and subject to Articles 11 and 12, officers are authorised to transport their service weapons during journeys between the Control Zones at Calais, Dunkerque and Boulogne. A secure storage facility shall be provided in all service vehicles used for the transport of officers to the control zones at the French Sea Ports. This facility must be approved by the French authorities.

ARTICLE 11

1. Officers are authorised to transport their service weapons on board a direct ferry when travelling to and from a Sea Port, provided that they obtain the permission of the ferry operation and the service weapon is stored securely. The storage arrangements must be approved by the ferry operator.
2. On arrival at the Sea Port officers must go directly to the Control Zone.

ARTICLE 12

1. Officers are authorised to transport their service weapons when travelling to or from a Sea Port on board a shuttle train via the Channel Fixed Link or when transferring in a service vehicle between a Sea Port and the Coquelles terminal.
2. Service weapons must be stored securely in the service vehicle as soon as the officers get into the vehicle and must remain in secure storage throughout the journey between Coquelles and the Sea Port.
3. On arrival at the Sea Port officers must go directly to the Control Zone.
4. Journeys between the Coquelles Terminal and the Sea Ports should be made via the most direct practicable routes taking account of the traffic, any accident, or unforeseen circumstances. The Parties may define these routes in an exchange of

letters. Officers shall provide advance notice to the French Authorities, if requested by them to do so, on each journey which they propose to undertake.

5. All service vehicles transporting officers between the Coquelles Terminal and a Sea Port shall be unmarked. Officers shall, before their arrival on French territory, provide advance notice to the French authorities, if requested by them to do so, of the registration number of these vehicles.

TITLE III

Provisions applicable within the Control zones

ARTICLE 13

The United Kingdom authorities shall determine the number of officers with service weapons who will be on duty in each team. The teams shall be under the supervision of a senior officer at all times.

TITLE IV

Final Provisions

ARTICLE 14

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature.

ARTICLE 15

The Parties may at any time agree to make written amendments to this Agreement.

Any disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

ARTICLE 16

This Agreement is concluded for an unlimited duration, and each of the Parties may terminate it at any time by written notification addressed through diplomatic channels to the other Party. The termination shall come into effect two months after the date of this notification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Government, have signed this Agreement.

SIGNED in duplicate at Paris on the twenty-fourth day of May, 2011, in the French and English languages, both versions being equally authoritative.

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

**For the Government of the
French Republic:**

BRODIE CLARK

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