

**CONSOLIDATED THIRTEENTH PROTOCOL TO THE MANO RIVER
DECLARATION ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNION TECHNICAL
COMMISSION FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION**

WE THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE MANO RIVER UNION;

IN FURHERANCE of the aims and objectives of the Mano River Union;
CONSEQUENT on the decision as recorded in the Eight Article of the MANO RIVER DECLARATION;

RECOGNISING the need to promote a closer cooperation among the Transport and Communications Authorities of the member States;

DESIROUS of improving transport and communication services among the Member States;

DO HEREBY ESTABLISH THIS PROTOCOL TO THE DECLARATION:

FIRST: **THE UNION TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

1. There is hereby established a Union Technical Commission for Transport and Communications (hereinafter called “The Commission”) which shall be subordinate to the Union Ministerial Council;
2. The Commission shall consist of representatives from the Member States representing the Ministries and/or Agencies responsible for Transport, Communications, Postal Affairs, Finance, Traffic Enforcement Matters, Public Works, Economic Planning/Development, International Co-operation and the Secretary – General of the Mano River Union or his representative;

SECOND: **PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION**

1. The procedure of the Commission shall be as follows:

- (a) the Chairman of the Commission shall be elected rotationally from each Member State and shall hold office until the following meeting of the Commission;
 - (b) the Chairman shall be elected from the Delegation of the Member State hosting the meeting;
 - (c) the First Vice – Chairman of the Commission shall be elected from the Delegation of the Member State which is scheduled to host the next meeting of the Commission; whilst the second Vice-Chairman shall emanate from the other Member State.
2. In the absence of the Chairman from a meeting of the Commission, a Chairman ad interim shall be elected from the Member State of the incumbent Chairman.
 3. The Commission shall meet at least once a year and the Secretary-General may after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman convene a special meeting of the Commission.
 4. Each Member State shall be represented at every meeting of the Commission.
 5. The decisions of the Commission shall be arrived at by consensus. Where a Member fails to reach a consensus on any specific matter it shall be referred to the Union Ministerial Council for decision.
 6. The Commission shall regulate its own proceeding and shall establish such other rules of procedure as may be considered necessary subject to the provisions of this protocol as amended.

THIRD: FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission shall perform the following functions:

1. to ensure cooperation among the transport and communications authorities for the efficient performance of transport and communications services;
2. to ensure the dissemination of information of a professional and technical nature to the respective transport and communications Administrations;
3. to ensure that no particular person or entity is given any preference or subject to any disadvantage;
4. to submit an annual report to the Union Ministerial Council;
5. to carry out such functions as the Ministerial Council may direct for the purpose of the protocol;
6. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council the promotion and development of coordinated and integrated systems of transport and communications services among the member States;
7. to recommend to the union ministerial Council the coordination and provisions for mutual technical assistance among the transport and communications Administrations;
8. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council technical training programmes for the improvement of skills of Member of the services covered by this protocol as amended;
9. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council technical training programmes for the improvement of skills of workers and employees of the transport and communications of Member States;
10. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council transport and communications rates applicable to Union transport and communications services with a view to harmonizing them as far as practicable taking into account the national currencies of the Member States;
11. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council for approval, accounts submitted to the Communications Administration that the Commission shall designate for the purpose and which accounts shall

have been passed upon and certified as correct by the Communications Administration;

12. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council that applicable national laws and regulations are harmonized to remove any obstacles to Intra-Union Transportation and Communications;
13. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council the establishment and promulgation of rules and regulations on licensing of Intra-Union Transport and Communication;
14. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council the alteration from time to time the traffics, rates, fares and other charges relating to movement of persons and property among the Member States;
15. to recommend to the Union Ministerial Council for approval a list of prohibited articles which may not be carried in the mail and to endure that the list and any charges thereto are duly communicated to national Communications Administrations for implementation; and
16. to recommend to the union Ministerial Council the adoption of any rules and regulations necessary or expedient for purposes of this protocol.

FOURTH: SPECIAL AGREEMENTS

1. The Communications Administrations of the Member States may establish with other Communications Administration restricted unions or specific agreement provided that their provisions are not in conflict with these of this protocol; and
2. Such union and agreements as are referred to in section 1 of this Article shall prior to final agreement be communicated to other member States which shall be given an opportunity to submit an observations pertinent to the arrangements made under this protocol and which they may desire to bring to the notice of the first mentioned Member States.

FIFTH: APPLICATION OF CERTAIN INTETNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS

