

It is understood that it shall not be within the competence of the Board to question or to express any opinion upon these statistics, and that the provisions of Article 24 are not applicable to the matters dealt with in this Article, except in cases where the Board may find that illicit international transactions are taking place on an appreciable scale.

ARTICLE 24

1. The Central Board shall continuously watch the course of the international trade. If the information at its disposal leads the Board to conclude that excessive quantities of any substance covered by the present Convention are accumulating in any country, or that there is a danger of that country becoming a centre of the illicit traffic, the Board shall have the right to ask, through the Secretary-General of the League, for explanations from the country in question.

2. If no explanation is given within a reasonable time or the explanation is unsatisfactory, the Central Board shall have the right to call the attention of the Governments of all the Contracting Parties and of the Council of the League of Nations to the matter, and to recommend that no further exports of the substances covered by the present Convention or any of them shall be made to the country concerned until the Board reports that it is satisfied as to the situation in that country in regard to the said substances. The Board shall at the same time notify the Government of the country concerned of the recommendation made by it.

3. The country concerned shall be entitled to bring the matter before the Council of the League.

4. The Government of any exporting country which is not prepared to act on the recommendation of the Central Board shall also be entitled to bring the matter before the Council of the League.

If it does not do so, it shall immediately inform the Board that it is not prepared to act on the recommendation, explaining, if possible, why it is not prepared to do so.

5. The Central Board shall have the right to publish a report on the matter and communicate it to the Council, which shall thereupon forward it to the Governments of all the Contracting Parties.

6. If in any case the decision of the Central Board is not unanimous, the views of the minority shall also be stated.

7. Any country shall be invited to be represented at a meeting of the Central Board at which a question directly interesting it is considered.

ARTICLE 25

It shall be the friendly right of any of the Contracting Parties to draw the attention of the Board to any matter which appears to it to require investigation, provided that this Article shall not be construed as in any way extending the powers of the Board.

ARTICLE 26

In the case of a country which is not a party to the present Convention, the Central Board may take the same measures as are specified in Article 24, if the information at its disposal leads it to conclude that there is a danger of the country becoming a centre of the illicit traffic; in that case the Board shall take the action indicated in the said Article as regards notification to the country concerned.

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 of Article 24 shall apply in any such case.