

by the application of these Acts, the question in dispute is decided by arbitration. To that end, each of the Administrations concerned chooses another member of the Union not directly interested in the matter.

2. If one of the Administrations in disagreement does not take any action on a proposal for arbitration within a period of six months, or of nine months in the case of distant countries, the International Bureau, on a request to that effect, calls on the defaulting Administration to appoint an arbitrator, or itself appoints one officially.

3. The decision of the arbitrators is given on an absolute majority of votes.

4. In case of an equality of votes, the arbitrators choose, with the view of settling the difference, another Administration with no interest in the question in dispute. Failing an agreement in the choice, this Administration is appointed by the International Bureau from among the members of the Union not proposed by the arbitrators.

5. If the disagreement concerns one of the Agreements, the arbitrators may not be appointed from outside the Administrations which participate in that Agreement.

ARTICLE 13.

Withdrawal from the Union. Cessation of participation in the Agreements.

Each Contracting Party is free to withdraw from the Union or to cease to participate in one or more of the Agreements by notice given one year in advance through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and by that Government to the Governments of the contracting countries.

CHAPTER II.

CONGRESSES. CONFERENCES. COMMISSIONS.

ARTICLE 14.

Congresses.

1. Delegates of the countries of the Union meet in Congress not later than five years after the date of the entry into force of the Acts of the preceding Congress, with the view of revising these Acts or of completing them as necessary.

2. Each country is represented at the Congress by one or more plenipotentiary delegates furnished by their Government with the necessary powers. It may, if it so desires, be represented by the delegation of another country. But it is understood that one delegation can represent only one country other than its own.

3. In the deliberations each country has one vote only.

4. Each Congress settles the place of meeting of the next Congress. The Government of the country in which the Congress is to take place is responsible, in consultation with the International Bureau, for convening the Congress, and also for notifying to all the Governments of the countries of the Union the decisions taken by the Congress.

ARTICLE 15.

Ratifications. Entry into force and duration of the Acts of Congresses.

1. The Acts of Congresses shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be communicated to the Government of the country in which the Congress was held, and by that Government to the Governments of the contracting countries.