

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE MINISTER OF COMMONWEALTH
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE AND TOURISM

Agreement for facilitating the International Circulation
of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Character

The text of the Agreement for facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character was adopted by the General Conference of Unesco at its Third Session held in Beirut in 1948.

2. The purpose of the Agreement, as its name indicates, is to facilitate the dispatch from country to country of visual and auditory materials serving the interests of education, science and culture.

3. The types of materials to which the Agreement applies are:

1. Films, filmstrips and microfilms
2. Sound recordings
3. Glass slides, models, wall charts, maps and posters.

4. To enjoy the benefits of the Agreement, these materials must fulfil three conditions establishing their educational, scientific or cultural character:

- (a) Their main purpose must be to instruct or inform, or to promote the spread of knowledge and international understanding.
- (b) They must be representative, authentic and accurate.
- (c) Their technical quality must be adequate for use.

5. The materials covered by the Agreement are granted the following facilities for importation:

1. Exemption from all customs duties
2. Exemption from all quantitative restrictions

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3. Waiver of import licences.
4. Exemption from all internal fees or other charges except to the extent that these are imposed on like products of the importing country.

5. Treatment no less favourable than that accorded to like products of the importing country, in respect of regulations and practices affecting sale, transportation and distribution, as well as processing and exhibition.

6. The Agreement does not affect the right of contracting States to censor material in accordance with their laws or to adopt measures to prohibit or limit the importation of material for reasons of public security or order.

7. The Department of Education imports all such materials from foreign countries and mainly from the United Kingdom. Malta does not produce any such materials either for local consumption or for export.

8. These materials, imported in the name of the Government of Malta for use in State Schools are exempted from Customs dues.

9. In the case of private schools customs duties are waived by the Government if the Director of Education certifies that:

- (a) the schools concerned are recognised by the Government of Malta.
- (b) the materials are solely of an educational character and are to be used solely and entirely for educational purposes by the schools.

10. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Customs and Port informs that with the exception of Sound Recording, the materials covered by the Agreement may all be imported free of duty under the Customs Tariff

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(Import Duties Act 1954). The necessary amendment to provide for the exemption of Sound Recording is being taken up by the Comptroller of Customs.

11. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Customs and Port is in favour of Malta's accession to the Agreement and the Crown Advocate finds no legal objection to such a step being taken.

12. Hon. Ministers are accordingly requested to agree to Malta becoming a party to the Agreement for facilitating the international Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character.

6th February, 1968.

RCZ