

Spanish Municipal Legislation Concerning Matters of Public International Law, 1997

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This survey covers aspects of Spanish municipal legislation related to Public International Law. Only relevant articles will be quoted or mentioned and an unofficial translation or a reference to the *Boletín Oficial del Estado* (Official State Journal) will be given.

I. INTERNATIONAL LAW IN GENERAL

II. SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

– Resolution issued 22 January 1997 by the Technical Secretariat-General of the Foreign Office, on third State actions in regard to multilateral treaties to which Spain is a party (*BOE* 32, 6.2.97).

Note: This Resolution provides for the publication, for public knowledge, of the communiqués related to international treaties received by the Foreign Office from 1 September to 31 December 1996.

– Resolution issued 26 May 1997 by the Technical Secretariat-General of the Foreign Office on third State actions in regard to multilateral treaties to which Spain is a party (*BOE* 136, 7.6.97).

Note: This resolution provides for the publication, for public knowledge, of the communications related to international treaties received by the Foreign Office from 1 January 1997 to 30 April 1997.

– Resolution issued 7 October 1997, by the Technical Secretariat-General of the Foreign Office on third State actions in regard to multilateral treaties to which Spain is a party (*BOE* 248, 16.10.97).

Note: This resolution provides for the publication, for public knowledge, of the communiqués related to international treaties received by the Foreign Office from 1 May to 31 August 1997.

– Royal Decree 1317/1997, 1 August, on prior communication to the General

State Administration and official publication of Autonomous Communities cooperation agreements with foreign territorial entities (*BOE* 207, 29.8.97).

– Resolution issued 14 November 1997 by the Secretary of State for Territorial Administration, for the publication of the Agreement reached at the Conference for Issues Related to the European Communities and the Agreement of the National Local Government Commission, relative to the procedure to be followed in complying with Royal Decree 1317/1997 of 1 August, on prior communication to the General State Administration and the official publication of Autonomous Communities cooperation agreements with foreign territorial entities (*BOE* 297, 12.12.97).

III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL LAW

IV. SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

V. THE INDIVIDUAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

1. Nationals

– Royal Decree 2612/1996, 20 December, modifying the Regulation on Population and Territorial Demarcation of Local Entities adopted by Royal Decree 1690/1986, 11 July (*BOE* 14, 16.1.97 and 26, 30.1.97).

Note: Chapter VI of this Royal Decree regulates the census of Spanish nationals residing abroad, as well as the services that the Spanish foreign consular offices and sections should provide with respect to registration and recording of information in the National Statistics Institute and the Electoral Census.

2. European Citizenship

– Organic Law 1/1997, 30 May, modifying Organic Law 5/1985, 19 June, General Election Regime to allow for the application of Directive 94/80/EC, regarding municipal elections (*BOE* 130, 31.5.97).

Note: This Organic Law modifies Arts. 85, 176, 177 and 178 of the Organic Law, General Elections Regime which regulate active and passive voting rights in municipal elections, with a view to allowing European Union Citizens who do not have Spanish nationality both active and passive voting rights in municipal elections. This same regime will apply to all other foreign nationals through reciprocity arrangements. In accordance with current Art. 176.1, and without prejudice to that contained in Title I of the above-mentioned electoral law, the

following will have active and/or passive voting rights in Spanish municipal elections:

1. Aliens residing in Spain whose respective countries of origin grant the right to vote to Spanish citizens in these elections or grant Spanish citizens passive voting rights in their municipal elections in accordance with the terms of a treaty in both cases.

2. All individuals residing in Spain who, not having acquired Spanish nationality:

a) are citizens of the European Union and

b) meet legal voting requirements and have expressed their desire to exercise this right in Spain or who meet the same legal criteria required of Spanish nationals.

The rest of the provisions of this modifying Organic Law affect the incompatibility regime regarding candidacy and voting rights accreditation.

– Royal Decree 1710/1997, 14 November, which modifies the regime concerning entrance and permanence in Spain for European Union citizens and those proceeding from other States party to the European Economic Area Agreement (*BOE* 274, 15.11.97).

3. Aliens

– Resolution issued 31 January 1997 by the Sub-secretariat of the Presidential Ministry, containing the agreement establishing the quota of authorisations for the employment of non-community Aliens for 1997 (*BOE* 31, 5.2.97).

– Order issued 7 February 1997 by the Home Office, concerning regulation of the Alien Residence Card (*BOE* 40, 15.2.97).

Note: The Regulatory Norm of the Community Resident Regime under the General Alien Regime relative to the Right to Asylum requires the Administration to issue an identification document to Aliens legally residing in Spain.

– Resolution issued 4 April 1997 by the Sub-secretariat of the Presidential Ministry, containing general instructions on the establishment of a quota of authorisations for the employment of non-community Aliens for 1997 (*BOE* 84, 8.4.97).

– Order issued 8 May 1997, by the Presidential Ministry establishing the general rules and procedural norms for the definition of exceptions to the obligation of Aliens to procure a work permit (*BOE* 114, 13.5.97).

– Resolution issued 4 July 1997, by the President's Office of the National Statistics Institute and the Director General of Territorial Cooperation dictating

technical instructions to Municipalities regarding the updating of municipal census (*BOE* 177, 25.7.97).

Note: This includes instructions regarding the census of Aliens.

– Resolution issued 14 November 1997 by the Sub-secretariat of the Presidential Ministry, adopting the quota of authorisations for the employment of non-community Aliens established for 1997 by Resolution of 31 January 1997 (*BOE* 274, 15.11.97).

– Order issued 19 November 1997, by the Presidential Ministry establishing the resident permit regime for exceptional cases (*BOE* 280, 22.11.97).

4. Human Rights

– Royal Decree 137/1997, 31 January, establishing the Spanish Committee for the European Year against Racism 1997 (*BOE* 28, 1.2.97).

VI. ORGANS OF THE STATE

1. Central Organs of the State

– Act 2/1997, 13 March, which regulates the Conference on issues relating to the European Communities (*BOE* 64, 15.3.97).

Note: The Conference is a cooperation institution between the Central Government and the Autonomous Communities to facilitate the latter's participation in issues concerning their involvement in European Community issues.

– Resolution issued 18 March 1997, by the State Secretariat for International Cooperation and Latin America, delegating competencies to the Secretariat General of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (*BOE* 72, 25.3.97).

Note: It delegates to the Secretariat General of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency competencies held by this State Secretariat by virtue of the Order dated 17 July 1996 on the regulation of subsidies to non-governmental development organisations and non-profit organisations carrying out activities in the field of international cooperation for the execution of development projects.

– Order issued 21 March 1997 by the Foreign Office which widens Art. 15.2 of Royal Decree 2555/1977 of 27 August by virtue of which the Regulation of the Office of Language Interpretation is ratified, modifying Royal Decree 79/1996 of 26 January (*BOE* 79, 2.4.97).

– Organic Law 6/1997, 14 April on the Organisation and Functioning of the General State Administration (*BOE* 90, 15.4.97).

Note: With a view to guaranteeing the unity of Government action abroad, the General State Administration abroad and its ambassadors and permanent representatives are included for the first time in a general law in Chapter III (Arts. 36 and 37).

“Art. 36: Organisation of the General State Administration abroad.

1. The General State Administration abroad is comprised of:

a) Diplomatic Missions, both Permanent or Special.

b) Representations or Permanent Missions.

c) Delegations.

d) Consular Posts.

e) Institutions and Public entities of the General State Administration the efforts of which are developed abroad.

2. Permanent Diplomatic Missions officially representing the Kingdom of Spain before the State or States with which diplomatic relations have been established.

Special Diplomatic Missions temporarily representing the Kingdom of Spain upon consent before another State for a specific mission.

3. Representative bodies or Permanent Missions officially representing the Kingdom of Spain before an International Organisation.

4. The Delegations representing the Kingdom of Spain forming part of an international institution or during the course of a State Conference called by an International Organisation or under its auspices.

5. Consular Posts are that part of the institution responsible for Consular functions as defined by the pertinent legal provisions and by international agreements to which Spain is a party.

6. The Institutions and Public entities of the General State Administration abroad are those established with specific authorisation from the Council of Ministers subsequent to a favourable report from the Foreign Office Minister for the performance of duties assigned to them abroad; they do not have representative capacity.

7. In the performance of their duties and mindful of the objectives and interests of Spain's foreign policy, the General State Administration abroad will collaborate with all of the institutions and Spanish entities active abroad and especially with Autonomous Community offices.

Article 37. The Ambassadors and permanent representatives before International Organisations.

1. The Ambassadors and permanent representatives before International Organisations represent the Kingdom of Spain in the State or International Organisation under which they are accredited.

2. They direct the General State Administration abroad and collaborate in the development and execution of foreign State policy defined by the government under the direct authority of the Foreign Office Minister and, if the case arises, the department Secretary of State.

3. They coordinate the activities of all of the administrative units that form part of the General State Administration abroad, taking care to apply the general foreign policy criteria established by the Government in accordance with the principle State policy coherence abroad.

4. They are appointed in accordance with the applicable Foreign Service regulatory norm.

5. The permanent adjunct representative to the European Union will collaborate with the Ambassadors and permanent representatives in accordance with section 4, Art. 6 of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this article”.

– Resolution issued 9 May 1997 by the State Secretariat for International Cooperation and Latin America on the delegation of competences to the Secretariat-General of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (*BOE* 121, 21.5.97).

– Resolution issued 5 August 1997 by the Sub-secretariat of the Presidential Ministry, by virtue of which the Internal Regulation of the Conference on issues relating to the European Communities is ratified (*BOE* 189, 8.8.97).

– Order issued 3 October 1997 by the Foreign Office, establishing norms regarding Diplomatic Career uniforms. (*BOE* 240, 7.10.97).

– Act 50/1997, issued 27 November 1997, by State Headquarters on the organisation, competences and functioning of the Government. (*BOE* 285, 28.11.97).

Note: Until the ratification of this legal text, the Spanish Government, the highest administrative echelon for both foreign and domestic policy in the Kingdom of Spain, lacked the functional organisation and competences following the spirit and principles of the Constitution. Below are several articles that are relevant on an international scale:

“Article 1. The Government

1. The Government controls both domestic and foreign policy, civil and military administration and national defence. It exercises executive and legislative authority in accordance with the Constitution and the law ...

(...)

Article 2. The President of the Government

2. It is the responsibility of the President of the Government:

b) To define the Government’s political agenda and to determine the guidelines to be followed in both domestic and foreign policy and to oversee their enforcement ...

(...)

Article 5. Council of Ministers

1. The Council of Ministers, integral part of the Government, has the following responsibilities:

d) Plan and negotiate the signing of international treaties and oversee their provisional application.

e) Remit international treaties to Parliament in accordance with Arts. 94 and 96.2 of the Constitution”.

– Act 52/1997 issued 27 November 1997 by the State Headquarters that regulates the State and public institution legal assistance regime (*BOE* 285, 28.11.97).

Note: Legal assistance for the State and public institutions is the responsibility of the Treasury Council without prejudice to the competences attributed legislatively to the Technical Sub-secretaries and Secretaries General and the functions attributed to the International Legal Advisor of the Foreign Office as the advising institution in international law issues (Art. 1.1).

“Article 1.

(...)

5. The Treasury Council will represent the Kingdom of Spain before the Court of Justice of the European Communities, the First Instance Court of the European Communities, the Commission and the European Court of Human Rights and before international courts and institutions in accordance with the specific norm applicable in each case and, in the absence of such norm, in accordance with this law.

6. In representation and defence of the Spanish State within the jurisdictions of foreign States, this present law will apply as well as other provisions in force and applicable according to established regulations.

Article 9. Arbitration proceedings.

Subsequent to authorisation from the department head or corresponding public institution along with a report from the administration of the State’s legal service, the Treasury Council attorneys that form part of the State’s legal services, are qualified to assume the representation and defence of the State, its autonomous institutions, public entities dependant upon those institutions and constitutional organs in national or international arbitration proceedings”.

– Organic Law 5/1997 issued 5 December 1997, by the State Headquarters of the Judiciary Branch reforming Organic Law 6/1985, 1 July, (*BOE* 291, 5.12.97).

Note: Below are some of the modified precepts with repercussions on the international level:

Article 2 (modifies Art. 352):

Judges will also be transferred to a situation of special services:

a) When they are named to international tribunals.

Article 456 (adds a new Art. 348 bis):

Transfer from the category of Senior Supreme Court Judge to that of Senior Judge when carrying out any other public or private activity, the only exceptions being:

3. Member of High International Courts of Justice.

2. Diplomatic Relations

– Royal Decree 2615/1996, 20 December, containing the organic structure and functions of the Spanish Institute of Tourism (*BOE* 9, 10.1.97).

Note: Abolishes Royal Decree 1693/1994, 22 July, on the organisation of the State Tourist Administration. In accordance with article 5, regarding Spanish Tourist Offices abroad when they form part of a diplomatic mission or of the corresponding consular office, their directors and adjunct directors will be accredited as diplomatic personnel or as consular civil servants. They will be named by the Foreign Office Minister subsequent to Finance Ministry proposals.

– Royal Decree 546/1997, 14 April, creating an Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Commission in the Permanent Diplomatic Mission of Spain in the Netherlands and eliminating the one in Sweden (*BOE* 90, 15.4.97).

– Royal Decree 740/1997, 23 May, creating an Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Commission in the Permanent Diplomatic Mission of Spain in Costa Rica (*BOE* 133, 4.6.97).

– Royal Decree 1472/1997, 19 September, establishing the Spanish Permanent Diplomatic Mission in the Slovak Republic (*BOE* 232, 27.9.97).

– Royal Decree 1473/1997, 19 September, establishing the Spanish Permanent Diplomatic Mission in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina (*BOE* 232, 27.9.97).

3. Consular Relations

– Order issued 21 February 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Georgetown (Guyana) (*BOE* 51, 28.2.97).

– Order issued 21 February 1997 by the Foreign Office creating an Honorary Consular Post in Almaty (Kazakhstan) (*BOE* 51, 28.2.97).

– Order issued 5 March 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) (*BOE* 66, 18.3.97).

– Order issued 5 March 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Ljubljana (Slovenia) (*BOE* 66, 18.3.97).

– Order issued 5 March 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Nogoya (province of Entre Ríos) (Argentina) (*BOE* 66, 18.3.97).

- Order issued 25 April 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating a Consular Post in Moscow, with Consulate General status (*BOE* 123, 23.5.97).
- Order issued 28 April 1997, by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in San Diego (United States) (*BOE* 115, 14.5.97).
- Order issued 13 June 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in St. Petersburg (*BOE* 146, 19.6.97).
- Order issued 13 June 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Minsk (Belarus) (*BOE* 147, 20.6.97).
- Order issued 13 June 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Kalamata (Greece) (*BOE* 147, 20.6.97).
- Order issued 19 June 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in San Felipe (Venezuela) (*BOE* 153, 27.6.97).
- Order issued 23 July 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) (*BOE* 186, 5.8.97).
- Order issued 23 July 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Beira (Mozambique) (*BOE* 186, 5.8.97).
- Order issued 24 October 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Morelia (State of Michoacán, Mexico) (*BOE* 267, 7.11.97).
- Order issued 24 October 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Post in Guanajuato (Mexico) (*BOE* 267, 7.11.97).
- Resolution issued 12 September 1997 by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, granting a management trust to the Spanish Consul General in Cordoba (Argentina) to form part of the Steering Committee of the Spanish Cultural Centre in Cordoba (*BOE* 267, 7.11.97).
- Order issued 11 November 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Office in Tirana (Albania) (*BOE* 275, 17.11.97).
- Order issued 12 November 1997 by the Foreign Office, creating an Honorary Consular Office in Rotterdam (The Netherlands) (*BOE* 278, 20.11.97 and 295, 10.12.97).
- Resolution issued 15 December 1997 by the Foreign Office, eliminating the Spanish Consulates General in Antwerp and Liege (*BOE* 302, 18.12.97).

4. Relations with International Organisations

- Royal Decree 1271/1997, 24 July, creating a Permanent Mission to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (*BOE* 189, 8.8.97).

VII. TERRITORY

VIII. SEAS, WATERWAYS, SHIPS

1. Fisheries

- Order issued 28 January 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, modifying article 3 of the Order of 18 May 1994, establishing the norms for the creation of the annual census of refrigerated trawlers fishing in the regulated zone of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) (*BOE* 28, 1.2.97).
- Resolution issued 5 February 1997 by the Secretariat-General for Marine Fishing, in which the annual census of refrigerated trawlers is published in accordance with the Order of 18 May 1994, regulating the activities of the Spanish fleet fishing in the regulated zones of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) (*BOE* 42, 18.2.97).
- Resolution issued 11 February 1997 by the Secretariat-General for Marine Fishing on the annual census update of codfishing boats by virtue of the Order of 8 June 1981 (*BOE* 46, 22.2.97).
- Order issued 2 April 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which regulates the capture of pelagic species in the Cantabrian Sea and the Northwest during 1997 (*BOE* 87, 11.4.97).
- Resolution issued 20 May 1997 by the Secretariat-General for Marine Fishing, calling for a revision, dating back to 1 January 1997, of the census of deep-sea, high-sea and boulder fleets of over 100 TRB operating within the geographical limits of the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (*BOE* 133, 4.6.97).
- Resolution issued 11 June 1997 by the Secretariat-General for Marine Fishing, in which the annual census of refrigerated trawlers is published in accordance with the Order 18 May 1994, modifying the Order 7 October 1988 regulating the activities of the Spanish fleet fishing in the regulated zones of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) (*BOE* 152, 26.6.97).

- Act 23/1997, 15 July 1997 on regulation of the deep-sea and high seas fishing sector operating within the geographical limits of the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (*BOE* 169, 16.7.97).
- Resolution issued 30 June 1997 by the Secretariat-General for Marine Fishing calling for a special census of boulder ships working international fishing banks (*BOE* 169, 16.7.97).
- Royal Decree 1315/1997, 1 August, establishing a fishing protection zone in the Mediterranean Sea (*BOE* 204, 26.8.97).
- Order issued 31 July 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, establishing a marine and fishing reserve in the zone surrounding the Island of Alboran (*BOE* 204, 26.8.97).

IX. INTERNATIONAL SPACES

X. ENVIRONMENT

1. Fauna and flora

- Royal Decree 1739/1997, 20 November 1997, by the Presidential Ministry, establishing measures for the application of the Convention on the International Traffic of Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) of 3 March 1973 and EC Council Regulation 338/97 of 9 December 1996 with respect to the protection of species through trade control (*BOE* 285, 28.11.97).

XI. LEGAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

1. Cultural Cooperation

- Royal Decree 89/1997 of 24 January, adapting the organisation of the *Instituto Cervantes* to ministerial department restructuring and reorganisation (*BOE* 22, 25.1.97).

2. Radio and Telecommunications Cooperation

- Royal Decree 136/1997 of 31 January, ratifying Technical Regulations regarding Satellite Telecommunications Services (*BOE* 28, 1.2.97 and 39, 14.2.97).

- Act 12/1997 of 24 April, on the liberalisation of telecommunications (*BOE* 99, 25.4.97).

3. Road Traffic and Transport

- Order issued 7 March 1997 by the Development Ministry broadening Chapter IV of Title IV of the Regulation regarding Land Transport Regulation as concerns the granting of authorisations for the international transport of goods (*BOE* 62, 13.3.97).

4. Rail Traffic and Transport

- Order issued 31 January 1997 by the Development Ministry, adapting the National Regulation for the Rail Transport of Dangerous Substances Royal Decree 879/1989 of 2 June, to the modifications introduced in the international arena (*BOE* 37, 12.2.97).

5. Sea Traffic and Transport

- Royal Decree 1253/1997 of 24 July, on minimum requirements for ships transporting dangerous or contaminating substances originating from or sailing to national ports (*BOE* 198, 19.8.97).
- Royal Decree 1621/1997 of 24 October, ratifying the Regulation for the control and enforcement of the international norm on maritime safety, pollution prevention and living/working conditions on foreign ships using ports or port facilities located in Spanish jurisdictional waters (*BOE* 264, 4.11.97).

6. Air Traffic and Transport

- Resolution 13/1997, issued 31 January by the General Staff Headquarters of the Air Force, authorising the use of the Torrejon de Ardoz Air Base for civilian traffic (*BOE* 31, 3.2.97).
- Order issued 12 March 1997 by the Presidential Ministry, introducing technical modifications to air traffic regulations adopted by Royal Decree 73/1992 on 31 January (*BOE* 67, 19.3.97).
- Order issued on 6 June 1997 by the Presidential Ministry, modifying the Order of 18 January 1993 on prohibited and restricted flight zones, modified by Order of 2 June 1994 (*BOE* 142, 14.6.97).

7. Labour, Social Security and Emigration

Note: See also XXI. Labour Law and Social Security in the Section of Private International Law.

– Resolution issued 21 January 1997 by the State Secretariat for Social Security, publishing the agreements made between the competent authorities of Spain and Argentina on Social Security legislation applicable to workers providing services to mixed fishing enterprises formed in Argentina and instructions for their enforcement (*BOE* 25, 29.1.97).

– Royal Decree 140/1997 of 31 January, partially modifying the basic organic structure and transforming the National Social Services Institute into the Institute for Migrations and Social Services (*BOE* 32, 6.2.97 and 74, 27.3.97).

Note: The growing migrant population in Spain has made it necessary to unify all related activities under one umbrella institution.

8. Health and Relief Cooperation

– Order issued 20 February 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, regulating the authorisation and execution of phyto-sanitary inspections of packaging plants for export and re-export of vegetables and vegetable products to third countries (*BOE* 51, 28.2.97).

– Order issued 11 March 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, modifying some annexes of Royal Decree 2071/1993 of 26 November, concerning protection of national and European Community territories against the entry and dissemination of organisms toxic to vegetable or vegetable products for export or in transit to third countries (*BOE* 63, 14.3.97).

– Order issued 10 April 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, modifying some annexes of the Royal Decree 2071/1993 of 26 November concerning protection of national and European Community territories against the entry and dissemination of organisms toxic to vegetable products for export or in transit to third countries (*BOE* 88, 12.4.97).

– Order issued 30 April 1997 by the Presidential Ministry, on the adoption of cautionary measures on the import of live animals and beef products from Switzerland (*BOE* 104, 1.5.97).

9. Recognition of Qualifications

– Order issued 21 January 1997 by the Development Ministry, recognising

aircraft piloting licences issued in European Union countries to Union citizens (*BOE* 54, 4.3.97).

XII. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

– Royal Decree-Law 3/1997 of 28 February, granting several special credits for a total sum of 1,300,000,000 Pesetas to meet obligations arising from the celebration in Madrid of a meeting of Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Council (8–9 July 1997) (*BOE* 52, 1.3.97).

– Order issued 13 March 1997 by the Finance Ministry, on the issuing, minting and circulation of the II series of commemorative coins marking the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO (*BOE* 88, 12.4.97).

– Act 9/1997 of 24 April, authorising the participation of Spain in the restructured World Environment Fund and the corresponding contribution for the regeneration of resources (*BOE* 99, 25.4.97).

– Order issued 15 October 1997 by the Finance Ministry, establishing the procedure to be followed in the return of funds deposited by the International Cacao Organisation from the liquidation of stabilisation reserves provided for in the international agreements from 1980 and 1986 (*BOE* 254, 23.10.97).

– Act 48/97 of 27 November 1997 issued by the State Headquarters, authorising the participation of Spain in the eighth increase in the resources and the corresponding fund reinvestment in the Inter-American Bank of Development (*BOE* 285, 28.11.97).

– Act 49/97 of 27 November 1997 issued by the State Headquarters, authorising the participation of Spain in the seventh increase in the resources of the African Development Fund (*BOE* 285, 28.11.97).

– Act 55/1997 of 16 December 1997 issued by the State Headquarters, authorising Spain's participation in the Provisional Trust Fund of the International Development Association (*BOE* 301, 17.12.97).

– Act 56/1997 of 16 December 1997 issued by the State Headquarters, authorising Spain's participation in the eleventh increase in the resources of the International Development Fund (*BOE* 301, 17.12.97).

XIII. EUROPEAN UNION

– Royal Decree 363/1997 of 14 March creating an Inter-ministerial Commission

and other Ministerial Commissions to coordinate activities focusing on the introduction of the Euro (*BOE* 78, 1.4.97).

XIV. RESPONSIBILITY

– Royal Decree 1131/1997 of 11 July creating the Research Commission on Gold Transactions with the Third Reich during the Second World War (*BOE* 166, 12.7.97).

– Royal Decree 1872/1997 of 12 December extending the deadline established in Art. 1 of Royal Decree 1131/1997 of 11 July creating a Research Commission on Gold Transactions with the Third Reich during the Second World War (*BOE* 307, 24.12.97).

XV. PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

XVI. COERCION AND USE OF FORCE SHORT OF WAR

– Order issued 6 March 1997 by the Finance Ministry, modifying the trade rules for exchange with Iraq (*BOE* 62, 13.3.97).

Note: Resolution 986 (1995) of the United Nations Security Council provisionally authorising, for humanitarian reasons and under certain conditions, the import of oil and oil by products from Iraq with a view to creating funds needed to pay for the import of certain goods to Iraq. In order to provide for a uniform application of this Resolution throughout the European Union, the 17 December 1996 Common Position was adopted. It was drafted by the Council based on Art. J.2 of the European Union Treaty relative to exception to the Iraq embargo, Council Regulation 2465/96 EC on the interruption of economic and financial relations between the European Community and Iraq and Decision 96/740/ECSC taken by the Government representatives of the Member Countries of the European Coal and Steel Community at their Council meeting. This order attempts to unify in one national provision the trade regime between Spain and Iraq imposing the need for administration authorisation for any trade dealings with that country. It abolishes the Order issued on 31 May 1991 by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

XVII. WAR AND NEUTRALITY

– Royal Decree 663/1997 of 12 May regulating the composition and functioning of the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical Arms. (*BOE* 114, 13.5.97).