

**Constitution
of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

th

of 5 October 1921

We, John II, by the Grace of God, Prince Regnant of Liechtenstein, Duke of Troppau, Count of

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Rietberg, etc. etc. etc. make known that the Constitution of 26 September 1862 has been modified by Us with the assent of Our Diet as follows:

Chapter I

The Principality

Art. 1

1) The Principality of Liechtenstein constitutes, by the union of both its regions, Vaduz and Schellenberg, an indivisible and inalienable whole; the region of Vaduz (Upper Country) consists of the communes of Vaduz, Balzers, Planken, Schaan, Triesen and Triesenberg; the region of Schellenberg (Lower Country) consists of the communes of Eschen, Gamprin, Mauren, Ruggell and Schellenberg.

2) Vaduz is the capital and the seat of the State authorities.

Art. 2

The Principality is a constitutional, hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis (Arts. 79 and 80); the power of the State is inherent in and issues from the Prince Regnant and the People and shall be exercised by both in accordance with the provisions of the present Constitution.

Art. 3

The succession to the throne, hereditary in the Princely House of Liechtenstein, the coming-of-age of the Prince Regnant and of the Heir Apparent, as well as any guardianship which may be required, are to be determined by the [laws of the Princely House](#).

Art. 4

Changes in the boundaries of the territory of the State or of individual communes thereof, the creation of new communes and the union of existing ones may take place only by virtue of a law.

Art. 5

The coat of arms of the State is that of the Princely House of Liechtenstein; the national colours are blue and red.

Art. 6

The German language is the national and official language.

Chapter II

The Prince Regnant

Art. 7

1) The Prince Regnant is the Head of State and shall exercise his sovereign authority in conformity with the provisions of the present Constitution and of the other laws.

2) His person is sacred and inviolable.

Art. 8

1) The Prince Regnant shall represent the State in all its relations with foreign countries, without prejudice to the necessary participation of the responsible Government.

2) Treaties by which national territory is ceded, national property alienated, rights of sovereignty or State prerogatives disposed of, any new burden for the Principality or its citizens imposed or any obligation to the detriment of the rights of the People of the Principality contracted shall not be valid unless they have received the assent of the Diet.

Art. 9

Every law shall require the sanction of the Prince Regnant in order to acquire validity.

Art. 10

The Prince Regnant shall take, through the Government, and independently of the Diet, the steps required for the execution and administration of the laws, and any action required in pursuance of the powers of administration and supervision, and shall issue the requisite ordinances (Art. 92). In urgent cases he shall take the necessary measures for the security and welfare of the State.

Art. 11

The Prince Regnant shall appoint the State officials in conformity with the provisions of the present Constitution. New permanent official posts may be created only with the assent of the Diet.

Art. 12

1) The Prince Regnant shall possess the prerogative of remitting, mitigating or commuting sentences which have been legally pronounced, and of quashing prosecutions that have been initiated.

2) Only at the instigation of the Diet shall the Prince Regnant exercise his prerogative of remission or mitigation in favour of a member of the Government sentenced on account of his official acts.

Art. 13

1) Every successor to the throne shall, before receiving the oath of allegiance, declare upon his Princely honour and dignity in a written proclamation that he will govern the Principality of Liechtenstein in conformity with the Constitution and the other laws, that he will maintain its integrity, and will observe the rights of sovereignty indivisibly and in like manner.

2) Annulled.

Art. 13bis

The Prince Regnant may entrust the next Heir Apparent of his House who has attained majority with the exercise of the sovereign powers held by him as his representative should he be temporarily prevented or in preparation for the Succession.

Chapter III

Functions of the State

Art. 14

The supreme function of the State is to promote the general welfare of the People. For this purpose, the State shall provide for the institution and maintenance of law, and for the protection of the religious, moral and economic interests of the People.

Art. 15

The State shall devote particular attention to education and schooling. This must be so ordered and administered that, from the co-operation of the family, the school and the Church, the younger generation may be imbued with religious and moral principles and patriotic sentiments and may be fitted for their future occupations.

Art. 16

- 1) The whole field of education and schooling shall be under the supervision of the State, without prejudice to the inviolability of the doctrine of the Church.
- 2) Education shall be compulsory for all.
- 3) The State shall ensure that adequate compulsory instruction in the elementary subjects is given free of charge in public schools.
- 4) Religious instruction shall be given by the Church authorities.
- 5) All persons with children in their care shall ensure that they receive education of the standard prescribed for public elementary schools.
- 6) Annulled.
- 7) Annulled.
- 8) Private education shall be permissible provided that it conforms with the legal regulations governing the period of schooling, the educational aims and the arrangements prevailing in the public schools.

Art. 17

- 1) The State shall support and promote education and schooling.
- 2) It shall provide appropriate scholarships to help children of good intellectual attainments but without financial means attend institutes of higher education.

Art. 18

The State shall be responsible for the public health system, assist institutions for the care of the sick, and seek by legislation to combat intemperance and to reform alcoholics and work-shy persons.

Art. 19

- 1) The State shall safeguard the right to work and shall protect the workers, especially women and young persons employed in commerce and industry.
- 2) Sundays and public holidays recognised by the State shall be observed as public days of rest, without prejudice to the legal regulations concerning rest on Sundays and public holidays.

Art. 20

- 1) To increase employment and to advance its economic interests, the State shall promote and assist agriculture, alpine farming, trade and industry. In particular, it shall promote insurance against damage and injuries to which workers and goods are exposed, and shall take measures to prevent such injuries and damage.
- 2) It shall pay special attention to the development of the transportation system in accordance with modern requirements.
- 3) It shall support landslide control measures and afforestation and drainage operations and shall monitor and encourage every endeavour to develop new sources of income.

Art. 21

The State shall possess sovereign rights over waters in conformity with the laws existing or to be enacted hereafter in this matter. The utilisation and distribution of such waters and flood control measures shall be regulated by law and promoted, with due regard to the development of technology. Rights relating to electricity shall be regulated by law.

Art. 22

The State shall exercise sovereign rights over hunting, fishing and mining; when legislating on these matters, it shall protect the interests of agriculture and of communal revenues.

Art. 23

The currency and banking system shall be regulated by the State.

Art. 24

1) By enacting the necessary legislation, the State shall provide for an equitable system of taxation, which shall exempt from taxation incomes below a minimum standard of living and shall impose heavier burdens on persons in higher wealth or income brackets.

2) The financial situation of the State must be improved to the utmost possible extent and every effort must be made to open up new sources of revenue to meet public needs.

Art. 25

Public poor relief shall be administered by the communes in conformity with specific laws. The State shall be responsible, however, for the supervision of such activities. It may grant appropriate assistance to the communes, especially for the proper care of orphans, the mentally handicapped, persons suffering from incurable diseases and the aged.

Art. 26

The State shall support and promote health, old age, disability and fire insurance schemes.

Art. 27

1) The State shall provide for a rapid procedure for legal actions and the execution thereof, under conditions that will safeguard material rights; it shall also provide for a system of administrative law based on the same principles.

2) The exercise of the professional representation of parties shall be regulated by law.

General Rights and Obligations of Citizens of the Principality

Art. 28

1) Every citizen shall be freely entitled to reside in any locality within the territory of the State and to acquire property of any description, provided that he observes the detailed legal regulations relating such matters.

2) The domicile rights of aliens shall be determined by treaties or, in their absence, on a basis of reciprocity.

3) Persons staying within the territory of the Principality shall be bound to observe its laws and shall be entitled to the protection afforded by the Constitution and the other laws.

Art. 29

1) All citizens shall be entitled to civic rights in conformity with the provisions of the present Constitution.

2) All citizens who have completed their 20th year, have their normal residence in the Principality and

whose right to vote has not been lost may exercise all political rights in matters of State.

Art. 30

The conditions under which citizenship rights may be acquired or forfeited shall be determined by law.

Art. 31

- 1) All citizens shall be equal before the law. The public offices shall be equally open to them, subject to observance of the legal regulations.
- 2) There shall be equality of rights between the sexes.
- 3) The rights of aliens shall be determined in the first instance by treaties, or, in the absence of such, on the basis of reciprocity.

Art. 32

- 1) Personal liberty, the immunity of the home and the inviolability of letters and written matter are guaranteed.
- 2) Except in the cases specified in law and in the manner thus prescribed, no person may be arrested or detained in custody, no houses or persons may be searched and no letters or written matter may be examined or seized.
- 3) Persons arrested unlawfully or when demonstrably innocent and those proved innocent after conviction shall be entitled to full compensation from the State as determined by the courts. Whether and to what extent the State has a right of recourse against third parties in such cases shall be regulated by law.

Art. 33

- 1) Nobody may be deprived of his proper judge; special tribunals may not be instituted.
- 2) Nobody may be threatened with or subjected to penalties other than those provided by the law.
- 3) Accused persons shall have the right of defence in all penal proceedings.

Art. 34

- 1) The inviolability of private property is guaranteed; confiscation may only take place in such cases as determined by law.
- 2) Copyright shall be regulated by law.

Art. 35

- 1) Where necessary in the public interest, property of any kind may be compulsorily assigned or subjected to an encumbrance against appropriate compensation, the amount of which in cases of dispute shall be determined by the courts.
- 2) The procedure for expropriation shall be regulated by law.

Art. 36

Trade and industry shall be free within the limits prescribed by law; the extent to which exclusive commercial and industrial privileges may be admissible for specified periods of time shall be regulated by law.

Art. 37

- 1) Freedom of belief and conscience are guaranteed for all persons.
- 2) The Roman Catholic Church is the State Church and as such enjoys full protection of the State;

other confessions shall be entitled to practise their creeds and to hold religious services to the extent consistent with morality and public order.

Art. 38

The right of ownership and all other proprietary rights of ecclesiastical communities and religious associations in respect of their institutions, foundations and other possessions devoted to worship, education and charity are guaranteed. The administration of Church property in the parishes shall be regulated by a special law; the assent of the Church authorities shall be sought before the said law is promulgated.

Art. 39

The enjoyment of civil and political rights shall not be dependent on religious belief nor may the latter constitute a ground for any dereliction of civil obligations.

Art. 40

Every person shall be entitled to freely express his opinion and to communicate his ideas by word of mouth or in writing, print or pictures within the limits of the law and morality; no censorship may be exercised except in respect of public performances and exhibitions.

Art. 41

The right of free association and assembly is guaranteed within the limits prescribed by law.

Art. 42

The right to petition the Diet and the National Committee is guaranteed; not only individuals whose rights or interests are affected but also communes and corporations are entitled to have their wishes and requests brought before the Diet by a member of that body.

Art. 43

The right of complaint is guaranteed. Any citizen shall be entitled to lodge a complaint regarding any action or procedure on the part of a public authority which is contrary to the Constitution, the law or the official regulations and detrimental to his rights or interests. Such complaint shall be addressed to that authority which is immediately superior to the authority concerned and may, if necessary, be pursued to the highest authority, except when the right of recourse may be barred by a legal restriction. If a complaint thus submitted is rejected by the superior authority, the latter shall be bound to declare to the complaining party the reasons for its decision.

Art. 44

1) Every man fit to bear arms shall be liable, up to the completion of his 60th year, to Serve in the defence of his country in the event of emergency.

2) Apart from this contingency, no armed units may be organised or maintained, except so far as may be necessary for the provision of the police service and the preservation of internal order. Detailed regulations regarding this matter shall be laid down by law.

Chapter V

The Diet

Art. 45

1) The Diet is the legal organ representing all the citizens of the Principality and as such has the duty of safeguarding and vindicating the rights and interest of the People in relation to the Government in conformity with the provisions of the present Constitution and also of promoting as far as possible the

welfare of the Princely House and of the country while faithfully adhering to the principles laid down in this Constitution.

2) The rights appertaining to the Diet may only be exercised in the lawfully constituted assembly of that body.

Art. 46

1) The Diet shall consist of 25 Representatives who shall be elected by the People by universal, equal, secret and direct suffrage according to the system of proportional representation. The Upper Country (Oberland) and the Lower Country (Unterland) shall each form a constituency. Of the 25 Representatives, 15 shall be elected by the Upper Country and 10 by the Lower Country.

2) In addition to the 25 Representatives, substitutes shall be elected in each constituency. For each three Representatives in a constituency, each electoral group shall have one substitute but if an electoral group has obtained one mandate it shall have at least one substitute.

3) Mandates shall be distributed among electoral groups which have obtained at least eight percent of the valid votes cast in the country as a whole.

4) Detailed regulations regarding the conduct of the elections shall be laid down in a special law.

Art. 47

1) The Representatives shall be elected for four years, provided that the regular elections shall be held in the February or March of the year when the fourth year of their mandate ends. Representatives shall be eligible for re-election.

2) The assembly of electoral groups, with the appertaining representative, have the right to recall the representative from the Diet, upon request of the mentioned elector group's faction.

Art. 48

1) The Prince Regnant has the right (with the exception nominated in the following paragraph) to convoke, to close and, on significant reasons, of which he has to inform the assembly every time, to adjourn for three month or to suspend the Diet. An adjournment, closure or liquidation can only be pronounced by the convened Diet.

2) In pursuance of a substantiated written request submitted by not less than 1,000 citizens entitled to vote or of a resolution adopted by the communal assemblies of not less than three communes, the Diet must be convened.

3) Subject to the same conditions as in the preceding paragraph, 1,500 citizens entitled to vote or four communes which have adopted resolutions to that effect at their communal assemblies may demand a referendum with regard to the dissolution of the Diet.

Art. 49

1) The regular convocation of the Diet shall be issued at the beginning of every year in the form of a Princely edict, indicating the place, day and hour of the assembly.

2) The sessions of the Diet during the course of the year shall be decreed by its President.

3) When a period of prorogation has expired, a fresh summons convening the Diet shall be issued within one month in the form of a Princely edict.

4) Should a Representative be prevented from attending one or several consecutive sittings, a substitute from his electoral group shall sit and vote in his place.

Art. 50

Should the Diet be dissolved, new elections must take place within six weeks. The newly elected

Representatives shall then be summoned to meet within fourteen days.

Art. 51

1) In the case of an accession to the Throne, the Diet shall be convened to an extraordinary session within 30 days for the purpose of receiving the declaration of the successor to the Throne as provided for in Art. 13 and of taking the oath of allegiance.

2) If the Diet has already been dissolved, the new elections shall be expedited so that it may be convened at the latest on the fortieth day after the accession of the new sovereign.

Art. 52

1) At its first regularly convened sitting, the Diet shall proceed, under the chairmanship of its oldest member, to the election of a President and a Vice-President from among its members to direct its business for the current year.

2) Annulled.

Art. 53

The Representatives shall be bound to attend in person at the seat of the Government in compliance with the notice of convocation. If a Representative is impeded from attending, he must, on receiving the first notice of convocation, promptly notify the Government and subsequently the President, stating the reasons preventing his attendance. If the impediment is of a permanent nature, a by-election shall be held, if the Representative cannot be replaced by the substitution system.

Art. 54

1) The Diet shall be opened with due solemnity by the Prince Regnant, in person or by his proxy. All the new members shall swear the following oath to the Prince Regnant or his proxy:

«I hereby swear to observe the State Constitution and the existing laws, and to promote in the Diet the welfare of the country, without any ulterior motives, to the best of my ability and conscience. So help me God.»

2) Subsequent members of the Diet shall take this oath before the President.

Art. 55

The Diet shall be closed by the Prince Regnant, in person or by his proxy.

Art. 56

1) No Representative may be arrested while the Diet is in session without the assent of that body unless he is apprehended in flagrante delicto.

2) In the latter case, the arrest and the grounds therefore must be notified forthwith to the Diet, which shall decide whether the arrest is to be sustained. All papers relating to the case must be placed immediately at the disposal of the Diet if it so requests.

3) If a Representative is arrested at a time when the Diet is not in session, the National Committee must be notified forthwith, and informed at the same time of the grounds for the arrest.

Art. 57

1) The members of the Diet shall vote solely according to their oath and their convictions. They shall never be made to answer for their votes; for their utterances at sittings of the Diet or its committees, they shall be responsible to the Diet alone and can never be sued before a court of justice in respect thereof.

2) The exercise of disciplinary powers shall be regulated by rules of procedure to be issued hereafter.

Art. 58

- 1) For a decision of the Diet to be valid, at least two-thirds of the statutory number of Representatives must be present and it must be adopted by an absolute majority of the members present, except as may otherwise be provided in the present Constitution or in the rules of procedure. The same rules shall apply to elections which the Diet has to undertake.
- 2) In the event of an equal division of votes, the President shall have the casting vote: for an election, after the third round of voting and in all other cases after the first round.

Art. 59

- 1) Complaints relating to elections shall be referred to the State Court.
- 2) The Diet shall adjudicate on the validity of the election of its members and of the election as such on the basis of the election records and, if applicable, of the decision of the State Court (validation procedure).

Art. 60

The Diet shall adopt its rules of procedure by a resolution and with due regard to the provisions of the present Constitution.

Art. 61

Representatives shall receive from the State Treasury a daily allowance and travel expenses as prescribed by law.

Art. 62

In particular, the following matters shall fall within the sphere of activity of the Diet:

- a) participation in the work of legislation in accordance with the Constitution;
- b) participation in the conclusion of treaties (Art. 8);
- c) the establishment of the annual budget and the authorisation of taxes and other public dues;
- d) resolutions on credits, pledges and loans chargeable to the State, and the purchase and sale of State property;
- e) the resolution on the annual report furnished annually by the Government on the whole of the State administration;
- f) the submission of suggestions and complaints with regard to the State administration as a whole and its various branches;
- g) the impeachment of members of the Government before the State Court for breaches of the Constitution or of other laws.

Art. 63

- 1) The Diet shall have the right of control over the whole of the State administration; it shall exercise this right through an audit committee which it shall elect.
- 2) The Diet may at any time bring defects or abuses which it has observed in the State administration directly to the notice of the Prince Regnant by the submission of memorials or complaints and to request their redress. The results of the enquiry instituted in respect of such matters and the measures ordered in consequence shall be communicated to the Diet.
- 3) Annulled.
- 4) The representative of the Government must be given a hearing and shall be bound to answer interpellations addressed to him by members of the Diet.

Art. 63bis

The Diet has the right to appoint investigational committees. It is obliged to do so when at least one quarter of the number of Representatives fixed by law requests this.

Art. 64

- 1) The right of initiative with regard to legislation, that is to say, the right of introducing bills, shall appertain to:
 - a) the Prince Regnant, in the form of Government bills;
 - b) the Diet itself;
 - c) citizens with the right to vote, subject to the following provisions.
- 2) If not less than 1,000 citizens entitled to vote, whose signatures and qualification to vote are duly certified by the authorities of the commune in which they reside, submit a petition in writing or if at least three communes do so in the form of resolutions of the communal assembly in similar terms requesting the enactment, amendment or revocation of a law, such petition must be debated at the next session of the Diet.
- 3) If a petition from one of the organs referred to under a) to c) above concerns the enactment of a law which has not already been provided for in the present Constitution and the adoption of which would involve public expenditure, whether in a single sum not provided for in the Finance Bill or in payments extending over a longer period, such petition shall only be discussed by the Diet if it is accompanied by proposals for providing the necessary funds.
- 4) A petition submitted under the right of initiative and concerning the Constitution may only be brought by not less than 1,500 citizens entitled to vote or by at least four communes.
- 5) Further detailed regulations regarding this popular initiative shall be laid down in a law.

Art. 65

- 1) Without the participation of the Diet, no law may be issued, amended, or declared to be in force. For a law to become valid, it must in every case receive the assent of the Diet and be sanctioned by the Prince Regnant, countersigned by the responsible Head of the Government or his deputy and promulgated in the National Legal Gazette (Landesgesetzblatt).
- 2) In addition, a popular vote (referendum) shall be held under the conditions set forth in the following article.

Art. 66

- 1) Every law passed by the Diet which it does not declare to be urgent or any financial resolution which it does not declare urgent, if it involves a new non-recurrent expenditure of not less than 300,000 francs or a new annual expenditure of 150,000 francs, shall be submitted to a referendum if the Diet so decides or if not less than 1,000 citizens with the right to vote or not less than three communes submit a petition to that effect, according to the procedure prescribed in Art. 64, within 30 days of the official publication of the resolution of the Diet.
- 2) If the issue affects the Constitution as a whole or in part, the demand for a referendum must be made by not less than 1,500 citizens with the right to vote or by, not less than four communes.
- 3) The Diet is authorised to call for a referendum on the adoption of any of the principles embodied in a proposed law.
- 4) The referendum shall be held by communes; the acceptance or rejection of the resolution on the enactment of the law shall be decided by an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded in the

whole of the country.

5) Resolutions on the enactment of laws subject to a referendum shall not be submitted to the Prince Regnant for sanction until the referendum has been held or until the statutory period of thirty days within which a petition for a referendum may be submitted has expired without any such action.

6) If the Diet rejects a bill drawn up in due form and accompanied if necessary by proposals for providing the necessary funds and which has been submitted to it through the procedure of the popular initiative (Art. 64 Para. 1 lit. c), the said bill shall be submitted to a referendum. The acceptance of the bill by the citizens entitled to vote shall then have the same force as a resolution of the Diet otherwise necessary for the adoption of a law.

7) Further detailed regulations regarding the referendum shall be issued in the form of a law.

Art. 66bis

1) Any resolution of the Diet concerning assent to a treaty (Art. 8) must be submitted to a referendum if the Diet so decides or if not less than 1,500 citizens with the right to vote or not less than four communes submit a petition to that effect, according to the procedure prescribed in Art. 64, within 30 days of the official publication of the resolution of the Diet.

2) In the referendum, the acceptance or rejection of the resolution by the Diet shall be decided by an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded in the whole of the country.

3) Further detailed regulations regarding the referendum shall be issued in the form of a law.

Art. 67

1) Unless it contains any other stipulation, a law shall come into force on the expiry of eight days after the date of its publication in the National Legal Gazette.

2) The manner and extent of the publication of laws, finance resolutions, treaties, regulations, resolutions of international organisations and of the law applicable by reason of international treaties shall be regulated by law. For the law applicable in Liechtenstein by reason of international treaties, a publication may be arranged in a simplified form, in particular as a reference publication to foreign codes.

3) The legal regulations coming into force in future and applicable to Liechtenstein by reason of the Agreement of 2nd May 1992 on the European Economic Area shall be published in an EEA compendium of laws. The manner and extent of the publication in the EEA compendium of laws shall be regulated by law.

Art. 68

1) Without the approval of the Diet, no direct or indirect taxes or any other public dues or general levies, under any designation whatsoever, may be imposed or collected. The fact that this approval has been given must be expressly mentioned in the tax demand notice.

2) The system by which all public taxes and dues are to be apportioned, their incidence on persons and objects, and the manner in which they are to be collected shall also require the approval of the Diet.

3) Taxes and dues shall normally be authorised for the period of one administrative year.

Art. 69

1) With regard to the State administration, the Government shall submit to the Diet for examination and approval preliminary estimates of all expenditures and revenues for the coming administrative year, accompanied by, proposals for the taxation which is to be levied.

2) In the first half of each administrative year, the Government shall submit to the Diet an exact statement relating to the preceding administrative year, showing the manner in which revenues approved and collected were applied to the purposes set forth in the preliminary estimates, with the provision, however, that if the latter have been exceeded on justifiable grounds the Diet must give its approval, and that in the absence of justification the Government shall be answerable.

3) Government shall be entitled, subject to the same conditions as above, to incur expenditure of an urgent character not provided for in the estimates.

4) Economies effected in the case of individual items of the estimates may not be applied to cover excess expenditure for other items.

Art. 70

The Diet, acting in agreement with the Prince Regnant, shall have control over the assets of the State Treasury.

Chapter VI

The National Committee

Art. 71

The National Committee (Landesausschuss) shall be constituted to act in place of the Diet for any business which requires the participation of the latter or of its committees during the period between the adjournment, closing or dissolution of the Diet and the date of its next meeting, without prejudice, however, to the provisions of Arts. 48 to 51 concerning the time limits for the reconconvocation of the Diet and for the holding of new elections.

Art. 72

1) The National Committee shall be composed of the President of the Diet, who shall be represented if unable to attend by his deputy, and of four other members, to be elected by the Diet from its midst, equal consideration being given to the Upper Country (Oberland) and the Lower Country (Unterland).

2) Under all circumstances, the Diet must be enabled to hold this election during the same session at which its prorogation, closing or dissolution is announced.

Art. 73

The term of office of the National Committee shall expire when the Diet reconvenes.

Art. 74

The National Committee shall have the following special powers and duties.

a) to ensure that the Constitution is observed, that steps are taken for the execution of the decisions of the Diet, and, if the Diet should have been dissolved or adjourned, that it is reconvened within the prescribed time;

b) to audit the accounts of the State Treasury and to transmit the same to the Diet, together with its report and proposals;

c) to append its signature to acknowledgements in respect of debts and securities made out against the State Treasury in pursuance of a previous resolution of the Diet;

d) to carry out special tasks entrusted to it by the Diet for the preparation of future proceedings of the latter;

e) in urgent cases, to bring matters to the notice of the Prince Regnant, and to lodge representations, protests or remonstrances in the case of any menace to or violation of constitutional rights;

f) should the circumstances require it, to propose the convocation of the Diet.

Art. 75

The National Committee may not enter into any permanent obligation on behalf of the Principality and shall be responsible to the Diet for its conduct of affairs.

Art. 76

- 1) The meetings of the National Committee shall take place as required at the seat of the Government upon convocation by the President.
- 2) For its decisions to be valid, at least three members must be present.

Art. 77

During the sessions of the National Committee, its members shall receive the same daily allowance and travel expenses as the members of the Diet.

Chapter VII

The Authorities

A. The Government

Art. 78

- 1) Subject to the following provisions of this article, the whole of the national administration shall be conducted by the Collegial Government responsible to the Prince Regnant and the Diet in conformity with the provisions of the present Constitution and the other laws.
- 2) To be dealt with independently, specific functions may be transferred by law or by legally binding authorisations to certain officials, government offices or special commissions, subject to recourse to the Collegial Government.
- 3) Special commissions for dealing with complaints may be set up by law to act on behalf of the Collegial Government.
- 4) For the performance of economic, social and cultural obligations, special corporations, institutions and foundations of public law may be established by legislation and placed under the supervision of the Government.

Art. 79

- 1) The Collegial Government shall consist of the Head of the Government and four Government Councillors.
- 2) The Head of the Government and the Government Councillors shall be appointed by the Prince Regnant with the concurrence of the Diet and on the proposal of the latter. A substitute shall be appointed in like manner for the Head of the Government and for each Government Councillor to represent the member of the Government in question who may be prevented from attending the meetings of the Collegial Government.
- 3) On the proposal of the Diet, one of the Government Councillors shall be appointed by the Prince Regnant as the Deputy Head of the Government.
- 4) The members of the Government must be natives of Liechtenstein and eligible for the Diet.
- 5) When the Collegial Government is appointed, care must be taken that at least two members are chosen from each of the two regions. Their substitutes must be chosen from the same region.
- 6) The period of office of the Collegial Government shall be four years. Until a new Government is

appointed, the previous members shall be responsible for carrying on Government business.

Art. 80

If a member of the Government, through his conduct of affairs, should lose the confidence of the Diet, the latter may request the Prince Regnant to remove the member of the Government in question from his office, without prejudice to its right to bring a charge before the State Court.

Art. 81

For a decision of the Collegial Government to be valid, at least four members must be present and a majority of those members present must vote in favour. In the event of a tie, the chairman has the casting vote. Voting is compulsory.

Art. 82

The grounds on which a member of the Government may be debarred from the performance of an official act or invited to abstain therefrom shall be laid down in law.

Art. 83

Government business shall be dealt with partly on a collegial basis and partly on a departmental basis.

Art. 84

The Collegial Government shall issue its rules of procedure in the form of a Government regulation.

Art. 85

The Head of the Government shall preside at meetings of the Government, deal with business directly entrusted to him by the Prince Regnant, and countersign the laws and any decrees or ordinances issued by the Prince Regnant or a Regent. At public ceremonies he shall be accorded the honours prescribed by the regulations for the Representative of the Prince Regnant.

Art. 86

1) The Head of the Government shall submit reports by word of mouth or in writing to the Prince Regnant with regard to matters placed under the authority of the Sovereign.

2) The texts of the decisions adopted by the Sovereign on his proposal shall be signed by the Prince Regnant with his own hand and shall also be countersigned by the Head of the Government.

Art. 87

The Head of the Government shall take his oath of office before the Prince Regnant or the Regent; the other members of the Government and the State officials shall be sworn in by the Head of the Government.

Art. 88

If the Head of the Government should be prevented from attending to his duties, the Deputy Head of the Government shall take over those functions which, according to the Constitution, expressly appertain to the Head of the Government. If the Deputy Head of the Government should also be prevented, the eldest Government Councillor shall take his place.

Art. 89

The Head of the Government shall sign the decrees and orders issued by the Government in pursuance of its decisions taken in council. He shall further exercise direct supervision over the conduct of business in the Government.

Art. 90

1) All important matters assigned to the Government, especially the settlement of administrative disputes, shall be discussed and decided by the Government in council. Certain less important matters may be assigned by law to the appropriate members of the Government in accordance with the distribution of Government business to be dealt with independently.

2) Minutes shall be taken at Government meetings by the Government Secretary, or, if he should be prevented, by a substitute to be appointed by the Collegial Government.

3) The Head of the Government is responsible for executing the decisions of the Collegial Government. Only if he is of the opinion that a decision is contrary to existing laws or regulations may he delay its execution. He must, however, immediately notify the Administrative Court of the matter which, without prejudice to the right of appeal of a party involved, shall determine whether the decision shall be implemented or not.

Art. 91

At the beginning of each period of office, the Collegial Government shall distribute its business between the Head of the Government and the Government Councillors to prepare the matters to be determined in council and to deal with that business which by law may be treated independently. A system of mutual deputising shall be arranged for cases of indisposition.

Art. 92

1) The Government shall be responsible for the execution of all laws and of all such tasks as may be lawfully entrusted to it by the Prince Regnant or the Diet. To give effect to the laws, it shall issue the necessary implementation regulations which must, however, remain within the limits of the said laws.

2) All organs of the national administration may only act within the limits of the Constitution and the other laws. Even in matters where the law allows the administrative authorities freedom of judgement, the limits imposed thereon by the law must be scrupulously observed.

Art. 93

The following matters in particular shall fall within the sphere of action of the Government:

a) surveillance over all authorities and officials placed under the Government, and the exercise of disciplinary powers in respect of officials;

b) the allotment of the staff required for the Government and the other authorities;

c) supervision of the prisons and of the treatment of persons detained in custody and of convicts;

d) the administration of buildings belonging to the State;

e) supervision of the despatch of business by the Princely Court to ensure that it is conducted lawfully and diligently and the notification to the High Court of Appeal of any irregularities observed;

f) the preparation of the report on its official activities to be submitted annually to the Diet;

g) the preparation of Government bills for submission to the Diet and the expression of its opinion on proposals submitted to it for that purpose by the Diet;

h) the deciding of urgent expenditure not provided for in the estimates.

Art. 94

The organisation of the administration shall be established by law.

B. The National Board

Art. 95

Annulled.

Annulled.

C. The Administrative Court

Art. 97

- 1) Except as otherwise provided by law, all decisions or dispositions of the Government shall be subject to appeal before the Administrative Court. The said Court shall consist of a chairman versed in law who shall be appointed by the Prince Regnant on the proposal of the Diet, of his deputy, and of four appeal judges and their substitutes elected by the Diet. The chairman and his deputy must be natives of Liechtenstein.
- 2) Its term of office shall coincide with that of the Diet and end with its re-appointment. At its first sitting the Diet shall nominate a chairman and his deputy for the Court and shall elect the appeal judges and their substitutes.

Art. 98

Further detailed instructions for ensuring the judicial independence of the members of the Administrative Court regarding procedure, abstention, allowances to be paid to the members, and fees to be paid by, the parties involved shall be laid down in a separate law.

D. The Judicial System

Art. 99

- 1) The whole administration of justice shall be carried out in the name of the Prince Regnant by responsible judges.
- 2) The Courts, within the lawful limits of their powers and when engaged in judicial proceedings, shall be independent of any influence on the part of the Government. Their decisions and judgements shall be accompanied by a statement of reasons.

Art. 100

The revenue authorities and the officials of the Crown lands shall appear before the ordinary courts as plaintiffs and defendants.

Art. 101

- 1) Jurisdiction shall be exercised in first instance by the Princely Court (Landgericht) at Vaduz, in second instance by the High Court of Appeal at Vaduz, and in third instance by the Supreme Court.
- 2) The organisation of the courts, the procedure and the scale of fees shall be laid down by law.

Art. 102

- 1) The procedure in civil disputes shall conform to the principles of oral proceedings, direct hearing and free evaluation of facts and evidence. In penal cases the principle of arraignment shall also be observed.
- 2) Civil cases, in first instance, shall be heard by one or more judges, acting individually.
- 3) The High Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court are collegial judicial bodies whose members shall be appointed by the Prince Regnant in agreement with the Diet on the proposal of the latter.
- 4) In criminal cases, justice shall be administered in first instance in the Princely Court by this court, if need be by the magistrates court, by the Criminal Court or by the juvenile Court.

Art. 103

- 1) The judge of the Princely Court (Landrichter) shall be in charge of that court and shall exercise, in first instance, disciplinary authority over the non-judicial officials of the said court.
- 2) The High Court of Appeal shall supervise the administration of justice and shall exercise disciplinary authority over the judicial officials of the Lower Court; it shall also exercise disciplinary authority in second instance over the non-judicial officials of the Princely Court.
- 3) The Supreme Court shall exercise disciplinary powers over the members of the High Court of Appeal and shall also act as a court of appeal in disciplinary questions for the judicial officials of the Princely Court.

E. The State Court

Art. 104

- 1) A State Court shall be established by a special law as a court of public law to protect rights accorded by the Constitution, to decide in conflicts of jurisdiction between the law courts and the administrative authorities and to act as a disciplinary court for members of the Government.
- 2) The said court shall also have jurisdiction to determine whether laws are in conformity with the Constitution and whether Government regulations are in conformity with the laws; in such cases it may declare their annulment. It shall finally act as an administrative court and as an electoral tribunal.

Art. 105

The State Court shall consist of a President and four other persons entitled to vote; its members shall be elected by the Diet in such a manner as to ensure a majority of natives of Liechtenstein; two of its members must be versed in law. The election of the President, who must be a native of Liechtenstein, shall be subject to confirmation by the Prince Regnant.

Art. 106

The members of the State Court shall enjoy the protection of Judicial independence.

F. General Provisions

Art. 107

Candidates for employment in the Liechtenstein civil service must possess civic rights in the Principality, without prejudice to any further conditions required by the present Constitution. No exception to this rule may be made without the assent of the Diet.

Art. 108

The organisation of the authorities shall be determined by legislation. All authorities must have their seat within the territory of the State; collegial authorities must include at least a majority of natives of Liechtenstein.

Art. 109

Members of the Government, State officials, and all mayors, their deputies and the treasurers of the communes shall take the following oath on appointment:

«I swear that I will be loyal to the Prince Regnant, that I will obey the laws and that I will strictly observe the Constitution. So help me God.»

Art. 109bis

- 1) The State, the communes and other corporations, establishments and foundations of public law are liable for damage caused to third persons by individuals acting as their bodies who in their official capacity act illegally. In the case of wilful damage or gross negligence, restitution by the responsible

persons is reserved.

- 2) Individuals acting as bodies are answerable to the State, the commune, or other corporation, establishment or foundation of public law which they serve for any damage directly caused to such bodies through the wilful or grossly negligent breach of their official duties.
- 3) Further provisions, especially those relating to competence, shall be laid down in a separate law.

Chapter VIII

Communal Affairs

Art. 110

- 1) Provisions concerning the number, organisation and duties of the communes in their own sphere of action and in that assigned to them shall be laid down in the laws.
- 2) The laws concerning the communes shall establish the following principles:
 - a) free election of the mayor and of the other officials of the commune by the communal assembly;
 - b) autonomous management of the communal property and administration of the local police under the supervision of the Government;
 - c) maintenance of a well-ordered poor-relief system under the supervision of the Government;
 - d) the right of the commune to grant citizenship and the freedom of citizens of the Principality to reside in any commune.

Art. 110bis

- 1) Every male national of Liechtenstein who is twenty years of age and residing in a commune but who does not yet possess the right to vote or to take part in elections may vote or take part in elections in communal affairs.
- 2) By the decision of the Communal Assembly, communes may grant the right to vote or take part in elections to female nationals of Liechtenstein who fulfil the conditions mentioned above in Para. 1.

Chapter IX

The Maintenance of the Constitution and Final Provisions

Art. 111

- 1) The present Constitution shall be universally binding after its promulgation as a fundamental law of the country.
- 2) Any amendments to or interpretations of this fundamental law which may be proposed either by the Government or by the Diet or through the initiative procedure (Art. 64) shall require the approval of the Diet, either by unanimous vote of the members present or by a majority of three-quarters of the members present at two successive sittings of the Diet.

Art. 112

Should any doubts arise with regard to the interpretation of certain clauses of the Constitution which cannot be removed by agreement between the Government and the Diet, the State Court shall decide in respect thereof.

Art. 113

All laws, regulations and statutory provisions which contradict any express provision of the present Constitution are hereby revoked and declared invalid; legal provisions which are inconsistent with the spirit of this fundamental law shall be revised to conform with the Constitution.

- 1) The Government shall be entrusted with the execution of the present Constitution.
- 2) The Government shall prepare the laws provided for in the present Constitution with all possible despatch, and shall proceed with them as laid down in the Constitution.
- 3) The Diet as constituted at present shall remain in office until the end of this year.

Vaduz, 5th October 1921

For and on behalf of HSH the Prince Regnant Johann II of Liechtenstein, as duly authorised by his hand-written letter of 2nd October 1921:

Signed: *Karl*

Signed: *Jos. Ospelt*
Princely Counsellor

The following two letters are attached to the original of the Constitution:

Dear Counsellor Ospelt,

I learned with deep satisfaction that the Diet of My Principality at its meeting of 24th August 1921, unanimously adopted the new Constitution.

In granting My sovereign approval to that decision, I express the sincere wish and the hope that just as the representatives of My People have reached unanimous agreement, without distinction as to political parties, on the creation of such an important legislative work for the country, the same spirit of unanimity shall also unite the People of My Country in peaceful work for the lasting good of the whole and every part thereof with the long-established co-operation of State and Church which may also continue with the blessing of God and that on the foundation of the new Constitution My People and My Country may enjoy renewed happiness and great prosperity.

I would have liked to sign the Constitutional Deed in person at Vaduz, the capital of My Country, among My trusted and beloved People, as I was requested. To my sincere regret, I am prevented from doing so at the present time for reasons of health.

However, to demonstrate my joy at the completion of this great work of reform and to give My Country a token of My fatherly love, I entrust, in accordance with Art. 13 of the new Constitution, my beloved nephew who is now in the Country, HSH Prince Karl of Liechtenstein, with the signing of the Constitutional Deed in My name at Vaduz, on the 5th of October of this year, the day when, with God's blessing, I hope to complete my eighty-first year.

At the same time, I send to My Beloved People My fatherly greetings and with all my heart express my thanks and gratitude to those who with a single accord contributed to the successful completion of the new Constitution.

I charge you with the public communication of these My decisions.

Felsberg, 2nd October 1921

Signed: *Johann*

Signed: *Jos. Ospelt*
Princely Counsellor

My dear Nephew Prince Karl,

Pursuant to Art. 13 of the Constitution of the Principality of Liechtenstein adopted by the Diet of My
Principality at its meeting of the 24th of August 1921 and approved by Me, I entrust you, My Dear
Nephew, with the signature on My Behalf of the new Constitutional Deed on My Birthday, the 5th of
October 1921, at Vaduz, the capital of My Principality.

I remain, My Dear Nephew, always your most affectionate Uncle.

Felsberg, 2nd October 1921

Signed: *Johann*

Signed: *Jos. Ospelt*
Princely Counsellor