

**CONVENTION OF MARCH 14, 1908**

**SWEDEN-NORWAY**

**CONVENTION TO SETTLE, BY MEANS OF ARBITRATION,  
DIFFERENCES RELATING TO  
THE MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES;  
SIGNED AT STOCKHOLM, MARCH 14, 1908.  
(RATIFICATIONS EXCHANGED AT STOCKHOLM, JUNE 17, 1908)**

**Unofficial English Translation**

His Majesty the King of Sweden and His Majesty the King of Norway, agreeing that the question concerning the maritime boundary between Sweden and Norway, in so far as it was not determined by the Royal Resolution of March 15, 1904, should be referred for final decision to arbitration, have to this end appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

His Majesty the King of Sweden: His Minister of Foreign Affairs, ERIC BIRGER TROLLE;

His Majesty the King of Norway: His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Stockholm, PAUL BENJAMIN VOGT,

who, after having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in good and proper form, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I

The contracting Parties bind themselves to the extent set out below to submit the question of the maritime boundary between Sweden and Norway to final settlement by an arbitral tribunal, consisting of a president, who is the subject of neither party and is not domiciled in either country, together with two other members, one Swedish and one Norwegian.

The President is to be chosen by Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, the other members one by each party. The parties reserve to themselves, nevertheless, the right to select, in case they can agree together, either the president alone or the other members of the arbitral tribunal. Reference to Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, or to an arbitrator, who shall be chosen by agreement, shall be had by both parties jointly.

ARTICLE II

The arbitral tribunal, after having heard the claims of the parties and the arguments and evidence brought forth in support of these, shall determine the boundary line in the waters starting from the point indicated as XVIII on the map annexed to the project of the Swedish and Norwegian Commissioners of August 18, 1897, in the sea to the limit of the territorial waters. It is agreed that the line bounding the region which, in consequence of the claims of the parties, may be the subject of dispute, and within which the boundary line will therefore be established, should not be drawn so as to include islands, islets, or reefs which are not always under water.

### ARTICLE III

The arbitral tribunal shall decide whether the boundary line should be considered, either wholly or in part, as fixed by the Boundary Treaty of 1661 with the map annexed thereto, and in what manner the line thus established should be drawn, as also in so far as the boundary line shall not be considered as fixed by that Treaty and map, the tribunal shall determine the boundary line, having regard to the circumstances of fact and the principles of international law.

### ARTICLE IV

Until the close of the third calendar year following that in which the final decision of the arbitral tribunal is rendered, fishing may be carried on by the subjects of both kingdoms in that region which by Article II may be the subject of dispute in the same manner as during the five year period 1901–1905, without any reference to the boundary line which is established by the aforementioned decision. In judging the extent of the fishery, account shall be taken of the number of fishermen, the kind of fish, and the method of fishing.

### ARTICLE V

It is agreed that the kingdom on the side of which the Grisbådarna fishing grounds are situated, according to the boundary to be established, shall have no claim against the other kingdom for paying any of the expenses of the lightship or similar apparatus in or near the said grounds.

Sweden binds itself to keep up the lightship at present maintained outside the territorial boundary, until the expiration of the transition period specified in Article IV.

### ARTICLE VI

The president of the arbitral tribunal shall fix the time and place for the first meeting of the tribunal, and shall notify the other members of this meeting.

The time and place of later meetings shall be determined by the arbitral tribunal.

### ARTICLE VII

The official languages which may be used by the arbitral tribunal shall be English, French, or German, conforming to a resolution which shall be made by the president after consultation with the other members.

The parties may besides use their own languages in pleading, testimony, and arguments, inasmuch as it is reserved to the arbitral tribunal to provide for translations.

### ARTICLE VIII

In regard to procedure and expenses, the provisions, in so far as they can be applied, which are contained in Articles 62 to 85 of the revised Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, adopted at the Second Peace Conference at The Hague, 1907, shall be employed.

Pleadings, replies and testimony, to which reference is made in Article 63, 2nd paragraph, of the said Convention, shall be communicated within such periods of time as shall be determined by the president of the arbitral tribunal, and, at the latest, by March 1, 1909.

This is not intended to make any alterations in the rules for other parts of the procedure, especially not to the provisions in Articles 68–72 and 74 of the same Convention.

The arbitral tribunal shall have permission, in case it finds it necessary for elucidation of the matter, to conduct a hearing, in the presence of both parties, of witnesses and experts, and also to decide upon the execution of joint hydrographic surveys concerning the disputed region.

#### ARTICLE IX

This Convention shall be ratified, and ratifications shall be exchanged at Stockholm at the earliest date possible.

In testimony whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have subscribed this Convention and sealed it with their seals.

Done in duplicate in Swedish and Norwegian in Stockholm, March 14, 1908.

(L. S.) ERIC TROLLE  
(L. S.) BENJAMIN VOGT