

MINISTRY FOR THE STATE ADMINISTRATION

17948 ROYAL DECREE 1271/1997, dated 24 July, creating the Permanent Representation of Spain in the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, having its headquarters in The Hague.

Pursuant to the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which was published in the "Official State Bulletin" of 13 December 1996 and entered into force on 29 April 1997, a Permanent Representation of Spain must be created in said Organisation, to the end of contributing to the permanent monitoring of the issues to be dealt with by said body, including compliance with the Convention, protection of Spanish industrial and security interests, possible inspection visits and budgetary control of the Organisation.

It is worth noting that Spain, whose industry ranks fifth in Europe, will be represented as of its inception in the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an organ which ensures compliance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of States Parties. The Executive Council is composed of 41 countries and adopts decisions of the utmost transcendence within the OPCW.

From 1994 to date, the preparatory work for the constitution of the Organisation was carried out by a Provisional Technical Secretariat, to be substituted, as of the First Conference of States Parties, by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; the Permanent Representation of Spain is now being created in relation with this latter body.

By virtue of the above, pursuant to the stipulations of Article 67.1.(a) of Law 6/1997, dated 14 April, on the Organisation and Operation of the State Administration, and of Article 16 of Royal Decree 632/1987, dated 8 May; at the initiative of the Minister of External Affairs, at the proposal of the Minister for the State Administration and upon deliberation by the Cabinet during its meeting of 24 July 1997,

I DECIDE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. *Creation of the Permanent Representation.*

The Permanent Representation of Spain in the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, with its headquarters in The Hague (The Netherlands), is hereby created.

Article 2. *Head of Representation.*

The Ambassador of Spain in The Hague shall be the head of the Permanent Representation.

Article 3. *Organic structure.*

The organic structure of the referenced Permanent Representation shall be as determined in the corresponding schedule of posts, and shall generate no increases either in the number of State Administration posts abroad or in public expenditures.

Final resolution the first. *Regulatory Provisions.*

The Minister of External Affairs shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to execute the stipulations of this Royal Decree and foster the remaining measures for the implementation of its resolutions.

Final resolution the second. *Entry into force.*

This Royal Decree shall enter into force on the day immediately following its publication in the "Official State Bulletin".

Issued in Palma de Mallorca on 24 July 1998.

JUAN CARLOS R.

The Minister for the State Administration
MARIANO RAJOY BREY