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*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia  
– the Agreements Directorate 1919–1929  
(1915–1930)*

*Summary*

In its engagement to acquire international recognition, the Kingdom of SCS simultaneously fulfilled all its obligations stemming from peace agreements with the defeated in World War I. For this reason, by the Charter of 30<sup>th</sup> November 1919 the Department for the Implementation of International Agreements was formed as part of the Presidency of the Ministerial Council of the Kingdom of SCS.

During the first post-war years this Department dealt with diversification, the protection of minorities, the distribution of the assets of the former Austria-Hungary, disarmament of the enemy states, economic, financial, traffic and all other issues of international character.

Since 1926 the competencies of the Department for the Implementation of International Agreements started decreasing. Under the name the Directorate for Agreements, the Department increasingly started dealing, in accordance with the economic objectives of the League of Nations, with economic and foreign trade issues. The mission and competencies of this Department, all until its abolishment in 1929, were vague and frequently overlapped with the competencies of other ministries of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The archival material of the fonds is somewhat fragmented and incomplete. Complete dossiers are missing pertaining to minorities, citizenship, the “optanti” (ethnic Italians who immigrated to Italy), the Peace Conference in Paris, war crimes in occupied Serbia...The material has been sorted based on the principle of free provenance.

The archival material of the fonds document the war damages inflicted both upon the state and individual persons by the occupational authorities, as well as modalities of restitution of reparation claims. In relation to reparation issues of the division of assets, debts and liabilities between the concession states of the former Austria-Hungary, after the war efforts were made to speedily establish traffic connections, i.e. enable free movement of persons and goods on the devastated territories of Central Europe. Records show the efforts of the Kingdom to establish border traffic, to settle the issue of double ownership, of the “optanti” and minorities, as well as to regulate, as a Podunavlje country, the hydro-technical relations with its neighbors. As a signatory of international agreements, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia approached the implementation of the agreed foreign trade policy, using the inheritance of the Kingdom of Serbia. Economic interests often suffered, both regarding the allied and enemy forces, because of political interests when concluding trade agreements

The documents of fonds contain precious facts about the foreign policy of the Kingdom, the new post-war Europe, as well as the international scene between the two wars.