

Article 10.

When the time limit mentioned in Article 6 has lapsed, the President shall appoint the reporter and then summon a meeting of the Commission, at which the Royal Commissioner shall be present, to consider whether or not further preliminary evidence is required.

The Commission, the Royal Commissioner not being present, shall discuss the question.

If their decision is in the affirmative, the President shall direct by means of an ordinance the preparation of such evidence, entrusting it to the reporter, or, if the latter be unable to undertake it, to another member of the Commission. The Royal Commissioner and the parties concerned are entitled to be present.

The member of the Commission charged with the preparation of the evidence shall be assisted by the Secretary of the Commission.

Minutes shall be drawn up of the proceedings in connection with the preparation of the evidence.

The Commission may also demand further papers and documents.

Article 11.

The President having heard the reporter and the Royal Commissioner, shall declare by an ordinance, to be communicated to the parties at the address which they have selected at Rome, the termination of the preliminary enquiry.

Article 12.

From the day on which this ordinance is communicated a further extension of five days is allowed to the parties concerned for the presentation of new arguments and pleas at the Secretariat of the Commission.

Article 13.

The date for the trial of the case shall be fixed by the President after consultation with the Royal Commissioner, but not earlier than 15 days from the notification of the ordinance declaring the preliminary enquiry closed.

Not less than five days before the date fixed for the hearing the Secretary shall inform the parties concerned at the address selected by them in Rome.

Two days before the trial the Royal Commissioner shall lodge his conclusions in writing at the Secretariat of the Commission.

Article 14.

Save as otherwise laid down by the provisions of Article 7, notification shall be made by the Secretary to the parties concerned at the address selected by them in Rome, by means of letters with a receipt form attached.

Article 15.

The President may, after consulting with the Royal Commissioner, for adequate reasons, defer the hearing of the case to a later meeting of the Commission; he shall cause the adjournment to be notified to the parties concerned.

Article 16.

Besides the Royal Commissioner, no one, except the regularly appointed lawyers of the parties concerned, shall assist at the sitting of the Commission for the hearing of the case.

The Reporter shall state the conclusions to be drawn from the documents; then the lawyers shall submit succinctly the case of the parties concerned.

Lastly, the Royal Commissioner shall give verbally his final conclusions.

Thereupon the President shall declare the discussion closed.

The President may, however, at the request of the Royal Commissioner and of the parties concerned, authorise the presentation within a short space of time of notes explanatory of the statements made verbally.

Article 17.

When the discussion is closed the Commission shall sit to consider its decision, the Royal Commissioner, the Secretary and the Counsel being excluded.

The Commission may withhold judgment to a later sitting.

After the vote has been taken the President shall select a member of the majority to pronounce judgment.

Article 18.

The judgment must be signed by all the members of the Commission who took part in the trial, and by the Secretary. It shall date from the day that it was lodged at the Secretariat of the Commission.

Article 19.

The judgment, and where necessary, the ordinance in respect of the preliminary enquiry may be sent in the form of executive copies by the Secretary of the Commission in the manner indicated in Articles 556 and 557 of the Code of civil procedure.

Article 20.

After a decision has been taken and published as to the disposal of articles seized and confiscated, in accordance with the terms of the Mercantile Marine Code, for the settlement of the disputes mentioned in Article 241 of that Code, the parties interested shall transmit to the President of the Commission a statement of their claims. The Commission, summoned anew by the President, shall then, after consulting the Royal Commissioner, take a final decision.

Article 21.

The Secretary's office is open to the public on working days from 10 a.m. to noon and from 3 to 6 p.m.; on holidays from 10 to noon.

Article 22.

The judgment issued in the name of the Government and the list showing how articles seized are to be apportioned shall be considered as documents drawn up solely on the public service.

But documents prepared or asked for during the hearing at the instance of private persons and the documents, representations and pleadings of the latter must be drawn up and submitted with a due regard for the laws of the Kingdom on stamp and registration taxes.

The same parties shall deposit beforehand with the Secretary of the Commission the sheets of stamped paper necessary for the preparation of the documents asked for or demanded by them, and the estimated amount of the registration tax to which the decisions in regard to the acceptance of their representations would be liable, the amount to be calculated after the Secretary has fulfilled the formalities of registration.

Rome, December 5th, 1911.

(The signatures of
the Commissioners follow.)