

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF ITALY AND THE KINGDOM  
OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES, CONCERNING THE  
ORTHODOX SERB COMMUNITIES OF FIUME, ZÁRA AND PEROI.  
SIGNED AT NETTUNO, JULY 20, 1925**

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY and His MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES, recognising the expediency of determining, by means of new provisions which shall entirely supersede the Agreement signed at Rome on July 2, 1924, the status of the Orthodox Serb communities of Fiume, Zára and Peroi with the object of giving effect in this matter to the provisions agreed upon at Rome on January 27, 1924, have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY:

M. Benito MUSSOLINI, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES:

M. Voislav ANTONIEVITCH, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary accredited to His Majesty the King of Italy;

M. Ottokár RYBÁR, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary;

Who, having communicated their full powers found, in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

***Article 1.***

Complete spiritual independence shall be guaranteed to the organs of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Fiume, Zára and Peroi. The afore-mentioned Orthodox Serb Churches and parishes shall as regards spiritual, ecclesiastical and hierarchical matters, be under the authority of the Bishop of Zára and, through him, under the supreme ecclesiastical Orthodox Serb authority.

***Article 2.***

The clergy officiating at the religious services of the Eastern Orthodox Church in the aforesaid parishes, including the bishop already mentioned, shall be appointed by the supreme ecclesiastical Orthodox Serb authority.

The necessary authorisation shall be given to such clergy by the Royal Italian Government free of charge.

***Article 3.***

The Royal Italian Government shall grant the Orthodox Serb communities of Fiume, Zára and Peroi the status of corporate bodies and the fullest independence in their organisation and administration and in the exercise of the patrimonial rights of all kinds guaranteed by laws in force in the Kingdom of Italy.

***Article 4.***

As regards the increase of their capital, the aforesaid Orthodox Serb communities shall, in the same way as other corporate bodies having their principal seat in a foreign country, be subject to the provisions of the laws in force in the Kingdom of Italy.

**Article 5.**

The rights of control and supervision over all autonomous corporate bodies which, in virtue of territorial sovereignty, belong to the State authorities, and likewise the rights deriving from the right of exequatur shall be exercised by the authorities of the Kingdom of Italy.

**Article 6.**

The aforesaid Orthodox Serb communities shall draw up or modify their statutes so as to bring them into harmony with the provisions of the present Agreement. The statutes thus drawn up or modified shall be submitted to the Government of the Kingdom of Italy for its approval.

**Article 7.**

The present Agreement shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Rome.

It shall come into force on the date of the exchange of the ratifications.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Nettuno in duplicate, the twentieth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

For the Kingdom of Italy:  
Benito MUSSOLINI.

For the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes:

V. ANTONIEVITCH.  
Dr. RYBÁR.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, 1928, vol. 83, p. 273-275.]