

Title: Constitution of the Principality of Monaco (1962, Amended 2002)

Summary:

The **Constitution of the Principality of Monaco**, adopted in **1962** and amended in **2002**, establishes Monaco as a **sovereign and independent constitutional monarchy** governed by the **House of Grimaldi**. The **Prince** is the **head of state**, exercising executive authority, while **legislative power** is shared between the **Prince and the National Council**. The **judiciary operates independently**, with courts ensuring the rule of law. The Constitution guarantees **fundamental freedoms, rights, and the separation of powers**.

The **Prince's authority** is central to Monaco's governance. The succession to the **throne is hereditary**, with priority given to male heirs. The Prince ratifies **international treaties**, oversees **domestic administration**, and consults advisory bodies such as the **Crown Council** on matters of national interest. The **Government is led by a Minister of State**, appointed by the Prince, and supported by the **Government Council**. The **National Council**, consisting of **24 elected members**, participates in **law-making, budget approval, and policy oversight**. However, **only the Prince can initiate laws**, while the National Council deliberates and votes on legislation.

Monaco's **legal framework** guarantees **equality before the law, personal freedoms, and economic rights**. The Constitution affirms **freedom of speech, religion, and assembly**, while ensuring protections against arbitrary detention and property expropriation. It mandates **state support in cases of unemployment, sickness, and old age** and guarantees **free primary and secondary education**. **Trade unions and the right to strike** are recognized within legal limits. Foreign residents enjoy certain **public and private rights**, though Monegasques receive preferential treatment in employment and social benefits.

The **judicial system is independent**, with courts ruling in the **name of the Prince**. The **Supreme Court** serves as the highest judicial authority, overseeing **constitutional matters, administrative disputes, and fundamental rights violations**. The Constitution establishes the **process for amendments**, requiring **joint approval from the Prince and the National Council**. It also mandates that **existing laws remain valid unless they contradict constitutional principles**, ensuring continuity in Monaco's **governance and legal system**.