



**NOTICE
FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY**

**PROVISIONS
OF H.R.H. PRINCE VITTORIO EMANUELE
DUKE OF SAVOY
PRINCE OF NAPLES
HEAD OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY**

On 28 December 2019, H.R.H. Prince Vittorio Emanuele, Duke of Savoy, Prince of Naples, Head of the Royal House of Savoy, established the following:

**We
Vittorio Emanuele
Duke of Savoy, Prince of Naples
by the Grace of God and by Hereditary Right
Head of the Royal House of Savoy
XVII General Grand Master
of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus**

Given the natural evolution of today's society,
which is moving towards the desirable elimination
of any form of discrimination between persons,
with the desire to adapt the Law of Succession of Our House
to the spirit of the times, we, of our own will

have decreed and decree

that from today and in the future,
succession in the capacity of
Head of Our Royal House and Grand Master of Our Dynastic Orders,
with all the privileges, prerogatives, rights and powers associated therewith,
shall be reserved to Our descendants of both genders, forever,
according to the criterion of absolute primogeniture,
with lineage prevailing over degree.

Issued in Geneva on the 28th of December of the year 2019



and furthermore:

We
Vittorio Emanuele
Duke of Savoy, Prince of Naples
by the Grace of God and by Hereditary Right
Head of the Royal House of Savoy
XVII General Grand Master
of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus

With the desire to update the titles of Our Royal Family
according to Dynastic and Historical Tradition

have decreed and decree

- Single Article -

I) As a token of special benevolence we confirm to Our Beloved Granddaughter

Vittoria Cristina Chiara Adelaide Maria

the title of Royal Highness, the quality of Royal Princess
and we confer on her the title of

Princess of Carignano

followed by the title of

Marchioness of Ivrea.

Of Our Own Will and through Our Magisterial Authority

We also appoint her Dame of the Grand Cross
of Our Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus,
decorated with the Grand Cordon.

II) As a token of special benevolence we confirm to Our Beloved Granddaughter

Luisa Giovanna Bianca Agata Gavina Maria

the title of Royal Highness, the quality of Royal Princess
and we confer on her the title of

Princess of Chieri

followed by the title of

Countess of Salemi.

Of Our Own Will and through Our Magisterial Authority

We also appoint her Dame of the Grand Cross
of Our Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus,
decorated with the Grand Cordon.

Issued in Geneva on the 28th of December of the year 2019



These provisions, forwarded for information to all the Royal Houses and to the interested parties, shall become effective immediately and shall not alter the dynastic position of H.R.H. the Prince of Piedmont and Venice Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy as future Successor of H.R.H. Prince Vittorio Emanuele as Duke of Savoy, Head of the Royal House and Grand Master of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy.

They are to be understood as internal resolutions of the Royal House of Savoy: the Order of the Italian Nobility State shall therefore not be altered in any way and it shall continue to follow the rules and criteria sanctioned by Royal Decree no. 61 of 21st January 1929 which approved the Order of the Nobility State of the Kingdom of Italy, partially modified by the following R.D. no. 1405 of 9th October 1930.

TT.RR.HH. Princesses Vittoria and Luisa of Savoy shall make their first public appearance next to H.R.H. Prince Vittorio Emanuele on the occasion of the commemoration ceremony of HH.MM. King Umberto II and Queen Maria José which shall be held on Saturday 14th March 2020 at the Royal Abbey of Hautecombe (France).

Geneva, 15th January 2020.

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SECRETARIAT OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY

Some explanations regarding the Notice issued on 15th January 2020

With the resolutions of 28th December 2019, H.R.H. Prince Vittorio Emanuele, Duke of Savoy and Prince of Naples, Head of the Royal House of Savoy, considering the natural evolution of today's society, which is moving towards the desirable elimination of any form of discrimination between persons, has decided to adapt the Law of Succession of his House to the spirit of the times.

With these provisions, which are today applied by most Royal Houses around the world, the Royal House of Savoy will from on adopt the rule of absolute primogeniture to direct descendants, with lineage prevailing over degree.

Primogeniture is an institution of the medieval law of succession, according to which a fief was considered indivisible and could only be transferred to the eldest son, granting minor benefits or simple prebends to other descendants. It first appeared in England and France; in Italy it was imported by the Normans and governed by *Salic law*, a set of customary laws written by the Salian Franks (who had inhabited the region since the 4th century AD) which precedes the first drafting under the Kingdom of Clovis (at end of the 5th century) and subsequent editions known as *pactus legis salicae*.

They include the *Pactus pro tenore pacis* issued by Childebert I (511-58), the Edict of Chilperic (575-84), the *Decretio* issued by Childebert II (593-97), the *Revisions* of Pepin the Short (763 -64), with the addition of a new prologue and epilogue, and that of Charlemagne (768-79), commonly known as *amended lex salica*.

It has often been pointed out that this law contains a principle whereby women and their descendants were to be totally excluded from the Crown, but this prohibition is not found in the *lex salica*, although it was traditionally attributed to it. As is well known, this prohibition does not exist in many states that are governed by monarchy.

Salic law was modified or abolished over time by many Royal Families. A famous case is for example that concerning María Isabel Luisa of Bourbon, Queen of Spain, who in 1833 succeeded her father Ferdinand VII with the name of Isabel II under the regency of her mother, Maria Cristina of Bourbon of the Two Sicilies, by virtue of the *pragmatic sanction*, which repealed the Salic law enacted upon her birth in Madrid in 1830. The *pragmatic sanction* represents an intermediate degree between edicts and rescripts. It was used to adopt exceptional measures.

In the Kingdom of France and in the Holy Roman Empire a sovereign edict governed a fundamental matter for the organisation of the State: this is how Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI ensured the rules of succession in his States (1713).



In 1740 his daughter Maria Theresa was the first woman from the House of Austria to ascend to the throne. She reigned for 40 years.

In more recent times, in 1980, Sweden amended its constitution in favour of absolute primogeniture, depriving the eldest son of Charles XVI Gustav, Prince Charles Philip, of succession to the throne in favour of his elder sister, Victoria. Other monarchies followed this example: the Netherlands in 1983, Norway in 1990, Belgium in 1991, Denmark in 2009, Luxembourg in 2011 and the United Kingdom in 2015.

Gender equality is an issue governed by a large number of international regulations. To cite but one example, the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (the so-called *Nice Charter* of 7/12/2000), perfected in its application by the *Lisbon Treaty* of 2009, reaffirmed the principle of equality between men and women including it among the values and goals of the European Union, thus giving it legally binding value.

Geneva, 15 January 2020

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