

N° 951.

LETTONIE ET PAYS-BAS

Traité de commerce, signé à Riga,
le 2 juillet 1924, et Echange de
Notes y relatif de la même date.

**LATVIA AND
THE NETHERLANDS**

Treaty of Commerce, signed at Riga,
July 2, 1924, and Exchange of
Notes relating thereto of the
same Date.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 951. — TREATY OF COMMERCE ² BETWEEN LATVIA AND THE NETHERLANDS, SIGNED AT RIGA, JULY 2, 1924.

French official text communicated by the Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs and by the Netherlands Minister at Berne. The registration of this Treaty took place September 26, 1925.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC and THE GOVERNMENT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS, desirous of extending the commercial relations between the two countries, have decided to conclude a commercial treaty and have appointed for that purpose their plenipotentiaries, that is to say,

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC :

Louis SEJA, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE GOVERNMENT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS :

Ridder Willem Louis Frederik Christiaan DE RAPPARD, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands to the Government of the Latvian Republic ;

Who, having communicated their respective full powers found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions.

Article I.

1. The nationals, the commercial, industrial and financial corporations (joint-stock and other), including shipping companies, and the products of the soil and industry of either of the High Contracting Parties shall, subject always to the exceptions referred to in Articles 5, 6 and 7, enjoy within the territory of the other Party treatment in all respects at least as favourable as that which is actually granted or may hereafter be granted to the nationals, corporations and products of the soil and industry of the most favoured foreign nation.

2. This treatment shall be granted in all matters relating to the establishment of the nationals and corporations of either of the Contracting Parties in the territory of the other ; the exercise of commerce, industry and the trades and professions, and all matters relating to commercial and shipping business in regard to importation, exportation and transit ; Customs formalities and duties and commercial transactions ; the payment of taxes.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Riga, September 17, 1925 ; the Treaty entered into force October 2, 1925, at noon.

Article 2.

1. Vessels of one of the Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the ports, rivers and territorial waters of the other Party treatment not less favourable than that accorded or to be accorded to national vessels or the vessels of the most favoured foreign country.

2. The Contracting Parties shall have the right to reserve the exercise of cabotage exclusively for national vessels.

Article 3.

1. The Contracting Parties further undertake, on condition of reciprocity to accord freedom of transit over their respective territories including territorial waters to persons, goods, carriages, wagons and mails in transit to or from the territories of the other Party, and to treat them at least as favourably as their persons, goods, vessels, carriages, wagons and mails respectively or those of any other more favoured nationality, origin, importation or ownership.

2. This provision, in so far as it relates to the free transit of goods, shall not in any way affect legal prescriptions relating to the transit of arms and war supplies.

Article 4.

The provisions of the present Treaty shall apply to the Netherlands Indies, Surinam, Curaçao, as well as to their citizens, corporations, and vessels and to the products of the soil and of the industry of these countries.

Article 5.

It is understood that nothing in this Treaty shall be held to confer any right or impose any obligation upon either Party which might be in conflict with any general international convention to which one of the Contracting Parties has adhered or may adhere in the future.

Article 6.

The Netherlands may not, in virtue of the above provisions, claim the same privileges as those granted or to be granted by Latvia to one of the Baltic States (Finland, Esthonia and Lithuania) or to all three of these countries, so long as these advantages are not granted to a third State.

The same shall apply in the case of any privileges which Latvia may accord to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics in virtue of special Customs conventions or agreements.

Article 7.

It is understood that the present Treaty shall not in any way affect such privileges in regard to frontier communications, traffic and trade as may be granted to adjacent States for special local reasons by either of the Contracting Parties.

Article 8.

Any dispute which may arise between the High Contracting Parties in regard to the interpretation, application or execution of the present Arrangement, and which cannot be settled by diplomacy, shall be submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice¹.

Article 9.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Riga as soon as possible. It shall come into force fifteen days after the exchange of the ratifications and shall remain binding for a period of one year from the date of its entry into force. It shall thereafter be renewed by tacit agreement for successive periods of one year unless it is denounced by either of the High Contracting Parties at least six months beforehand.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty.

Done in duplicate at Riga on July 2, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-four.

(L. S.) (Signed) LOUIS SEJA.

(L. S.) (Signed) W. L. F. C. DE RAPPARD.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

Communicated by the Netherlands Minister at Berne, November 21, 1925.

I.

NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

No. 72 H 202.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

RIGA, July 2, 1924.

I have the honour to inform you that it is understood that the provisions of Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce concluded to-day between the Government of the Latvian Republic and the Royal Government, in so far as these provisions concern the establishment of nationals and the free transit of persons, shall not affect the stipulations in force in the two countries with regard to the issue or renewal of visas, nor the right of both Parties to refuse to admit, or allow a prolonged stay on the part of persons who may be regarded as undesirable.

As regards the expression "general international convention" used in Article 5 of the above-mentioned Treaty of Commerce, the Royal Government understands by these conventions collective conventions of general application such as, for example, the International Opium Convention, the International Telegraph Convention, etc., etc.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) W. L. F. C. DE RAPPARD.

To His Excellency

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Riga.

¹ Vol. VI, page 379; Vol. XI, page 404; Vol. XV, page 304; Vol. XXIV, page 152, and Vol. XXVII, page 416, of this Series.

II.

LATVIAN MINISTRY
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

K. 72/25310.

RIGA, July 2, 1924.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to inform you that it is understood that the provisions of Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce concluded to-day between the Government of the Latvian Republic and the Royal Government, in so far as these provisions concern the establishment of nationals and the free transit of persons, shall not affect the stipulations in force in the two countries with regard to the issue or renewal of visas, nor the right of both Parties to refuse to admit, or allow a prolonged stay on the part of persons who may be regarded as undesirable.

As regards the expression " general international convention " used in Article 5 of the above-mentioned Treaty of Commerce, the Royal Government understands by these conventions collective conventions of general application such as, for example, the International Opium Convention, the International Telegraph Convention, etc., etc.

I have the honour to be, etc.

L. SEJA.

To His Excellency

Chevalier W. L. F. C. VAN RAPPARD,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Her Majesty the Queen of The Netherlands,
Riga.
