

N° 1598.

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**ESTONIE ET GRÈCE**

Convention de commerce et de  
navigation. Signée à Tallinn, le  
4 janvier 1927.

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Convention of Commerce and Navi-  
gation. Signed at Tallinn, January  
4, 1927.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 1598. — CONVENTION<sup>2</sup> OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN ESTONIA AND GREECE. SIGNED AT TALLINN, JANUARY 4, 1927.

*French official text communicated by the Estonian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Chargé d'Affaires of the Hellenic Republic at Berne. The registration of this Convention took place December 17, 1927.*

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ESTONIAN REPUBLIC and THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, being equally desirous of promoting and extending economic relations between their two countries, have resolved to conclude a Convention of Commerce and Navigation and have for that purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ESTONIAN REPUBLIC :

His Excellency M. Friedrich AKEL, Minister for Foreign Affairs ; and

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC :

His Excellency M. Nicolas XYDAKIS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Political Affairs at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs ;

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

*Article 1.*

The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall have the right, upon the same conditions as the nationals of the most favoured nation and subject to the laws and regulations which are or may hereafter be in force in the respective countries, to enter freely the territory of the other Contracting Party, to settle there and to engage in trade, industry or any other occupation. They shall have the right to acquire movable and immovable property by inheritance, gift, bequest, purchase, exchange or in any other legal manner and to own, hold and dispose of such property, subject to any exceptions and restrictions laid down in respect of foreigners by the legislation of the two High Contracting Parties for the safety of the State.

Each of the Contracting Parties undertakes not to levy upon nationals of the other Party any taxes, dues or contributions whatsoever higher or other than those which are or may in future be levied upon its own nationals or upon nationals of the most favoured nation.

*Article 2.*

Commercial, industrial, financial, insurance or other companies, co-operative societies, shipping companies and economic associations which have their headquarters in the territory of one of

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

<sup>2</sup> The exchange of ratifications took place at Warsaw, November 24, 1927.

the two countries and are duly constituted there, shall have their legal constitution and existence recognised in the other country. They may, subject to the conditions and limitations laid down by the laws which are or may hereafter be in force, and provided that they comply with all the formalities required by those laws, extend their operations to the territory of the latter country and may acquire and enjoy rights and engage in industry in that country. They shall enjoy treatment as favourable as that which is or may in future be granted to similar companies of a third Power, and shall have the same right as companies of the most favoured nation to acquire there, own, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property.

They shall not be subject to taxes, dues or contributions of any kind or denomination whatever higher than those imposed on the firms, co-operative societies, companies or associations of the most favoured nation.

#### Article 3.

Nationals of either Contracting Party and firms, co-operative societies, companies or associations domiciled in either country shall not be liable in the other country to any tax, due or charge on any company capital other than that within the country in question, or on any income derived from elsewhere.

#### Article 4.

Nationals of one of the High Contracting Parties and firms, co-operative societies, companies and associations domiciled in the territory of that Party shall have ready access to the courts and to the various authorities of the other Party on the same conditions as nationals of that Party. In the exercise of this right they shall not be required to pay charges other or higher than those imposed on nationals or the above-mentioned companies of that country.

In conformity with Chapter III of the Hague Convention <sup>1</sup> of July 17, 1905, on Civil Procedure, they shall not be compelled to furnish the *cautio judicatum solvi*, provided they conform to the regulations contained in the said Convention, concerning the execution of judgments with costs. Indigent persons shall also be granted legal assistance, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of the said Convention.

As regards the service of judicial and extrajudicial documents and of letters of request, the two High Contracting Parties undertake to observe the provisions of Chapters I and II of the said Convention.

#### Article 5.

Nationals of either High Contracting Party in the territory of the other Party shall be exempt from all military service and from the payment, whether in money or in kind, of any taxes or charges in lieu thereof. As regards forced loans, military requisitions and contributions imposed in time of war or in exceptional circumstances, most-favoured nation treatment is reciprocally guaranteed by the two High Contracting Parties. Nevertheless, as owners, tenants or occupiers of property or commercial or industrial enterprises they shall be subject to the same treatment as nationals and shall then be entitled to the same compensation as is granted to nationals or to the subjects of the most favoured nation.

#### Article 6.

Commercial travellers belonging to the two High Contracting Parties with their patterns and samples shall, provided that they conform to the existing laws and regulations, enjoy in the territory of the other Party the same treatment as is or may hereafter be granted in this connection to the most favoured nation.

<sup>1</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 99, page 990.

*Article 7.*

Should one of the High Contracting Parties establish prohibitions or restrictions on the import or export of goods, it shall grant to the other Party the same treatment as has been or may subsequently be granted to the same or similar goods imported from or exported to any third country.

If any import or export prohibition or restriction has been, or may hereafter be, removed or relaxed, even temporarily, by one of the High Contracting Parties in favour of any third Power, the benefit of such removal or relaxation shall be extended immediately under like conditions to the same or similar goods coming from or proceeding to the territory of the other State.

The provisions of this Article shall not apply to import or export prohibitions or restrictions on goods imposed or maintained :

- (1) For the security of the country ;
- (2) When considered necessary by the country concerned owing to a state of war ;
- (3) As sanitary measures or preventive measures against epizooties and epiphyties ;
- (4) Upon seeds which in view of their origin may reasonably be considered unsuitable in the importing country ;
- (5) Upon goods which are a State monopoly.

*Article 8.*

Should either of the High Contracting Parties make the importation, or exportation, of certain goods dependent upon prices or conditions of purchase or sale controlled by the Government or by any organisation authorised by the Government, the general conditions applicable to the other Party shall be the most favourable that are or may hereafter be applied to any third Power.

*Article 9.*

As regards import duties and charges and any additional charges, coefficients or increases in connection therewith which are or may hereafter be levied on the importation of goods, the two High Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other, without reserve and automatically, all privileges, reductions or exemptions which they have granted or may hereafter grant to any third Power.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, natural or manufactured products originating in and coming from Greece, enumerated in List A annexed to the present Convention, may be imported into Estonia upon payment of the duties stipulated in the said List.

Similarly, natural or manufactured products originating in or coming from Estonia, enumerated in List B annexed to the present Convention, may be imported into Greece upon payment of the duties stipulated in the said list.

The High Contracting Parties guarantee to each other most-favoured-nation treatment as regards duties and all charges levied on exportation, irrespective of their kind or denomination.

Most-favoured-nation treatment shall also be reciprocally guaranteed as regards Customs operations and formalities, Customs refunds, the deposit and safe keeping of goods in Customs warehouses and the charges in connection therewith.

*Article 10.*

In all matters relating to taxes on consumption, production, transactions, monopolies, excise and all other internal taxes, goods originating in or imported from either country shall enjoy in the other country treatment as favourable as that granted to the goods of the most favoured nation.

*Article 11.*

The High Contracting Parties guarantee to each other freedom of transit and undertake to apply in their mutual relations the provisions of the Convention and Statute on Freedom of Transit,<sup>1</sup> signed at Barcelona on April 20, 1921, and they guarantee to each other most-favoured-nation treatment in this matter.

Nevertheless, the High Contracting Parties agree that the above provision concerning most-favoured-nation treatment shall not apply to restrictions placed on the right of transit :

- (1) For reasons of public safety ;
- (2) As a sanitary or precautionary measure against diseases of animals or plants.

*Article 12.*

Goods of any origin conveyed in transit across one of the two countries, being consigned to or despatched from the other country, shall not be subject, in the country of transit, to any Customs import or export duty or tax or any similar impost or to any internal duty other than the charges levied solely to cover the cost of supervision and transit formalities.

Goods of any origin conveyed in transit across one of the two countries, whether warehoused or not in free ports, bonded warehouses, transit warehouses or other Customs establishments, shall enjoy, on importation into the other country, treatment at least as favourable, as regards duties and other charges and in all other respects, as that which they would enjoy if they were imported direct from the country of origin.

*Article 13.*

Natural or manufactured products of either of the High Contracting Parties shall, provided conditions remain unchanged, enjoy the same treatment in all respects as regards transport by public transport undertakings of the other Party, as like native products or products of the most favoured nation. Similarly, the products of either country consigned to the other shall enjoy in that country treatment as favourable, as regards transport by public transport undertakings, as that granted to products consigned to the most favoured nation.

*Article 14.*

In order to reserve the benefits of the above provisions for products originating in their respective countries and to prevent irregularities through the despatch of goods by circuitous routes, the High Contracting Parties may require that products and goods imported into their territory should be accompanied by certificates of origin.

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<sup>1</sup> Vol. VII, page 11 ; Vol. XI, page 406 ; Vol. XV, page 304 ; Vol. XIX, page 278 ; Vol. XXIV, page 154 ; Vol. XXXI, page 244 ; Vol. XXXV, page 298 ; Vol. XXXIX, page 166, and Vol. LIX, page 344, of this Series, and page 70 of this Volume.

Certificates of origin will be dispensed with in the case of postal packages if the non-commercial nature of such packages is recognised by the country of destination.

The High Contracting Parties guarantee each other most-favoured-nation treatment as regards the form, contents and employment of these certificates.

*Article 15.*

The documents and certificates issued for the purpose by the competent authorities of the respective States, in accordance with their laws and regulations, shall be recognised as establishing the nationality of vessels.

Tonnage measurement certificates and other documents regarding tonnage measurement issued by one of the High Contracting Parties shall be recognised by the other Party, and the vessels of the two Parties shall not be subject on either side, for the purpose of the payment of dues, to any re-measurement.

*Article 16.*

Except where otherwise provided in the present Convention, Estonian vessels and their cargoes in Greece, and Greek vessels and their cargoes in Estonia, shall enjoy the same treatment in every respect as national vessels and their cargoes, irrespective of the place of departure or the destination of the said vessels and irrespective of the place of origin and destination of their cargoes. Consequently, these vessels of one of the High Contracting Parties and their cargoes shall not be subject in the territory of the other Party to any tax or charge of any kind or denomination whatsoever whether levied on behalf of the State or on behalf of any communes or institutions authorised by the Government, other or higher than those applicable to national vessels and their cargoes.

Any privilege or exemption which either of the High Contracting Parties may accord to any third Power in regard to any of the above matters shall also be granted simultaneously and unconditionally to the other Party.

Exceptions shall, however, be made to the provisions of the present Article in the case of :

- (1) Favours which have been or may hereafter be granted in either country to national fisheries and their products ;
- (2) The coasting trade, in regard to which the High Contracting Parties shall, on condition of reciprocity grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment ;
- (3) Navigation on navigable inland waterways, whether natural or artificial, in regard to which the vessels of the two High Contracting Parties and their cargoes shall be subject to the same conditions as the vessels of the most favoured nation and their cargoes.

Without prejudice to the other provisions of the present Article and subject to the provisions of the first paragraph, in so far as they concern pilotage dues, it is understood that the laws and regulations in force in each country regarding the obligation to employ pilots shall apply to the vessels of the other High Contracting Party to the same extent as to other foreign vessels.

*Article 17.*

Estonian vessels entering a Greek port and Greek vessels entering an Estonian port with the sole object of completing their cargoes or of unloading a part thereof shall be entitled, provided that they conform to the laws and regulations of the State concerned to retain on board any part of the cargo which may be consigned to another port or to another country and to re-export it without being obliged to pay any duties or charges thereon, with the exception of supervision fees ; the latter, however, must be levied at the lowest rate payable by national shipping or by shipping of the most favoured nation.

*Article 18.*

If a vessel of one of the two High Contracting Parties should be wrecked, run aground, be damaged at sea, or compelled through stress of weather or accident to put into harbour in the waters of the other Party, the vessel and its cargo shall enjoy the same benefits and immunities as are granted by the laws and regulations of the country concerned in similar circumstances to national vessels or to those of the most favoured nation. Assistance and relief shall be given to the master, the crew and the passengers both for themselves and for the vessel and its cargo, to the same extent as would be afforded to the nationals of the country in question.

As regards salvage charges, the law of the country where salvage takes place shall be applicable.

Goods salvaged from a stranded or wrecked vessel shall not be subject to any Customs duties, unless they are admitted into the country for consumption therein.

*Article 19.*

The two High Contracting Parties grant each other the right to appoint consular representatives in all ports, towns and places in the territory of the other Party to which consular representatives of any third country are admitted.

When they have received the *exequatur* from the Government of their country of residence, consular representatives of each of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the territory of the other all the privileges, immunities and powers which are or may in future be granted to the consular representatives of any third Power. The privileges, immunities and powers thus granted to the consular representatives of either country in the other, shall not, however, exceed the privileges, immunities and powers granted to the consular representatives of the latter in the former country.

*Article 20.*

Neither of the High Contracting Parties may bring forward the provisions of the present Convention as a reason for claiming privileges which either Party has granted or may in future grant to contiguous States to facilitate frontier traffic or advantages resulting from a Customs union.

Moreover, Greece may not invoke the above-mentioned provisions in order to claim the privileges which Estonia has granted or may hereafter grant to Finland or Latvia or Lithuania, or Russia, or to all these countries, so long as these special privileges are not accorded to States other than those named above.

*Article 21.*

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Warsaw as soon as possible.

It shall come into force fifteen days after the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for one year ; it shall be prolonged thereafter by tacit agreement until three months after the date on which it is denounced by either of the High Contracting Parties.

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

Done at Tallinn in duplicate on the fourth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven.

Fr. AKEL.  
N. XYDAKIS.

## LIST A.

Nos. in the Estonian Customs tariff	Description of Goods	Amount of Customs duty in gold frs.	
ex 7	Currants and sultana raisins, unsweetened . . . . .	1 kg. net	0.10
ex 28 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Grape Wines :</p> <p>Imported in barrels :</p> <p>(a) Sweet (muscat) coming from Samos, Patras, Cephalonia and containing not less than 180 grammes of sugar per litre and up to 16° of alcohol, and all other sweet wines containing at least 70 grammes of sugar per litre and up to 16° of alcohol. . . . .</p> <p><i>Note :</i> The benefit of this reduced duty shall only be granted to wines accompanied by certificates of purity issued by the official Greek laboratories, and certifying their right to a regional appellation of origin.</p>	1 kg. gross	1.50
ex 203	<p>Knotted woollen carpets . . . . .</p> <p><i>Note :</i> These articles are not regarded as carpets unless they contain in 1 kg. not more than 1 sq. metre.</p>	1 kg. net	12.—

## LIST B.

Nos. in the Greek Customs tariff	Description of Goods	Amount of duty in gold drachmae	
9 (n)	Potato flour. . . . .	Per 100 kg. net	10.—
46 (c) 3.	Planks composed of sheets of common wood (birch) glued together, but not making up a complete article . . . . .	1 cubic metre	24.—
49 (a) 1.	Chair seats or backs of common wood (birch) veneered, with or without decoration obtained by pyrogravure or by stamping . . . . .	Per 100 kg. net	55.—
50 (1)	Trunks and boxes of all kinds made from common wood (birch), veneered. . . . .	Per 100 kg. net	25.—