

N° 1900.

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## ALBANIE ET GRÈCE

Convention de nationalité, avec protocole de signature et protocole additionnel. Signés à Athènes, le 13 octobre 1926.

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## ALBANIA AND GREECE

Convention regarding Nationality, with Protocol of Signature and Additional Protocol. Signed at Athens, October 13, 1926.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 1900. — CONVENTION <sup>2</sup> REGARDING NATIONALITY BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN REPUBLIC AND THE GREEK REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT ATHENS, OCTOBER 13, 1926.

*French official text communicated by the Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place December 20, 1928.*

THE ALBANIAN REPUBLIC and THE GREEK REPUBLIC, being desirous of settling certain questions concerning the nationality of their respective subjects to the mutual advantage of both the High Contracting Parties, have resolved to conclude a Convention for that purpose and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALBANIAN REPUBLIC :

His Excellency M. Mehdi FRASHERI, former Minister of State,  
His Excellency M. Djafer Ypi, former Minister of State,  
His Excellency M. Milto TOUTOULANI, former Minister of State,  
His Excellency M. Nicolas THAÇI, former Minister of State ;

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK REPUBLIC :

His Excellency M. Pericles ARGYROPOULO, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

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

*Article 1.*

The Albanian Government recognises the following to be Greek subjects :

1. Former Ottoman subjects who were born in the provinces now forming the Republic of Albania and are domiciled in Greece, and who acquired Greek nationality in accordance with Greek law before June 29, 1913.

2. Persons born in Albania who were domiciled in Western Thrace on August 6, 1924.

3. Persons born in the former Ottoman provinces now forming the Republic of Albania, who reside in the territory of a third Power and became Greek subjects according to Greek law before June 29, 1913, shall be recognised by the Albanian Government as Greek subjects. They may, however, opt for Albanian nationality within one year after the exchange of ratifications of the present Convention. The persons in question shall exercise their right of option by notifying both the Greek and Albanian consular authorities at their place of residence. The Greek and Albanian

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

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

<sup>2</sup> The exchange of ratifications took place at Athens, November 10, 1928.

authorities shall communicate to each other the lists of persons who have made declarations of option for Albanian nationality in accordance with the above paragraph.

*Article 2.*

Persons who were born in the former Ottoman provinces now forming the Republic of Albania and were domiciled on August 6, 1924, in the provinces annexed to Greece after January 1, 1913, shall be deemed to be Greek subjects. They may, however, opt for Albanian nationality within a year after the exchange of ratifications of the present Convention.

Persons who have opted for Albanian nationality may reside in Greece for three years after the exchange of ratifications of the present Convention. On the expiry of that period they shall leave Greek territory and shall transfer their domicile outside Greece unless permitted by the Government to remain in Greece. Such persons shall exercise their right of option by notifying both the Prefect of their place of residence and the Albanian consular authorities. Persons coming to Greece in search of work, unaccompanied by their wives and children, shall not be included in this category.

The Greek and Albanian authorities shall communicate to each other the lists of persons who have made declarations of option for Albanian nationality in accordance with the above paragraph. The Greek Government shall also recognise as valid declarations of option for Albanian nationality previously made by the same category of persons and communicated through a court officer to the Greek authorities.

The nationality of a father shall determine that of his children, being minors, and of his wife.

*Article 3.*

Officers of the Greek army and navy, serving or retired, who were born in a province of the Albanian State, shall be deemed to be Greek subjects. Officers of the Albanian army, serving or retired, and also Albanian public officials, who were born in any Greek province, shall be deemed to be Albanian subjects.

*Article 4.*

Persons born in the provinces annexed to Greece after January 1, 1913, who were domiciled in Albania on November 1, 1913, shall be deemed to be Albanian subjects and shall have the right to opt for Greek nationality within one year after the exchange of ratifications of the present Convention.

Persons who have so opted for Greek nationality shall leave Albanian territory and shall transfer their domicile elsewhere within three years from the exchange of ratifications of the present Convention, unless the Albanian Government permits them to remain in Albania.

*Article 5.*

The Greek Government recognises the following to be Albanian subjects :

1. Persons born in Albanian territory and domiciled on June 29, 1913, in the territories which formed part of Greece before January 1, 1913, unless they have renounced their former Ottoman nationality and become naturalised Greek subjects as provided for in the first paragraph of Article 1. It is understood that the children of such persons born and domiciled in the territories which formed part of Greece before January 1st, 1913, are not included in the category of persons mentioned above, if they had reached their majority by June 29, 1913, and are recognised as Greek subjects.

2. Former Ottoman subjects born in Albanian territory who, since June 29, 1913, have entered territories forming part of Greece before June 1st, 1913, and are still there at the present time.

3. Former Ottoman subjects, born in Albania, who have settled since August 6, 1924, within the present frontiers of Greek territory.

4. Former Ottoman subjects, born in Albania, who have at any time entered Greek territory as at present constituted and whose wives and children do not reside in Greece.

#### Article 6.

Persons recognised by the present Convention as Albanian or Greek subjects respectively shall have the right to travel freely in the territory of the other State on business or other affairs, or to make a stay there, or to keep, dispose of and manage freely their personal and real estate in towns, and also their rural property, if previously acquired, or to inherit by will or *ab intestato* from their relatives or from any other persons, whether Albanian or Greek subjects, and to succeed to all their rights.

Should a Greek subject inherit the rural property of an Albanian subject, he may enter into possession of such property and exercise all rights of ownership, but shall be bound to sell such property to Albanian subjects within seven years of the decease of the previous owner. If such sale cannot be effected at a reasonable price, the property in question shall be bought by the Albanian Government at a fair price, to be fixed by three experts, being men engaged in business in the locality where the rural property is situated, and to be paid in cash. The Albanian Government and the party interested shall each nominate one expert, and the experts so appointed shall be entitled to nominate the third. It is understood that, should the Albanian Government think fit to allow nationals of a third Power to succeed to rural property, the same favour shall *ipso facto* be extended to Greek subjects. The right of establishment shall be confined to persons recognised by Articles 1, 3 and 5 of the present Convention as Greek or Albanian subjects, as the case may be.

#### Article 7.

The two Governments undertake to exempt persons whose nationality is regulated by the present Convention from all military obligations to which they would be liable up to January 1st, 1928.

#### Article 8.

The Agreement of August 11, 1925, between the Director General of the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Albanian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens regarding the provisional recognition of passports issued by the authorities of the two High Contracting Parties shall remain in force for eight months from the date of signature of the present Convention.

The exchange of ratifications of the present Convention shall take place within a period not exceeding eight months.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries, duly authorised for the purpose, have signed the present Convention and thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Athens on October 13, 1926.

Mehdi FRASHERI.

Djafer YPI.

M. TOUTOULANI.

N. THAÇI.

P. A. ARGYROPOULO.

PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

Should any of the persons referred to in Article 5, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the present Convention have acquired Greek nationality by naturalisation after June 29, 1913, the Albanian Government shall recognise them as Greek subjects, up to the number of one hundred, in accordance with a list to be communicated by the Greek Government, and within two months from the communication of such list.

The hundred persons so recognised shall enjoy the treatment referred to in Article 6. As regards persons of the same category who do not appear on the above list, the Albanian Government shall be at liberty to regard them, when in Albania, as Albanians, and the Greek Government to regard them, when in Greece, as Greeks.

The Albanian and Greek delegations declare that they will recommend their Governments not to take harsh or punitive measures against persons who have already become Greek or Albanian subjects by naturalisation contrary to the existing law.

As regards the interpretation of Article 3 of the present Convention, it is understood that the officers of the Albanian army and the Albanian public officials in question, and also the persons referred to in Article 4, shall be recognised as Albanian subjects unless they are included in the category of persons of Turkish origin subject to exchange. As regards persons referred to in Article 1 of this Convention it is agreed that the production of a certificate from the mayor or head of a commune of the Greek State to the effect that the person in question was entered in the communal registers or the "registres matricules" prior to June 29, 1913, shall constitute absolute proof of the acquisition of Greek nationality by naturalisation.

The present Protocol shall form an integral part of the Convention on Nationality.

Done in duplicate at Athens on October 13, 1926.

Mehdi FRASHERI.  
Djafer YPI.  
M. TOUTOULANI.  
N. THAÇI.  
P. A. ARGYROPOULO.

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

TO THE CONVENTION REGARDING NATIONALITY BETWEEN THE GREEK REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF ALBANIA, SIGNED AT ATHENS, OCTOBER 13, 1926.

The undersigned, duly authorised by their Governments, agree that the exchange of ratifications referred to in Article 8 of the Convention regarding Nationality between the Greek Republic and Albania, signed at Athens, October 13, 1926, shall take place at Athens as soon as possible.

The Convention shall come into force ten days after the exchange of ratifications.  
The present Protocol shall form an integral part of the above Convention.

Done in duplicate, at Athens on November 10, 1928.

(Signed) A. KARAPANOS.  
(Signed) Lec KURTI.