

N° 2204.

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**LETTONIE  
ET ROYAUME DES SERBES,  
CROATES ET SLOVÈNES**

Traité de commerce et de navigation,  
avec protocole de signature. Signés  
à Belgrade, le 18 octobre 1928.

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**LATVIA AND  
KINGDOM OF THE SERBS,  
CROATS AND SLOVENES**

Treaty of Commerce and Navigation,  
with Protocol of Signature. Signed  
at Belgrade, October 18, 1928.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 2204. — TREATY<sup>2</sup> OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN LATVIA AND THE KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES. SIGNED AT BELGRADE, OCTOBER 18, 1928.

*French official text communicated by the Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Treaty took place November 16, 1929.*

The GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES, being equally desirous of promoting in every way the development of commercial relations between the two countries, have decided to conclude a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for that purpose :

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA :

M. Charles DUZMANS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Latvia to His Majesty the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Permanent Delegate of Latvia to the League of Nations ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES :

Dr. Vojislav MARINKOVITCH, His Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following Articles :

*Article 1.*

There shall be full and complete freedom of commerce and navigation between the Republic of Latvia and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

In accordance with this principle, nationals of either High Contracting Party shall have the right, provided they comply with the laws of the country, to enter the territory of the other and, to travel and reside in complete liberty in any part of that territory, and they shall enjoy therein the same rights, privileges, immunities, favours and exemptions as the nationals of the most favoured nation.

*Article 2.*

Commercial, industrial and other companies and associations which are regularly constituted in accordance with the laws of either High Contracting Party and have their real registered offices in the territory of the latter shall *ipso facto* be recognised as such in the other country.

<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 Riga, October 30, 1929.

The said companies and associations thus recognised shall be entitled in the territories of the High Contracting Parties to the rights deriving from their recognition, and may appear in the Courts either as plaintiffs or as defendants, provided they comply with the laws of the country.

Recognition of the companies and associations belonging to either High Contracting Party does not imply that they are admitted to establish themselves and transact business in the territory of the other, and, in general, to pursue the activities mentioned in their articles of association.

#### *Article 3.*

The Contracting Parties undertake not to hamper their reciprocal trade by any import or export prohibition.

Exceptions to this rule, in so far as they apply to all countries or to countries in which identical conditions prevail may only be made in the following cases :

- (1) In exceptional circumstances in connection with war supplies ;
- (2) For reasons connected with the safety of the State and public security ;
- (3) For reasons relating to public health or the protection of animals and useful plants against disease, insects and harmful parasites, subject always to observance of the international principles adopted in this matter ;
- (4) In the case of State monopolies at present in force or which may be established in the future ;
- (5) For the purpose of extending to foreign products the régime established within the country as regards the production of trade in, and transport and consumption of, like native products.

#### *Article 4.*

Natural or manufactured products originating in and coming from the territories of either High Contracting Party shall, on being imported into the territory of the other, be given the benefit of the lowest Customs duties, charges and other taxes on import which are applicable to products of the same kind originating in any other foreign country.

Neither of the High Contracting Parties shall levy duties, charges or taxes in connection with the export of any product whatsoever to the territory of the other Party which are other or higher than those that are or may in future be levied in connection with the export of products of the same kind to any other foreign country.

It is understood that the High Contracting Parties are authorised, where circumstances render this necessary, to make the right to the advantages provided for above conditional on the production of a certificate of origin.

Certificates of origin shall be issued either by the governmental authorities of the country of export or by the Chamber of Commerce to which the consignor belongs, or by any other body or association accepted by the country of destination.

#### *Article 5.*

The High Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other freedom of transit through their territory by rail, by navigable waterways, natural or artificial, or by any other roads or communication open to international transit, both in the case of goods in direct transit and also in the case of goods which are transhipped or warehoused during transit.

Freedom of transit includes transport of passengers and their baggage, of goods, of railway wagons and coaches, of vessels and other means of transport by water, and also of postal consignments.

Neither High Contracting Party shall be obliged to guarantee the transit of passengers whose entry into its territory is prohibited.

Exceptions to freedom of transit, so far as they apply to all countries, in which identical conditions prevail, may only be made in the following cases :

- (1) In exceptional circumstances in connection with war supplies ;
- (2) For reasons connected with the safety of the State and public security ;
- (3) For reasons relating to public health or the protection of animals and useful plants against disease, insects and harmful parasites, subject always to observance of the international principles adopted in this matter.

Transit traffic shall not be subject to any Customs duty or to any internal taxation, and shall not be hindered by any needless delay or restriction. Nevertheless, either High Contracting Party is authorised to levy on goods in transit the statistical fee and duties or taxes exclusively intended to cover expenses of supervision and administration involved by such transit. Goods are also liable to the transfer duty or the turnover tax if they form the subject of any commercial transaction while in transit.

With regard to transit, the High Contracting Parties grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment. In consequence, any favour, exemption or facility granted by either High Contracting Party to any third State whatsoever shall immediately and unconditionally be extended to goods in transit from the other High Contracting Party.

As an exception, and for a period as short as possible, the above provisions may be suspended by such special or general measures as each of the High Contracting Parties may be obliged to take in the case of grave happenings affecting the safety of the State or the vital interests of the country, it being understood that the principle of freedom of transit must be observed as far as possible.

#### Article 6.

Natural or manufactured products originating in and coming from the territory of either High Contracting Party which are lawfully imported into the territory of the other may not be subjected to any taxes or duties (octroi duties, tolls, warehousing charges, excise duties or taxes on consumption), whether these taxes or duties are levied in the name and for the profit of the State, province, communes, public institutions or any corporations whatsoever, other or higher than those which are or may in future be levied on native products of the same kind, or failing native products, on products of the same kind coming from the most favoured third country.

#### Article 7.

Latvian vessels and their cargoes in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Serb-Croat-Slovene vessels in Latvia shall receive the same treatment as vessels of the most favoured nation.

Vessels and boats flying the flag of either High Contracting Party and carrying the ship's papers and documents required by the laws of the country whose flag they fly, shall be *ipso facto* recognised as having the nationality of that country in the territorial waters, inland waters and ports of the other Party without having to provide any further proof.

The High Contracting Parties reserve their right to conclude a special agreement concerning the recognition of tonnage measurements certificates.

#### Article 8.

The following exemptions, immunities and privileges shall not be deemed to infringe the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment on which the present Treaty is based :

- (a) Privileges which have been or may be granted to neighbouring States with a view to facilitating local traffic within either frontier zone ;

(b) Privileges which have been or may be granted by either High Contracting Party to a third State in virtue of a Customs or economic union already in existence, or which may be concluded in the future ;

(c) Exemptions, immunities and privileges which are or may in future be granted by Latvia to Estonia, Finland, Lithuania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Nevertheless, it is understood that Latvia shall immediately enjoy the same advantages should they be granted by the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to another State not mentioned above.

#### Article 9.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Belgrade.

The Treaty shall come into force on the day of the exchange of ratifications. It shall remain in force for a period of one year and, thereafter, till the expiry of a period of three months from the date of its denunciation by either High Contracting Party.

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

Done in duplicate at Belgrade on October the eighteenth, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight.

(L. S.) (Signed) Dr. V. MARINKOVITCH.

(L. S.) (Signed) Charles DUZMANS.

#### PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

On proceeding to sign the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of to-day's date, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorised, declare on behalf of their Governments that pending the exchange of ratifications, the provisions of the said Treaty shall be put into force as from November 1, 1928.

Done in duplicate at Belgrade on October the eighteenth, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight.

(L. S.) (Signed) Dr. V. MARINKOVITCH.

(L. S.) (Signed) Charles DUZMANS.