

N° 2389.

ESTONIE ET FRANCE

Echange de notes comportant un accord relatif aux cognacs et armagnacs français importés en Estonie. Paris, les 28 septembre et 7 octobre 1929.

ESTONIA AND FRANCE

Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement regarding the Importation into Estonia of French Cognacs and Armagnacs. Paris, September 28 and October 7, 1929.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 2389. — EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE ESTONIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE IMPORTATION INTO ESTONIA OF FRENCH COGNACS AND ARMAGNACS. PARIS, SEPTEMBER 28 AND OCTOBER 7, 1929.

French official text communicated by the Estonian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Exchange of Notes took place July 14, 1930.

I.

FRENCH REPUBLIC

MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Section for Political and Commercial
Affairs.

Commercial Relations.

PARIS, September 28, 1929.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

The Commercial Convention ² between France and Estonia signed at Paris on March 15, 1929, provides in List A for reduced duties on Cognac and Armagnac imported into Estonia. As the Estonian Government is aware, the territories recognised as entitled to the appellations of origin "Cognac" and "Armagnac" are specifically determined as regards Cognac by the Decree of May 1, 1909, and as regards Armagnac by the Decree of May 25, 1909. Further, every consignment of Cognac or Armagnac from France must be accompanied to the frontier or the port of shipment by a regional certificate. As this document must be delivered to the French Customs officials, on exportation from France, the Department of Indirect Taxation has prepared, for the use of foreign purchasers, certificates (specimen of which is attached) replacing regional certificates and giving foreign purchasers every guarantee of the purity and the origin of the product.

All the countries to which France exports Cognac and Armagnac recognise that the certificates issued by the Department of Indirect Taxation give guarantees equivalent to the certificates issued by the official laboratories.

The Commercial Convention between France and Estonia contains in List A a Note under Nos. 27 and 28 to the effect that only alcoholic beverages and wines accompanied by certificates issued by official French laboratories attesting their purity and certifying their right to a regional appellation of origin are entitled to benefit by the reduced rates of duty.

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

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² Vol. LXXXIX, page 381; and Vol. C, page 250, of this Series.

I should be obliged if you would be so good as to inform me whether the Estonian Government will agree that Cognac and Armagnac accompanied by a certificate issued by the Department of Indirect Taxation shall be dutiable at the reduced rate provided for in List A without its being necessary to supply in addition a certificate from the laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture.

I have the honour, etc.

Ch. CORBIN.

*For the President of the Council,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

*Minister Plenipotentiary.
Director of Political and Commercial Affairs.*

M. Pusta,
Estonian Minister
at Paris.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN.

INDIRECT TAXATION.

Department
Sub-Department
Office

Special Reg. No. 2 B.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN : (A)

Brandies made (from (B)
grown and distilled in the district giving the right to the appellation used.
On (Date) 193..... release on deposit has been (granted
under No
for Nos to (1)
containing a total of
litres of (2)
centesimal degrees consisting of hect.,
pure alcohol lit. cent.
despatched from
by M.
Occupation
to M.
Occupation
at
Commune of
Department of
..... (date) 193

(Signature of official)

(1) State numbers on casks or cases.

(2) Cognac, Armagnac, etc.

(A) Appellation of origin (Cognac, etc.).

(B) State the substance from which the brandies have been made.

II.

PARIS, *October, 7, 1929.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In your note of September 28th you inform me that the French Department of Indirect Taxation has prepared, for the use of foreign purchasers of Cognac and Armagnac, certificates replacing regional certificates and offering to foreign purchasers the same guarantees in respect of the purity and the origin of the product as the certificates issued by the official laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture. Your Excellency communicated to me at the same time a specimen of the certificate of origin in question, and asked whether the Estonian Government would agree that Cognac and Armagnac accompanied by such a certificate should, on importation into Estonia, be dutiable at the reduced rate provided for in List A of the Franco-Estonian Commercial Convention of March 15th, 1929, without its being necessary to supply in addition a certificate from the laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In reply to Your Excellency's note, I have the honour to inform you that the Estonian Government recognises, in respect of consignments of Cognac and Armagnac, the certificates issued by the Department of Indirect Taxation as equivalent to the certificates required under the Franco-Estonian Commercial Convention (List A, note under Nos. 27 and 28) for the admission of Cognac and Armagnac at the reduced rates of duty, provided that the certificates thus recognised contain all the necessary indications in respect of the purity and the origin of the products to which they refer and in respect of the alcoholic content of such products.

The Agreement thus concluded between our two Governments shall not be put into force until the date on which the approval of the said Agreement by the Riigikogu (State Assembly) is notified by the Estonian Government to the Government of the French Republic.

I have the honour, etc.

C. R. PUSTA.

His Excellency
M. Aristide Briand,
President of the Council,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Paris.