

N° 2667.

ESTONIE ET LETTONIE

Convention relative à la perception
des droits de port minima sur les
navires et bateaux se livrant au
commerce avec l'étranger dans les
ports d'Estonie et de Lettonie.
Signée à Riga, le 28 février 1931.

ESTONIA AND LATVIA

Convention concerning the Levying
of minimum Harbour Dues from
Vessels in Foreign Trade in the
Ports of Estonia and Latvia.
Signed at Riga, February 28, 1931.

No. 2667. — CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING THE LEVYING OF MINIMUM HARBOUR DUES FROM VESSELS IN FOREIGN TRADE IN THE PORTS OF ESTONIA AND LATVIA. SIGNED AT RIGA, FEBRUARY 28, 1931.

Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le ministre des Affaires étrangères d'Estonie. L'enregistrement de cette convention a eu lieu le 7 avril 1931.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA and THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, having determined, by common consent, to conclude a convention concerning the levying of minimum harbour dues from vessels in foreign trade in the ports of Estonia and Latvia, have accordingly named as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA :

M. Eduard VIRGO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Riga, and

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA :

M. Hugo CELMIŅŠ, President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, after having exhibited to each other their respective full powers, and found them in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles :

Article 1.

A minimum tonnage tax as well as a weight tax on the cargoes imported or exported shall be levied from all sea-going vessels in the ports of both Contracting Parties with the exceptions hereinafter indicated.

Note : In addition to the dues mentioned in this Article, the levying of which shall be compulsory for both Parties, each Contracting Party shall be entitled to levy other harbour dues such as, icebreaker, sanitary and similar taxes.

Article 2.

SHIPS' TONNAGE TAX.

Tonnage tax, levied on both the entering and the clearing of vessels, shall be calculated at the following rates per net register ton :

¹ L'échange des ratifications a eu lieu à Tallinn, le 1^{er} avril 1931.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

N^o 2667. — CONVENTION² RELATIVE A LA PERCEPTION DES DROITS DE PORT MINIMA SUR LES NAVIRES ET BATEAUX SE LIVRANT AU COMMERCE AVEC L'ÉTRANGER DANS LES PORTS D'ESTONIE ET DE LETTONIE. SIGNÉE A RIGA, LE 28 FÉVRIER 1931.

English official text communicated by the Estonian minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place April 7, 1931.

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'ESTONIE et LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE LETTONIE, ayant décidé d'un commun accord de conclure une convention relative à la perception de droits de port minima sur les navires et bateaux se livrant au commerce avec l'étranger dans les ports d'Estonie et de Lettonie, ont, à cet effet, désigné pour leurs plénipotentiaires :

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'ESTONIE :

M. Eduard VIRGO, envoyé extraordinaire et ministre plénipotentiaire à Riga ;

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE LETTONIE :

M. Hugo CELMINŠ, président du Conseil, ministre des Affaires étrangères ;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs respectifs et les avoir trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des dispositions suivantes :

Article premier.

Une taxe minima de tonnage, ainsi qu'une taxe calculée d'après le poids des cargaisons importées ou exportées, seront perçues sur tous les navires et bateaux se livrant à la navigation maritime dans les ports des deux parties contractantes, sauf les exceptions indiquées ci-après :

Note : Indépendamment des droits, spécifiés dans le présent article, dont la perception sera obligatoire pour les deux Parties, chacune des Parties contractantes aura la faculté de percevoir d'autres droits de port, tels que les taxes pour les opérations de navires brise-glace, les taxes sanitaires et autres taxes analogues.

Article 2.

TAXE DE TONNAGE SUR LES NAVIRES.

La taxe de tonnage perçue tant sur les navires et bateaux entrants que sur les navires et bateaux sortants, sera calculée aux taux suivants par tonne de jauge nette :

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 The exchange of ratifications took place at Tallinn, April 1, 1931.

	Gold francs
(1) From steamships and motorships, with cargo	0.44
(2) From sailing vessels, without mechanical motive power, and barges, with cargo	0.38
(3) From steamships and motor-ships, in ballast	0.26
(4) From sailing vessels, without mechanical motive power, and barges, in ballast	0.23
(5) From steamships and motor ships with part-cargo	0.30
(6) From sailing vessels, without mechanical motive power, and barges, with part-cargo	0.26

Note 1. Ships with part-cargo shall be considered to be vessels, which loaded or discharged in the port to an extent not exceeding 20 per cent, of the ship's net capacity, or vessels which take on board or disembark a number of passengers not exceeding one-fifth of the total number of passengers which the ship is permitted to carry.

Note 2. Both Contracting Parties undertake to adopt the following scale in the conversion measures of volume into measures of weight : 40 cubic feet=1000 kilograms, 1 reg. ton=100 cubic feet.

Article 3.

The following are exempt from tonnage tax :

- (1) All floating craft, the capacity of which does not exceed 20 gross reg. tons.
- (2) Ships which enter port for the purpose of receiving orders concerning the continuation of the voyage, for replenishing their supplies of provisions, fuel and water, as well as ships which enter port in consequence of storm, ice or average, or for supplementing the crew or landing sick persons, provided these ships do not engage in operations with freight or passengers.
- (3) Ships which, after going out to sea, return to the same port in consequence of storm, ice, fog or other uncontrollable conditions (*force majeure*), without having called at any other port since the departure.
- (4) Ships which enter port for average, capital or survey repairs, also for docking, provided they do not engage in operations with freight or passengers.
- (5) Ships which go out to sea for trial purposes and which return to the said port directly from such trial not later than 12 hours after having left the confines of the port.
- (6) Ships, belonging to the Contracting Governments or to the Governments of other countries, as well as ships belonging to local and foreign municipalities, provided they do not carry freight or passengers for commercial purposes. To this category of ships belong : warships, training ships, hydrographical craft, cable ships, lightships, icebreakers, trawlers, customs or coastguard vessels, Red Cross ships and similar official vessels.

Note. Both Parties have the right not to exempt from tonnage tax vessels of countries which allow no reciprocal exemptions.

- (7) Floating cranes and floating docks, irrespective of their ownership ;

- (8) Yachts registered with internal or foreign yacht clubs ;
 (9) Excursion and tourist ships, if provided with permission from the Government ;
 (10) Ships stopping in the outer roads provided they do not carry out operations with freight or passengers.

Article 4.

Ships, which in one calendar year have paid Tonnage Tax per net reg. ton in the ports of one of the Contracting Parties to the amount of :

	Gold frances
(1) In near traffic	7.50
(2) In far traffic	3.75
(3) In ocean traffic	2.40

shall until the end of the calendar year pay in all ports of the Party the Tonnage Tax per net reg. ton as indicated below :

	Gold frances
(a) Steamships and motorships, with cargo	0.18
(b) Sailing vessels, without mechanical motive power, and barges, with cargo	0.15
(c) Steamships and motorships, in ballast	0.10
(d) Sailing vessels and barges, in ballast	0.09
(e) Steamships and motor-ships, with part-cargo	0.12
(f) Sailing vessels and barges, with part-cargo	0.10

Ships engaged in periodical or regular trips, which have paid the Tonnage Tax as mentioned in subdivisions 1, 2 and 3, shall be exempt from the payment of this tax until the end of the calendar year.

Note 1. If on a regular shipping line a ship is replaced by one with a larger net tonnage, the dues paid on account of the first ship in the respective calendar year shall be included in the schedule of payments of the other ship, on the condition that the latter shall pay the difference in harbour dues for the previous regular or periodical voyages, which has arisen through the change of tonnage.

Note 2. The Contracting Parties shall mutually notify each other of their regulations governing regular sea traffic.

Note 3. Near-Traffic shall be considered to be traffic in the Baltic Sea and its Gulfs, the Belts, the Sounda, the Cattogat as far as the line of Skagen-Lindesness and through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal up to the mouth of the river Ems ; but far-traffic — traffic in European waters as well as with the ports of the Mediterranean, the Sea of Marmors, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Article 5.

Salvage ships, which have paid Tonnage Tax to the amount of 5 gold francs per net reg. ton in one calendar year, shall in that calendar year be exempt from further payment of Tonnage Tax in all ports of the same country.

If salvage ships engage in commercial operations, not connected with their original purpose, they shall pay Tonnage Tax on the general basis.

Article 6.

Ships which, on a single round trip, call at several ports of one of the Contracting Parties shall pay Tonnage Tax only on arriving from and for abroad, but the Tonnage Tax on inter-port traffic in the said country shall be levied according to the tariff for coasting traffic.

Article 7.

The Tonnage Tax collected from ships for every arrival or departure shall not be less than 5 gold francs.

Article 8.

In calculating the Tonnage Tax, the Contracting Parties shall base themselves on the certificates of admeasurement issued by the proper national institutions.

Note : If the net tonnage of tug-boats is not indicated in their documents, it shall for the purposes of calculating harbour dues be as equal to 25 per cent. of the vessel's gross tonnage.

Article 9.

Two per cent. of the revenue from Tonnage Tax shall be used for covering the cost of erecting salvage stations, and not less than 2 per cent. — for the benefit of Seamen's Homes.

Article 10.

WEIGHT TAX.

Weight tax on goods imported from or exported to foreign countries by ship shall be levied according to the weight or volume of the goods, or per piece.

I. TAX LEVIED ON WEIGHT.

Denomination of goods	Per 100 kg in gold francs			
	a	Groups :		
		b	c	d
Chloride of potassium	0.04	—	—	—
Chloric lime	—	—	0.12	—
Sulphate of sodium (Glauber's salt)	0.04	—	—	—
Washing-soda	—	—	—	0.16
Stassfurt salt	0.04	—	—	—
Sulphate of calcium	0.04	—	—	—
Phosphorites	0.04	—	—	—
Salt (NaCl)	0.04	—	—	—
Sulphate of aluminium	—	0.08	—	—
Sulphur	0.04	—	—	—
Sulphurous pyrite	0.04	—	—	—
Pyrite and its residues	0.04	—	—	—
Cereals : rye, barley, wheat, oats, buckwheat	0.04	—	—	—
Maize	—	0.08	—	—
Leguminous plants, not separately designated	0.04	—	—	—
Rice	—	—	—	0.16
Semolina	—	—	—	0.16

Denomination of goods	Per 100 in gold francs			
	a	b	c	d
Flour, not separately designated	—	0.08	—	—
Wheat-flour	—	—	—	0.16
Potato-flour	—	0.08	—	—
Various groats	—	0.08	—	—
Various seeds, except separately designated cereals and leguminous plants	—	0.08	—	—
Bran	0.04	—	—	—
Malt	—	0.08	—	—
Potatoes	0.04	—	—	—
Cabbage	0.04	—	—	—
Turnips	0.04	—	—	—
Beet-root	0.04	—	—	—
Carrots	0.04	—	—	—
Large turnips	0.04	—	—	—
Fresh fish	0.04	—	—	—
Herrings	—	—	0.12	—
Sprats and anchovies in barrels and tins	—	0.08	—	—
Other canned fish	—	—	0.12	—
Meat	—	—	—	0.16
Sugar	—	—	—	0.16
Raw sugar	—	—	—	0.16
Soya beans, meal and residues	—	0.08	—	—
Oilcake	—	0.08	—	—
Copra	—	0.08	—	—
Hay, straw, clover, timothy	0.04	—	—	—
Fodder lime	—	—	0.12	—
Coal	0.04	—	—	—
Coal briquettes	0.04	—	—	—
Coke	0.04	—	—	—
Peat and peat-briquettes	0.04	—	—	—
Sawdust-briquettes	0.04	—	—	—
Charcoal	0.04	—	—	—
Ashes	0.04	—	—	—
Shale	0.04	—	—	—
Products of shale : oils, bitumens, asphalt and building stones	0.04	—	—	—
Benzine	—	—	—	0.16
Kerosene	—	—	—	0.16
Raw naphta	0.04	—	—	—
Mazout	0.04	—	—	—
Naphta residues	0.04	—	—	—
Goudron	—	0.08	—	—
Asphalt	—	—	0.12	—
Mineral and gum resin	0.04	—	—	—
Pitch	0.04	—	—	—
Tar	0.04	—	—	—
Cart-wheel grease	0.04	—	—	—
Lubricating materials, oils	—	—	0.12	—
Colophonium	0.04	—	—	—
Mineral ore	0.04	—	—	—
Castiron	—	0.08	—	—
Oldiron	0.04	—	—	—
Iron slag	0.04	—	—	—
Steel	—	—	—	0.16
Iron	—	—	—	0.16
Iron and steel sheets	—	—	—	0.16
Iron and steel wire	—	—	—	0.16
Iron, steel, and cast-iron tubes, not coated with other material or coated with asphalt	—	—	—	0.16
Rails (for railways) and their accessories	—	—	—	0.16

Denomination of goods	Per 100 kg in gold francs			
	Groups :			d
a	b	c		
Rail switches and their parts.	—	—	—	0.10
Trolleys	—	—	—	0.10
Agricultural machines and implements	—	—	0.12	—
Scrap-metal of all kinds, except that containing gold or silver	0.04	—	—	—
Manure, artificial, all kinds.	0.04	—	—	—
Manure, natural, all kinds.	0.04	—	—	—
Fish- and meat-flour.	—	0.08	—	—
Bones	0.04	—	—	—
Bone-dust.	0.04	—	—	—
Horns	0.04	—	—	—
Hoofs	0.04	—	—	—
Hides, raw (dry and wet salted)	—	—	—	0.10
Cellulose	0.04	—	—	—
Pulp in sheets, mechanically worked	0.04	—	—	—
Wood-flour	0.04	—	—	—
Wood-wool and shaving	0.04	—	—	—
Sand	0.04	—	—	—
Earth for technical purposes except for dyeing	0.04	—	—	—
Bleaching powder	0.04	—	—	—
Therapeutic mud	0.04	—	—	—
Clay, all kinds, except for dyeing	0.04	—	—	—
Kaolin	0.04	—	—	—
Bricks, ordinary and of sand	0.04	—	—	—
Tiles	0.04	—	—	—
Clay tubes	—	0.08	—	—
Jugs and pottery	—	—	0.12	—
Dutch stove-tiles (not glazed)	—	—	—	0.16
Fire-bricks (shamot bricks).	—	—	—	0.16
Burned gypsum.	0.04	—	—	—
Alabaster.	0.04	—	—	—
Chalk.	0.04	—	—	—
Lime, not separately designated	0.04	—	—	—
Ochre	—	—	0.12	—
Cement.	0.04	—	—	—
Cement building blocks	0.04	—	—	—
Cement (concrete) goods	—	—	0.12	—
Whetstones, different	—	—	0.12	—
Grindstones and material for their manufacture	0.04	—	—	—
Stones, manufactured, except precious stones and marble	0.04	—	—	—
Roof-shingles	0.04	—	—	—
Wood products, semi-manufactured	—	0.08	—	—
Plywood	—	0.08	—	—
Chair-seats and backs	—	0.08	—	—
Match-splints	—	0.08	—	—
Casks, all kinds	—	—	—	0.16
Cork-bark	—	0.08	—	—
Residues of cork-bark	—	0.08	—	—
Racking, writing and printing paper	—	0.08	—	—
Posteboard for walls and tarred paper for roofing	—	0.08	—	—
Paper residues and wastepaper	0.04	—	—	—
Rags, all kinds	—	—	—	0.16
Flax	—	0.08	—	—
Hemp	—	0.08	—	—
Substitutes for hemp, manilla and sisal	—	0.08	—	—
Tow	—	0.08	—	—
Cotton-wool.	—	0.08	—	—
Jute	—	0.08	—	—
Ropes and cords	—	—	—	0.16
Fishing implements ; nets, draw-nets, trawls.	—	—	—	0.16

Denomination of goods	Per 100 kg in gold francs			
	a	Groups :		
	b	c	d	
Old ropes	0.04	—	—	—
Old-bast-shoes	0.04	—	—	—
Old mats	0.04	—	—	—
Raw gum	—	—	—	0.16
Ice	0.04	—	—	—

(e) 0.20 gold francs on all goods not mentioned in the groups (a), (b), (c), (d).

Note 1. The weight tax on raw materials in their natural state shall not exceed the weight tax on articles manufactured from these raw materials. Residues shall not be charged higher than the respective raw materials.

Note 2. By agreement between the Governments of both Contracting Parties, goods of low value, subject to the highest scale of weight tax, may be transferred to groups of a lower scale. Proposals to this effect made by one of the Contracting Parties shall be examined by the other Contracting Party within one month; failure to give reply within the mentioned time shall be considered as acceptance by that Contracting Party of such proposal. If agreement is not arrived at, the highest scale shall remain in force.

Note 3. In calculating the weight tax, weights under 50 kg. shall not be taken into account and weights above 50 kg. shall be reckoned as 100 kg.

II. TAX LEVIED PER PIECE.

Cattle (horses, cows, oxen etc.) per head	0.60
Small cattle (sheep, goats, calves, pigs etc.) per head	0.20
Wild beasts in cages, per head	1.00
Live poultry, per head	0.03

III. TAX, LEVIED PER VOLUME, ON TIMBER.

(a) 0.16 gold fr. on each piled cubic metre of fire-wood, all kinds of baulks and logs, uncut (except hardwood), pit-props, laths, poles and deals, battens and boards up to 2 metres long;

(b) 0.34 g. fr. per each solid cubic metre or 1.58 g. fr. per standard of aspendwood materials;

(c) 0.45 g. fr. per each solid cubic metre or 2.11 g. fr. per standard of pine, spruce, alder and linden-wood (limetree) materials;

(d) 0.56 g. fr. per each solid cubic metre or 2.64 g. fr. per standard of birch, ash, maple, elm, German ash, apple, plum, pear and cherry-wood materials;

(e) 0.70 g. fr. per each solid cubic metre or 3.30 g. fr. per standard of pockwood, mahogany, teak, oak, and pitchpine materials.

Note 4. Any kind of wood, imported or exported, shall, if not mentioned above, be classified, according to its quality, in the corresponding group.

Note 5. One "load" of timber shall be as equivalent to 1.42 cubic metres of solid wood.

Note 6. On cubic metre of stone shall be considered to have the following equivalents in weight :

Shale	885 kg.
Flag-stones	1,690 "
Calcite	1,500 "
Cobble-stones	2,280 "
Granite, syenite, marble and other kinds of stone in largesolid blocks	2,700 "

Article 11.

The following goods shall be exempt from weight tax :

(1) Goods, the weight of which according to the bill of lading or waybill does not exceed 100 kg., postal parcels, passengers' luggage.

(2) Ballast, fuel in bunkers and tanks, provisions and ice for crew and passengers, as well as ships' own stores and materials for ships' repairs ;

(3) Special military cargoes, coal and other fuel imported for the requirements of the military forces or of the Department of Waterways.

(4) Cargoes arriving at a port for further transport on the same ship or cargoes transhipped without being stored on shore, whether the ship be moored alongside the quay or at anchor.

(5) Cargoes conveyed into a port over the ice.

(6) Goods which according to law are subject to destruction or re-exportation.

(7) Goods which on inspection are found to be damaged, or which owing to damage are considered as useless in their original form or as material.

(8) Goods which have entirely lost their value or which have been destroyed before the customs inspection certificate has been finally completed.

(9) Natural stones. This category comprises all kinds of ordinary stones — field-stone, cobble-stone, flag-stone, calcite, gypseous-stone — in their natural, raw condition.

Article 12.

Weight Tax on transit cargoes loaded direct from trucks into ship or vice-versa, and proceeding through a port to their destination without stopping, shall be charged at the rate of 20 per cent. of the general tariff stipulated in the corresponding Articles of the present Convention.

Weight Tax on transit cargoes remaining at a port and stored in the warehouses, whence they are loaded into trucks and ships, shall be charged at the rate of 30 per cent. of the general tariff stipulated in the corresponding Articles of the present Convention.

30 per cent. of the tariff rates shall likewise be levied on goods arriving at a port and temporarily discharged on account of accident, as well as on goods using the quay of the harbour during transhipment.

Article 13.

Weight Tax on goods imported shall be calculated on the basis of the rates which were in force on the day when the goods entered the port.

Article 14.

The present Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification be exchanged at Tallinn as soon as possible.

This Convention shall take effect from the April 1st, 1931, and from that date the Convention¹ signed at Tallinn on October 31st, 1923, concerning the Levying of Harbour Dues on Sea-going vessels in the ports of Estonia and Latvia shall be considered as cancelled.

The present Convention shall remain in force unless and until terminated by a six months' written notice given by either Contracting Party to the other.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the Convention and have affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at Riga, the 28 day of February in the year 1931.

(L. S.) E. VIRGO.

(L. S.) H. CELMIŅŠ.

¹ Vol. XXV, page 321, de ce recueil.