

N° 3463.

ESTONIE ET LETTONIE

Convention scolaire. Signée à Riga,
le 17 février 1934.

ESTONIA AND LATVIA

Inter-School Convention. Signed at
Riga, February 17th, 1934.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 3463. — INTER-SCHOOL CONVENTION² BETWEEN ESTONIA AND LATVIA. SIGNED AT RIGA, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1934.

*French official text communicated by the Estonian and Latvian Ministers for Foreign Affairs.
The registration of this Convention took place July 20th, 1934.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA, of the one part,
and

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, of the other part,

Being desirous of settling the question of schools which have been or may hereafter be opened in Estonia for children of Latvian origin, and in Latvia for children of Estonian origin, have decided to conclude a School Convention, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for that purpose :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA :

His Excellency M. Julius SELJAMAA, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA :

His Excellency M. Voldemārs SALNAIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article I.

Estonia shall open and maintain primary schools for children of Latvian origin, irrespective of religion, and Latvia shall open and maintain primary schools for children of Estonian origin, irrespective of religion, if the number of pupils from 8 to 15 years of age required to attend those compulsory primary schools is not less than 15 within the boundaries of a commune or 20 within the boundaries of several neighbouring communes together.

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 Came into force July 20th, 1934.

Article 2.

The number of teachers in the schools mentioned in Article 1 shall be fixed according to the following schedule :

A school with	1 class	(school year)	comprising	not more than	40	pupils	— 1 teacher.
»	»	2 classes	»	»	35	»	— 1 »
»	»	2	»	»	36-70	»	— 2 teachers.
»	»	3	»	»	not more than 30	»	— 1 teacher.
»	»	3	»	»	31-70	»	— 2 teachers.
»	»	3	»	»	71-110	»	— 3 »
»	»	4	»	»	not more than 25	»	— 1 teacher.
»	»	4	»	»	26-60	»	— 2 teachers.
»	»	4	»	»	61-100	»	— 3 »
»	»	4	»	»	more than 100	»	— 4 »
»	»	5-6	»	»	not more than 50	»	— 2 »
»	»	5-6	»	»	51-90	»	— 2 »
»	»	5-6	»	»	more than 90	»	— 4 »

Article 3.

If the number of pupils of Latvian origin in an Estonian school or the number of pupils of Estonian origin in a Latvian school is less than the number indicated in Article 1 as required for the opening of a school, but more than 9, the mother-tongue of those pupils shall, at the request of their parents, be taught to them as a special subject.

The number of lessons in the mother-tongue shall not be less than four per week.

Children whose parents are of different origin shall attend the schools chosen by their parents. Should the parents not be agreed on the choice of the school, the father shall decide.

Article 4.

The schools mentioned in Article 1 shall be opened, at the request of the parents or guardians, by the State or by the communes (urban or rural), in accordance with the present Convention.

These schools shall be maintained and provided with all the necessary equipment by the communes or by the State. The salaries of the teaching staff in these schools shall be paid on the basis and in the order laid down in the laws relating to the primary schools of the respective States.

If rural primary schools are attended by children domiciled at a distance exceeding 3 kilometres, the Contracting Parties shall open boarding-houses or make the necessary grants for the hire and upkeep of premises to be used as school boarding-houses.

Article 5.

The appointment of teachers, the performance of their duties, and their dismissal shall be governed by the laws in force in the respective States.

Persons who have acquired the right to teach in primary schools in Latvia shall enjoy that right in Latvian primary schools in Estonia, and persons who have acquired the right to teach in primary schools in Estonia shall enjoy that right in Estonian primary schools in Latvia.

Teachers who are nationals of the other Contracting Party shall be allowed to teach in the schools, subject to the consent of the Minister of Education.

Teachers giving instruction in the schools of the other Contracting Party, as provided in the present Convention, shall enjoy in that State, irrespective of nationality, the right to a pension in conformity with the pension regulations in force in that State; in such cases, the length of service in the schools of the other State shall be taken into consideration.

The pension shall be paid by the State in which the teacher is giving instruction at the time of his retirement.

In the event of the pensioner's death, the members of his family shall become entitled to the pension.

Article 6.

Instruction in the schools mentioned in Articles 1 and 8 shall be given in the mother-tongue of the pupils, and the teaching staff shall consist of teachers of the same origin as the pupils and speaking their mother-tongue. The heads of these schools must have a knowledge of the Estonian and Latvian languages.

The language of the State shall be taught as a compulsory subject, beginning with the third school year.

The curricula shall be drawn up in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the State concerned.

These curricula shall also include the history and geography of the other Contracting Party.

Article 7.

Should parents domiciled in the territory of either Contracting State wish to send their children to schools using their mother-tongue, situated in the territory of the other State, no obstacle shall be placed in their way by either Party.

Article 8.

If the number of children originating in one of the Contracting Parties, domiciled in the territory of the other and wishing to join the first class of the secondary school, is not less than thirty, the Ministry of Education of the State of domicile of such children shall, at the request of the parents or guardians, make arrangements for the opening of a secondary school in which the teaching shall be given in the mother-tongue of those children.

The funds necessary for the maintenance of these schools shall be granted in each of the Contracting States in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

Article 9.

As regards school fees, the citizens of the two Contracting States shall enjoy equality of treatment in all the educational establishments in Latvia and Estonia.

Article 10.

Schools opened for children of Latvian origin in Estonia and for children of Estonian origin in Latvia may not be closed, unless during two consecutive years the number of pupils in those schools is below the minimum laid down in this Convention.

Article 11.

The instructions necessary for the carrying-out of this Convention shall be given by agreement by the Ministries of Education of the two Contracting Parties.

A joint paritative commission shall be formed to settle all questions that may arise during the execution of this Convention.

Questions on which the joint commission may not be able to reach an agreement shall be settled through the diplomatic channel.

Article 12.

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

It shall come into force on the fifteenth day following the exchange of the instruments of ratification, and shall remain in force for a period of three years.

It shall be deemed to be prolonged by tacit agreement for an indefinite period, unless it is denounced by either Contracting Party at least three months before its expiry. If it is prolonged by tacit agreement, either Contracting Party shall have the right to denounce it at any time, and in that case it shall expire three months after such denunciation, but not before the end of the current school year.

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

Done at Riga, in duplicate, February 17th, 1934.

(L. S.) (Signed) Jul. SELJAMAA.

(L. S.) (Signed) V. SALNAIS.