

N° 4203.

UNION ÉCONOMIQUE
BELGO-LUXEMBOURGEOISE
ET ITALIE

Convention de paiements. Signée à
Rome, le 30 juin 1937.

ECONOMIC UNION OF
BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG
AND ITALY

Convention regarding Payments.
Signed at Rome, June 30th, 1937.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 4203. — CONVENTION REGARDING PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC UNION OF BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG AND ITALY. SIGNED AT ROME, JUNE 30TH, 1937.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place October 15th, 1937.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT of the one part, acting both on its own behalf and on behalf of THE GOVERNMENT OF LUXEMBURG in virtue of existing agreements, and THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT of the other part, desirous of facilitating payments in connection with goods transactions between their countries, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article 1.

Payments in respect of sums due for purchases of Italian goods imported into the Customs territory of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg shall be made in belgas to the Banque Nationale de Belgique for credit of accounts to be opened at the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero for the purpose of payments by the latter to the creditors in Italy.

Article 2.

The belgas paid in on and after July 1st, 1937, to the Banque Nationale de Belgique in respect of Italian goods imported into the Economic Union shall be credited, as to 15 per cent, to an account to be known as the Old Claims Account, which shall be used for payments for goods exported from Belgium and Luxemburg to Italy prior to September 1st, 1936, and, as to 85 per cent, to an account to be known as the New Claims Account, which shall be used for payments for goods exported from Belgium and Luxemburg to Italy after September 1st, 1936, within the limits of the approved quotas.

The Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero shall use the belgas credited to the Old and New Claims Accounts respectively for the sole purpose of the sale of foreign exchange to debtors in Italy for payments under the provisions of the present Convention of their debts for goods imported from Belgium and Luxemburg into Italy prior to or after September 1st, 1936, respectively.

Article 3.

Payment in belgas for sales of Italian goods to the Economic Union expressed in lire shall be made at the official rate of the Rome Stock Exchange, as notified daily by the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero to the Banque Nationale de Belgique and posted for that purpose on the Brussels Stock Exchange.

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.

Where the rate is notified before 1 p. m. (Belgian time), it shall apply to conversions on the following day : where it is notified after 1 p. m. (Belgian time), it shall apply to conversions on the next day but one.

Payment in belgas for sales of Italian goods to the Economic Union expressed in currencies other than the belga or lira shall be made at the rate quoted for the currency in question on the Brussels Stock Exchange on the day preceding the date of payment.

Article 4.

Payments in lire by debtors in Italy for goods imported from Belgium and Luxemburg to Italy prior to September 1st, 1936, shall, when the debt is expressed in currencies other than the lira, be made at the official rate quoted for the currency in question on the Rome Stock Exchange on the date of payment by the debtor.

Transfers of lira payments for the aforesaid imports from Belgium and Luxemburg into Italy shall be made in belgas only, in the chronological order of the dates of payment due, as and when the necessary funds are available in the Old Claims Account to which Article 2 relates, at the rate quoted for the belga on the Rome Stock Exchange on the date of transfer.

It is understood that creditors in the Economic Union shall be entitled to receive the amount of their claims from the debtors in Italy in belgas at the official rate quoted for the currency in which the contract is made out on the Rome Stock Exchange on the date of transfer, any exchange differences as between the date of payment and the date of transfer being debited or credited, as the case may be, to the debtor in Italy.

Article 5.

Sums in lire paid on or after July 1st, 1937, by debtors in Italy for goods imported from Belgium and Luxemburg on or after September 1st, 1936, shall be converted into belgas and credited to an account to be opened at the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero in the name of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.

Where the sum due by the debtor in Italy is made out in lire, it shall be converted into belgas at the official rate quoted for the belga on the Rome Stock Exchange on the day preceding the date of payment.

Where the sum due is made out in currencies other than the belga or lira, it shall be converted into belgas at the official rate quoted for the currency in question and the belga respectively on the Rome Stock Exchange on the day preceding the date of payment.

The Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero shall advise the Banque Nationale de Belgique daily of the sums credited for payments received from debtors in Italy. The credit advice notes shall take the place of orders to pay, and payment shall be made thereon by the Banque Nationale de Belgique as and when funds are available for the purpose in the New Claims Account of the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero at the Banque Nationale de Belgique.

Article 6.

Should trade between the Economic Union and Italy be such as to show as at December 31st, 1937, or, in the event of the present Agreement being renewed, as at the end of each half-year following, an active balance in favour of Italy, the equivalent of the same in belgas shall be used by the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero, in concert with the clearing authority of the Economic Union (*Office de compensation belgo-luxembourgeois*) for the redemption of Belgian and Luxemburg claims in respect of goods imported into Italy prior to September 1st, 1936.

The balance resulting on December 31st, 1937, from trade between Italy and the Economic Union shall be determined within sixty days after that date, and similarly within sixty days after the end of each half-year following in the event of the present Convention being renewed.

The calculation of the balance shall be based on the following elements, namely :

(1) Cash holdings of the New Claims Account for which Article 2 of the present Convention provides ;

(2) Sums outstanding from importers of either Contracting Party for goods imported into the territory of the other Contracting Party in the course of the period to which the calculation relates.

That part of the balance so calculated which consists of sums in hand in the New Claims Account shall be used in the manner above provided, sums still outstanding being used for the same purpose as and when they are received.

Article 7.

In order to enable the Belgian Government to guarantee the fulfilment of undertakings assumed by Belgian exporters as a means of realising their claims on Italy, the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero shall, if so requested by the clearing authority of the Economic Union and the prospective beneficiary jointly, allow the registration of the claim in the name of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.

Article 8.

The above provisions shall apply to claims in respect of goods of Italian, Belgian or Luxemburg origin or provenance imported or exported by Italy or the Economic Union to one another.

Nevertheless, in the case of Italian, Belgian or Luxemburg goods imported or exported prior to October 16th, 1936, the above provisions shall extend to payments for goods imported from Italy or the Italian possessions or colonies to the territory of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg or the Belgian Congo or mandated Belgian territories, and *vice versa*.

Article 9.

Each of the two Governments shall take the necessary steps, in so far as it is concerned, with a view to the regular operation of the system of payments in settlement of claims for which provision is made above.

Article 10.

Any difficulties arising in connection with the application of the above provisions shall be settled by the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero and the clearing authority of the Economic Union by common accord.

Article 11.

The present Convention shall come into force on July 1st, 1937, and shall remain in force until December 31st, 1937. If not denounced two months before its expiry, it shall be renewed by tacit assent for six months and thereafter for successive periods of six months until such time as one or other of the two contracting Powers signifies its desire for the termination of the same on the expiry of such a period.

Done at Rome, in duplicate, this 30th day of June, 1937.

For Belgium :

(Signed) DU CHASTEL.

For Italy :

(Signed) CIANO.