

N° 178.

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## BULGARIE ET PAYS-BAS

Echange de Notes concernant l'importation en Bulgarie des marchandises provenant des Pays-Bas. Sofia, les 23 septembre, 30 octobre, 3 et 13 novembre 1920.

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## BULGARIA AND THE NETHERLANDS

Exchange of Notes with regard to the Importation into Bulgaria of Goods coming from the Netherlands. Sofia, September 23, October 30, November 3 and 13, 1920.

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

No. 178. — EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORTATION INTO BULGARIA OF GOODS COMING FROM THE NETHERLANDS. SOFIA, SEPTEMBER 23, OCTOBER 30, NOVEMBER 3 AND 13, 1920.

*French official text communicated by the Minister of the Netherlands at Berne. The registration of this Exchange of Notes took place on November 9, 1921.*

— I —

THE BULGARIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE MINISTER FOR THE NETHERLANDS IN SOFIA.

N<sup>o</sup> 10142.

SOFIA, 'September 23, 1920.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The commercial relations between Bulgaria and friendly and neutral countries were regulated for the period dating from September 1918 to April 15, 1919 on the basis of the most-favoured-nation clause, in accordance with the commercial treaty concluded with Germany<sup>2</sup> in 1905, which alone had remained in force. This Treaty having expired on April 15, 1919<sup>3</sup>, and failing any other arrangement, Bulgaria, from that date, began to apply her autonomous customs regime to vessels and imports of all countries without distinction.

The coming into force of the Treaty of Peace, however, modifies the existing regime. Article 151 of the Treaty of Peace of Neuilly stipulates that during a period of one year after the coming into force of that Treaty, the duties imposed by Bulgaria on imports from Allied and Associated States shall not be higher than the most favourable duties which were applied on imports into Bulgaria on July 28, 1914.

The commercial relations between Bulgaria and the Allied and Associated Powers having thus been provisionally regulated by the Treaty of Peace, as far as taxes to be imposed on their imports are concerned, the commercial relations between Bulgaria and the countries with which Bulgaria has not been at war remain to be settled.

To this end I wish to convey the sincere desire of the Bulgarian Government to consolidate the good commercial relations which have hitherto existed between the Netherlands and Bulgaria, and, in view of the great advantage which would accrue to both countries from a stable regime, by which our mutual commerce could only benefit, I would propose to you that a commercial regime should be established, based on the most-favoured-nation clause; that this regime should be provisional, and should be in force only until August 9, 1921, the date on which the period fixed by Article 151 of the Treaty of Peace of Neuilly expires. I have therefore the honour to request you to be good enough to take steps to obtain from your Government its consent to the establishment, by an exchange of Notes, of such a regime based on the principle of reciprocity.

I shall be much obliged if you will be so good as to transmit this proposal at the same time to the German and to the Austrian Governments.

In the hope that the proposal of the Bulgarian Government will receive the favourable consideration of your Government, I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) AL. STAMBOLIISKY.

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

<sup>2</sup> British and Foreign State Papers, vol. 98, page 703.

<sup>3</sup> See vol. VI, page 227, of this « Series ».

No. 2538.

— 2 —

THE MINISTER FOR THE NETHERLANDS IN SOFIA TO THE BULGARIAN MINISTER  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.SOFIA, *October 30, 1920.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have duly transmitted to the Government of the Queen the contents of the Note which M. Stamboliisky was good enough to address to me on September 23 last, No. 10142.

While awaiting instructions from my Government on this matter, I have made a thorough study of the commercial relations between the Netherlands and Bulgaria, and I have ascertained that by a Note, dated January 13, 1906, No. 49, addressed by the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent to the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople, the Bulgarian Government accepted the proposal of the Royal Government regarding the extension of the provisional commercial Convention concluded between the Netherlands and Bulgaria on the basis of the most-favoured-nation clause. From that date until April 15, 1919, the date on which Bulgaria began to apply her autonomous customs regime to vessels and imports of all countries without distinction, the imports from the Netherlands have been treated on the most-favoured-nation footing.

From August 9, 1920, however, the tariff fixed by the Convention has been applied to imports from Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy and Siam, while the autonomous customs tariff has been applied to goods coming from the Netherlands.

I am glad to think that Your Excellency shares my view that, in accordance with the terms of the Note dated January 13, 1906, No. 49, from the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agency at Constantinople, the most-favoured-nation clause continues to be in force for imports from the Netherlands.

I take the liberty, therefore, to beg your Excellency to be so good as to approach the Finance Minister asking him to instruct the Customs Authorities to apply the tariff fixed by the Convention to goods coming from the Netherlands, with retrospective effect as from August 9, 1920, the date on which the Conventional tariff was applied with regard to the imports of the five above-mentioned States.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) DOMELA NIEUWENHUIS.

No. 2549.

— 3 —

THE MINISTER FOR THE NETHERLANDS IN SOFIA TO THE BULGARIAN MINISTER  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.SOFIA, *November 3, 1920.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In reply to your letter dated September 23 last, No. 10142, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, inspired by the same sincere desire to consolidate the good commercial relations which have always existed between Bulgaria and the Netherlands, and which His Excellency M. Stamboliisky was good enough to express, my Government accepts the proposal of the Royal Bulgarian Government to establish a commercial regime between the Netherlands and Bulgaria, based on the most-favoured-nation clause and on the principle of reciprocity, and to remain in force until August 9, 1921.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will be so good as to inform me as soon as the necessary instructions have been given by telegram to the Customs Authorities.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) DOMELA NIEUWENHUIS.

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N° 12362.

VERBAL NOTE FROM THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
TO THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION AT SOFIA.SOFIA, *November 13, 1920.*

With reference to the letters dated October 30 ultimo and November 3 instant, under Nos. 2538 and 2549, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Royal Netherlands Legation that the Ministry of Finance has just sent to the Bulgarian Customs Authorities a circular telegram requesting them to apply to goods from the Netherlands, as from the roth of this month until August 9, 1921, the most-favoured-nation clause, in accordance with the Commercial Treaties concluded before July 28, 1914.

In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding when goods coming from the Netherlands are passed through the Customs, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs begs to draw the attention of the Netherlands Legation to the fact that goods imported into Bulgaria from the Netherlands should be accompanied by certificates showing their origin, issued either by one of the Chambers of Commerce, or by the Netherlands Export Authorities, or by the Bulgarian Consular Authorities in the Netherlands.

In communicating the above to the Royal Netherlands Legation, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity of presenting to the Legation its most distinguished compliments.

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