

N° 439.

LETTONIE ET LITUANIE

**Convention sur les droits des citoyens,
signée à Riga le 14 mai 1921.**

LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

**Convention regarding the rights of
citizens, signed at Riga, May 14,
1921.**

TEXTE LITUANIEN. — LITHUANIAN TEXT.

No. 439. — KONVENCIJA¹ TARP LIETUVOS IR LATVIJOS APIE PILIECIŲ TEISES.

*Official Latvian and Lithuanian texts communicated by the Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs.
The registration of this Convention took place June 16, 1923.*

LIETUVA iš vienos ir LATVIJA iš kitos pusės rado reikalingu sudaryti tarpu savęs sekančią sutartį ir tam tikslui įgaliavo.

LATVIJOS VALDŽIA SAVO UŽSIENIO REIKALŲ MINISTERĮ :

p. Z. A. MEIEROVICS.

LIETUVOS VALDŽIA SAVO UŽSIENIO REIKALŲ MINISTERĮ :

p. dr. Juozą PURYCKĮ.

Minėtieji įgalioti asmens, suėję Rigoje, patikrinę vieni kitų įgaliavimus ir pripažinę juos visai tvarkoje ir atatinama forma sustatytais, susitarė apie šituos štai punktus :

I.

Lietuvos ir Latvijos pilietybė rišama sulig abiejų valstybių pilietybės įstatymų. Tačiau :

- a) asmens kuriuos abiejų valstybių įstatymai laiko savais piliečiais, turi teisę pasirinkti ar vieną ar kitą pilietybę. Minėtieji asmens negali būti traukiami atsakomyben, nei baudžiami nei prie jų taikoma koki nors isimtini įsakymai dėl to kad jie pasirinkimo išdavinių.
- b) asmens, priklausantieji teritorijai vienos, sutartį darančių, valstybių, kurie ligi 1914 m. rugpinčio 1 d. išgyveno nemažiau 25 metų antrosios valstybės teritorijoje, gali reikalanti, kad jie būtų priimti tos valstybės pilietybėn.

Asmens, kuriems nepritaikomos raidės b taisyklės, pripažįstami tos valstybės piliečiais, kuriai jie priklauso.

II.

Be § 1-me raide b nurodytų asmenų, turinčių privalomos teisės pilietybei gaut abi valstybės pasilieka sau teisę suteikti savo pilietybę :

- a) pirmoje § raidės b minėtų asmenų vaikams.
- b) ne saviems piliečiams, kurie ne mažiau penkių metų išgyveno jų valstybėje.

Vienos valstybės pilietė, kuri ištekėdama už antrosios valstybės piliečio, įgijo tos valstybės pilietybę, per vienerius metus, jos moterystei pasibaigus, gali priimti senąją pilietybę.

Pilietybės suteikimo tvarką nustato katros valstybės vidaus įstatymai ir taisyklės.

¹ The exchange of ratifications took place May 20, 1922.

¹ TRANSLATION.

No. 439. — CONVENTION BETWEEN LATVIA AND LITHUANIA
REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS, SIGNED AT RIGA,
MAY 14, 1921.

LATVIA, of the one Part, and LITHUANIA, of the other Part, have deemed it necessary to conclude a Convention in the following terms, and have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

• THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT :

Zigfrid A. MEIEROVICS, Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT :

Dr. Juosas PURYZKIS, Lithuanian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The above-named Plenipotentiaries, having met at Riga and having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

I.

Nationality in Latvia and Lithuania shall be determined in accordance with the respective laws of each of these States.

Persons who are recognised by the laws of the two States as their citizens may choose the nationality of either State. Such persons may not be prosecuted, punished or subjected to exceptional measures of any kind in respect of their choice of nationality or of the consequences of such choice.

Persons who belong to any district situated in one of the Contracting States and who, up to August 1, 1914, had resided not less than 25 years in the territory of the other State, shall be entitled to claim rights of citizenship in the latter State.

Persons to whom the provisions laid down in Article 2 do not apply shall be recognised as having rights of citizenship in the State to which they belong.

2.

In addition to the cases mentioned in Article 1, rights of citizenship in either of the Contracting States may be accorded upon special application :

(a) to the descendants of the persons referred to in the third paragraph of Article 1, and

(b) to foreigners who have resided not less than five years in the State in question.

A female citizen of one of the Contracting States who has acquired through marriage with a citizen of the other State rights of citizenship in the latter may, within a period of one year from the date of separation from her husband, resume her previous nationality.

The validity of orders granting rights of citizenship shall be confirmed in accordance with the internal laws and regulations of either State.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

3.

The following shall forfeit rights of citizenship in either of the Contracting States :

- (a) persons who have taken the nationality of another State ;
- (b) persons who are simultaneously citizens of another State.

4.

Lithuanians residing in Latvia and Latvians residing in Lithuania shall have the right to opt for the nationality of the State to which they originally belonged, even in cases where they have subsequently adopted the nationality of the State in which their permanent residence is situated.

Such persons shall have the right to request to be admitted to the nationality of the State in which they reside, if they have resided there not less than 20 years.

5.

Declarations of option must be submitted to the Consul of the State for which it is desired to opt. The Consul shall accept or refuse declarations of option in accordance with the present Convention and the laws and regulations of the State for which an option has been made.

Declarations of option by minors and persons in the custody of a guardian or trustee shall be submitted by their guardian or trustee.

6.

Wives, and children up to 18 years of age, shall take the nationality for which their husbands have opted. Adopted and legitimated children up to 18 years of age shall take the nationality of the person who adopted or legitimated them.

7.

The right to opt shall expire two years after the day on which the instruments of ratification of the present Convention are exchanged. After that period rights of citizenship can only be acquired in accordance with the internal laws and regulations of the Contracting States concerned.

8.

Persons who have opted for the new nationality shall retain their rights over all their movable and immovable property situated in their former native country on the same terms as citizens of the latter.

The persons referred to shall have the right, when leaving within one year for their new country, to transport with them all movable property which they possess in their household or have acquired for household purposes, and shall not be required to pay Customs duties or other special duties and taxes, either upon leaving one State or upon entering the other.

9.

Persons residing permanently in either of the Contracting States who have previously adopted the nationality of the other State shall, when leaving for their native country within a period of

one year following the day on which the instruments of ratification of the present Convention are exchanged, enjoy the same rights in regard to the removal of their movable property as persons who have opted for their nationality.

Persons who are sentenced to expulsion in accordance with Article 11 of this Convention shall be granted only such period of grace before departure as may be necessary for the liquidation of their property. This period shall be determined by the authorities of the State concerned in agreement with the representative of the other State.

10.

When transporting their movable property, optants and other persons leaving the country must submit papers issued by their Consul attesting their right to export such property in conformity with the provisions of Articles 8 and 9. These permits shall be endorsed with the visa of the competent State authorities.

11.

Both Contracting States undertake not to prohibit the citizens of the other State from entering, residing, or establishing themselves permanently within their boundaries.

Nevertheless, either Party shall not serve to itself the right to refuse to admit to its territory or to expel therefrom any citizen of the other Contracting State who may engage in subversive activities or become a charge upon the State in question. The reasons for refusal of admission and for expulsion must be notified to the other State, upon application by the latter.

Citizens of one State who have resided continuously for more than five years in the other State may not be expelled by the latter except for criminal offences.

Either of the Contracting Parties shall retain its right to give notice of the criminal offences which will entail expulsion.

12.

The citizens of either Contracting State shall, in the territory of the other State, be regarded as possessing absolutely equal rights with citizens of the latter State in regard to civil law and legal procedure and assistance.

The persons in question may not be constrained to pay any other taxes, duties or charges whatsoever, either of a different kind or at a higher rate, in the other Contracting State than the nationals of that State, with the exception of the fee on passports for persons proceeding abroad.

They shall enjoy the same rights in regard to the carrying on of trade and industry as the nationals of the State in question.

The laws and regulations in force in each State respectively shall continue to be applicable in respect of the acquisition of immovable property and the foundation and establishment of commercial, industrial or financial organisations or other profit-earning companies or corporations.

13.

Each of the Contracting States shall guarantee that it will allow the citizens of the other State residing on its territory, and also its own nationals who were born in the other State, freely to develop their national, religious and educational organisations, to place no obstructions thereto, and to refrain from restricting them in a greater degree than any other organisations existing in that State for the same purpose.

14.

The present Convention shall remain in force for five years from the day on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged. The Agreement shall be tacitly renewed as regards the succeeding

years, unless denounced by one of the Contracting Parties within one year before the date of expiration of the Convention.

15.

In view of the close relations subsisting between Latvia and Lithuania, the two States declare that the special rights granted reciprocally under the present Convention do not constitute grounds for any other State whatsoever demanding equal rights for itself.

16.

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

17.

The present Convention is drawn up in Latvian and Lithuanian. Both texts shall be authentic.

RIGA, *May 14, 1921.*

(Signed) Z. A. MEIEROVICS.

(Signed) DR. J. PURYZKIS.
