

N° 968.

ESTHONIE ET LETTONIE

Accord relatif au passage de la frontière letto-esthonienne par les habitants de la zone limitrophe, signé à Riga, le 10 janvier 1924.

ESTHONIA AND LATVIA

Agreement concerning the Crossing of the Latvian-Esthonian Frontier by the Inhabitants of the Frontier Zone, signed at Riga, January 10, 1924.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 968. — AGREEMENT² BETWEEN ESTHONIA AND LATVIA CONCERNING THE CROSSING OF THE LATVIAN-ESTHONIAN FRONTIER BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE FRONTIER ZONE, SIGNED AT RIGA, JANUARY 10, 1924.

French official text communicated by the Latvian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Agreement took place October 15, 1925.

Article 1.

The term "frontier zone" shall be understood as meaning a zone 17 kilometres in width towards the interior of each country, calculated from the frontier line. Persons residing habitually, and having resided for at least three months, in the frontier zone shall be entitled, without distinction of nationality, to obtain legitimization cards for the purpose of proceeding across the frontier into the frontier zone of the neighbouring country, and of returning home.

Note. The island of Runo, the town of Riga and the small town of Ainaži are included in the frontier zone, and the inhabitants of these localities shall enjoy all the rights and privileges conferred by this Agreement as regards liberty of movement and communications.

Article 2.

The frontier may only be crossed with legitimization cards at those points (crossing points) which have been or may hereafter be fixed in accordance with Article 4 of the Latvian-Esthonian Convention³ of October 19, 1920.

Note. The holders of legitimization cards referred to in Article 6 shall be entitled to cross the frontier within the limits of their estates.

Article 3.

Legitimation cards shall be issued by the local authorities who are empowered to do so by the Ministries of the Interior of the Contracting Parties.

Note. Legitimation cards shall be issued to the agents of the Frontier Guard, the Police and the Customs by their official superiors in accordance with the rules laid down in the laws and regulations of the State concerned.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

² This Agreement came into force March 1, 1924.

³ Vol. XVII, page 189 of this Series.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

Article 4.

Legitimation cards shall always be personal, with the exception of the cases provided for in Article 14 and shall be of two categories : (1) Short-term cards valid for three months, and (2) long-term cards valid for a year. Both categories of cards shall be valid for repeated crossings of the frontier.

Article 5.

Short-term legitimation cards shall be issued to such persons applying for them as fulfil the requirements enumerated in the present Agreement.

Article 6.

Long-term legitimation cards shall be issued to persons whose estates are divided up by the frontier, to members of their families and to their workpeople, in accordance with Article 16 of the Latvian-Estonian Convention of October 19, 1920. In cases in which such persons cross the frontier within the limits of the estate thus divided, they shall be allowed to move about freely only within the limits of the said estate.

Long-term legitimation cards shall also be valid for crossing the frontier at the crossing points, in accordance with the general provisions of the present Agreement.

Article 7.

Legitimation cards shall not be issued to persons in respect of whom the police hold a warrant of arrest, or a legal enquiry is being held, or who are under police supervision, or to persons taken *in flagrante delicto* or suspected of transporting or receiving contraband goods, or to smugglers.

Article 8.

Legitimation cards shall be issued to minors up to the age of 18 (inclusive) or to wards only at the request and on the responsibility of their parents or guardians.

Children up to the age of 15 (inclusive) may cross the frontier in company with their parents or guardians, by virtue of the legitimation cards issued to the latter, provided that the names of the children are inscribed on these cards.

Article 9.

The legitimation cards shall be issued in conformity with the annexed specimen, in the Latvian and Estonian languages, and shall contain the following information : name, Christian name, Christian name of father, date of birth, nationality, trade or profession, names of children under 15 years of age, place of domicile, special marks and signature of the holder, designation of the crossing point (or of the divided estate), together with details as to means of locomotion, if any are employed for crossing the frontier, and as to the period of validity of the card.

Article 10.

In order to cover the expense involved in the issue of legitimation cards a special charge is imposed, fixed by agreement between the Ministries of the Interior of the Contracting Parties.

Article 11.

The legitimation cards shall cease to be valid on the expiration of the period named thereon, and their validity cannot be prolonged.

Article 12.

Persons crossing the frontier at a crossing point must return by the same point.

Article 13.

Holders of legitimation cards shall be entitled, whenever they cross the frontier, to reside and move about within the limits of the frontier zone of the other State during a period not exceeding fourteen days.

Note 1. Pupils of Government or private schools who have crossed the frontier with legitimation cards shall be entitled to move about and reside in the frontier zone uninterruptedly during the whole period of validity of their cards.

Note 2. Holders of legitimation cards shall not be required to present any other documents in order to cross the frontier and reside in the frontier zone of the other State.

Article 14.

In cases in which local conditions necessitate a collective crossing of the frontier, as, for example, during excursions for educational or scientific purposes, or during religious ceremonies or funeral processions, collective legitimation cards shall be issued in conformity with the annexed specimen, valid for a period not exceeding 48 hours.

Article 15.

In the event of a fire breaking out in the frontier zone, the firemen and the local inhabitants of the other State may, in order to render assistance, cross the frontier with all necessary appliances without legitimation cards and at points other than the crossing points.

Article 16.

The holder of a legitimation card must bring back with him on his return the means of locomotion mentioned on the card.

Article 17.

Any infringement of the provisions of the present Agreement shall be punished in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State in which such infringement occurs.

Article 18.

The duration of the present Agreement shall be indefinite. If either of the Contracting Parties wishes to denounce it, it shall inform the other Party accordingly three months in advance.

Article 19.

The present Agreement shall be submitted for ratification to the Governments of the Contracting States and, when ratified, shall come into force on March 1, 1924.

Done in duplicate at Riga on the tenth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four.

(Signed) A. ZIEPNIEKS. (Signed) A. ENGMAN, Colonel Lieut.
(Signed) J. BALODIS, Lieut.-Colonel. (Signed) D. JANSON.
(Signed) E. DUNDURS.

ANNEX TO ARTICLE 9.

LEGITIMATION CARD

For repeated crossings of the Latvian-Esthonian frontier.

Valid until

Name
Christian Name
Christian Name of Father.....
Date of Birth.....
Nationality
Trade or Profession.....
Children under 15 years of age.....
Place of Domicile
Special Marks
Name of Crossing-point (and of the estate divided up by the frontier).....
Means of Locomotion.....
Signature of Holder.....

(Stamp)

Date Signature

Issued by virtue of the Agreement concluded between Latvia and Esthonia, January 10, 1924.

ANNEX TO ARTICLE 14.

LEGITIMATION CARD

For a single collective passage across the Latvian-Esthonian frontier.

The persons named below are hereby authorised to cross the Latvian-Esthonian frontier at the crossing-point of
and to return within a period of 48 hours from the time of the first crossing.

Object of crossing.....

Table with 4 columns: No., Name and Christian Name, Age, Observations.

(Stamp)

Date Signature

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