

N° 983.

ALLEMAGNE ET BELGIQUE

Accord à l'effet de dispenser les bateliers dits du Rhin, dans chacun des deux pays, de l'obligation du visa consulaire pour se rendre par voie d'eau dans des parties déterminées de l'autre pays pour l'exercice de leur profession, signé à Bruxelles, le 3 octobre 1925.

GERMANY AND BELGIUM

Agreement for the Purpose of Exempting the so-called Rhine Boatmen in each of the Two Countries from the Obligation of Obtaining a Consular Visa in order to Proceed by Water to certain Specified Parts of the other Country in the Exercise of their Trade, signed at Brussels, October 3, 1925.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 983. — AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXEMPTING THE SO-CALLED RHINE BOATMEN IN EACH OF THE TWO COUNTRIES FROM THE OBLIGATION OF OBTAINING A CONSULAR VISA IN ORDER TO PROCEED BY WATER TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED PARTS OF THE OTHER COUNTRY IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR TRADE, SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 3, 1925.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Agreement took place October 23, 1925.

MINISTRY

FOR

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Department C. I. No. 5928/3/10.

Section 3, Bureau 6.

In reply to the Note from the German Legation dated August 9, 1925, No. 1407, the Department of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Legation that the Belgian Government is prepared, subject to reciprocity, to exempt Rhine boatmen of German nationality and their families proceeding to Belgian ports in the exercise of their trade from the obligation to obtain a Belgian consular visa on their passports, under the conditions and subject to the reservations laid down hereinafter :

(1) The parties concerned shall be in possession of a German passport containing the word " RHEINSCHIFFERPASS " in German, French and Dutch, entered in red ink and confirmed by the stamp of the German authorities making the entry in question.

(2) This special passport shall entitle the holder to move about freely without a visa on the rivers and canals in Belgian territory which are connected with the Rhine, and to proceed by land to, and reside in, ports and mooring places whenever he requires to do so in the exercise of his trade.

(3) If the holder of a Rhine boatman's passport desires to leave his vessel and the waterways, and go further into the country, he must first obtain an ordinary Belgian visa by applying to the competent authorities of the district (Maritime Commissioner in the larger ports, Provincial Governor or, in all other cases, the Commissioner of the " Arrondissement ").

(4) The Belgian Government reserves the right in future to withdraw the benefit of this exemption from German boatmen discovered outside ports and mooring places who are not in possession of the visa required, as provided in (3).

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

This system shall come into force as from November 1, 1925, subject to the granting, as from the same date, of a similar privilege to Belgian boatmen and their families in possession of a passport bearing the mention "Rhine boatman" in French, Dutch and German. These persons would be entitled to travel without a German consular visa over all waterways in Germany forming the Rhine zone of influence ("Einflussgebiet des Rheins") subject to conditions and reservations similar to those enumerated above with reference to journeys of German boatmen in Belgian waters.

The exact meaning of the expression "Rhine zone of influence" shall be determined by a subsequent agreement, but the German Government agrees that this zone shall in any case include the Rhine-Herne Canal and the Main.

BRUSSELS, *October 3, 1925.*