

N° 2364.

**BELGIQUE
ET ÉTAT LIBRE D'IRLANDE**

Arrangement pour l'échange des
mandats de poste. Signé à Dublin,
le 24 septembre 1929.

**BELGIUM
AND IRISH FREE STATE**

Agreement for the Exchange of
Money Orders. Signed at Dublin,
September 24, 1929.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 2364. AGREEMENT² CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF MONEY ORDERS BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE IRISH FREE STATE. SIGNED AT DUBLIN, SEPTEMBER 24, 1920.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Agreement took place June 28, 1930.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH FREE STATE, desiring to facilitate the transmission of money between Belgium and the Irish Free State, have agreed, for that purpose, on the following provisions.

Article 1.

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS.

The exchange of Postal Money Orders between the Irish Free State, on the one hand, and Belgium, on the other, is governed by the provisions of the present Agreement.

Article 2.

PURCHASES AND PAYMENTS.

The amount of the Money Order must be paid in by the remitter against a receipt, and paid to the payee either in coin or in paper money legally current in the country in which the transaction is carried out, it being understood that each Administration shall, if necessary, make due allowance for any difference in the exchange value.

Article 3.

RATE OF CONVERSION.

The office of origin itself fixes the rate of conversion of its money into the currency of the country of destination. Whenever it considers necessary, it may alter this rate.

Each contracting Administration must communicate to the other the rate of conversion decided upon and any subsequent alterations therein.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the League of Nations, for information.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Dublin, March 18, 1930.

Article 4.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT.

The maximum amount for Money Orders is fixed at 40 pounds sterling, or at the equivalent of this sum in Belgian money.

This maximum may be altered by agreement between the two Administration.

Article 5.

CHARGES.

For the issue of every Money Order there is collected a charge, fixed by the Administration of the country of origin and to be paid by the remitter.

Subject to the provisions of Article 14 below, this charge shall accrue to the Administration issuing the Order. Each Administration shall communicate to the other its rates for such charges and any subsequent alterations therein.

Article 6

EXEMPTION FROM CHARGES.

Money Orders issued in connection with the Postal Service and exchanged between the two contracting Administrations, or between offices belonging to those Administrations, are exempt from all charges.

The same applies to Money Orders sent by or to prisoners of war, interned belligerents, and the enquiry offices established for such prisoners or internees in belligerent or in neutral countries.

Article 7.

TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS.

1. Money Orders may be transmitted by telegraph ; such Orders are called Telegraph Money Orders, and are, like other Money Orders, subject to the limitation of amount laid down in Article 4.

2. The provisions of the international Telegraph Regulations relating to the transmission and delivery of ordinary telegrams, and to the service instructions subject to payment allowed in the communications between Belgium and the Irish Free State, as well as those relating to the refund, in certain cases, of telegraph charges and the distribution of such charges, also apply to Telegraph Money Orders.

3. The remitter of a Telegraph Money Order may add to the text of the Order a private message for the payee, provided that he pays the charge at the usual rate.

4. The remitter of a Telegraph Money Order must pay the ordinary charge for a Money Order and the charge for the telegram. The Irish Administration also reserves the right to collect from the remitter of every Telegraph Money Order a supplementary charge, the amount of which shall be fixed and retained by that Administration. It shall notify the Belgian Administration of the amount of the supplementary charge decided upon.

Article 8.

ADVICE OF PAYMENT.

The remitter of an ordinary or Telegraph Money Order may obtain, exclusively by post, an advice of payment of the Order by paying in advance, at the time of issue and to the exclusive

profit of the Administration of the country of origin, a fixed charge equal to that which is made in that country for acknowledgments for receipt of registered articles.

Applications for advice of payment may also be made subsequent to the deposit of the amount during the whole period of validity of the Money Order, plus one year; in such cases, the applicant may be required to pay a double charge

Article 9.

PAYMENT.

Payment and, if necessary, delivery of the Money Order to the payee are effected in accordance with the regulations in force in the country of destination.

Article 10.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF MONEY ORDERS. LAPSE OF MONEY ORDERS.

Money Orders are valid until the expiration of the twelfth month which follows that in which they are issued. After this period, the amount of the Order is placed at the disposal of the office of origin.

Amounts received by either of the Administrations, which are not claimed by the entitlees within the period prescribed by the laws and regulations of the country in which the Order was issued, become the absolute property of the Administration of that country.

Article 11.

WITHDRAWAL OF MONEY ORDERS, ALTERATIONS OF ADDRESS.

The remitter of an ordinary or Telegraph Money Order may cause it to be withdrawn or alter its address, so long as the Order itself or its amount, in the case of Belgium, and the amount of the Order, in the case of the Irish Free State, have not been delivered to the payee.

This right may, however, only be exercised within the period laid down in Article 10 of the present Agreement.

Article 12.

RE-TRANSMISSION OF MONEY ORDERS.

In the event of a change in the payee's address, an ordinary or Telegraph Money Order may be re-transmitted, by post or telegraph, at the request of the remitter or of the payee, either within the country of destination, or to a country maintaining a Money Order Service with the original country of destination.

The Administration of the last mentioned country itself fixes the terms for the re-transmission of the Order.

Article 13.

LIABILITY.

Amounts paid in for the purpose of being converted into Money Orders are, within the prescribed period, guaranteed to the depositors until the Orders are duly paid.

In order to be able to free itself from liability, the office of payment must be able to prove that payment was made under the conditions laid down by its internal regulations.

When the period prescribed in Article 8, paragraph 2, has expired, the Administrations are no longer liable for payments made against false signatures.

In the case of false Telegraph Money Orders or mistakes in the transmission of Telegraph Money Orders, when it is impossible to establish with whom responsibility rests, or in the event of fraud or mistakes committed during the transmission of Orders by the telegraph systems of intermediary countries, any losses incurred are borne in equal shares by the contracting Administrations.

Article 14.

APPORTIONMENT OF CHARGES.

The Administration which issues the ordinary or Telegraph Money Orders credits the Administration which pays them with an allowance of one half per cent ($\frac{1}{2}$ %) of the total amount of the Orders paid, less the amount of Orders issued free of charge.

The rate of this allowance may be altered by agreement between the two Administrations.

Article 15.

MONEY ORDERS IN TRANSIT.

Each Administration may transmit money through the other Administration to countries or colonies with which the latter maintains a direct Postal Money Order Service.

The intermediary administration is authorised to collect, on its own account, as commission, a supplementary charge which is deducted from the amount of the Order.

This charge is retained by the intermediary Administration even should the amount of the Order have to be refunded to the sender.

Money Orders in transit may not be transmitted by telegraph, and applications for advice of payment of such Orders are not allowed.

Article 16.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS.

A general account setting forth the amounts owed by each of the two Offices to the other is drawn up, for each quarter, by the creditor Administration. This account, which is communicated in duplicate to the debtor Administration, must show the balance in the currency of the creditor country.

For this purpose, the amount of the smaller credit is converted into the currency of the country having the larger credit, the basis of conversion being the mean of the official rates of exchange in the debtor country during the period to which the account relates. At the end of each quarter, each Administration shall send to the other a statement showing this mean rate during the quarter.

Article 17.

SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The accounts are settled by the debtor country within fifteen days at the latest after receipt of the general account acknowledged correct.

In the event of non-payment of the balance of an account within this period, the amount of such balance bears interest from the date of the expiration of the said period until the date on which payment is made. This interest is calculated at the rate of seven per cent (7 %) per annum.

*Article 18.*POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE REGULATIONS REGARDING THE GENERAL ACCOUNTS
AND THE SETTLEMENT OF THESE ACCOUNTS.

Whenever considered expedient, the regulations laid down in Articles 16 and 17 may be amended by agreement between the contracting Administrations.

Article 19.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

The two Administrations fix, by joint agreement, the measures of detail and routine necessary for ensuring the execution of the present Agreement. These measures may, in case of need, be modified by joint agreement.

Article 20.

SUSPENSION OF THE SERVICE.

Either of the two Administrations may, under exceptional circumstances which justify the measure, suspend the Money Order Service temporarily, either in whole or in part, provided that it immediately notifies the other Administration, if necessary by telegraph, of such suspension.

Article 21.

PUTTING INTO EFFECT AND DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

The present Agreement shall be put into effect on the day to be agreed upon by the Postal Administrations of the two countries.

The Agreement shall remain in force until one of the Contracting Parties notifies the other, at least six months in advance, of its intention to cease to apply it.

The present Agreement must be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged as soon as possible.

Done, in duplicate, at Dublin, on September the twenty-fourth, one thousand, nine hundred and twenty-nine, at noon.

(L. S.) (Signed) M. GOOR.

(L. S.) (Signed) J. P. WALSH.