

N° 2718.

LETTONIE ET LITHUANIE

Convention interscolaire. Signée à
Riga, le 25 janvier 1931.

LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

Inter-School Convention. Signed at
Riga, January 25, 1931.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 2718. — INTER-SCHOOL CONVENTION ² BETWEEN LATVIA AND LITHUANIA. SIGNED AT RIGA, JANUARY 25, 1931.

*French official text communicated by the Latvian and Lithuanian Ministers for Foreign Affairs.
The registration of this Convention took place June 5, 1931.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, of the one part, and THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, of the other part, being desirous of settling the question of schools which have been or may hereafter be opened in Latvia for children of Lithuanian origin, and in Lithuania for children of Latvian origin, have decided to conclude an Inter-school Convention and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for this purpose :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA :

His Excellency M. Hugo CELMIŅŠ, Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA :

His Excellency M. Juozas TŪBELIS, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article 1.

Latvia shall open and maintain primary schools or special classes for children of Lithuanian origin, irrespective of religion, and Lithuania shall maintain and open primary schools or special classes for children of Latvian origin, irrespective of religion, if the number of children from 7 to 14 years of age required to attend those schools is not less than 20 within the boundaries of a commune (urban or rural) and within an adjacent zone of not more than 3.5 kilometres beyond it.

Article 2.

If the number of pupils in a school of not more than two divisions exceeds 40 and in a school of three or more divisions 35, two teachers shall be engaged for each of those schools.

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

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Kaunas, May 1st, 1931.
Came into force May 16, 1931.

Article 3.

If the number of pupils of Lithuanian origin in a Latvian school, or the number of pupils of Latvian origin in a Lithuanian school is less than 20 but more than 9, the mother tongue of those pupils shall, on the express desire of their parents, be taught to them as a special subject.

Children whose parents are of different origin shall attend the school chosen by their parents.

Article 4.

The schools mentioned in Article 1 shall be opened by the education authorities, at the request of persons or organisations concerned, in accordance with the present Convention. These schools shall be maintained and provided with all the necessary equipment by the respective communes or Ministries of Education, the teachers' salaries being paid by the State.

Article 5.

Teachers shall be appointed or dismissed in accordance with the laws in force in the respective States.

Persons who have acquired the right to teach in Latvia shall enjoy this right in Latvian schools or classes in Lithuania. Persons who have acquired the right to teach in Lithuania shall enjoy this right in Lithuanian schools or classes in Latvia.

The heads of the primary and secondary schools in question must have a knowledge of the Latvian and Lithuanian languages.

Teachers who are nationals of the other Contracting Party shall be allowed to teach, subject to the consent of the Minister of Education.

Article 6.

Lessons in the schools mentioned in Articles 1 and 7 of this Convention shall be given in the mother tongue of the pupils. The language of the State shall be taught to the pupils of primary schools as a compulsory subject, beginning with the second year, and in other schools to pupils of all the classes. The curricula shall be drawn up in accordance with the regulations in force in the respective States. These curricula shall also include the history and geography of the other contracting country.

Article 7.

A percentage of all expenses falling to the charge of the State in respect of the upkeep of High schools and secondary schools, calculated according to the number of inhabitants of Lithuanian origin in Latvia and of Latvian origin in Lithuania, shall be borne by the State concerned, in respect of the upkeep of Lithuanian high schools and secondary schools in Latvia and of Latvian high schools and secondary schools in Lithuania.

Article 8.

Should parents domiciled within the boundaries of either Contracting State wish to send their children to schools of their nationality situated within the boundaries of the other State (for instance, in the case of Lithuanians in Latvia, to schools in Lithuania and *vice versa*) no obstacle shall be placed in their way by either Party.

The regulations concerning a knowledge of the language, history and geography of the State of which the pupils are nationals shall be drawn up by the Ministry of Education of each Contracting Party.

Article 9.

The necessary instructions for the execution of this Convention shall be issued by common agreement by the Ministries of Education of the two Contracting Parties.

Article 10.

This Convention shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged as soon as possible at Kaunas. It shall come into force on the fifteenth day following the exchange of the instruments of ratification and shall remain in force for two years. It shall be regarded as prolonged by tacit agreement for an indefinite period unless it is denounced by either Party at least three months before its expiry. If it is prolonged by tacit agreement, each Contracting Party shall have the right to denounce it at any time, and in that case it shall expire three months after such denunciation.

In faith whereof the above-named Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done in duplicate at Riga, January 25, 1931.

(L. S. (Signed) H. CELMIŅŠ.

(L. S.) (Signed) J. TŪBELIS.