

N° 3090.

BELGIQUE ET POLOGNE

Convention vétérinaire. Signée à
Bruxelles, le 18 décembre 1930.

BELGIUM AND POLAND

Veterinary Convention. Signed at
Brussels, December 18, 1930.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 3090. — VETERINARY CONVENTION ² BETWEEN BELGIUM AND POLAND. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 18, 1930.

French official text communicated by the Chargé d'Affaires a. i. of the Polish Delegation accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Convention took place November 15, 1932.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, having realised the necessity of concluding a Veterinary Convention designed, while safeguarding, their vital interests, to facilitate between the two countries, as far as possible, the traffic in animals, animal products and materials and articles liable to transmit infection, have resolved to conclude a Convention and have for this purpose appointed as their respective Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC :

M. Thaddée JACKOWSKI, Polish Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Brussels ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

His Excellency M. HYMANS, Minister of State, His Minister for Foreign Affairs ;
His Excellency M. BAELS, His Minister for Agriculture ;

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

Article I.

The importation from the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties into the territory of the other Party of animals or raw products of animal origin, of fresh or preserved meat and of all meat products intended for food, as well as of materials or articles likely to transmit infectious diseases, may be confined to certain points on the frontier.

Prior to the entry into force of the present Convention, the High Contracting Parties will supply one another with a list of the Customs offices open for the import of the said animals and products, materials and articles, together with a schedule of the days on which and the hours at which these offices are open.

They undertake to organise the working of the offices in such a way as to satisfy commercial requirements. They will also notify one another, as and when necessary, of any alterations made in the aforesaid list.

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 Warsaw, October 18, 1932.

Article 2.

The animals referred to in Article 1 shall include horses, asses, etc. and cross-breeds thereof, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry.

Article 3.

The importation of the animals referred to in Article 2 above, of products of animal origin and of materials and articles liable to transmit infection shall not be subject to any previous authorisation. Live pigs, however, shall only be imported by special permission.

Article 4.

The animals imported shall form the subject of sanitary precautions, in accordance with the rules laid down by the country of destination.

The animals shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin and health, stating the place of origin and place of destination of the animals, issued by a Government veterinary surgeon or official duly authorised by the Government.

The certificate shall attest that the commune of origin and any districts traversed on the way to the place where the animals were loaded on trucks or boats, are immune from any notifiable contagious disease. It should also include a declaration by a Government veterinary official or surgeon duly authorised by the Governments to the effect that when loaded the animals were found healthy.

The certificate required for the export of animals susceptible to :

- (a) Cattle plague, peripneumonia of cattle and dourine ;
- (b) Swine fever, swine plague and sheep-pox ;
- (c) Foot-and-mouth disease and fowl plague

shall not be delivered in the case of such animals, unless the aforesaid diseases have not been prevalent in the commune of origin or neighbouring communes for a period of at least a year in the case of the diseases specified under (a), forty days in the case of the diseases specified under (b) or thirty days in the case of the diseases specified under (c).

The fact that sporadic cases of anthrax, symptomatic anthrax, glanders, swine erysipelas and hæmorrhagic septicæmia of ruminants and swine and also mange have been reported shall not preclude the issue of the certificate, except in the case of animals from stables or zones subject to veterinary inspection under the regulations of the exporting country.

A certificate may cover several animals of the same species, provided that they belong to the same importer and come from the same district. In the case of horses, etc., and cattle, the certificate shall contain a complete description of each animal ; in the case of other species it shall state the number, species, race and sex. These particulars shall be entered in the handwriting of the veterinary surgeon responsible for inspection and shall be sufficiently ample to preclude any substitution of animals.

The importing country may insist on the larger animals being specially marked when it is impossible to recognise them for certain from the description. Certificates may not be issued more than three days before the consignment is despatched, not counting the date of issue.

Cases of accidental death not due to any infectious disease, which occur during transport and before arrival at the Customs import office of the country of destination and are certified by the competent veterinary authority, shall be entered on the certificate of origin and health accompanying the animals.

Article 5.

Imported meat and meat preparations shall be subject to veterinary inspection and to the provisions in force in the country of import.

Fresh, chilled, frozen or other forms of preserved meat, fat, lard and all meat products intended for food must be accompanied by a certificate delivered by a Government veterinary surgeon or official duly authorised by the Government for the purpose before they can be allowed to be imported ; such certificate must attest that the animals from which the products are derived have been slaughtered in a public slaughter-house or in a slaughter-house approved for export where they have been inspected before and after slaughter, and that the meat has been found wholesome and fit for human consumption. Nevertheless, the import of preserved and prepared horse-flesh shall be subject to the current legislation of each of the High Contracting Parties.

In the case of pork or pork preparations of Polish origin, the certificate shall specify that the inspection for trichinae has given a negative result.

In the case of preserved or prepared meat, the certificate must further attest that the meat contains no substance prohibited by the regulations of the country of destination.

The High Contracting Parties shall furnish one another with a list of the substances (antiseptic, colouring or other) the use of which is prohibited in their territory for the preparation or preservation of meat and meat preparations, and shall inform one another of any changes made in such list.

Fresh meat or meat preserved by a refrigerating process must be submitted for veterinary inspection on import in the following forms only :

(a) Beef : entire carcasses, without the hides, or halves or quarters of carcasses ;

(b) Mutton and goatsmeat : entire carcasses, without the hides, [or halves of carcasses ;

(c) Pork : entire carcasses or halves of carcasses with or without the lard ; the latter may be imported separately ;

(d) Horseflesh : entire carcasses without the hides, halves or quarters of carcasses, provided that the lungs and head adhere naturally to one of the halves or forequarters.

Halves and quarters of carcasses should permit of being laid alongside one another and should be so marked as to permit of the whole carcass being reconstituted.

Cleaning (excision of any part or scraping of the serous glands) or the removal of glands will involve rejection in all cases.

Meat, meat preparations or, if need be, receptacles containing prepared or preserved meat shall be marked with a stamp, which shall be reproduced on the certificate accompanying the consignment.

Article 6.

Raw animal products may be subjected to veterinary inspection in the country of import. They shall be accompanied by a certificate issued by a Government veterinary surgeon or official duly authorised by the State, enabling them to be identified and attesting that they are derived from animals immune from contagious diseases.

No certificate shall be required for products which have been subjected to a form of treatment regarded as an adequate safeguard from a veterinary standpoint (drying, salting, arsenical or other treatment, antiseptic washing, stoving, disinfection, etc.).

The following shall also be admitted without certificates and shall not be subjected to veterinary police restrictions : the dried skins of wild animals and rabbits ; factory-washed wool ; woollen waste and wool from tanneries ; feathers of every kind, packed in closed sacks ; dried or salted guts, stomachs and bladders suitably wrapped or packed in closed cases or barrels and intended for industrial processes ; waste hides treated with lime ; animal hair thoroughly dried or which has been scalded or soaked in lime ; horns, hoofs, claws or bones from which the fat has been removed or which have been scalded or dried, without particles of soft material adhering thereto ; eggs, milk and dairy products ; melted lard for industrial purposes, melted pork fat, melted fat scrapings, provided that all these products have been so treated as to make them unfit for human consumption.

Article 7.

When a contagious disease notifiable in the country of import is observed at the frontier in a consignment of animals coming from the territory of the other Contracting Party, the infected, contaminated or suspect animals shall be placed under the supervision of the veterinary service of the importing country. This service is fully entitled to insist on such animals being slaughtered at the importer's expense, at the frontier or sent to a slaughter-house appointed for the purpose or it may take such steps as are thought suitable. The use to be made of the meat and products of the animals thus slaughtered shall be determined by the regulations applicable in the importing country to animals of native origin.

In every case and at any time the owner may ask for all or some of the animals placed under veterinary supervision to be slaughtered.

The veterinary surgeon at the frontier shall note on the certificate of origin and health accompanying the animals the reasons for the animals being slaughtered or subjected to supervision and shall sign his statement ; this certificate, together with a report on the facts of the case and the measures adopted, shall be sent by the said veterinary surgeon to the central veterinary authority of his country which shall transmit it to the country of origin.

Should any of the contagious diseases compulsorily notifiable be reported after the import of the animals into the territory of the country of destination, the fact shall be recorded in a minute drawn up by a Government veterinary surgeon or by an official duly authorised by the Government; the text of such minute shall be communicated at once by the competent veterinary authority to the central veterinary authority of the country of origin.

Article 8.

The provisions of the present Convention shall apply to animals coming from the territories of the High Contracting Parties for transit through the territory of either Party, provided that the country of destination undertakes in no case to reject the animals consigned in transit. Should the transit involve the crossing of other countries, permission for such passage must first be obtained from the various countries traversed.

The transit of fresh, preserved or prepared meat or of raw materials of animal origin conveyed from the territory of one Contracting Party through the territory of the other Party by rail in closed or sealed trucks or by boat shall be allowed on the same terms as importation, and no previous undertaking to accept the consignments shall be required from the countries eventually traversed or from the country of destination.

Article 9.

The veterinary sanitary authorities of the ports of one of the High Contracting Parties shall have power to issue suitable attestations for broken consignments, addressed to the other Contracting Party, of the products referred to in the present Convention which have been imported in virtue of a collective veterinary sanitary attestation regarded as adequate by the country of destination.

Article 10.

Permission may be given to import race-horses and horses intended for competitions or sporting contests, if, in lieu of the certificate of origin and health required by this Convention, they are accompanied by a certificate delivered by the Presidents of Horse-breeding Societies approved by the State, a list of which has been communicated to the other High Contracting Party.

The certificate must bear the stamp and visa of the club or society and contain the name and domicile of the proprietor, and an exact description of the animal, its place of origin and place of destination, together with a declaration by a veterinary surgeon to the effect that the animal is healthy and that the establishment from which it comes is immune from contagious diseases.

Article 11.

Should the existence of cattle plague be reported in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, the other Party shall be entitled to prohibit or to limit, for as long as the danger of contagion lasts, the import and transit of ruminants, pigs, products of animal origin or, in general, of any products likely to carry the infection.

Article 12.

Should one of the epizootic diseases compulsorily notifiable in the country of import be imported, owing to the trade in animals, from the territory of either High Contracting Party into that of the other, or should one of the said diseases assume a threatening character in the territory of either Party, the other Party shall be entitled to limit or prohibit, for so long as the danger lasts, the import of animals of the species exposed to the disease coming from the districts affected or threatened. Such limitation or prohibition of import may, under the same conditions, be extended to products of animal origin or materials and articles liable to carry infection.

Import may not be prohibited in the case of anthrax, symptomatic anthrax, hæmorrhagic septicæmia, rabies, glanders, swine, erysipelas, tuberculosis and mange.

The duration of the period of danger of contagion in the case of the diseases referred to in Article 4 (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), with the exception of cattle plague, shall be limited to the periods specified in the said Article. Such period shall be calculated from the date of the official communiqué notifying the disappearance of the disease.

Article 13.

Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to publish, on the 1st and 15th of each month, a bulletin on the veterinary sanitary situation. Such bulletin shall be transmitted direct to the other Contracting Party immediately on publication; it shall be drawn up on uniform lines and shall give an exact idea of the sanitary condition of the livestock in the various parts of the country.

Article 14.

Urgent communications concerning the application of the present Convention may be exchanged directly between the central veterinary authorities of the two High Contracting Parties; copies of such communications shall be forwarded through the diplomatic channel.

Article 15.

When the existence of cattle plague or peripneumonia of cattle or dourine of horses, etc., is reported in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, the central veterinary authority of the other Contracting Party shall be informed immediately and directly by telegraph.

Article 16.

The disinfection of trucks which have served for the transport of animals, boats, platforms, bridges, etc., if carried out in accordance with the regulations in force in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, shall be recognised as effective by the other Party. The High Contracting Parties shall notify one another of the regulations in force in their country for the disinfection of trucks.

Article 17.

The certificates referred to in the present Convention shall be drawn up in accordance with models jointly agreed upon by the central veterinary authorities of the two Contracting Parties. They shall be worded in French and shall not bear consular visas.

Article 18.

It is agreed that the provisions of the present Convention may, if necessary, be extended by a fresh agreement between the High Contracting Parties, to other diseases, whether known or unknown at the present time, the transmission of which may legitimately be apprehended.

Article 19.

In the event of a dispute arising between the two High Contracting Parties with regard to the execution of the present Convention, a Mixed Commission shall be appointed on the demand of one of the Parties and its opinion shall receive due consideration in any decision that may be adopted.

Each High Contracting Party shall appoint two members of the Commission, which shall be entitled to co-opt a fifth member in the event of agreement proving unattainable.

At the first meeting for the appointment of a fifth member, the latter shall be chosen from the nationals of one of the High Contracting Parties, designated by lot ; at the next meeting, he shall be chosen from the nationals of the other Party, and so on, alternately.

Article 20.

The present Convention shall be ratified. The ratifications shall be exchanged at Warsaw as soon as possible.

The Convention shall come into force on the fifteenth day after the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force until the expiry of the Commercial Treaty¹ between Poland and Belgium of December 30, 1922.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Brussels, December 18, 1930.

Tadeusz JACKOWSKI.

HYMANS.
BAELS.

¹ Vol. XXI, page 183, of this Series.