

N° 2872.

FINLANDE ET FRANCE

Echange de notes comportant un accord provisoire concernant la navigation. Helsinki, le 24 avril 1931.

FINLAND AND FRANCE

Exchange of Notes constituting a Provisional Agreement regarding Navigation. Helsinki, April 24, 1931.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 2872. — EXCHANGE OF NOTES ² BETWEEN THE FINNISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS CONSTITUTING A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT REGARDING NAVIGATION. HELSINKI, APRIL 24, 1931.

French official text communicated by the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Exchange of Notes took place January 12, 1932.

I.

THE FRENCH MINISTER AT HELSINKI TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND.

HELSINGFORS, *April 24, 1931.*

M. LE MINISTRE,

With reference to the conversations which I have had the honour to hold with you concerning the development of maritime relations between Finland and France, I hereby send you confirmation of the fact that an agreement has been reached on the basis of the following conditions :

Merchant vessels belonging to one of the High Contracting Parties and flying the flag of such Party, and their crews, passengers and cargoes, shall enjoy in the territory, ports and territorial waters of the other Party the same treatment in every respect as national merchant vessels, their crews, passengers and national, or as those belonging to the most favoured nation. This provision shall apply particularly to the maritime taxes, duties, dues and charges to which they are liable.

These provisions shall however not apply to the coasting trade or to pilotage or towage, which shall remain exclusively subject to the national legislation of each State, or to any privileges which are or may hereafter be granted to the National Fisheries and their produce.

As regards the navigation of natural or artificial inland waterways by the seagoing vessels referred to in the first paragraph, the Contracting Parties shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment.

It is further agreed that French vessels shall be subject to the general conditions prescribed by Finnish law concerning the obligation of foreign vessels to employ pilots, and that France shall not use the above provisions as a basis for a claim to be granted the conditions which are or may hereafter be granted by Finland to Russian fishing or sealing vessels in the territorial waters of the Arctic Ocean.

Finnish merchant vessels shall enjoy most-favoured-nation treatment in the ports of French colonies and protectorates and of countries under French mandate, provided that they comply with the measures for the maintenance of public order and security, and with local laws and regulations.

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 Came into force May 4, 1931.

The provisions of the present arrangement shall not apply :

(1) To the special privileges which are or may be granted to goods coming from or destined for the French Protectorates in North Africa ;

(2) To the privileges which either of the High Contracting Parties grants or may grant to its nationals with the object of promoting the development of its mercantile marine, either by way of bonuses or subsidies for the construction or purchase of merchant vessels, or by any kind of bonus or support granted to the mercantile marine.

The agreement constituted by the present exchange of notes shall come into force ten days after I receive a notification that the Finnish Government assents thereto.

The present exchange of notes is a purely provisional measure, pending the conclusion either of a Navigation Convention or of a Commercial Agreement which shall incorporate such a Convention and shall also settle immigration questions at present outstanding.

It may be denounced at three months' notice.

I am, etc.,

G. DE VAUX.

II.

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND TO THE FRENCH MINISTER
AT HELSINKI.

HELSINKI, *April* 24, 1931.

M. LE MINISTRE,

With reference to the conversations which I have had the honour to hold with you concerning the development of maritime relations between Finland and France, I hereby send you confirmation of the fact that an agreement has been reached on the basis of the following conditions :

Merchant vessels belonging to one of the High Contracting Parties and flying the flag of such Party, and their crews, passengers and cargoes, shall enjoy in the territory, ports and territorial waters of the other Party the same treatment in every respect as national merchant vessels, their crews, passengers and cargoes, or as those belonging to the most favoured nation. This provision shall apply particularly to the maritime taxes, duties, dues and charges to which they are liable.

These provisions shall however not apply to the coasting trade or to pilotage or towage, which shall remain exclusively subject to the national legislation of each State, or to any privileges which are or may hereafter be granted to the national fisheries and their produce.

As regards the navigation of natural or artificial inland waterways by the seagoing vessels referred to in the first paragraph, the Contracting Parties shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment.

It is further agreed that French vessels shall be subject to the general conditions prescribed by Finnish law concerning the obligation of foreign vessels to employ pilots, and that France shall not use the above provisions as a basis for a claim to be granted the conditions which are or may hereafter be granted by Finland to Russian fishing or sealing vessels in the territorial waters of the Arctic Ocean.

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I am, etc.

A. S. YRJÖ-KOSKINEN.