

N° 3912.

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**UNION ÉCONOMIQUE  
BELGO-LUXEMBOURGEOISE  
ET BULGARIE**

**Convention pour favoriser les échanges et les règlements commerciaux entre l'Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise et le Royaume de Bulgarie. Signée à Sofia, le 1<sup>er</sup> avril 1936.**

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**ECONOMIC UNION OF  
BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG  
AND BULGARIA**

**Convention for facilitating Commercial Exchanges and Commercial Payments between the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and the Kingdom of Bulgaria. Signed at Sofia, April 1st, 1936.**

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 3912. — CONVENTION FOR FACILITATING COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES AND COMMERCIAL PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC UNION OF BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG AND THE KINGDOM OF BULGARIA. SIGNED AT SOFIA, APRIL 1ST, 1936.

*French official text communicated by the Permanent Delegate of Bulgaria to the League of Nations.  
The registration of this Convention took place June 8th, 1936.*

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BULGARIANS and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, acting both on his own behalf and on behalf of Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxemburg in virtue of existing agreements, being desirous of facilitating reciprocal payments between the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg, have resolved to conclude a Convention for this purpose and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BULGARIANS :

His Excellency Monsieur Georges KIOSSÉIVANOV, President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Public Worship ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

His Excellency Monsieur Maurice CUVELIER, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Sofia ;

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

*Article I.*

1. Sums due for the purchase of Bulgarian goods imported into the Customs territory of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg shall on the due date be paid integrally in belgas into the account opened in the name of the National Bank of Bulgaria at the National Bank of Belgium on behalf of creditors in Bulgaria, the National Bank of Bulgaria being responsible for transferring the equivalent in levas to the payees in Bulgaria.

2. When the sum due is expressed in a currency other than the belga it shall be paid in belgas at the middle rate quoted for the currency in question at the Brussels Bourse on the day preceding payment.

3. The National Bank of Belgium shall advise the National Bank of Bulgaria each day of payments thus effected. The note of credit shall mention the name of the party ordering payment in the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg, the name of the payee in Bulgaria for whose account the National Bank of Bulgaria is credited, and if possible the nature of the goods.

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

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

4. Sums placed to the credit of this account shall not bear interest.
5. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties to the contract, sums paid in by debtors in the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg for credit of the account of the National Bank of Bulgaria shall constitute payment in full discharge of the debt.

#### Article II.

Amounts in belgas paid in for credit of the account of the National Bank of Bulgaria at the National Bank of Belgium shall be used by the first-named institution in accordance with the provisions of Article III hereunder for the sale of belgas to importers in Bulgaria, in settlement of their debts to creditors in the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg.

#### Article III.

1. The Bulgarian Government undertakes to allocate the sums in belgas paid in for credit of the account of the National Bank of Bulgaria at the National Bank of Belgium as follows :

- 25 % to a special " Arrears " account,
- 30 % to a special " A " account,
- 45 % to a special " B " account.

2. Sums credited to the " Arrears " account shall be used by the National Bank of Bulgaria to pay commercial claims in arrears in conformity with Article II above.

3. The assets of special account " A " shall remain at the free disposal of the National Bank of Bulgaria.

4. The assets of special account " B " shall be used for the settlement of new commercial claims on the date on which they fall due in conformity with the provisions of Article II above.

5. The Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office, duly empowered thereto by the Belgian Government, and the National Bank of Bulgaria shall jointly determine the methods for ensuring the execution of the provisions of the present Article, more particularly those relating to the census of commercial claims in arrears, to be made by the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office, and those concerning the progressive settlement *pro rata* of the said commercial claims in arrears.

The two aforesaid institutions shall be responsible for the execution of the provisions of the present Article.

6. In addition to the provisions named in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of the present Article, the provisions of Article IX hereunder (private clearing agreements) shall also apply to new commercial exchanges.

#### Article IV.

1. New commercial debts shall be deemed to be those the date of maturity of which is subsequent to the date of the entry into force of the present Convention.

2. Commercial claims in arrears shall be deemed to be those the date of maturity of which is previous to the date of the entry into force of the present Convention and which it has not been possible to transfer to the payees in conformity with the provisions of the Convention of April 5th, 1934, to promote commercial exchanges and settlements between the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and the Kingdom of Bulgaria.

#### Article V.

1. On the date of the entry into force of the present Convention the National Bank of Bulgaria will make the import of products from the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg subject to the previous grant of its transfer visa. This visa shall be granted within the limits of the assets in special account " B ".

2. Further, on the date of the entry into force of the present Convention, exports of Belgian or Luxemburg goods to Bulgaria shall require the previous visa of the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office. This visa shall be affixed to one copy of the invoice, mentioning the number of the transfer visa to be previously obtained under paragraph 1 above.

*Article VI.*

1. The transfer of currency by the National Bank of Bulgaria, to importers in Bulgaria, for commercial claims due after the entry into force of the present Convention shall be effected only on production of a copy of the invoice bearing the visa of the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office, in conformity with Article V above. This copy bearing the visa shall be delivered by the importer in Bulgaria to the National Bank of Bulgaria, which shall attach it duly stamped to the orders for payment out of its assets at the National Bank of Belgium.

2. The National Bank of Bulgaria shall communicate each week to the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office a list of sales of currency effected in favour of creditors, stating the amounts, the payees and the numbers of the invoice visas.

3. Applications for currency shall be dealt with in the chronological order of the dates on which payments fall due.

4. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the conversion into belgas of claims expressed in another currency shall take place in Bulgaria at the official buying rate adopted for the currency in question by the National Bank of Bulgaria on the day preceding the date of the payment order of this institution.

*Article VII.*

The National Bank of Bulgaria may require that previously exporters shall obtain a visa for invoices relating to exports of Bulgarian goods to the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg.

Invoices bearing the visa of the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office and of the National Bank of Bulgaria shall be automatically substituted for certificates of origin that might at any time be required on the importation of goods under the laws and regulations in the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and the Kingdom of Bulgaria.

In any case, the importation of Bulgarian goods into the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg shall be conditional on the production of a duplicate of the invoice delivered by the vendor to the purchaser. The authenticity of this duplicate shall be certified by the vendor and it shall contain the names and domicile of the vendor and purchaser, the date when payment falls due and other conditions of payment, together with a declaration, dated and signed, whereby the purchaser undertakes to pay the value of the goods imported to the National Bank of Belgium within the time-limit specified.

*Article VIII.*

The present Convention shall not apply to goods which are simply passing in transit through the Customs territory of one or other of the High Contracting Parties, or to goods which, in the opinion of the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office or the National Bank of Bulgaria, have not undergone a process there such as would be sufficient to confer on them Belgo-Luxemburg or Bulgarian nationality respectively.

*Article IX.*

1. The Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office, duly empowered by its Government, and the National Bank of Bulgaria shall apart from the system described above authorise in the greatest possible measure — after having reached agreement concerning these operations themselves, case by case, and concerning general methods of execution — the exchange of Bulgarian goods for Belgian and Luxemburg goods by means of private clearing agreements in accordance with the Bulgarian legal provisions governing imports and exports.

2. Sums due in the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg as cover for imports of Bulgarian goods forming the subject of private clearing transactions shall be paid, case by case, on the date on which payment falls due into the National Bank of Belgium.

The latter shall place the proportion of foreign currency accruing to the National Bank of Bulgaria to the creditor's special account " A " and shall place the balance reserved for private clearing agreements to the credit of a special account " C " opened in its books in the name of the National Bank of Bulgaria.

Payments out of the funds in account " C " to payees in the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg shall be made only on instructions from the National Bank of Bulgaria, which undertakes to act in this way, in each case, on receipt of the payment order from the party in Bulgaria to whom sums under a private clearing agreement are payable.

3. The Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office and the National Bank of Bulgaria will jointly determine, subject to the approval of their Governments, the technical means for the application of the foregoing provisions and likewise any adjustment that practical experience in private clearing operations may appear to recommend in future.

#### *Article X.*

The provision of Article 25 of the Bulgarian General Decree of June 4th, 1935, shall not be applicable to the provisions of the present Convention. Consequently, the sale of belgas specified in Article II above shall be carried out on the dates agreed upon between the parties to the contract.

#### *Article XI.*

Difficulties that may arise in the application of the present Convention shall be settled by joint agreement between the Belgo-Luxemburg Clearing Office and the National Bank of Bulgaria.

#### *Article XII.*

Each Government undertakes, in so far as it is concerned, to take the measures necessary to oblige its importers to observe the provisions of the present Convention.

#### *Article XIII.*

The High Contracting Parties are in full agreement as to the measures to be taken with a view to expediting the settlement of arrears as far as possible and promoting new commercial exchanges.

#### *Article XIV.*

On the expiry of the present Convention the credit balance in the account of the National Bank of Bulgaria at the National Bank of Belgium shall be applied in conformity with the provisions of the present Convention.

#### *Article XV.*

The present Convention shall come into force fifteen days after the date of signature and shall remain in force for a period of three months. Unless it has been denounced one month before the expiry of this period, it shall be extended by tacit consent. Each of the High Contracting Parties shall have the right to denounce it at thirty days' notice.

Done at Sofia in duplicate, the first day of April, 1936.

(Signed) G. KIOSSÉIVANOV,  
Bulgarian Plenipotentiary.

(Signed) M. CUVELIER,  
Belgian Plenipotentiary.