

N° 4243.

**BELGIQUE
ET TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

Arrangement concernant l'admission
des étrangers qui désirent perfec-
tionner leurs connaissances profes-
sionnelles et linguistiques. Signé
à Bruxelles, le 16 octobre 1937.

**BELGIUM
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Agreement regarding the Admission
of Foreigners desiring to improve
their Professional or Linguistic
Knowledge. Signed at Brussels,
October 16th, 1937.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 4243. — AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA REGARDING THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGNERS DESIRING TO IMPROVE THEIR PROFESSIONAL OR LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 16TH, 1937.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Agreement took place January 1st, 1938.

The undersigned, M. Paul-Henri SPAAK, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and M. Vladimir SLAVIK, Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic at Brussels, duly authorised for that purpose by their respective Governments, have concluded the following Agreement :

Article 1.

§ 1. The present Agreement shall apply to "travelling students or apprentices" (*stagiaires*), that is to say, to nationals of one of the two countries who proceed to the other country for a given period in order to improve their knowledge of the language and the commercial or professional customs of that country, while holding a post in an industrial or commercial establishment.

§ 2. Travelling students or apprentices shall be authorised to hold a post under the conditions laid down in the following Articles, without account being taken of the situation of the labour market in the profession in question.

Article 2.

Travelling students or apprentices may be of either sex. In principle, they must not be over thirty years of age.

Article 3.

Permission shall as a rule be given for a period not exceeding one year. In exceptional cases, it may be extended for six months.

Article 4.

§ 1. The number of permits granted by each of the two contracting States to nationals of the other State may not exceed 25 per year.

§ 2. In respect of the use of the quota of 25 travelling students or apprentices allowed for one year, account shall not be taken of permits granted during previous years under the present Agreement. The same shall apply to workers desirous of improving their professional or linguistic

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.

knowledge who have been admitted into the other State otherwise than under the present Agreement. Travelling students or apprentices who change their employer during their period of study shall not be counted in the annual quota a second time.

§ 3. The limit of 25 travelling students or apprentices shall apply whatever be the duration of the period for which the permits issued during the year have been granted and that during which they have been used.

§ 4. If the quotas allowed are not reached during one year in respect of the travelling students or apprentices of one of the two States, that State may neither reduce the number of permits granted to travelling students or apprentices of the other State nor carry over the unused part of its quota to the next year.

§ 5. The quota of 25 permits shall be valid for each civil year.

Article 5.

§ 1. Travelling students or apprentices may only be accepted by the competent authorities if those who are to employ them give an undertaking to the authorities that as soon as these travelling students or apprentices render normal service they will be paid, in cases where collective agreements exist, according to the rates fixed by such agreements, and where such agreements do not exist, according to the normal and current rates of the profession and of the district.

§ 2. In other cases, the employers must undertake to pay them a remuneration corresponding to the value of their services.

Article 6.

§ 1. Travelling students or apprentices who desire to take advantage of the provisions of the present Agreement must apply to the authority of their country designated in Article 7. They must produce the following documents :

- (1) An official document giving their date of birth;
- (2) An official good-conduct certificate;
- (3) A medical certificate from an officially recognised doctor certifying that they are not suffering from any contagious disease;
- (4) The document or documents required by each country for the purpose of proving that the persons concerned are engaged as travelling students or apprentices;
- (5) A declaration by which they undertake to leave the country in which they desire to study as travelling students or apprentices as soon as their term of study is completed.

§ 2. As soon as the competent authority to which application is made has decided that the application thus made to it can be granted, it shall inform the competent authority of the other country accordingly;

§ 3. The competent authorities shall do all in their power to see to it that decisions concerning the entry and residence of travelling students or apprentices accepted are taken speedily. They shall also endeavour to obviate, as quickly as possible, any difficulties which may arise with regard to the entry or residence of travelling students.

Article 7.

§ 1. Applications from persons who desire to take advantage of the provisions of the present Agreement must be made : in the case of Belgian nationals, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Brussels ; in the case of Czechoslovak nationals, to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Prague.

§ 2. Applications from Belgian travelling students or apprentices shall be forwarded to the Czechoslovak Government through the Belgian Legation at Prague.

Applications from Czechoslovak travelling students or apprentices shall be forwarded to the Belgian Government through the Czechoslovak Legation at Brussels.

Article 8.

The present Agreement shall in no way affect the régime applicable to all other workers.

Article 9.

§ 1. The present Agreement shall come into force on January 1st, 1938, and remain in force until December 31st, 1938.

§ 2. It shall then be extended by tacit consent year by year unless denounced by one of the two Contracting Parties not less than three months before the date of its expiry.

§ 3. Nevertheless, in case of denunciation, the permits granted under the present Agreement shall remain valid for the period for which they have been granted.

Done in duplicate at Brussels, this 16th day of October, 1937.

(L. S.) (S.) P.-H. SPAAK.

(L. S.) (S.) Vladimír SLAVIK.