

No. 292

**BELGIUM
and
IRELAND**

Exchange of Notes constituting an agreement relating to the abolition of passport visas in the relations between the two countries. Brussels, 19 March, and Paris, 25 March 1947

*French official text communicated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium.
The registration took place on 11 October 1948.*

**BELGIQUE
et
IRLANDE**

Echange de notes constituant un accord concernant la suppression du visa des passeports dans les relations entre les deux pays. Bruxelles, 19 mars, et Paris, 25 mars 1947

Texte officiel français communiqué par le Ministre des affaires étrangères de Belgique. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 11 octobre 1948.

TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 292. EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE ABOLITION OF PASSPORT VISAS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BRUSSELS, 19 MARCH, AND PARIS, 25 MARCH 1947

I

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AND FOREIGN TRADE

Second Section, 6th Bureau P.

No. 2202/Pr/Irlande.

4 annexes.

Brussels, 19 March 1947

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade has the honour to advise the Legation of Ireland in Paris of the receipt of its note No. 2/22 (4) of 28 February 1947.

The Department was gratified to learn that the Irish authorities have indicated their readiness to conclude an arrangement with a view to the abolition, as from 1 April 1947, of travel visas between the two countries.

Enclosed are four copies of a note embodying the draft agreement that the Belgian authorities are prepared to conclude in this regard.

As the Department pointed out in its note of 11 January 1947, bearing the same reference as the present note, the agreement could be concluded by a simple exchange of notes.

¹ Came into force on 1 April 1947, by the exchange and according to the terms of the said notes.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, C.

Second Section, 6th Bureau P.

No. 2202/Pr/Irlande.

Brussels, 19 March 1947

With a view to the progressive restoration of freedom of movement between the territories of Belgium and Ireland, the Belgian Government is prepared to conclude with the Irish Government an agreement in the following terms:

- (1) Belgian subjects may proceed to Ireland from any point of departure and by any route without being previously required to obtain a visa, provided that they hold a valid passport.
- (2) Nationals of Ireland holding valid passports may proceed to Belgium from any point of departure and by any route without being previously required to obtain a visa. It is understood that exemption from the visa requirement applies only to stays of not more than two months in either country.
- (3) Belgian subjects wishing to settle in Ireland must first request the competent Irish diplomatic or consular authorities to endorse their travel permit with a clause stating that the bearer is authorized to reside in Ireland.
- (4) Irish nationals wishing to settle in Belgium must first request the competent Belgian diplomatic or consular authorities to endorse their travel permit with a clause stating that the bearer is authorized to settle in Belgium.
- (5) Exemption from the visa requirement does not relieve Belgian and Irish subjects proceeding respectively to Ireland and to Belgium of the obligation to observe Irish and Belgian laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment of aliens. Persons unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they meet the requirements of these laws and regulations may be refused authorization to enter or to disembark.
- (6) It remains necessary to obtain a visa before entry into the Belgian Congo and the African territories at present under mandate.

If the Irish Government is prepared to conclude an arrangement on these lines, the present note and a note of the Irish Government drafted in similar terms and forwarded to the Belgian Government will be considered as constituting an agreement between the two Governments entering into force on 1 April 1947.

II

LEAGAIDEACHT NA HÉIREANN

IRISH LEGATION

Uimh. Thag.

Ref. No.

The Legation of Ireland presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Ministry's note No. 2202/Pr/Irlande of the same date, constituting the draft agreement that the Belgian authorities are prepared to conclude with a view to the elimination of travel visas between Belgium and Ireland.

The Legation of Ireland has the honour to forward herewith to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade a note in quadruplicate which, together with the Belgian Government's note mentioned above, will, in accordance with its proposal, constitute an agreement entering into force on 1 April next.

37 *bis*, rue Paul Valéry
Paris, 25 March 1947

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Foreign Trade
Brussels, Belgium

2/22 (4)

25 March 1947

With a view to the progressive restoration of freedom of movement between the territories of Ireland and Belgium, the Irish Government is prepared to conclude with the Belgian Government an agreement in accordance with the terms set forth in note No. 2202/Pr/Irlande of 19 March of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, as follows:

- (1) Irish nationals may proceed to Belgium from any point of departure and by any route whatever without being previously required to obtain a visa, provided that they hold a valid passport.
- (2) Belgian subjects holding valid passports may proceed to Ireland from any point of departure and by any route without being previously required to obtain a visa. It is understood that exemption from the visa requirement applies only to stays of not more than two months in either country.

- (3) Irish nationals wishing to settle in Belgium must first request the competent Belgian diplomatic or consular authorities to endorse their travel permit with a clause stating that the bearer is authorized to reside in Belgium.
- (4) Belgian subjects wishing to settle in Ireland must first request the competent Irish diplomatic or consular authorities to endorse their travel permit with a clause stating that the bearer is authorized to settle in Ireland.
- (5) Exemption from the visa requirement does not relieve Belgian and Irish subjects proceeding respectively to Ireland and to Belgium of the obligation to observe Irish and Belgian laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) or employment of aliens. Persons unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they meet the requirements of these laws and regulations may be refused authorization to enter or to disembark.
- (6) It is duly noted that it remains necessary to obtain a visa before entry into Belgian Congo and the African territories at present under mandate.

It is understood that the present note and the Belgian Government's note No. 2202/Pr/Irlande of 19 March, to which the present note is a reply, constitute an agreement between the two Governments entering into force on 1 April 1947.

37 *bis*, rue Paul Valéry
Paris, 25 March 1947
