

No. 307

BELGIUM
and
FRANCE

**Frontier Agreement (with annexes and *procès-verbal*).
Signed at Coblenz, on 23 April 1948**

*French official text communicated by the Officer in charge of the Permanent
Belgian Delegation to the United Nations. The registration took place on
16 November 1948.*

BELGIQUE
et
FRANCE

**Accord frontalier (avec annexes et *procès-verbal*). Signé à
Coblence, le 23 avril 1948**

*Texte officiel français communiqué par le Chargé de la gestion de la délégation
permanente de la Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.
L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 16 novembre 1948.*

TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 307. FRONTIER AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM
AND THE FRENCH ZONE OF OCCUPATION. SIGNED
AT COBLENZ, ON 23 APRIL 1948

The French Government, of the one part, and the Belgian Government, of the other part, desirous of regulating the movement between Belgium and the frontier zone of Germany under French occupation of the persons qualifying for the benefits of the status of frontier residents, have for this purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The French Government: General Koenig, French Commander-in-Chief in Germany,

The Belgian Government: Mr. R. Contempré, Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade,

Who, having exchanged their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The present agreement establishes two frontier zones along the Belgian-German frontier touching the German territory under French occupation.

These zones shall comprise the territories of the communes enumerated in the annexed lists (Annexes A and B).

Article 2

Persons who have been domiciled in either of the two zones for not less than one year and who satisfy the conditions laid down in articles 3 and 4 below, shall be deemed to be frontier residents.

German nationals domiciled in the German zone shall not be entitled to the benefit of the present agreement unless its scope is subsequently extended.

The German nationals referred to in the foregoing paragraph are, however, entitled forthwith to the benefit of the provisions of articles 4 and 7.

¹ Came into force on 1 May 1948, in accordance with article 12.

Article 3

Subject to the above reservations, the privilege of frontier permits may be enjoyed by:

(a) Persons who, while actually resident in one frontier zone, own or have the usufruct of land in the other zone, or are the tenant farmers or *métayers* of such land, and are personally engaged in its exploitation or development.

The ascendants and descendants in direct line of such persons enjoy the same privilege.

(b) Agricultural labourers employed by such persons, if they satisfy the same conditions as to residence.

(c) Workers or employees who live in one of the two zones and work in the other, with the reservation, however, that inhabitants of the German zone must be in possession of a regular work permit. Such a permit will not be required of Belgians.

Article 4

In addition and in certain quite exceptional "humanitarian" cases, the following may obtain authorization to cross the frontier:

(a) Inhabitants of either zone who are summoned to attend near relatives in the other zone on the occasion of the serious illness or decease of such relatives ("near relatives" means: ascendants and descendants in direct line, the spouse, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces);

(b) Doctors, veterinary surgeons and midwives, in cases of manifest urgency and in the absence of a locally resident practitioner;

(c) The fire brigade in emergencies.

The conditions governing the crossing of the frontier in these "humanitarian" cases are laid down in article 7.

Article 5

ISSUE OF THE FRONTIER PERMIT

(a) Persons included in the categories described in article 3 shall, if resident in Belgium, address their applications in duplicate to the office of the Deputy District Commissioner at Malmédy.

Residents in German territory (French occupation zone) shall address their applications to the district representative at Prüm (Commissioner of Public Security).

(b) The authority receiving an application shall make all necessary enquiries and prepare the document, which it shall then, duly signed and accompanied by a copy of the application, forward to the authority designated in paragraph (a), which latter authority, having made additional enquiries of its own, grants or refuses the visa.

The document, bearing these two signatures, is delivered to the person concerned by the authority which received the application. It shall be valid for one year and renewable by the same procedure.

(c) The point (or in exceptional cases, the points) at which the frontier may be crossed nearest the shortest route between residence and place of work, shall be indicated on the permit by the authorities of the country in which the place of work is situated.

The frontier permit, together with an official identity document with photograph, must be produced on request and shall be valid only for the authorized crossing point or points.

(d) Possession of the frontier permit shall not confer a right upon its holder. The permit may at any time be withdrawn by either of the authorities competent to issue it, visé it or supervise its use, without prejudice to the administrative or penal liabilities for improper use.

Should a frontier permit be withdrawn, the authority which withdrew it shall submit a reasoned statement both to the office of the Deputy District Commissioner at Malmédy and to the Commissioner of Public Security at Prüm. Any confiscated frontier permit shall be returned immediately to the issuing authority.

Article 6

USE OF THE FRONTIER PERMIT

(a) The frontier permit constitutes authorization to enter the territory of the commune in which the place of work is situated; it is not applicable to any other commune.

The frontier permit constitutes authorization to cross the frontier at the points indicated thereon only.

Should the frontier be totally or partially closed, and while it remains closed, the permit shall not authorize its holder to cross the frontier, even for urgent reasons connected with work.

(b) In crossing the frontier, the holders of the frontier permit shall be bound by all the obligations regarding customs and exchange control to be laid down in a forthcoming customs agreement.

Article 7

ISSUE OF FRONTIER LAISSEZ-PASSER IN HUMANITARIAN CASES

(a) 1.—Visits in connexion with the serious illness or death of near relatives.

2.—Journeys of demonstrated necessity in connexion with the settlement of an estate or family financial matters requiring the presence of the person concerned.

Frontier *laissez-passer* with a validity period of 48 hours may be issued in exceptional cases.

The document used will be the frontier *laissez-passer* of a type to be established in due course and valid for a single trip only.

To expedite the issue of such permits, the following procedure will be adopted:

The District Commissioner at Malmédy shall always have at his disposal a batch of twenty Belgian frontier *laissez-passer* signed by the Commissioner at Prüm.

The Commissioner of Public Safety at Prüm shall have always at his disposal a batch of twenty blank French frontier *laissez-passer* signed by the District Commissioner at Malmédy.

In order to regularize the use of the viséd and signed blank permits, all applications for frontier *laissez-passer* shall be made on two application forms.

These two copies shall be sent by the Malmédy Commissioner to the Commissioner at Prüm or by the Commissioner at Prüm to the Commissioner at Malmédy. The Commissioner receiving the copies shall visé them and return one to the place where the application originated.

After using the *laissez-passer* the holder shall present it for stamping at the gendarmerie station of the place where the illness or death has occurred, or the estate settlement or family financial business is being transacted; and submit it on his return for cancellation to the issuing authority.

(b) Veterinary surgeons, midwives and doctors who may be summoned in case of manifest urgency and in the absence of a locally resident practitioner.

They shall not be provided with either frontier permits or *laissez-passer*, but will be allowed to cross the frontier on presentation of their professional credentials.

The burgomaster of the commune requesting assistance shall draw up an explanatory report on each case in which use is made of this privilege; this report shall be forwarded to the District Commissioner at Malmédy or to the District Representative at Prüm (Commissioner of Public Security) as the case may be.

(c) The fire brigade, in case of emergency:

They shall be issued neither with frontier cards nor with *laissez-passer*, but will be allowed to cross the frontier on presentation of a group list drawn up by the burgomaster of the commune to which they belong, and on submission of individual identity cards with photographs.

The burgomaster of the place at which the emergency occurs shall draw up an explanatory report as indicated in paragraph (b) above.

Article 8

Frontier permits shall be issued to cultivators whose lands straddle the frontier and to agricultural labourers working for them, even though the cultivation of such land does not involve the need for crossing the frontier at one of the authorized points. The permits will show the points between which the frontier may be crossed.

Article 9

Pending the conclusion of the customs agreement referred to in article 6, paragraph (b) hereof, Belgian farmers who hold frontier permits shall be authorized forthwith to enter the French occupation zone and bring back into Belgium any agricultural equipment necessary for the cultivation of their land.

Article 10

The High Contracting Parties undertake to make the necessary arrangements immediately for opening the frontier post at Steinbruck to frontier and international traffic.

Article 11

A permanent joint commission shall be established as soon as the present agreement enters into force. It shall include not more than three representatives of each of the High Contracting Parties and may propose to the Parties any measure likely to ensure the smooth working of this agreement.

Article 12

The present agreement shall enter into force on 1 May 1948. It may be denounced at any time by either of the two Contracting Parties by three months' notice of such denunciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the aforesaid plenipotentiaries have signed the present instrument in duplicate.

DONE at Coblenz, 23 April 1948.

For the French Government:

For the Belgian Government:

(Signed) HETTIER DE BOISLAMBERT,
Governor Delegate-General
For General Koenig

(Signed) R. CONTEMPRÉ

ANNEX A

BELGIAN COMMUNES

Baelen	Kettenis	Elsenborn
Membach	Lontzen	Rocherath
Welkenraedt	Neu-Moresnet	St. Vith
H. Chapelle	Raeren	Amblève
Gemmenich	Walhorn	Burg-Reuland
Sippenaecken	Malmédy	Crombach
Montzen	Bellevaux	Heppenbach
La Calamine	Ligneuville	Lommersweiler
Homburg	Bévercé	Manderfeld
Moresnet	Faymonville	Meyerode
Eupen	Robertville	Recht
Eynatten	Waimés	Schönbert
Hauset	Bullange	Thommen
Hergenrath	Butgenbach	

ANNEX B

COMMUNES IN THE GERMAN FRONTIER ZONE

Harspelt	Welchenhausen	Hollnich
Niederrutfeld	Stupbach	Heckhalenfeld
Euscheid	Grosskampenberg	Winterspelt
Strickcheid	Kessfeld	Eigelscheid
Oberürrfeld	Masthorn	Steinmehlen
Leidenborn	Heckhuscheid	Wallmerath
Lutzkampen	Hascheid	Hemmeres

ANNEX B (continued)

Elchenrath	Mützenich	Schänfeld
Grosslangenfeld	Schwieler	Schlausenbach
Ihren	Radscheid	Wischeid
Urb	Oberlascheid	Verschneid
Winterscheid	Niederlascheid	Auw
Bleialf	Halenfeld	Kobscheid
Brandscheid	Buchet	Roth
Sellerich	Hermespad	Ormont
Niedermehlen	Willwerath	Scheid
Hontheim	Kleinkangenberg	Hallschlag
Obermehlen	Olzenheim	Kerschenbach
Gontenbrett	Neuendorf	Stadtkyll
Wascheid	Reuth	

PROCES-VERBAL OF THE MEETING HELD AT COBLENZ ON
23 APRIL 1948

On this date the undermentioned representatives of the Governments of France and Belgium met at Coblenz for the purpose of establishing the definite text of a frontier agreement between the French zone of occupation and Belgium:

French representatives:

- Colonel de Sainte-Foy, Chief of the Communications Bureau of the CCFA at Baden-Baden.
- Mr. Delnef, Inspector of Public Security, representing the Governor Delegate-General in the Rhéno-Palatine State at Coblenz.
- Mr. Ponchel, Chief of the Frontiers Supervision Service at Baden-Baden.
- Mr. Schouler, Chief Inspector of Customs, Deputy-Director of Customs at Baden-Baden.
- Mr. Ariotti, Co-ordinating Director of Economic and Financial Affairs, General Delegation in the Rhéno-Palatine State.
- Mr. Noury, Chief of the Financial Department, General Delegation in the Rhéno-Palatine State, representing the Director of Finance.
- Mr. Thibault, Chief of the Labour Department, General Delegation in the Rhéno-Palatine State.
- Mr. Pejoux, Chief of the Communications Control Office of the Department of Public Security at Coblenz.
- Mr. Errard, Chief of the General Police Control Office of the Department of Public Security at Coblenz.

Belgian representatives:

Mr. Contempré, Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Lannoy, Regional Inspector of Customs.

Mr. Biver, Officer of Liège Territorial Gendarmerie.

Mr. Lepez, Officer commanding the Malmédy Gendarmerie Company.

Mr. Hoen, Deputy Commission of the district of Eupen-Malmédy, St. Vith and Malmédy.

Mr. Larsimont, Inspector at the Ministry of Justice, Chief of the Frontiers Supervision Service, Department of Public Security.

The aforesaid delegations resumed the examination of the French and Belgian drafts and agreed on the attached text, duly signed by the plenipotentiaries appointed by the two Governments.
