

**No. 118**

---

**BELGIUM**  
and  
**LUXEMBOURG**

**Bilateral agreement concerning the repatriation of their  
nationals displaced as a result of hostilities. Signed at  
Brussels, on 14 May 1945**

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

---

**BELGIQUE**  
et  
**LUXEMBOURG**

**Accord bilatéral concernant le rapatriement de leurs ressortis-  
sants déplacés par fait de guerre. Signé à Bruxelles, le  
14 mai 1945**

*Texte officiel français communiqué par le Chargé de la gestion de la délégation  
permanente de Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Le  
classement et l'inscription au répertoire ont eu lieu le 16 novembre 1948.*

## TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 118. BILATERAL AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG CONCERNING THE REPATRIATION OF THEIR NATIONALS DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF HOSTILITIES. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 14 MAY 1945

The present agreement is concluded by and between the Belgium Government, represented by His Excellency Mr. Paul VAN ZEELAND, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Commissioner for Repatriation, of the one part, and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, represented by Mr. MAJERUS, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., of the other part.

1. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to facilitate and expedite the repatriation of any prisoners of war, deported persons and refugees and any other nationals of the other party, displaced as a result of the war, who, at the time of liberation and subsequently, may be within its territory.

2. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to receive within its territory and to repatriate any nationals of the other party who, by their own initiative or by organized means, may cross its frontier from an enemy country, a country formerly occupied by the enemy, or a neutral country.

3. While awaiting repatriation, displaced persons shall be treated by each of the High Contracting Parties respectively on a footing of equality with its own nationals, particularly with regard to shelter, food, medical and social services and the application of health restrictions.

4. As from the date of the partial or total liberation of its territory and subject, as regards the military period, to the authorization of the competent military authorities, each of the High Contracting Parties shall admit to its liberated territory a national mission of the other party, which shall co-ordinate its activities with the directives issued by the Ministry or Commissariat responsible for repatriation, to which it shall be attached.

The mission shall consist of a head of mission and such staff as the circumstances may require. Its composition shall be subject to the consent of the other party.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 14 May 1945, as from the date of signature, in accordance with paragraph 10.

It shall be the duty of each mission to assist the Government of the country to which it is accredited in operations for the repatriation of its nationals of all categories, within the general framework of national and international repatriation operations.

In particular it shall be responsible for:

- (a) co-operating in the identification of displaced persons who claim the nationality of the High Contracting Party represented by the mission;
- (b) issuing repatriation documents;
- (c) advising and assisting the authorities of the territory, in matters concerning the assistance, maintenance and repatriation of the displaced persons for whom it is responsible.

To this end it shall be afforded full travel facilities and the necessary authorizations to visit camps, centres and assembly points in which its nationals are present.

In addition, the mission may import free of duty, and shall be given full facilities for the dispatch of, any packages, provisions, medical supplies and in general any articles, effects and objects destined either for its members or for the persons to be repatriated for whom it is responsible.

5. The head of the national mission, on the one hand, and the authorities responsible for repatriation in the country to which he is accredited, on the other, may set up on the spot a joint permanent commission consisting of not more than three representatives of each of the High Contracting Parties, who shall be responsible for presenting suggestions for the solution of questions submitted to it by agreement between the parties concerned.

6. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes, as far as possible, to have recourse to the staff of the national mission of the other party for the purpose of facilitating the repatriation of nationals of the latter.

7. In so far as concerns displaced persons who are nationals of one of the Contracting Parties and whose permanent domicile is within the territory of the other party, each of the High Contracting Parties, while recognizing the impossibility of guaranteeing in a general or formal manner the re-admission of all such persons to its territory, nevertheless undertakes to give favourable consideration to any requests in this sense which are approved by the representative of the Government to whom the requests are presented.

8. Each of the High Contracting Parties shall examine with the other party the possibility of establishing priority lists.

9. The undertakings provided for in the present convention shall not be construed as preventing any general measure of a domestic nature which the High Contracting Parties may deem it essential to take for reasons of health or security or which may be taken by inter-allied agencies, in accordance with international agreements applicable in the country concerned.

10. The present agreement is concluded for a period of three months from the date of signature. It shall be renewed by tacit agreement for further periods of three months, unless denounced by either party, one month before the expiry of any such period.

11. Financial questions arising from the present agreement shall be studied and settled at a later date.

12. UNRRA shall be notified of the present agreement.

DONE in duplicate on 14 May 1945, one original copy being deposited with each of the High Contracting Parties.

(Signed) P. VAN ZEELAND

(Signed) MAJERUS