

No. 444

**BELGIUM
and
SWITZERLAND**

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement for the abolition of passport visas in the relations between the two countries. Brussels, 3 July 1947

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement supplementary to the above-mentioned agreement. Berne, 26 February and 7 March 1949

French official text communicated by the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations. The registration took place on 28 April 1949.

**BELGIQUE
et
SUISSE**

Echange de notes constituant un accord concernant la suppression du visa des passeports dans les relations entre les deux pays. Bruxelles, 3 juillet 1947

Echange de lettres constituant un accord additionnel à l'accord susmentionné. Berne, 26 février et 7 mars 1949

Texte officiel français communiqué par le représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 28 avril 1949.

TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 444. EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND FOR THE ABOLITION OF PASSPORT VISAS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BRUSSELS, 3 JULY 1947

I

SWISS LEGATION IN BELGIUM

47.A.IX.3664 L/W

The Swiss Legation is instructed and has the honour to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Swiss Government is prepared to conclude with the Belgian Government an agreement in the following terms:

1. The Belgian nationals may enter or leave Switzerland by any route or frontier, without being required to obtain a visa previously, provided that they hold a valid national passport. Only Belgian nationals entering Switzerland to take up employment will be required to furnish themselves in advance with a Swiss consular visa.
2. Swiss nationals may enter or leave Belgium by any route or frontier, without being required to obtain a visa previously, provided that they hold a valid national passport. Only Swiss nationals entering Belgium to take up employment will be required to furnish themselves in advance with a Belgian consular visa.
3. It is understood that exemption from the requirement to obtain a visa does not relieve Swiss and Belgian nationals proceeding to Belgium and Switzerland respectively from the obligation to comply with the local laws and regulations concerning the entry and residence (temporary or permanent) of aliens and the obtaining by aliens of paid employment or the exercise of a profession by them.
4. Any Belgian national, whether or not in employment in Switzerland, may, simply upon presentation of his valid national passport, leave or enter Switzerland at will without a visa, so long as he has a valid permit of

¹ Came into force on 15 July 1947, by the exchange of the said notes and in conformity with the provisions thereof.

residence (temporary or permanent) granted by the competent Swiss authority. Reciprocity is granted to Swiss nationals by the Belgian Government.

5. It will still be necessary to obtain a Belgian visa before entering the Belgian Congo or Ruanda-Urundi.
6. At the request of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, this agreement shall apply likewise to that Principality. Belgian nationals will therefore receive the same facilities for entering Liechtenstein as for entering Switzerland, and Liechtenstein nationals will be entitled to enter Belgium on the same conditions as Swiss nationals.
7. The present agreement shall enter into force on 15 July 1947.

The present note and the reply which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will address to the Legation shall constitute the agreement between the two Governments.

The Swiss Legation has the honour to be, etc.

Brussels, 3 July 1947.

SWISS LEGATION IN BELGIUM

[SEAL]

To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Brussels

II

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Direction Générale C.
2ème Section
6ème Bureau P.
No. 2202/Pr/S.

Brussels, 3 July 1947

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Swiss Legation at Brussels, with reference to the latter's note No. 47.A.IX.3664.L/W of 3 July 1947, that the Belgian Government agrees to the following provisions:

[See note I]

[SEAL]

To the Swiss Legation
Brussels

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS¹ CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE AGREEMENT OF 3 JULY 1947. BERNE, 26 FEBRUARY AND 7 MARCH 1949

No. 1

File C.9

Berne, 26 February 1949

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the Belgian Government proposes to conclude the following supplementary agreement with a view to facilitating the movement of persons between our two countries and Liechtenstein, already partly settled by the agreement of 15 July 1947.

"The agreement on the abolition of visas concluded between Switzerland and Belgium on 15 July 1947 is amended as follows:

"*Article 1, paragraph 1:* On and after 15 March 1949, Belgian nationals may enter or leave Switzerland by any route or frontier without previously being required to obtain a visa, provided that they hold a valid national passport or a passport which has not expired more than five years previously, subject to its having been issued or prolonged subsequent to 10 October 1944.

"*Article 2, paragraph 1:* On and after 15 March 1949, Swiss nationals may enter or leave Belgium by any route or frontier without previously being required to obtain a visa, provided that they hold a valid national passport or a passport which has not expired more than five years previously.

"It is understood that these amendments also apply to Belgian nationals proceeding to Liechtenstein and to Liechtenstein nationals proceeding to Belgium."

This letter, together with your reply in similar terms bearing the same date as the present note, will be regarded as constituting the agreement.

Kindly inform me whether the Swiss Federal Council agrees to the conclusion of the supplementary agreement in question with the Belgian Government.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) V. DE LANTSHEERE
Minister of Belgium

His Excellency Mr. Petitpierre
Federal Councillor
Chief of the Federal Political Department
Berne

¹ Came into force on 15 March 1949, by the exchange of the said letters and in conformity with the provisions thereof.

No. 2

CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Berne, 7 March 1949

M.C.

Your Excellency,

By a letter dated 26 February 1949, you were good enough to inform me that the Belgian Government was prepared to conclude with the Federal Council the following supplementary agreement with a view to facilitating the movement of persons between Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the one hand, and Belgium of the other part, thereby amending the arrangement of 15 July 1947:

[See letter No. 1]

I have the honour to inform you that the Federal Council considers your afore-mentioned letter together with the present reply as constituting the agreement reached between our two Governments.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) MAX PETITPIERRE

His Excellency Viscount de Lantsheere
Minister of Belgium
Berne