

**No. 386**

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**BELGIUM  
and  
IRELAND**

**Exchange of Letters constituting an agreement concerning the abolition of passport visas in intercourse between the two countries. Brussels, 16 April 1948**

*French official text communicated by the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations. The registration took place on 16 March 1949.*

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**BELGIQUE  
et  
IRLANDE**

**Echange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à la suppression du visa des passeports dans les relations entre les deux pays. Bruxelles, 16 avril 1948**

*Texte officiel français communiqué par le représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 16 mars 1949.*

## TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 386. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELGIUM AND IRELAND CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE ABOLITION OF PASSPORT VISAS IN INTERCOURSE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BRUSSELS, 16 APRIL 1948

## I

## IRISH LEGATION IN BELGIUM

Brussels, 16 April 1948

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to our previous correspondence, concerning the conclusion of a new agreement between Ireland and Belgium relative to the abolition of travel visas between our two countries, and to inform you that the Irish Government is prepared to replace the existing arrangement by an agreement in the following terms:

1. — Belgian subjects may proceed to Ireland and Irish citizens may proceed to Belgium, from any point of departure and by any route, without being required to obtain a visa, provided that they hold a valid national passport;
2. — It is understood that the exemption from visa requirements provided for in paragraph 1 applies only to stays not exceeding two months in either country;
3. — Belgian subjects wishing to settle in Ireland for a period of over two months or Irish citizens wishing to settle in Belgium for a similar length of time must first request the competent diplomatic or consular authorities of the other country to endorse their travel permit with a visa or clause stating that they are authorized to settle in Ireland or Belgium respectively;
4. — Exemption from the visa requirement does not relieve Belgian subjects and Irish citizens proceeding to Ireland or Belgium respectively of the obligation to observe the 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

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 May 1948, by the exchange of the said letters and in accordance with the provisions thereof.

requirements of these laws and regulations may be refused authorization to enter or disembark;

5. — Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, it is understood that Belgian subjects and Irish citizens holding diplomatic passports and proceeding either to Ireland or Belgium respectively are not required previously to obtain a visa, whatever the length of their stay in either country;
6. — Irish citizens desiring to enter the Belgian Congo and the African trust territories now under Belgian administration must first obtain a visa.

If the Belgian Government is prepared to apply the foregoing provisions, I have the honour to suggest that the present note and your reply in similar terms, bearing the same date as the present note, should be considered as constituting an agreement concluded between our two Governments and coming into force on 1 May next; it being understood, however, that the said agreement confirms the arrangement already concluded as a result of the exchange of verbal notes of 19 and 25 March 1947<sup>1</sup> which entered into force on 1 April 1947.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) William P. FAY

His Excellency Mr. P.-H. Spaak  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Brussels

## II

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND EXTERNAL TRADE  
BRUSSELS

DIRECTORATE GENERAL C.  
Second Section — Sixth Bureau P.

No. 2202/Pr/Irl.

16 April 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of 16 April 1948, confirming the conclusion of a new agreement between Belgium and Ireland

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume 18, page 227.

relative to the abolition of travel visas between our two countries, and to confirm that the Belgian Government is prepared to replace the existing arrangement by an agreement in the following terms:

[*See note I*]

The Belgian Government is prepared to apply the foregoing provisions, and the present letter, together with your note in similar terms and bearing the same date, shall be considered as constituting an agreement concluded between our two Governments and coming into force on 1 May next, it being understood, however, that the said agreement confirms the arrangement concluded as a result of the exchange of verbal notes of 19 and 25 March 1947, which entered into force on 1 April 1947.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(*Signed*) J. SCHNEIDER  
Director-General  
For the Minister

Mr. W. Fay  
Irish Chargé d'Affaires  
Brussels