

No. 883

**BELGIUM
and
NETHERLANDS**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning the abolition of the obligation to carry a passport for travel between the two countries. The Hague, 22 and 29 March 1950

Official text: Dutch.

Registered by Belgium on 20 July 1950.

**BELGIQUE
et
PAYS-BAS**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à la suppression de l'obligation du passeport de voyage entre les deux pays. La Haye, 22 et 29 mars 1950

Texte officiel néerlandais.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 20 juillet 1950.

TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 883. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS CONCERNING THE ABOLITION OF THE OBLIGATION TO CARRY A PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE HAGUE, 22 AND 29 MARCH 1950

I

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Hague, 22 March 1950

Department of General Affairs

No. 29243

Your Excellency,

With reference to the letter No. 213-3673 dated 19 November 1946 from His Excellency Mr. L. C. Nemry, I have the honour to inform you that there is no longer any objection, from the Netherlands side, to the re-introduction of the pre-war system under which an identity card was sufficient to enable the bearer to cross the Belgium-Netherlands frontier.

Contrary to the situation existing at that time, however, entry into Belgium will not be permitted to bearers of any certificate of Netherlands nationality but only to those carrying the special documents, two copies of each of which are enclosed herewith. The forms are supplied by the Ministry of the Interior to burgomasters, who will issue these "certificates of Netherlands nationality" to applicants possessing Netherlands nationality.

The 1946 control regulations are modified in the sense that holders of "certificates of Netherlands nationality also valid for entry into Belgium and Luxembourg" can henceforth also cross the Belgium-Netherlands frontier at transit posts when such posts are open to traffic.

Moreover, circular No. 3 concerning aliens (new), which contains regulations respecting frontier crossings by persons of Belgian and Luxembourg nationality, is modified to the extent that holders of a valid Belgian identity card will henceforth also be admitted. Two copies of the above circular concerning aliens are attached hereto in case they should be required.

Belgian nationals residing in the Netherlands may cross the frontier in either direction upon presentation of their "registration card". Since the liberation of the

¹ Came into force on 1 April 1950, by the exchange of the said letters and according to the terms thereof.

Netherlands, such cards have been issued by the Belgian Consular agent for the area within which the persons concerned reside.

Netherlands nationals residing in Belgium may cross the frontier upon presentation of a certificate of Netherlands nationality issued by the Netherlands Consul for the area within which they reside. This certificate will be of the same model as those issued by burgomasters in the Netherlands.

Netherlands and Belgian citizens residing in the Netherlands wishing to enter Belgium or Luxembourg may obtain Belgian or Luxembourg francs upon production of their "certificate of Netherlands nationality" or of their registration card in the same way as if they were holders of a national passport.

Belgian and Netherlands citizens residing in Belgium who have entered the Netherlands under an "identity card" or a certificate of Netherlands nationality will be able to exchange their Belgian francs in the Netherlands in the same way as if they were holders of a passport.

The Government of the Netherlands assumes that Belgian and Netherlands travellers wishing to enter the Netherlands will be able to obtain foreign currency in Belgium upon presentation of their identity card in the same way as if they were holders of passports; and that they will be able to exchange in Belgium currency brought back from the Netherlands upon production of the registration card or the certificate of Netherlands nationality, in the same way as if they were holders of passports.

The above frontier and currency regulations are not applicable to Belgian and Netherlands nationals who are domiciled elsewhere than in Belgium, Luxembourg or the Netherlands.

I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the Belgian Government agrees that the new regulations should enter into force on April 1 next.

As has already been agreed, Netherlands nationals will be able to take up residence in Belgium after the entry into force of these regulations with no other formalities than applying after their arrival for a residence permit to the administrative authority of the commune in which they wish to settle.

It is understood that anyone wishing to exercise a profession in Belgium must, in addition, satisfy the relevant statutory conditions, i.e. provisions regarding work permits for wage-earners or professional cards for those exercising an independent remunerative occupation.

I remain, Sir, etc.,

For the Minister:
The Secretary-General
(*Signature illegible*)

To His Excellency Mr. E. Graeffe
Ambassador of Belgium

II

The Hague, 29 March 1950

No. 212/1736

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's letter dated 22 March 1950, Department of General Affairs, JZ, No. 29243, concerning the re-introduction of the pre-war regulations for crossing the Belgian-Netherlands frontier.

I wish to express agreement with Your Excellency regarding the entry into force on April 1 next of the regulation governing the movement of travellers between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, drawn up for the benefit of the nationals of those three countries.

I have, however, been asked to draw Your Excellency's attention to the impossibility of stamping Belgian identity cards at entry into or departure from Netherlands territory, as sufficient space is not provided for the purpose.

I have the honour, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Eg. GRAEFFE

To His Excellency Mr. D. U. Stikker
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Hague
