

No. 719

**BELGIUM
and
LUXEMBOURG**

Arrangement concerning the reciprocal communication free of charge of copies of civil status certificates and nationality records. Signed at Luxembourg, on 25 February 1949

Official text : French.

Registered by Belgium on 17 February 1950.

**BELGIQUE
et
LUXEMBOURG**

Arrangement relatif à la communication gratuite réciproque d'expéditions des actes de l'état civil et de nationalité. Signé à Luxembourg, le 25 février 1949

Texte officiel français.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 17 février 1950.

TRANSLATION -- TRADUCTION

No. 719. ARRANGEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG CONCERNING THE RECIPROCAL COMMUNICATION FREE OF CHARGE OF COPIES OF CIVIL STATUS CERTIFICATES AND NATIONALITY RECORDS. SIGNED AT LUXEMBOURG, ON 25 FEBRUARY 1949

The Governments of Belgium and Luxembourg, desirous of making provision in certain cases for the reciprocal communication free of charge of copies of civil status and nationality certificates, have agreed as follows :

Article 1. 1. The Belgian Government, for Luxembourg nationals, born, recognized, legitimated, adopted, married, divorced or deceased in Belgium, and the Luxembourg Government, for Belgian nationals born, recognized, legitimated, adopted, married, divorced or deceased in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, undertake to deliver free of charge to the other Contracting Party faithful copies of civil status certificates issued in their respective territories, as well as faithful copies of all other records and decisions entailing a change in the status of persons, whenever a request therefor is made for administrative purposes.

2. The Governments of Belgium and Luxembourg also undertake to deliver free of charge for the same purpose certificates respecting the civil status of persons other than their respective nationals.

3. The Governments of Belgium and Luxembourg shall deliver free of charge copies of civil status certificates requested for their respective nationals who are indigent.

4. The requests shall be addressed to the local authority of each country by the diplomatic mission or by the consuls of the other country; the reason for the request shall be briefly specified therein, for example : « administrative purpose » or « indigence of the applicant ».

Article 2. 1. Both Governments shall undertake to transmit to each other, at the times hereinafter provided and free of charge, a copy of all certificates issued on their territory by which the nationality of the other State may be conferred or withdrawn, including certificates of recognition, legitimation,

¹ Came into force on 6 August 1949, in accordance with article 5. This arrangement does not apply to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

marriage and dissolution of marriage, nationalization, option of all kinds, as well as all other judgments and declarations concerning the acquisition, retention, recovery or repudiation of nationality.

2. Every six months copies of such certificates which have been received by the competent authority of the Grand Duchy during the preceding six months shall be transmitted to the Belgian Legation at Luxembourg and, reciprocally, copies of similar certificates received by the competent Belgian authority during the preceding six months shall be transmitted to the Legation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at Brussels.

Article 3. Certificates received by the competent authority of the Grand Duchy in German and certificates received by the competent Belgian authority in Flemish shall be accompanied by a French translation certified correct by the competent authority.

Article 4. The fact of the delivery of civil status certificates shall not prejudice in any way the question of the nationality of the party concerned with respect to the two Governments.

Article 5. This Agreement is not subject to ratification. It shall come into force when each of the two Parties has approved and published it in accordance with its domestic law. It shall be substituted for the declarations exchanged between Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 21 March 1879¹ and 4 March 1939² concerning the communication of civil status certificates.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, Viscount Joseph Berryer, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Belgium to Luxembourg, and Joseph Bech, Honorary Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement in duplicate.

DONE at Luxembourg, the twenty-fifth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

(Signed) BERRYER

(Signed) BECH

¹ De Martens, *Nouveau Recueil général de Traités*, second series, tome IV, page 704.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume CXC VII, page 141.