

No. 1656

**BELGIUM
and
NETHERLANDS**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement on the provisional increase in pilotage charges on the River Scheldt. Brussels, 25 September, 9 and 14 November 1951

Official text: Dutch.

Registered by Belgium on 6 March 1952.

**BELGIQUE
et
PAYS-BAS**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord au sujet de l'augmentation provisoire des tarifs de pilotage sur l'Escaut. Bruxelles, 25 septembre, 9 et 14 novembre 1951

Texte officiel néerlandais.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 6 mars 1952.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 1656. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS ON THE PROVISIONAL INCREASE IN PILOTAGE CHARGES ON THE RIVER SCHELDT. BRUSSELS, 25 SEPTEMBER, 9 AND 14 NOVEMBER 1951

I

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EXTERNAL TRADE

General Policy Directorate

1st Directorate — 1st Section
No. 452/1 — 22/11.958

Brussels, 25 September 1951

Your Excellency,

With reference to the Netherlands Embassy's notes of 21 April 1949, and 3 May and 23 November 1950 (Ref. Wat-1. A5. No. 8541, Sch. 1.24e No. 2493 and Sch. 1.24e No. 6298) I have the honour to inform you of the following in regard to the question of the increase in pilotage charges on the Scheldt.

In its note of 21 April 1949, the Netherlands Embassy informed my department that the Netherlands Government approved the proposal to solve the question of pilotage charges by temporarily multiplying the Scheldt pilotage charges expressed in Belgian currency by a factor of 7.1.

In consequence of the unequal devaluation of the Belgian and Netherlands currencies in the autumn of 1949, the Belgian Government has changed its view in regard to the proposed factor. As was stated at the meeting held on 17 March 1950 by the permanent commissioners for the supervision of navigation on the Scheldt, the Belgian Government believes that the unequal devaluation should be taken into account in the proposed increase in pilotage charges.

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1952, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters. This agreement is not applicable to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

The Belgian Government is prepared to agree to the multiplication of the Scheldt pilotage charges, expressed in Belgian currency, by a factor of 5.65, i.e., by $7.1 \times \frac{13.16}{16.52}$. It is also prepared, if the Netherlands Government agrees, to apply this increase from 1 January 1952.

The application of the factor 5.65 will not make it possible to establish the desired balance between the revenue and expenditure of the Scheldt pilotage services. This balance cannot, however, be achieved quickly, since the necessary increase of Scheldt pilotage charges involves an amendment of the treaty and in addition requires an amendment of Netherlands legislation to permit a corresponding increase in pilotage charges on other Netherlands waters.

The Belgian Government propose therefore to regard the application of the factor 5.65 as a temporary solution only, pending a subsequent increase, to be made within two years from the date of entry into force of this temporary factor.

The Belgian Government wishes to point out that the provisional factor 5.65 will have to adjust automatically to any new situation arising from a change in the pilotage charges now in force at the mouths of the Meuse or from any devaluation which might alter the relation between the currencies of the two countries.

The Belgian Government is prepared to consider the present note, together with a statement of acceptance on your part, as constituting an agreement between the Belgian and Netherlands Governments concerning a provisional increase in Scheldt pilotage charges.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) J. MEURICE

His Excellency Baron B. Ph. van Harinxma thoe Slooten
Ambassador of the Netherlands
Brussels

II

NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

Sch. — 1.24.e — 6493.

Brussels, 9 November 1951

Your Excellency,

With reference to the note of 25 September 1952, General Policy Directorate, 1st Directorate, 1st Section, No. 452/1-22/11.958, which the Embassy received from your Ministry on the subject of the increase in Scheldt pilotage charges,

I have the honour to inform you that the Netherlands Government approves the contents of that note.

The Netherlands Government is also prepared to consider the above-mentioned note and the present statement of acceptance as constituting an agreement between the Belgian and Netherlands Governments concerning international increases in Scheldt pilotage charges.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) VAN HARINXMA THOE SLOOTEN

His Excellency Mr. P. van Zeeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Brussels

III

NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

Sch. — 1.24.e — 6615

Brussels, 14 November 1951

Your Excellency,

With reference to my note of 9 November, No. Sch.-1.24.e-6493, regarding the increase in Scheldt pilotage charges, I have the honour to inform you that the words "international increases in Scheldt pilotage charges" appear by mistake in the second paragraph of the note.

The words should read: "a temporary increase in Scheldt pilotage charges".

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) BEELAERTS VAN BLOKLAND

His Excellency Mr. J. Meurice
Minister of Foreign Affairs *ad interim*
Brussels