

No. 2260

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**BELGIUM  
and  
GREECE**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement regarding the reciprocal abolition of visas. Athens, 1 and 5 August 1953**

*Official text: French.*

*Registered by Belgium on 19 September 1953.*

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**BELGIQUE  
et  
GRÈCE**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord pour la suppression des visas des passeports. Athènes, 1<sup>er</sup> et 5 août 1953**

*Texte officiel français.*

*Enregistré par la Belgique le 19 septembre 1953.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 2260. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN BELGIUM AND GREECE REGARDING THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISAS. ATHENS, 1 AND 5 AUGUST 1953

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I

KINGDOM OF GREECE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

37661 E.9.

Athens, 1 August 1953

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that, pursuant to resolution No. 20 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 19 March 1952 regarding the abolition of passport visas for nationals of member countries of the Council of Europe, the Greek Government is prepared to conclude with the Belgian Government an agreement in the following terms :

1. Belgian and Greek nationals shall be free to travel from any country whatever to Greece and Belgium respectively without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance, provided that they are in possession of a valid passport of the country of which they are nationals.

Belgian and Greek nationals wishing to settle in Greece or Belgium respectively or to reside there for more than two months must apply to the competent Greek or Belgian diplomatic or consular agents for a temporary residence visa before entering the country.

2. It is understood that nationals of either country who have once enjoyed the privilege of admission to the territory of the other without a visa may not re-enter without a visa within at least three months from the date of their departure. 'This three months' proviso shall not apply to transit visas. Belgian nationals established and residing in Greece and Greek nationals established and residing in Belgium may travel from one country to the other without restriction.

3. It is agreed that the waiver of the visa requirement shall not exempt Belgian nationals and Greek nationals proceeding to Greece and Belgium respectively from the necessity of complying with the Greek and Belgian laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence and employment of aliens.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 September 1953, in accordance with the terms of the said letters. This Agreement is not applicable to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

The competent authorities of each Party reserve the right to refuse leave to enter or stay in the country to persons considered undesirable.

The enforcement authorities of both countries shall collaborate in applying the provisions of the second paragraph of this article.

4. The provisions of article 1 of this agreement shall not apply to Belgian and Greek nationals wishing to proceed to Greece and Belgium respectively in order to carry on a trade, profession or other gainful occupation, who must obtain the requisite visa in advance from the consulate of the country concerned.

5. Seamen nationals of either country shall be granted the facilities provided for in article 1 upon presentation of their seamen's paybook.

6. If a visa is required, the current tariff of consular fees shall apply.

7. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to the Belgian Congo or Ruanda-Urundi.

Greek nationals wishing to proceed to these territories shall apply to the Belgian diplomatic or consular agents for the requisite visas before their departure.

8. This agreement will enter into force on 1 September 1953. Either Party may suspend it temporarily for reasons of public order, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the other Party through the diplomatic channel.

Either Party may denounce the agreement subject to three months' notice.

If the Belgian Government is prepared to accept the foregoing provisions, I have the honour to suggest that the present note and your reply in similar terms should be considered as constituting the agreement between our Governments.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) STEPHANOPOULOS

His Excellency Mr. Rémi Baert  
Belgian Minister  
Athens

## II

Athens, 5 August 1953

No. 1554

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 1 August 1953 reading as follows :

[*See note I*]

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the Belgian Government agrees to the foregoing provisions.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(*Signed*) R. BAERT

His Excellency Mr. S. Stephanopoulos  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Athens

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