

No. 2051

BELGIUM
and
ITALY

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement for reciprocal treatment in the grant of total exemption from import duties in respect of goods intended for the personal use of established consular officers, and of embassy equipment. Brussels, 8 and 22 September 1952

Official text: French.

Registered by Belgium on 15 January 1953.

BELGIQUE
et
ITALIE

Échange de lettres constituant un accord de réciprocité en matière d'octroi de l'exemption totale des droits d'entrée pour les marchandises destinées à l'usage personnel des agents consulaires de carrière et pour les fournitures de chancellerie. Bruxelles, 8 et 22 septembre 1952

Texte officiel français.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 15 janvier 1953.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 2051. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND ITALY FOR RECIPROCAL TREATMENT IN THE GRANT OF TOTAL EXEMPTION FROM IMPORT DUTIES IN RESPECT OF GOODS INTENDED FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF ESTABLISHED CONSULAR OFFICIALS AND OF EMBASSY EQUIPMENT. BRUSSELS, 8 AND 22 SEPTEMBER 1952

I

ITALIAN EMBASSY IN BELGIUM

No. 3014

Brussels, 8 September 1952

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to apprise you of the following :

Under Italian legislation as at present in force total exemption from import duty may be granted, subject to reciprocity, for the import of goods as follows :

1. Goods imported direct and intended for the personal use of established Belgian consulate officials holding office in Italy provided that the persons concerned have come from abroad, are Belgian nationals, do not pursue any gainful employment outside their official functions, provided also that notification of their appointment has been sent to the Italian Government through the diplomatic channel and that they have been properly authorized to carry out their mission;

2. Embassy equipment sent by the Belgian Government, or on its behalf, to its established or unpaid consular staff in Italy.

It is to be understood that :

(a) *goods* means all articles and commodities without exception imported direct from abroad, taken out of a warehouse placed under customs supervision or imported into Italy under the transit system;

(b) *established consular officials* means all consular officials of the rank of Consul-General, Consul or Vice-Consul;

¹ Came into force on 22 September 1952, by the exchange of the said letters. This Agreement is applicable to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

(c) *personal use* means use by the official concerned and the members of his household (wife and unmarried children under age living in the same house);

(d) *Embassy equipment* means :

- (1) official emblems (flags, seals, coats of arms and other articles of the same kind);
- (2) official documents (Embassy records, and documents of all kinds provided they bear a stamp giving them an official character);
- (3) office furniture (desks, tables, chairs, cupboards, safes, typewriters and calculating machines, carpets, curtains, blinds, etc);
- (4) office supplies (paper, envelopes, notebooks, scissors, pencils, pens, india rubbers, blotters, string, ink, paper-clips, etc.).

Needless to say, established Belgian consular officials may, upon arrival to take up their posts, bring in free from all taxes and duties, personal possessions of all kinds which bear clear evidence of use.

On the understanding that total exemption from import duties as set forth above can be granted only subject to reciprocity, I beg you to inform me whether the Belgian Government is prepared to grant the same privileges to consular officials of the Italian Republic holding posts in Belgium.

Should that be so, the present Note and your reply shall be regarded as forming an agreement between our two Governments in this matter, as set forth above.

Unless you have any objection, such privileges might also be granted in respect of protectorates, colonies, possessions or overseas territories owing allegiance to or under the authority of the Contracting Parties.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) U. GRAZZI

His Excellency Mr. Paul Van Zeeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Brussels

II

A. — External Staff. — 95/107

22. 9. 1952

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3014 of 8 September, in which you were so good as to inform me that your Government is prepared to grant, subject to reciprocity, total exemption from import duties as follows :

1. Goods imported direct and intended for the personal use of established Belgian consulate officials holding office in Italy provided that the persons concerned have come from abroad, are Belgian nationals, do not pursue any gainful employment outside their official functions, provided also that notification of their appointment has been sent to the Italian Government through the diplomatic channel and that they have been properly authorized to carry out their mission;

2. Embassy equipment sent by the Belgian Government, or on its behalf, to its established or unpaid consular staff in Italy.

Accordingly :

1. All established Italian consular officials holding office in Belgium shall henceforth enjoy exemption from the payment of import duties on goods intended for their personal use provided that they are in the same position as established Belgian consular officials holding office in Italy, to whom this exemption has been granted;

2. Embassy equipment sent by the Italian Government, or on its behalf, to its consulates in Belgium, shall henceforth enjoy exemption from the payment of import duties.

The privileges mentioned in your letter with regard to the admission of personal possessions of all kinds bearing clear evidence of use, shall be granted under the same conditions to established Italian consular officials upon arrival to take up their posts.

It is understood that your Note and this reply shall be regarded as forming an agreement between our two Governments in this matter, as set forth above. These privileges shall also be granted in respect of protectorates, colonies, possessions or overseas territories owing allegiance to or under the authority of the Contracting Parties.

These provisions may be denounced or modified should one of the Parties so desire.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) VAN ZEELAND

[SEAL]

His Excellency Mr. Umberto Grazzi
Italian Ambassador
Brussels