

No. 2951

**BELGIUM
and
FRANCE**

**Convention concerning the practice of the profession of
architect. Signed at Paris, on 15 October 1954**

Official text: French.

Registered by Belgium on 29 September 1955.

**BELGIQUE
et
FRANCE**

**Convention relative à l'exercice de la profession d'architecte.
Signée à Paris, le 15 octobre 1954**

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 29 septembre 1955.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 2951. CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND FRANCE CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECT. SIGNED AT PARIS, 15 OCTOBER 1954

His Majesty the King of the Belgians and the President of the French Republic, with the object of defining, in the spirit of the Convention concerning the establishment of Belgian nationals in France and of French nationals in Belgium, dated 6 October 1927,² the conditions applicable to Belgian nationals in France and to French nationals in Belgium who are desirous of practising the profession of architect, have decided for this purpose to enter into a special convention and to appoint as their plenipotentiaries :

His Majesty the King of the Belgians :

His Excellency Baron Guillaume, Belgian Ambassador to France ;

The President of the French Republic :

Mr. Alexandre Parodi, Ambassador of France, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article 1

French and Belgian nationals shall receive authorization, on making an application, to practise the profession of architect in Belgium and in France, respectively, on terms of equality with nationals, subject to the provisions of this Convention.

They shall also be authorized, on terms of equality with nationals, to study at schools of architecture and to enter the examinations prescribed by law for the diploma in architecture.

Article 2

For the purpose of obtaining the authorization referred to in article 1, a person to whom the benefit of this Convention extends shall be required to prove that he possesses either the diploma or professional qualifications prescribed in the country in which the locality where he wishes to practise is situated, or else the diploma or professional qualifications prescribed in his country of origin.

¹ Came into force on 8 September 1955 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Paris, in accordance with article 11. This Convention is not applicable to the territories of Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. LXIX, p. 49.

In addition, the person concerned shall furnish guarantees of professional integrity and bind himself to submit to the disciplinary rules governing the profession in the country in which he proposes to practise his profession.

Article 3

The application for authorization shall be addressed to the competent local authority of the locality in which the person concerned wishes to practise his profession.

The application shall contain all the particulars from which the competent authority in question may satisfy itself that the person concerned fulfils all the conditions laid down in article 2 above.

The expression "competent local authorities" means, in Belgium, the provincial governments and, in France, the regional boards of the Association of Architects (*Ordre des Architectes*).

Article 4

The guarantees of professional integrity furnished by an applicant shall be examined by the authorities to which the application is addressed. It is the duty of the applicant to produce any necessary particulars or supporting documents to the said authorities.

Article 5

The decision to grant or to withhold authorization to practise shall be made by the competent authorities under the same conditions and within the same period as are prescribed for the consideration of applications from architects who are nationals of the country in which the applicant wishes to practise. The decision shall be communicated within eight days to the Minister responsible for supervising the profession of architect and shall only become final if the Minister does not enter an objection within one month thereafter.

Article 6

If the authorization to practise granted to a person is revoked by decision of the competent authority, that person shall have the right to appeal to the Minister responsible for supervising the profession of architect.

The conditions relating to the completion of unfinished work shall be laid down by the local professional organizations.

Article 7

Belgian architects authorized to practise their profession in France shall not be members of the French Association of Architects, but shall be entered in a supplementary register of that Association.

They shall, nevertheless, be subject to the supervision and discipline of, and to the obligations imposed by, the Association in all matters relating to their activity in France.

Article 8

As soon as a professional association has been established in Belgium, provisions at least as favourable as those set forth in article 7 above shall be applied to French architects who are authorized to practise in Belgium.

Article 9

The provisions of this Convention do not relieve the persons to whom its benefit extends of the duty to observe the general regulations in force in the other country concerning the residence, establishment or employment of aliens.

Nevertheless, it is understood that any residence permits or working permits which may be required shall not, by reason of the nature of their profession, be withheld from architects who are duly authorized to practise in pursuance of this Convention.

Article 10

The conditions to be applied to persons to whom the benefit of this Convention extends shall not be more onerous than those applicable to nationals, in so far as these conditions relate to the fees payable on the occasion of the submission of the application and the grant of the authorization and to the contributions payable to the professional organizations.

Article 11

This Convention, which is concluded for a term of five years, shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

It shall be renewed automatically for five-year terms thereafter, unless denounced by one of the Contracting Parties by not less than six months' notice before the expiry of any one term.

Article 12

This Convention is signed subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Paris.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have signed the Convention.

DONE in duplicate in Paris on 15 October 1954.

GUILLAUME

A. PARODI