

No. 3508

BELGIUM
and
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement for the mutual abolition of passports. Brussels, 26 July 1956

Official texts: French and German.

Registered by Belgium on 4 September 1956.

BELGIQUE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE

Échange de lettres constituant un accord supprimant l'obligation de passeport. Bruxelles, 26 juillet 1956

Textes officiels français et allemand.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 4 septembre 1956.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3508. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR THE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF PASSPORTS. BRUSSELS, 26 JULY 1956

I

EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

524-02

Brussels, 26 July 1956

Your Excellency,

With reference to the conversations which took place on 7 and 8 June 1956 at Brussels and to the recommendation of the Council of Europe that movement between countries should be facilitated, I have the honour to inform you that my Government wishes to make the following proposals to the Royal Belgian Government concerning the abolition of passports and visas for travel between our countries.

Article 1

1. Whatever their country of residence, Belgian nationals may enter or leave the Federal Republic of Germany without a visa at all the authorized frontier points, provided that they hold a valid national passport or seaman's record book, or one of the following documents :

- (a) A Belgian identity card issued or renewed after 3 June 1952;
- (b) An alien's identity card issued by the competent authorities of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, the Principality of Liechtenstein or the Principality of Monaco, which shows that the holder is of Belgian nationality;
- (c) A registration card issued by a Belgian diplomat or consular representative in the Netherlands;
- (d) A child's identity or registration certificate, issued by the competent authorities of the commune or by a Belgian diplomatic or consular representative.

2. The exemption from visa and passport requirements specified in the preceding paragraph (1) shall not apply to Belgian nationals proceeding to the Federal Republic of Germany with the intention of engaging in a gainful occupation in that country.

Article 2

1. Whatever their country of residence, German nationals within the meaning of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany may enter or leave Belgium without a visa at all the authorized frontier points, provided that they hold a valid national

¹ Came into force on 5 August 1956, in accordance with the terms of the said letters.

passport, a child's travel certificate or a sailor's record book of the Federal Republic of Germany, or an identity card of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Personalausweis der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*).

2. The exemption from visa and passport requirements specified in the preceding paragraph (1) shall not apply to German nationals proceeding to Belgium with the intention of remaining for more than three consecutive months or engaging in a gainful occupation in that country.

Article 3

The foregoing provisions shall not affect the regulations regarding the sojourn of aliens.

Article 4

The present Agreement shall not limit the right of the Belgian and German authorities to refuse admission to or to expel any person whom they may consider undesirable for reasons of security or public order.

Article 5

Each of the two Governments may, for reasons of security or public order, suspend the application of the present Agreement. Notice of such suspension shall be transmitted without delay to the other Government through the diplomatic channel.

Article 6

The present Agreement shall apply to West Berlin, unless within a period of three months after its entry into force, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany notifies the Belgian Government to the contrary.

Article 7

Each of the two Governments may at any time denounce the present Agreement on giving three months notice.

Article 8

The regulations governing entry into the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi shall not be affected by the present arrangement.

Article 9

The present Agreement renders inoperative the agreement concluded by the exchange of notes of 19 December 1953¹ concerning the abolition of visa requirements, without prejudice to the supplementary agreement concluded by the exchange of notes of 28 September 1954 and 1 October 1954² concerning the abolition of visa requirements for the nationals of either of the two countries permanently resident in the territory of the other country.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 185, p. 277.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 201, p. 385.

If the Belgian Government is prepared to accept the foregoing provisions proposed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, its favourable reply to the present note shall be deemed to confirm an arrangement between the two Governments to comply with this Agreement, which shall enter into force on 5 August 1956.

I have the honour to be, etc.

C. F. OPHULS

His Excellency Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Brussels

II

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE

GENERAL DIRECTORATE C.

Bureau 6 P.

No. 2202/Pr/Allemagne

26 July 1956

Your Excellency,

With reference to your letter of today's date, Ref : 524-02, I have the honour to inform you that the Belgian Government, also desirous of facilitating the movement of persons between Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany, is ready to conclude with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, on a basis of reciprocity, an agreement containing the following provisions :

[See letter I]

Your letter and the present reply shall be regarded as placing on record the Agreement concluded between our two Governments, which shall enter into force on 5 August 1956.

I have the honour to be, etc.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs :

(Signed) P. H. SPAAK

His Excellency Mr. C. F. Ophuls
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
Brussels