

No. 3524

BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and NETHERLANDS

Agreement setting up a Benelux Inter-Parliamentary Advisory Council. Signed at Brussels, on 5 November 1955

Official texts: French and Dutch.

Registered by Belgium on 24 September 1956.

BELGIQUE, LUXEMBOURG et PAYS-BAS

Convention instituant un Conseil consultatif interparlementaire de Benelux. Signée à Bruxelles, le 5 novembre 1955

Textes officiels français et néerlandais.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 24 septembre 1956.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3524. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM, THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS SETTING UP A BENELUX INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY COUNCIL. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 5 NOVEMBER 1955

His Majesty the King of the Belgians,

Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg,

Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands,

Desiring to strengthen the bonds between their States and in particular to bring about regular co-operation between the three Parliaments,

Have decided to conclude an agreement to that effect and have designated as their plenipotentiaries :

His Majesty the King of the Belgians :

His Excellency Mr. P. H. Spaak, Minister of Foreign Affairs ;

Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg :

His Excellency Mr. Lambert Schaus, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at Brussels ;

Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands :

His Excellency Baron B. Ph. van Harinxma thoe Slooten, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands at Brussels,

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

Article 1

There shall be set up a Benelux Inter-Parliamentary Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council".

The Council shall be composed of forty-nine members, of whom twenty-one shall be chosen from among the membership of and be appointed by the Belgian Parliament, twenty-one chosen from among the membership of and appointed by the Netherlands Parliament, and seven chosen from among the membership of and appointed by the Luxembourg Parliament.

¹ Came into force on 9 September 1956, in accordance with article 12, the instruments of ratification having been deposited with the Belgian Government on 4 July 1956 by Belgium, on 3 July 1956 by Luxembourg and on 8 September 1956 by the Netherlands. This Agreement is not applicable to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

Article 2

The Council shall meet once a year.

It shall, in addition, meet within a reasonable time at the request of the President whenever the Governments of the three States jointly desire a meeting.

A meeting of the Council shall also be called by the President whenever a majority of the members so desire.

Article 3

The Council may deliberate on and may, in the form of recommendations or otherwise, submit its opinions to the three Governments concerning matters directly relating to :

The establishment and operation of an economic union among the three Governments ;

Closer cultural relations among the three States ;

Co-operation among the three States in the field of foreign policy ;

The unification of law in the three States.

By joint agreement among the three Governments, the Council may deliberate on and express opinions, in the form of recommendations or otherwise, concerning other matters of common interest.

Article 4

The Council shall each year receive a joint report from the three Governments on the matters referred to in article 3. This report shall be published.

The Governments may by joint agreement consult the Council on :

- (1) Draft conventions among the three States relating to the matters referred to in article 3, before the conventions are signed ;
- (2) Other matters of common interest.

Article 5

Decisions of the Council embodying an opinion in the form of a recommendation or otherwise shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members voting.

Other decisions of the Council shall be made by a majority of votes.

Article 6

The Council's agenda shall be determined by the Council within the limits of this agreement.

Article 7

Members of the three Governments or other persons designated by one of the Governments may attend the meetings of the Council and shall be allowed to speak there if they so desire. They may be assisted by official or other advisers designated by them.

Article 8

The Council shall decide whether its meetings shall be held in public or in private.

Discussion and voting shall take place in private if one of the Governments so desires.

Article 9

The Council shall establish its own rules of procedure. These shall contain provisions specifying the place or places where the meetings are to be held.

Article 10

The Council shall appoint its own President. It shall appoint its own Secretary. It may set up special committees from its own membership.

The rules of procedure may contain detailed provisions in this regard.

Article 11

French and Dutch shall be the official languages of the Council.

Article 12

This Agreement shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Belgian Government.

It shall come into force on the day following the deposit of the third instrument of ratification.

It shall be concluded for an indefinite period but may be terminated by one of the three Governments two years after its entry into force, and, thereafter at any time on six months' notice.

The application of this agreement is limited to the territory of each of the three States in Europe.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the above-mentioned plenipotentiaries have signed this agreement and have thereto affixed their seal.

DONE at Brussels on 5 November 1955 in triplicate in the French and Dutch languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For Belgium :

P. H. SPAAK

For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg :

L. SCHAUS

For the Netherlands :

B. Ph. VAN HARINKMA THOE SLOOTEN