

**No. 3152**

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**BELGIUM  
and  
TURKEY**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement on the abolition of passport visa requirements in relations between the two countries. Ankara, 2 January 1956**

*Official text: French.*

*Registered by Belgium on 13 February 1956.*

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**BELGIQUE  
et  
TURQUIE**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à la suppression de l'obligation du visa des passeports dans les relations entre les deux pays. Ankara, 2 janvier 1956**

*Texte officiel français.*

*Enregistré par la Belgique le 13 février 1956.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3152. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN BELGIUM AND TURKEY ON THE ABOLITION OF PASSPORT VISA REQUIREMENTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ANKARA, 2 JANUARY 1956

I

BELGIAN EMBASSY

D. 173  
No. 2

Ankara, 2 January 1956

Your Excellency,

With a view to removing the difficulties which have been observed in the application of the Agreement concerning travel visas between Turkey and Belgium concluded at Ankara by an exchange of letters dated 16 October 1952,<sup>2</sup> I have the honour, on behalf of my Government, to propose that the text of the said Agreement should be replaced by the text reproduced below, which sets forth new provisions for this purpose.

1. Belgian and Turkish nationals, from whatever country they may come, shall be free to enter Turkey and Belgium respectively, without having to obtain a travel visa in advance, provided they hold valid passports of the country of which they are nationals. It shall be understood that the maximum limit of stay for each entry shall not exceed three months. Nationals of either country wishing to settle in Turkey or in Belgium, as the case may be, or to remain therein for more than three months, shall be obliged to apply for a visa authorizing temporary residence in Turkey or in Belgium to the competent Turkish or Belgian diplomatic or consular authorities before entering the country.

Turkish and Belgian nationals who are already in Belgium and in Turkey respectively and who, owing to exceptional circumstances which were unforeseeable before their arrival in the country, are obliged to prolong their stay beyond the maximum period of three months referred to in the foregoing provisions or beyond the time specified in the visa issued by the diplomatic or consular authorities, shall, for this purpose, obtain the requisite permission from the local authorities. The said authorities shall be free to grant or to withhold such permission.

2. The abolition of the travel visa shall not relieve Belgian and Turkish nationals proceeding to Turkey and Belgium respectively of the obligation to comply with Turkish

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 2 February 1956, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters. This Agreement is not applicable to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. It abrogates and replaces the Agreement of 16 October 1952. (See No. 1958, p. 370 of this volume.)

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 149, p. 289, and p. 370 of this volume.

and Belgian laws and regulations on the entry and stay of foreigners and their engaging in gainful activity.

The competent authorities of each of the two Parties reserve the right to refuse to allow persons considered by them to be undesirable to enter and stay in the country concerned.

3. The provisions of article 1 of this Agreement shall not apply to Belgian and Turkish nationals desiring to proceed to Turkey and Belgium respectively with the object of engaging in a trade, profession or other gainful occupation there; they shall in all cases be required to obtain the requisite visa in advance from the competent diplomatic or consular representatives of the country concerned.

4. The benefit of the foregoing provisions shall also extend to Turkish and Belgian nationals travelling on so-called collective passports.

5. Belgian and Turkish diplomatic and consular officials *de carrière* sent on mission to Turkey and Belgium respectively, and the members of their families shall be free, irrespective of the duration of their stay, to enter, leave and re-enter Turkey and Belgium without any visa whatsoever, if they can produce a valid diplomatic, mission, special, service or official passport.

6. The benefit of the provisions of this Agreement shall also extend to nationals of either country who are regularly resident in the territory of the other country. The said persons shall be free, accordingly, to leave their country of residence and to re-enter the same without any visa whatsoever, on condition, however, that they hold valid passports.

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

Turkish nationals wishing to proceed to these territories, shall, before their departure, apply for the requisite visas to the diplomatic or consular representatives of Belgium.

8. This Agreement shall enter into force one month from today's date.

Either Party may, for reasons of public order, temporarily suspend the operation of this Agreement and notice of the suspension must be conveyed immediately to the other Party through the diplomatic channel.

Either Party may denounce this Agreement by giving one month's notice in advance.

If the Turkish Government is prepared to accept the stipulations set forth above, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply thereto, in identical terms, should be considered as constituting an agreement between our two Governments.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) G. WALRAVENS

His Excellency Mr. Fuad Köprülü  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey  
Ankara

## II

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 42649—5

Ankara, 2 January 1956

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date in the following terms :

[See letter I]

I have the honour to inform you that my Government is in agreement with the above.

I have the honour to be, etc.

For the Minister of Foreign Affairs :  
(Signed) Fuad KÖPRÜLÜ

His Excellency Mr. Gérard Walravens  
Ambassador of Belgium  
Ankara

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