

No. 5574

**BELGIUM
and
GREECE**

**General Convention on Social Security. Signed at Athens,
on 1 April 1958**

Official texts: French and Greek.

Registered by Belgium on 13 February 1961.

**BELGIQUE
et
GRÈCE**

**Convention générale sur la sécurité sociale. Signée à
Athènes, le 1^{er} avril 1958**

Textes officiels français et grec.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 13 février 1961.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5574. GENERAL CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM
AND GREECE ON SOCIAL SECURITY. SIGNED AT
ATHENS, ON 1 APRIL 1958

His Majesty the King of the Belgians and
His Majesty the King of the Hellenes

Desirous of guaranteeing the benefits of the legislative provisions concerning social security in force in the two Contracting States to the persons to whom these legislative provisions apply or have been applied, have resolved to conclude a convention and for this purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

His Majesty the King of the Belgians :

His Excellency Mr. Remi Baert, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Athens;

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes :

Their Excellencies Mr. Michael Pesmazoglou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. John Capodistrias, Minister of Labour.

TITLE I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

Belgian or Greek workers who are employed persons or persons treated as employed under the legislative provisions concerning social security set out in article 2 of this Convention shall be subject to the said legislative provisions in force, respectively, in Greece or Belgium and shall enjoy the benefits thereof under the same conditions as the nationals of the country concerned.

Article 2

Paragraph 1. The legislative provisions concerning social security to which this Convention applies shall be :

I. In Belgium :

- (a) the legislation concerning sickness and invalidity insurance for wage-earners, salaried employees, miners and persons treated as miners, and merchant seamen;

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1961, the first day of the second month following the exchange of the instruments of ratification which took place at Athens on 15 November 1960, in accordance with article 39. This Convention is not applicable to the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

- (b) the legislative measures concerning retirement and survivors' pensions for wage-earners, salaried employees and merchant seamen;
- (c) the legislation concerning the special scheme for the retirement of miners and persons treated as miners;
- (d) the legislation concerning family allowances for employed persons;
- (e) the legislation concerning industrial accidents, including the legislation relating to seafarers;
- (f) the legislation concerning occupational diseases;
- (g) the legislative measures concerning provision for the support of persons involuntarily unemployed and the payment of allowances for waiting periods in respect of the merchant seamen's pool.

II. In Greece :

- (a) the general legislation concerning social insurance covering employed persons or persons treated as employed persons, and seafarers in general, in respect of sickness and confinement, invalidity, industrial accidents and occupational diseases, old age and death;
- (b) the legislation concerning entitlement to damages for industrial accidents;
- (c) the general legislation concerning insurance against unemployment for employed persons in general;
- (d) the special legislation concerning principal insurance cover for certain categories of employed persons in respect of afore-mentioned contingencies.

Paragraph 2. The provisions of this Convention shall not apply to merchant seamen unless a supplementary agreement is concluded to that effect.

Paragraph 3. This Convention also apply to any laws or regulations which have amended or supplemented, or which may in future amend or supplement, the legislative provisions referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

The above notwithstanding, the Convention shall not apply to :

- (a) laws or regulations covering a new branch of social security, unless an arrangement to that effect is agreed upon between the contracting countries;
- (b) laws or regulations extending existing schemes to new classes of beneficiaries if the Government of the country concerned lodges an objection with the Government of the other country within a period of three months after the official publication of the said laws or regulations.

Article 3

Paragraph 1. Employed persons or persons treated as employed persons under the laws applicable in both countries, who are employed in either country, shall be subject to the laws in force at their place of employment.

Paragraph 2. The following exceptions shall be made to the principle laid down in paragraph 1 of this article :

- (a) Employed persons or persons treated as employed persons who are employed in a country other than that of their normal residence by an undertaking having, in the country of such residence, an establishment to which the persons concerned normally belong shall remain subject to the legislative provisions in force in the country in which they are normally employed, provided that the duration of their employment within the territory of the second country does not exceed twelve months; where, for unforeseeable reasons, this employment is extended beyond the period originally contemplated and exceeds twelve months, the application of the legislative provisions in force in the country in which the said persons are normally employed may, as an exceptional measure, be continued with the agreement of the Government of the country in which the temporary place of employment is situated;
- (b) Employed persons or persons treated as employed persons who belong to public or private transport undertakings in either contracting country and are employed in the other country either permanently or temporarily or as travelling personnel shall be subject exclusively to the provisions in force in the country in which the undertaking has its head office;
- (c) Employed persons or persons treated as employed persons who belong to official administrative departments and are posted by one contracting country for service in the other contracting country shall be subject to the provisions in force in the country by which they are so posted.

Paragraph 3. The supreme administrative authorities of the Contracting States may provide, by mutual agreement, for exceptions to the rules laid down in paragraph 1 of the present article. They may also agree that the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2 shall not apply in specific cases.

Article 4

The provisions of article 3, paragraph 1, shall be applicable to employed persons or persons treated as employed persons, whatever their nationality, who are employed in the diplomatic or consular offices of Belgium or Greece or who are in the personal employ of officers of the diplomatic or consular service of those countries.

Nevertheless :

- (1) This article shall not apply to diplomatic and consular officers *de carrière*, including officials on the staff of chancelleries;
- (2) Employed persons and persons treated as employed persons who are nationals of the country represented by the diplomatic or consular office may opt between the legislation of the country in which they are employed and the legislation of their country of origin. The option is exercisable anew at the end of each calendar year.

TITLE II
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Chapter I

SICKNESS AND MATERNITY INSURANCE

Article 5

Employed persons and persons treated as employed persons who go from Greece to Belgium or vice versa shall, together with their dependents living with them as members of their household in the country of the new place of employment, be eligible for sickness insurance benefits in that country if :

- (1) they were certified fit for employment when they last entered that country;
- (2) they have become covered by social insurance since they last entered the territory of the new country of employment;
- (3) they fulfil the conditions required by the legislation of that country, account being taken, where appropriate, of insurance periods or equivalent periods completed under the legislation of the other country.

Article 6

Employed persons and persons treated as employed persons who go from Greece to Belgium or *vice versa* shall, together with their dependents living with them as members of their household in the country of the new place of employment, be eligible for maternity insurance benefits in that country if :

- (1) they were certified fit for employment when they last entered that country;
- (2) they have become covered by social insurance since they last entered the territory of the new country of employment;
- (3) they fulfil the conditions required by the legislation of that country, account being taken, where appropriate, of insurance periods or equivalent periods completed under the legislation of the other country.

The above notwithstanding, maternity insurance benefits in cash shall be paid by the social security authority of the scheme under which the person was insured on the 270th day before confinement. Such cash benefits shall be paid direct by the said authority. Benefits in kind also shall be a charge upon the social security authority of the former place of employment, provided that the person concerned fulfils the requirements established by the legislation of that country and that at the time of confinement she has been resident in the country of the new place of employment for less than 180 days. In that case, benefits in kind shall be furnished by the social security authority of the country of residence,

in accordance with the legislation of that country, and shall be refunded by the responsible social security authority of the other country up to the amount for which that authority would have been liable if the legislation of that country had been applied.

If, at the time of confinement, the person concerned has been resident for over 180 days in the country of the new place of employment, benefits in kind shall be granted in conformity with the legislation and at the expense of the country of residence.

Article 7

The provisions of article 5 (3) and article 6, paragraph 1 (3) shall apply only if employment is taken up in the country of the new place of employment within one month from the termination of employment in the country of the former place of employment.

Chapter 2

INVALIDITY INSURANCE

Article 8

Paragraph 1. In the case of Greek or Belgian employed persons and persons treated as employed persons who, in the two contracting countries, have been insured, consecutively or alternately, under one or more invalidity insurance schemes, the insurance periods completed under these schemes or the periods recognized as equivalent to insurance periods by virtue of the said schemes shall, subject to the provisions of article 5 and provided that there is no overlapping, be aggregated for the purposes both of the determination of the right to benefits in cash or in kind and of the maintenance or recovery of this right.

Paragraph 2. Invalidity insurance benefits in cash shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the legislation which was applicable to the person concerned at the time of the interruption of employment followed by invalidity, and the cost shall be borne by the authority which is competent according to the said legislation.

Paragraph 3. Nevertheless, if at the time of the interruption of employment followed by invalidity the disabled person, having been previously insured under an invalidity insurance scheme in the other country, is not covered by social insurance in the territory of the country in which the interruption of employment has occurred, he shall, due account being taken of the aggregate insurance periods, receive from the competent social security authority of the former country the cash benefits provided for under the legislation of that country, on condition that he fulfils the requirements laid down in that legislation. This provision shall not apply where invalidity is the result of an accident.

Article 9

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 8, paragraph 2, the right to invalidity insurance benefits in the case of workers who have been employed in the mines in Belgium and Greece shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of article 14, paragraph 4, and of article 17, where, due account being taken of the aggregate insurance periods, those workers fulfil the conditions under the Belgian legislation concerning the special scheme for the retirement of miners and persons treated as miners, and there the periods of insurance in each country have attained the minimum of one year as required by the said paragraph 4.

Article 10

If, on the date of the sickness or accident which caused invalidity, the insured person was employed in the country other than that of the responsible social security authority, account shall be taken, in determining the amount of the invalidity allowance, pension or compensation, of the wage paid in the country of the responsible social security authority to employed persons of the occupational category to which the person concerned belonged on that date.

Article 11

If, after suspension of the invalidity pension or compensation, the insured person again becomes entitled to benefit, the payment of benefit shall be resumed by the social security authority responsible for the pension or compensation originally granted.

If, after discontinuance of the invalidity pension or compensation, the condition of the insured person justifies the award of an invalidity pension, the said pension shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of article 8 and, where appropriate, of article 10.

Article 12

For the purposes of eligibility for invalidity allowances, pensions or compensation, the period during which the person concerned is required to have been in receipt of the cash compensation paid by virtue of sickness insurance before the award of the invalidity allowance, pension or compensation shall in all cases be that provided for by the legislation of the country in which he was working at the time of the accident or disease which caused the invalidity.

Article 13

An invalidity allowance, pension or compensation shall, where appropriate, be converted into an old-age pension under the conditions laid down by the legislation in virtue of which the said allowance, pension or compensation was granted.

Chapter 3

OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS (PENSION) INSURANCE

Article 14

Paragraph 1. In the case of Belgian or Greek employed persons or persons treated as employed persons who have been insured, consecutively or alternately, in the two contracting countries under one or more old-age or survivors (pension) insurance schemes, the insurance periods completed under these schemes or the periods recognized as equivalent to insurance periods by virtue of the said schemes shall, provided that they do not overlap, be aggregated for the purposes both of the determination of the right to benefits and of the maintenance or recovery of this right.

The periods to be taken into account as equivalent to insurance periods shall, in each country, be those regarded as such under the legislation of that country.

Any period recognized as equivalent to an insurance period under both Belgian and Greek legislation shall be taken into account, in the payment of benefits, by the authorities of the country in which the insured person was last employed before the period in question.

Paragraph 2. Where the laws of either contracting country make the grant of certain benefits conditional upon the periods being completed in an occupation subject to a special insurance scheme, only the periods completed under the corresponding special scheme or schemes of the other country shall be aggregated for admission to the grant of these benefits.

Even if in one of the contracting countries there is no special scheme governing the particular occupation, the insurance periods completed in the said occupation under one of the schemes referred to in paragraph 1 shall nevertheless be aggregated.

In the absence of a special retirement scheme for miners in Greece :

The only periods which may be aggregated with the periods completed under the special Belgian retirement scheme for miners and persons treated as miners shall be the periods completed in Greek mines which would be subject to the special Belgian scheme if the said mines were situated in Belgium.

Periods regarded as insurance periods under the legislation of each country shall be taken into consideration as equivalent to insurance periods only if they were immediately preceded or followed by periods of employment completed in the mines. . The said periods shall be taken into account, for the payment of benefits, by the social security authority of the country where the insured person was employed in the mines immediately before the said periods; if the insured person was not employed in the mines before the said periods, these shall be taken into account by the social security authority of the country where he was employed in the mines immediately after these periods.

Paragraph 3. Where the laws of either contracting country make the grant of certain benefits conditional upon the periods being completed in an occupation subject to a special insurance scheme, but the said periods are not sufficiently long to provide entitlement to benefits under such special scheme, those periods shall be regarded as valid for the payment of benefits under the legislation concerning workers in Belgium or the legislation concerning the general scheme in Greece.

Paragraph 4. The amount of benefit which an insured person may claim from the competent social security authority of either country shall, in principle, be determined by reducing the amount of the benefit to which he would have been entitled if the aggregate of the periods referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 had been completed under the scheme administered by that authority, the reduction being effected in proportion to the length of the periods actually completed under that scheme.

The social security authority of each country, acting in accordance with the legislation applicable to that authority and taking into account the aggregate of the insurance periods irrespective of the contracting country in which they were completed, shall determine whether the person concerned satisfies the conditions for entitlement to benefits under the said legislation.

The said authority shall determine the amount of the benefits to which the person concerned would be entitled if the aggregate of the insurance periods had been completed exclusively under its own legislation, and shall reduce this amount in proportion to the length of the periods actually completed under that legislation.

Nevertheless, an authority shall not be responsible for a benefit where the periods completed under the legislation to which it is subject do not total one year, being a year comprising the annual minimum number of days of actual employment or of days treated as actual employment as provided by that legislation; in this case the authority of the other country shall assume full responsibility for the benefits to which the insured person is entitled under the legislation applicable to that authority, account being taken of the aggregate of the insurance periods.

Article 15

Paragraph 1. Where an insured person, account being taken of the aggregate of the periods referred to in article 14, paragraphs 1 and 2, does not simultaneously satisfy the conditions required by the laws of both countries, his right to a pension shall be established under each legislation as and when he satisfies those conditions.

Paragraph 2. The periods for which a pension is paid by the country in which the conditions as referred to in paragraph 1 are satisfied shall be treated, for the purposes of eligibility under the legislation of the other country, as insurance periods completed in the first-mentioned country.

Article 16

Paragraph 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 14, the grant of the accelerated pension to miners under Belgian legislation shall be reserved for those insured persons who satisfy the conditions prescribed by the said legislation, their service in the Belgian coal mines alone being taken into account.

Paragraph 2. The right to receive concurrently the accelerated pension or an old-age pension under Belgian legislation and a miner's wages shall be recognized, under the conditions and within the limits laid down by the said legislation, only in the case of insured persons who continue to work in the Belgian coal mines.

Article 17

Where, in accordance with article 14, a national of either contracting country is entitled to a pension or pensions under the legislation in force in both countries and has furthermore, without recourse to the provisions of the said article 14, completed periods of insurance or employment required under the legislation in force in the country in which he normally resides, he shall be paid by the competent authority of the said country an additional benefit equal to the difference between the amount of the pension calculated solely in accordance with the provisions of that legislation and the aggregate pension payable pursuant to article 14.

The amount of the difference shall be calculated at the rate of exchange applicable on the date on which the entitlement to pension begins; a new calculation shall not be made unless the rate changes by more than 10 per cent.

Article 18

Nationals of either contracting country who are entitled to avail themselves of articles 14, 15 and 17 shall forfeit any entitlement they may have, under Belgian legislation, to claim benefits which are not calculated on the basis of periods of insurance or benefits calculated in such a way as to take account of periods concurrent with periods of insurance completed in Greece.

Chapter 4

PROVISIONS COMMON TO INVALIDITY AND OLD-AGE INSURANCE

Article 19

Paragraph 1. Where the legislation of one of the contracting countries makes the payment of invalidity pensions or compensation or old-age and survivors' pensions conditional upon residence qualifications, whether such pensions and compensation are payable under article 14 or are calculated on the basis of actual insurance periods, those qualifications shall not apply to Belgian or Greek nationals as long as they are resident in either of the two contracting countries.

Paragraph 2. If, under the legislation in force in either contracting country, the average wage for the whole of the insured period or for a part thereof is taken into account for the payment of benefits, the average wage to be taken into account for the purpose of computing the benefits to be paid by that country shall be determined on the basis of the wages paid during the insurance period completed in the said country.

Chapter 5

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Article 20

Where, under the legislation of either contracting country, mesures regarding compensation for injury or the revalorization of benefits already granted or the grant of benefits by reasons of invalidity, even partial, are subject to provisions restricting the rights of aliens or imposing on aliens loss of right by reason of their place of residence, those provisions shall not be applicable to nationals of the other contracting country who establish their right to the payment of compensation, allowances, annuities or capital sums.

Nevertheless, benefits which are conditional upon need shall be granted only in the territory of the country responsible for their payment.

Article 21

Any industrial accident, suffered by a Belgian national employed in Greece or a Greek national employed in Belgium, which has resulted in or is liable to result in either death or permanent incapacity, whether total or partial, must be notified by the employer or the competent authorities to the local consular authorities of the country of which the injured person is a national.

Chapter 6

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

Article 22

Claims for benefits in respect of occupational diseases shall, when the person concerned resides in the country other than the one which is presumed responsible for payment of benefits, be made to the corresponding insurance authority of the other country; they must be submitted within the time-limit laid down by the legislation of the country which is presumed responsible for payment, and be established by the authority receiving the claim in the form prescribed by the legislation of this country.

Article 23

If an insured person who has received benefits by reason of an occupational disease in one of the contracting countries seeks to establish a claim in the other country in respect of the same disease, his entitlement to benefit shall be examined by the insurance authority of the first country.

Chapter 7

SUPPORT OF PERSONS INVOLUNTARILY UNEMPLOYED

Article 24

Employed persons and persons treated as employed persons from one contracting country who go to the territory of the other shall, in the country of their new place of employment, be eligible for benefits under the legislation concerning the support of persons involuntarily unemployed, provided they have begun in the said country a period of unemployment insurance in respect of employment which they were entitled to undertake under the legislation concerning the employment of alien employed persons.

Entitlement to benefits under unemployment insurance in one of the contracting countries shall be determined by aggregating the insurance periods and the periods treated as insurance periods completed under the legislation in force in the said country with the insurance period and the periods treated as insurance periods completed under the legislation of the other country.

Chapter 8

FUNERAL BENEFIT

Article 25

Employed persons and persons treated as employed persons who go from Belgium to Greece or *vice versa* shall be eligible for funeral benefit as provided in the legislation of the country of their new place of employment if :

they have been in employment for wages or an equivalent employment in that country;

they fulfil the conditions required for eligibility for benefit under the legislation of the country of their new place of employment, account being taken of the period of registration in the country they have left and the period which has elapsed since their registration in the country of their new place of employment.

Article 26

The death benefits to which pension-holders are entitled shall be payable by the authority to which the insured person was last affiliated, provided that,

account being taken of periods of insurance completed in the two countries, he fulfils the conditions required for eligibility for these benefits under the legislation governing that authority.

TITLE III
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 27

The rights to which Greek workers are entitled under article 7 of the "Agreement between Belgium and Greece concerning the Emigration of Greek Workers to Belgium for Employment in Coal-Mining" shall be exercised in accordance with the regulations binding on the States members of the European Coal and Steel Community.

Article 28

The dependants resident in Greece of the workers specified in article 1 shall be eligible for benefits in kind under sickness and maternity insurance in accordance with the regulations binding on the States members of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The scope, duration and conditions of the grant of these benefits shall be determined under the provisions of the legislation specified in article 2, paragraph 1, II (a).

The Belgian National Sickness and Invalidity Insurance Fund shall refund to the competent authority in Greece three quarters of the expenditure relating to these benefits calculated on the basis of a lump sum to be determined by the average cost per insured person of the benefits in kind provided for Greek insured persons and their dependants.

TITLE IV
GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Chapter 1

ADMINISTRATIVE CO-OPERATION

Article 29

Paragraph 1. The competent authorities and the insurance and social security authorities of the two contracting countries shall furnish one another assistance in the same degree as if assistance was being furnished in connexion with their own schemes.

The competent authorities and the social security authorities of each of the contracting countries which shall be empowered to correspond directly with each other for this purpose, and to centralize the claims for and the payments of benefits, shall be determined by virtue of an administrative arrangement.

Paragraph 2. The competent authorities and social security authorities afore-mentioned may, as an accessory measure, have recourse for the same purpose to the diplomatic and consular authorities of the other country.

Paragraph 3. The diplomatic and consular authorities of either country may apply directly to the administrative authorities and the national insurance and social security authorities of the other country with a view to obtaining any information required for the protection of the interests of their nationals.

Article 30

Paragraph 1. The privilege of exemption from registration or court fees, stamp duties and consular charges, granted by the legislation of either contracting country in respect of documents to be produced to the administrative or social security authorities of that country, shall be extended to the corresponding documents to be produced, for the purposes of this Convention, to the administrative or social security authorities of the other country.

Paragraph 2. Authentication by diplomatic and consular authorities shall be waived in respect of all certificates, documents and papers required to be produced for the purposes of this Convention.

Article 31

Communications which for the purposes of this Convention are sent by beneficiaries under the Convention to social security authorities or to other authorities or courts of one of the contracting countries having jurisdiction in social security matters shall be drawn up in one of the official languages of either State.

Article 32

Claims and appeals which must be lodged within a prescribed period with a social security authority or other authority of either contracting country competent to receive claims or appeals in social security matters shall be deemed admissible if they are lodged within the same period with a corresponding authority of the other country. In such cases, the latter authority shall transmit the claims or appeals without delay to the competent social security authority.

Article 33

Paragraph 1. The supreme administrative authorities of the Contracting States shall determine between themselves the detailed measures for giving

effect to this Convention in so far as those measures call for joint action by those authorities.

The said authorities shall communicate to each other in due course information about the details of changes that have taken place in the laws or regulations of their respective countries concerning the schemes enumerated in article 2.

Paragraph 2. The competent authorities of the two contracting countries shall notify one another of other arrangements made for the purpose of giving effect to this Convention within their respective countries.

Article 34

The Ministers having among their functions the administration of the schemes enumerated in article 2 shall be deemed, in each of the Contracting States, to be the supreme administrative authorities, within the meaning of this Convention, to the extent to which those schemes fall within their competence.

Chapter 2

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 35

Paragraph 1. The authorities responsible, by virtue of this Convention, for social security benefits shall be held to discharge their responsibility validly by payment in the currency of their country.

In the event of regulations being made in either of the two contracting countries with a view to imposing restrictions upon the free exchange of currency, measures shall be taken forthwith, by agreement between the two Governments, to ensure in accordance with the provisions of this Convention the reciprocal transfer of moneys due.

Paragraph 2. The authority responsible for the payment of annuities or pensions the monthly amount of which is less than a specified sum, may, merely by an exchange of letters between the supreme administrative authorities of the two contracting countries, pay the said annuities and pensions quarterly, half-yearly or yearly.

It may also, by payment of a sum equal to their capital value, redeem the annuities or pensions the monthly amount of which is less than a specified sum, as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Article 36

If the persons concerned are entitled to benefits in respect of incapacity which has been evaluated in the country responsible for the payment of such benefits, the examinations made by the social security authority of the country of residence may be taken into consideration when eligibility for these benefits is reconsidered.

Article 37

The formalities that may be laid down by the statutory provisions or regulations of one or other of the contracting countries in respect of the payment, outside the limits of its territory, of the benefits distributed by its social security authority shall also apply, under the same conditions as those applicable to nationals, to persons entitled to receive such benefits by virtue of this Convention.

Article 38

Paragraph 1. All difficulties relating to the application of this Convention shall be resolved by agreement between the supreme administrative authorities of the Contracting States.

Paragraph 2. In cases where it may have been impossible to arrive at a solution by the means specified in paragraph 1, the disagreement shall be settled by arbitration. The two Governments shall each designate one arbitrator. If, within a period of two months, the two arbitrators prove unable to effect a settlement, they shall proceed to designate an umpire who shall not be a national of either contracting country. The arbitration commission composed in this way shall hand down its ruling by majority decision. The ruling shall be final, and binding on the competent authorities.

Article 39

Paragraph 1. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Athens as soon as possible.

Paragraph 2. It shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the month in which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

Paragraph 3. Benefits the payment of which was suspended under the provisions in force in one of the contracting countries by reason of the residence abroad of the persons concerned shall be paid as from the first day of the month following the entry into force of this Convention. Benefits which for the same reason, could not be granted to the persons concerned shall be awarded and paid as from the same date.

The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply unless the relevant claims are made within two years from the date on which this Convention enters into force.

Paragraph 4. The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall also be applied, at the request of the persons concerned, in cases where no benefits would have been paid if the contingencies covered by the insurance had arisen before the entry into force of this Convention.

Paragraph 5. The rights of Belgian or Greek nationals to whom pensions or old-age insurance benefits have been paid before the entry into force of this

Convention may be reviewed, upon an application made by the persons concerned.

As a result of such a review, the beneficiaries shall acquire, as from the first day of the month following the entry into force of this Convention and provided that the application is submitted within two years, the same rights as they would have acquired if the Convention had been in force when the pension or benefit was awarded.

Article 40

Paragraph 1. This Convention is concluded for a term of one year. It shall continue in force from year to year unless notice of termination is given three months before the expiration of any particular year.

Paragraph 2. In the event of such notice being given, the provisions of this Convention shall remain applicable to acquired rights, notwithstanding any restrictions that may be provided for under the schemes concerned for cases where an insured person resides in a foreign country.

Paragraph 3. Any rights that are in process of acquisition in respect of insurance periods completed before the date on which this Convention ceases to have effect shall continue to be governed by the provisions of this Convention in conformity with conditions to be decided upon by mutual agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

DONE in duplicate at Athens on 1 April 1958 in the French and Greek languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For Belgium :
R. BAERT

For Greece :
M. PESMAZOGLOU
J. CAPODISTRIAS