

No. 7249

**BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and NETHERLANDS
and
GREECE**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning
the use of seamen's books as travel documents. Athens,
7 and 10 February 1964**

Official text: French.

Registered by Belgium on 19 May 1964.

**BELGIQUE, LUXEMBOURG et PAYS-BAS
et
GRÈCE**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à l'utilisa-
tion de livrets de marin comme documents de voyage.
Athènes, 7 et 10 février 1964**

Texte officiel français.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 19 mai 1964.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 7249. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS, ON THE ONE HAND, AND GREECE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONCERNING THE USE OF SEAMEN'S BOOKS AS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. ATHENS, 7 AND 10 FEBRUARY 1964

I

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM
EMBASSY OF LUXEMBOURG
EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS

Athens, 7 February 1964

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that the Governments of the Benelux countries are prepared to conclude an agreement with the Greek Government in the following terms :

“The Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on the one hand, and the Greek Government, on the other hand, desiring to facilitate the movement of seamen as much as possible and to bring it into conformity with the new regulations resulting from the transfer of the examination of persons to the external frontiers of Benelux territory, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement :

The term “the Benelux countries” shall mean the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands ; the term “Benelux territory” shall mean the whole of the territories in Europe of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 2

1. Seamen of Greek nationality holding a valid Greek seaman's or apprentice seaman's book shall be admitted to Benelux territory without a visa for purposes of engagement, provided that they also hold a statement by the shipping company concerned

¹ Came into force on 1 March 1964, in accordance with article 9.

to the effect that they must enter Benelux territory in order to join a ship, specified by name, in a particular port therein ; this statement shall, moreover, guarantee the payment by the shipping company of the cost of repatriation in the event that the engagement does not take place for any reason whatsoever.

2. Seamen of Greek nationality holding a valid Greek seaman's or apprentice seaman's book who are admitted to the territory of the Benelux countries under the provisions of article 2, paragraph 1, shall not stay longer than two months.

Article 3

Seamen of Greek nationality holding a Greek seaman's or apprentice seaman's book shall be allowed to pass through Benelux territory in transit without a visa :

- (a) for the purpose of returning to their country of origin or
- (b) for the purpose of joining a ship in a foreign port.

In the latter case, they must furnish evidence of the purpose of their journey, either by producing a statement from the shipping company concerned or in some other manner.

Article 4

Belgian, Luxembourg or Netherlands seamen holding, respectively, a valid Belgian, Luxembourg or Netherlands seaman's or apprentice seaman's book may enter Greece without a visa under the same conditions as apply to the admittance of Greek seamen to Benelux territory.

Article 5

The Greek frontier and the external frontiers of Benelux territory may be crossed only at authorized crossing points.

Article 6

The Belgian, Luxembourg and Netherlands Governments, on the one hand, and the Greek Government, on the other hand, reserve the right to refuse admittance to their country to holders of Greek seamen's or apprentice seamen's books, on the one hand, and to holders of Belgian, Luxembourg and Netherlands seamen's or apprentice seamen's books, on the other hand, whom they regard as undesirable.

Article 7

1. The Belgian, Luxembourg and Netherlands Governments undertake to readmit at any time and without formalities, if so requested, any Belgian, Luxembourg and Netherlands seamen who have entered Greece under the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The Greek Government undertakes to readmit at any time and without formalities, if so requested, any Greek seamen who have entered Benelux territory under the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 8

The foregoing provisions shall in no way affect the legal and administrative provisions in force in the Benelux countries and Greece concerning the admittance, stay and expulsion of aliens.

Article 9

This Agreement shall enter into force on 1 March 1964 and shall remain in force for a term of one year. The Agreement shall be extended indefinitely unless it is denounced by the Greek Government or by the Governments of the Benelux countries one month before the expiry of this term. After the first year has elapsed, the Greek Government or the Governments of the Benelux countries may denounce it at one month's notice.

Article 10

Article 5 of the exchange of letters between the Belgian Government and the Greek Government regarding the reciprocal abolition of visas, dated 1 August and 5 August 1953,¹ and article 5 of the exchange of notes between the Netherlands Government and the Greek Government concerning the abolition of visas, dated 28 July and 26 September 1953,² shall cease to have effect on the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

If the Greek Government is prepared to conclude an agreement with the Governments of the Benelux countries on the foregoing provisions, we have the honour to propose to you that this letter and your reply in similar terms should constitute the Agreement between the Greek Government and the Governments of the Benelux countries.

Accept, sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

For the Kingdom
of Belgium :

C. SCHUURMANS

For the Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg :

A. MERENS

For the Kingdom
of the Netherlands :

A. MERENS

His Excellency Mr. C. Xanthopoulos-Palamas
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Athens

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 173, p. 53, and Vol. 226, p. 375.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 292, p. 23.

II

ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Athens, 10 February 1964

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 7 February 1964, which reads as follows :

[See letter I]

In reply I have the honour to inform you that the Greek Government accepts the foregoing and agrees that your letter and this reply shall constitute the agreement between the Greek Government and the Governments of the Benelux countries on the above provisions.

(Signed) C. XANTHOPOULOS-PALAMAS

His Excellency Mr. C. Schuurmans
Ambassador of Belgium
Athens

III

ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Athens, 10 February 1964

Sir,

[The contents of this letter are identical to those of letter II above.]

C. XANTHOPOULOS-PALAMAS

His Excellency Mr. A. Merens
Ambassador of the Netherlands
Representing also the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Athens