

No. 7631

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**NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM and LUXEMBOURG  
and  
SWITZERLAND**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning  
the use of the seaman's book as a travel document.  
Berne, 14 May 1964**

*Official text: French.*

*Registered by the Netherlands on 10 March 1965.*

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

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord concernant l'utili-  
sation du livret de marin comme document de voyage.  
Berne, 14 mai 1964**

*Texte officiel français.*

*Enregistré par les Pays-Bas le 10 mars 1965.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 7631. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL, ON THE OTHER, CONCERNING THE USE OF THE SEAMAN'S BOOK AS A TRAVEL DOCUMENT. BERNE, 14 MAY 1964

I

ROYAL EMBASSY OF BELGIUM  
EMBASSY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG  
ROYAL EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS

Berne, 14 May 1964

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that the Governments of the Benelux countries are prepared to conclude with the Swiss Federal Council an agreement concerning the use of seamen's books as travel documents in the following terms, which are submitted for your consideration :

The Swiss Federal Council, on the one hand, and the Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, acting together, in accordance with the Convention of 11 April 1960<sup>2</sup> on the transfer of control of persons to the external frontiers of Benelux territory, on the other hand,

Desiring to facilitate as much as possible the movement of seamen in their territory;  
Have agreed as follows :

*Article 1*

For the purpose of this Agreement, the term "the Benelux countries" means the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the term "Benelux territory" means 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*

Seamen of Swiss nationality holding a valid Swiss seaman's book shall be admitted to Benelux territory without a visa for purposes of enlistment, provided that they are

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 15 June 1964, in accordance with the provisions of article 9.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 374, p. 3.

in possession of a statement by the shipping company concerned declaring that they must enter Benelux territory in order to enlist on board a particular ship in a particular port and guaranteeing the payment by the shipping company of the cost of repatriation in the event that they cannot be enlisted for any reason whatsoever.

#### *Article 3*

Seamen of Swiss nationality holding a valid Swiss seaman's book may pass through Benelux territory in transit without a visa for the purpose of

- (a) Returning to their country of origin, or
- (b) 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 and Netherlands seamen holding, respectively, a valid Belgian, Luxembourg or Netherlands seamen's book may enter Switzerland without a visa under the same conditions as apply to Swiss seamen in respect of entry into Benelux territory.

#### *Article 5*

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

#### *Article 6*

Each Government reserves the right to refuse admittance to its country to holders of seamen's books whom it regards as undesirable.

#### *Article 7*

The Belgian, Luxembourg and Netherlands Governments undertake to readmit at any time and without formalities any Belgian, Luxembourg or Netherlands seamen who have entered Switzerland under the provisions of this Agreement.

The Swiss Federal Council undertakes to readmit at any time and without formalities any Swiss seamen who have entered Benelux territory under the provisions of this Agreement.

#### *Article 8*

The seamen granted the benefit of this Agreement shall, during their stay in Switzerland or in one of the Benelux countries, be subject to the provisions concerning aliens in force therein.

*Article 9*

This Agreement shall enter into force on the fifteenth of June one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four and shall remain in force for one year. Unless it is denounced by the Swiss Federal Council or by the Governments of the Benelux countries one month before the end of that period, the Agreement shall be extended indefinitely. The Swiss Federal Council or the Governments of the Benelux countries may denounce it subsequently by giving three months' notice.

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

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

For the Kingdom of Belgium :

*(Signed)* ROTHSCHILD

For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg :

*(Signed)* P. MAJERUS

For the Kingdom of the Netherlands :

*(Signed)* L. SAVELBERG

His Excellency Mr. Friedrich Wahlen  
Federal Councillor  
Head of the Federal Political Department  
Berne

## II

## FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

0.743.311.1.

Berne, 14 May 1964

Sir,

By letter of today's date, you and the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Belgium and of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg were kind enough to inform me of the following :

[*See letter I*]

I have the honour to confirm to you that the Swiss Federal Council has approved the contents of your joint letter. Consequently, your letter and this

reply will constitute an agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Governments of the Benelux countries concerning the use of seamen's books as travel documents.

Similar letters have been sent this day to the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Belgium and of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*(Signed)* WAHLEN

His Excellency Mr. Léon Savelberg  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
to Switzerland  
Berne

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