

No. 8545

**BELGIUM
and
LUXEMBOURG**

**Convention concerning co-operation in consular matters.
Signed at Brussels, on 30 September 1965**

Official texts: French and Dutch

Registered by Belgium on 9 February 1967.

**BELGIQUE
et
LUXEMBOURG**

**Convention relative à la coopération dans le domaine consu-
laire. Signée à Bruxelles, le 30 septembre 1965**

Textes officiels français et néerlandais.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 9 février 1967.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 8545. CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN CONSULAR MATTERS. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1965

His Majesty the King of the Belgians and

His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxembourg,

Considering that, since the establishment of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, the Belgian consular services have assumed responsibility for the protection and defence of Luxembourg consular interests in districts where the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has no consular service,

Having regard to article 39 of the Consolidated Convention established in accordance with the Protocol amending the Conventions instituting the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, signed at Brussels on 29 January 1963,²

Desiring to determine the functions which will be performed by the Belgian consular services in addition to the protection of Luxembourg interests in the economic and commercial fields, in the light of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963,

Have decided to conclude a convention for that purpose and have to that end appointed as their plenipotentiaries .

His Majesty the King of the Belgians :

His Excellency Mr. Paul Henri Spaak, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxembourg .

His Excellency Mr. Camille Dumont, Ambassador of Luxembourg,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows .

Article 1

1. The High Contracting Parties shall co-operate, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, with a view to ensuring the protection and defence of Luxembourg consular interests by Belgian consular officers residing in districts

¹ Came into force on 1 February 1967, the first day of the third month following the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Luxembourg on 15 November 1966, in accordance with article 16

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol 547, p 39

where the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has no consular service. The same shall apply in cases where the authorized Luxembourg consular officer is temporarily absent or unable to perform his functions or where a post is vacant.

2. The Luxembourg Government may have recourse to the good offices of a Belgian consular officer if, for example for reasons of distance, the authorized Luxembourg consular officer is unable to take adequate steps.

3. A suitable notification shall be sent to the competent authorities of the third States concerned regarding the assumption of consular functions on behalf of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

4. The application of the provisions of this Convention shall be subject to the consent of those States where such consent is required.

Article 2

1. Belgian consular officers shall act as civil registrars in order to register the births and deaths of Luxembourg nationals, provided that they have been empowered to do so by the Belgian and Luxembourg Governments.

2. Belgian consular officers may register other documents affecting or relating to the civil status of Luxembourg nationals if authorized to do so in each individual case by the Belgian and Luxembourg Governments.

3. A record shall be kept of the matters referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article in registers made available to Belgian consular officers by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg.

4. Belgian consular officers shall, in case of need, use their good offices to assist Luxembourg nationals in making statements relating to civil status to the local authorities.

Article 3

1. Belgian consular officers shall keep a register of the Luxembourg nationals residing in their district.

2. Only persons who request registration and who are able to show proof of their Luxembourg nationality, by producing either a valid nationality certificate or a valid passport, shall be registered.

3. Certificates of registration and identity documents may be issued to registered Luxembourg nationals upon request.

Article 4

1. After verifying the identity and nationality of applicants, Belgian consular officers shall be empowered to issue Luxembourg passports to Luxembourg nationals,

using blank passports made available to them, upon request, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. They may, subject to the same conditions, renew passports held by Luxembourg nationals.

2. At the end of each year, Belgian consular officers shall transmit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg a list of the passports issued or renewed in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Article 5

Unless they are prevented from so doing by practical or legal difficulties, Belgian consular officers shall issue any certificate which Luxembourg nationals may request from them for the purpose of attesting facts or qualifications with which such officers may be personally acquainted or which they have been able to verify by examining documents or events.

Article 6

1. Belgian consular officers shall attest the signatures on documents issued by public authorities or officials in their consular district if such documents are to be produced in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

2. They shall specify the position held by the authority or official issuing the document and shall verify that such authority or official held the position specified in the document at the time when it was issued.

3. Private agreements shall be attested only if they have first been attested by a public authority of the State of residence.

4. Orders or judgements made, or documents issued, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg may be attested by the Belgian consular services only if they have been certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg.

Article 7

Belgian consular officers shall assist individuals and bodies corporate of Luxembourg nationality in their relations with local administrative authorities. They shall assist them in judicial proceedings provided that this is not prohibited by the laws of the State of residence.

Article 8

1. Upon instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Belgian consular officers may provide relief to Luxembourg nationals who are in need as a result of circumstances beyond their control.

2. In case of emergency, and subject to the same conditions, Belgian consular officers may repatriate Luxembourg nationals.

Article 9

When acting in accordance with the provisions of articles 2-8 of this Convention, Belgian consular officers shall comply with the laws and regulations of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, subject to the provisions of article 11 regarding the levying of fees and charges.

Article 10

1. In the case of routine business, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg and the Belgian consular officers responsible for protecting and defending Luxembourg consular interests shall carry on direct correspondence.

2. Instructions of a general nature shall be transmitted to Belgian consular officers through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium.

Article 11

Fees and charges levied in connexion with the registration of consular acts and the issue of the documents provided for in this Convention shall be paid by affixing Belgian stamps in accordance with the current Belgian fee-table. The sums received in respect of such fees and charges shall be payable to the Belgian Treasury.

Article 12

The Luxembourg Government shall refund to the Belgian Government at the end of each year all monies advanced and expenditure incurred by Belgian consular officers in the exclusive interest of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg or of its nationals.

Article 13

1. Either Government may suspend, in particular cases, the application of certain of the provisions of this Convention. The other Government shall be notified immediately of any such suspension.

2. In the cases referred to in this article, the Luxembourg Government shall be free to ensure the protection and defence of its consular interests by other means.

Article 14

In the case of a dispute regarding the application or the interpretation of this Convention, the Governments shall seek an amicable solution through the diplomatic channel.

Article 15

Either of the High Contracting Parties may denounce this Convention at any time, subject to six months' notice, by so informing the other Party.

Article 16

This Convention shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Luxembourg as soon as possible.

This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month during which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

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

DONE at Brussels on 30 September 1965, in duplicate in the French and Dutch languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Kingdom
of Belgium :

P. H. SPAAK

For the Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg :

C. DUMONT