

No. 10703

**FRANCE
and
BELGIUM**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning exemptions from customs duties granted to frontier farmers. Paris, 9 June 1954

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement supplementing the above-mentioned Agreement. Paris, 2 December 1968

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 3 September 1970.

**FRANCE
et
BELGIQUE**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord sur les franchises accordées aux cultivateurs frontaliers. Paris, 9 juin 1954

Échange de lettres constituant un accord complétant l'Accord susmentionné. Paris, 2 décembre 1968

Textes authentiques : français.

Enregistrés par la France le 3 septembre 1970.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN FRANCE AND BELGIUM CONCERNING
EXEMPTIONS FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES GRANTED TO
FRONTIER FARMERS

I

FRENCH REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Administrative and Social Affairs Directorate

Paris, 9 June 1954

Conventions : C.A.3

File 4-20 B

Sir,

You have drawn my attention to the situation of Belgian farmers cultivating land situated in France and proposed the conclusion of an agreement of reciprocity enabling farmers established in one of the two countries and cultivating land in the border area of the other country to export freely the cereals they have threshed in that area.

I have the honour to inform you that the French authorities are willing to include threshed cereals from land adjoining the frontier in the system of exemption from customs duties at present applicable to agricultural products in the state in which they have been harvested on such land.

Persons accorded the benefits of this preferential system shall, however, comply with the following requirements:

1. They shall complete all declarations and other formalities as if the cereals were in the state in which they were harvested;
2. They shall export or import the threshed cereals immediately after they are threshed;
3. They shall carry out the threshing at the same time as the cutting or shortly afterwards.

¹ Came into force on 9 June 1954 by the exchange of the said letters, with retroactive effect from 1 May 1954, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

In addition, persons accorded the benefits of this preferential system may obtain duty-free admission, under the temporary import or export system, for threshers and combine harvesters intended for the crops in question, provided they own or are entitled to use such machines.

If you are able to confirm the agreement of the royal authorities to the aforementioned exemptions from customs duties and procedure, I have the honour to propose that the foregoing provisions enter into force as from 1 May 1954.

Accept, Sir, etc.

Per pro the Minister :

J. SERRES

Minister Plenipotentiary
Director for Administrative and Social Affairs

II

BELGIAN EMBASSY

Paris, 9 June 1954

No. 9023/B. 632

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 9 June 1954, with the reference Administrative and Social Affairs Directorate, Conventions : C. A. 3, File 4-20 B, which reads as follows:

[*See letter I*]

The Royal Government has instructed me to inform you that it agrees to the procedure and exemptions from customs duties referred to in that letter, reserving itself the right, where necessary, to limit the scope of the application of the exemption from customs duties to that granted by the French authorities.

The provisions in question shall enter into force as from 1 May 1954.

Accept, Sir, etc.

J. GUILLAUME

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS¹ CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN FRANCE AND BELGIUM SUPPLEMENTING
THE AGREEMENT OF 9 JUNE 1954 BETWEEN FRANCE
AND BELGIUM CONCERNING EXEMPTIONS FROM CUS-
TOMS DUTIES GRANTED TO FRONTIER FARMERS

I

BELGIAN EMBASSY

Paris, 2 December 1968

Sir,

In implementation of the provisions of the Agreement concluded between France and Belgium by an exchange of letters dated 9 June 1954, the system of exemption from customs duties for agricultural products harvested by farmers established in one of the two countries and cultivating land in the border area of the other country has been extended to threshed cereals.

The Agreement includes the following provision:

“In addition, persons accorded the benefits of this preferential system may obtain duty-free admission, under the temporary import or export system, for threshers and combine harvesters intended for the crops in question, provided they own or are entitled to use such machines.”

This provision was justifiable when the Agreement was concluded. Since that time, farming techniques have improved and, in particular, have led to the profession of “agricultural contractor”.

To enable frontier farmers to avail themselves of the services of such enterprises, the Belgian Government wishes to propose to the French Government that application of the system of exemption from customs duties should be extended to equipment used by French or Belgian contractors in certain agricultural work on land which farmers in either country cultivate in the border area of the neighbouring country.

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1969, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

I should be grateful if you would inform me whether these proposals meet with the agreement of the French Government. If so, I have the honour to suggest that, as from 1 January 1969, the above provisions should form an integral part of the Agreement of 9 June 1954.

Accept, Sir, etc.

Robert ROTHSCHILD
Belgian Ambassador

Mr. Michel Debré
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Quai d'Orsay
Paris

II

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Paris, 2 December 1968

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, which reads as follows :

[*See letter I*]

I have the honour to inform you that the French Government agrees to these proposals, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement of 9 June 1954 and shall enter into force as from 1 January 1969.

Accept, Sir, etc.

Gilbert DE CHAMBRUN

His Excellency Mr. Robert Rothschild
Belgian Ambassador