

No. 10854

**BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and NETHERLANDS,
and
MAURITIUS**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning the
abolition of visas. London, 18 February 1970**

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the Netherlands on 2 December 1970.

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

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à la suppression
des visas. Londres, 18 février 1970**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les Pays-Bas le 2 décembre 1970.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF
THE NETHERLANDS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KING-
DOM OF BELGIUM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG, ON THE ONE HAND,
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS, ON THE
OTHER HAND, CONCERNING THE ABOLITION OF VISAS

I

London, 18th February, 1970

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to conversations between representatives of the Governments of the Benelux countries and representatives of the Government of Mauritius relating to the facilitation of travel between their respective countries by abolishing visa requirements. We are instructed to communicate to Your Excellency that the Governments of the Benelux countries are prepared to conclude an agreement with respect to this matter in the following terms:

1. In this agreement, the term “Benelux countries” shall mean:

The Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Kingdom of The Netherlands;

The term “Benelux territory” shall mean: the joint territories in Europe of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

2. Nationals of the Benelux countries who are holders of a valid national passport may, irrespective of the point of their departure, enter Mauritius without a visa and stay for a period not exceeding three months. No guaranty shall be demanded, and the valid national passport shall also be the sole document required when leaving that country.

3. Nationals of Mauritius who are holders of a valid national passport may, irrespective of the point of their departure, enter Benelux territory without a visa and stay for a period not exceeding three months.

No guaranty shall be demanded, and the valid national passport shall also be the sole document required when leaving that territory.

4. For a stay exceeding three months, the persons coming under the provisions of this agreement shall before their departure obtain the required permission through the diplomatic or consular representative of the country they wish to enter.

¹ Came into force on 12 March 1970, in accordance with paragraph 10. By a notification by the Government of the Netherlands to the Government of Mauritius dated 18 February 1970 the Agreement was extended, in accordance with its paragraph 9, to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, with effect as from 12 March 1970.

5. Nationals of the Benelux countries residing in Mauritius with the approval of the competent authorities of Mauritius and nationals of Mauritius residing in any of the Benelux countries with the approval of the competent authorities in the Benelux countries may leave their country of residence and return to it without a visa on presentation of a valid national passport. No guaranty shall be demanded.

6. Each Government reserves the right to refuse to admit to its territory any person not holding the documents required for entry or lacking sufficient means of support or unable to acquire such means by engaging in lawful occupations, or to refuse to admit persons regarded as undesirable aliens or whose presence in the country is regarded as prejudicial to law and order or national security.

7. The present agreement shall not affect the aliens' regulations in force in the Benelux countries and in Mauritius governing entry, length of stay, residence, expulsion and any form of occupation, except in respect of the foregoing provisions.

8. Each Government undertakes to re-admit to its territory at any time and without formalities:

- a. its nationals who have entered the territory of the other party;
- b. persons who have entered its territory on presentation of a valid national passport issued by the Belgian, Luxemburg, Netherlands authorities or the authorities of Mauritius, even if their nationality is doubtful.

9. As regards the Kingdom of The Netherlands this agreement may be extended to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles by notification addressed by the Government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the Government of Mauritius.

10. This agreement shall enter into force on 12th March 1970 for a period of one year. If the agreement has not been denounced thirty days before the expiry of that period, it shall be deemed to have been renewed indefinitely. After the first period of one year each contracting Government may denounce the agreement by giving thirty days' notice to the Belgian Government.

The agreement shall cease to be effective if one of the Contracting Governments denounces it.

The Belgian Government shall inform the other Contracting Governments of the receipt of the thirty days' notice referred to above.

11. With the exception mentioned under 8. the operation of this agreement may be suspended by any Contracting Government.

The Belgian Government shall be notified forthwith of such suspension through the diplomatic channel. The Belgian Government shall inform the other Contracting Governments of the receipt of such notification. The same procedure shall be adopted when the suspension is lifted.

If these provisions are acceptable to Your Government we have the honour to propose that this Note and Your Excellency's Notes in reply to each of

us concurring therein shall constitute the agreement between the Governments of the Benelux countries, acting jointly under the agreement between the Kingdom of The Netherlands, the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg signed at Brussels on 11 April 1960¹ concerning the transfer of immigration control to the outer frontiers of Benelux, on the one hand, and the Government of Mauritius, on the other.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.

The Ambassador of Belgium:
J. VAN DEN BOSCH

The Ambassador of Luxemburg:
A. CLASEN

The Ambassador of The Netherlands:
R. DE BEAUFORT

His Excellency Dr. L. Teelock, C.B.E.
High Commissioner for Mauritius
London

II*

MAURITIUS HIGH COMMISSION

London, 18th February, 1970

Ref. nr. J 7.1

Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of today which reads as follows:

[See letter I]

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Mauritius agree with the proposal that Your Excellency's Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments in this matter.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

L. TEELOCK, C.B.E.
High Commissioner

H.E. Dr. Jan Herman Van Roijen, C.B.E.
Ambassador for the Netherlands
London

* Identical notes were addressed on the same date to the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Belgium and of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 374, p. 3.