

No. 11728

**FRANCE
and
GABON**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning
the association of the Gabonese Republic with the Euro-
pean Economic Community. Libreville, 17 August 1960**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 19 April 1972.

**FRANCE
et
GABON**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à l'asso-
ciation de la République gabonaise à la Communauté
économique européenne. Libreville, 17 août 1960**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la France le 19 avril 1972.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GABONESE REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE ASSOCIATION OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

I

*The Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic
to The Prime Minister of the French Republic*

Libreville, 17 August 1960

Sir,

As the Gabonese Republic attains independence, in full and friendly agreement with the French Republic, it is fitting that you should be informed of its position vis-à-vis the European Economic Community; I have the honour to state that the Gabonese Republic wishes to remain an associate member of the community on the same terms as at present, in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Treaty of Rome and the Convention annexed thereto.²

The Government of the Gabonese Republic trusts, therefore, that the Government of the French Republic will communicate this wish to the competent authorities of the European Economic Community.

Nevertheless, I should be grateful if, before making this communication, you would kindly transmit to the said authorities our comments and anxiety regarding the way in which the Treaty of Rome is being applied.

¹ Came into force on 17 August 1960 by the exchange of the said letters.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 298, p. 3.

The recent measures designed to speed up the reduction of tariffs and to eliminate quotas are a source of continuing concern to the Gabonese Government, principally because the Gabonese Republic is an under-developed country, whose economic growth might well be impaired by partnership in a system of completely free trade.

Despite our anxiety in this respect, we are well aware of the need to put into effect the provisions of the Treaty of Rome as rapidly as possible. However, while the measures recently decided upon will draw members and associate members of the European Economic Community closer to each other within the Community, they do not place sufficient emphasis on the solidarity of these countries with third countries. We hope, therefore, that in conjunction with these measures, the competent authorities of the Community will tighten the links of solidarity between the members and associate members in the Community and the countries outside it by implementing a measure of particular concern to us, namely, the speeding up of the application of the common external tariff to tropical products.

In addition, the Gabonese Government is constantly perturbed by the delays which are impeding the activities of the European Development Fund for the overseas countries and territories, since it considers these activities to be indispensable for the rapid development of our infrastructure and economy.

I take this opportunity, etc.,

[Signed]

LÉON MBA

II

*The Prime Minister of the French Republic
to The Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic*

Libreville, 17 August 1960

Sir,

In a letter of today's date you kindly informed me as follows:

[See letter I]

I have the honour to inform you that I take note of the wish expressed in this letter by the Gabonese Republic, which will be communicated to the competent authorities of the European Economic Community.

You also asked me to communicate to the authorities of the European Economic Community the comments and anxiety of the Government of the Gabonese Republic regarding the way in which the Treaty of Rome is being applied. I shall most certainly see that they are transmitted.

I take this opportunity, etc.,

J. FOYER