

**No. 11566**

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**LESOTHO  
and  
BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and NETHERLANDS**

**Agreement on the abolition of visas. Signed at Pretoria on 17 July  
and 30 November 1971, and at Maseru on 9 December 1971**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered by Lesotho on 2 February 1972.*

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

**Accord relatif à la suppression de la formalité de visa. Signé à  
Pretoria les 17 juillet et 30 novembre 1971, et à Maseru le 9  
décembre 1971**

*Texte authentique: anglais.*

*Enregistré par le Lesotho le 2 février 1972.*

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AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES AND  
THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO ON THE ABOLITION OF  
VISAS

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The Governments of the Benelux countries acting jointly under the Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands signed at Brussels on 11 April 1960<sup>2</sup> concerning the transfer of immigration control to the outer frontiers of Benelux, and

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho,

Desirous of further simplifying the travel formalities for their respective nationals and of adapting them to the situation that has arisen as a result of the transfer of immigration control to the outer frontiers of Benelux,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

In this Agreement, “Benelux countries” shall mean: the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands; “Benelux territory” shall mean: the joint territories in Europe of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

*Article 2*

Nationals of the Benelux countries who are holders of a valid national passport may, irrespective of the point of their departure, enter Lesotho 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 9 January 1972, in accordance with article 10.

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

*Article 3*

Nationals of Lesotho 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 national passport shall also be the sole document required when leaving that territory.

*Article 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.

*Article 5*

Nationals of the Benelux countries residing in Lesotho with the approval of the competent authorities of Lesotho and nationals of Lesotho 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.

*Article 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.

*Article 7*

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

*Article 8*

Each Government undertakes to readmit to its territory, at any time and without formalities, holders of valid national passports issued by the said Government, as also persons of whom it has been proved that they are nationals of the country represented by this Government.

Each Government shall also readmit persons who are no longer in possession of a passport, if it has been established that they have entered the territory of the other Contracting Party on presentation of a passport as referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

*Article 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 the Kingdom of Lesotho.

*Article 10*

This Agreement shall enter into force on the ninth day of January, 1972 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 Signatory 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 signatory Governments denounces it.

The Belgian Government shall inform the other signatory Governments of the receipt of the thirty days' notice referred to in this article.

*Article 11*

Any of the signatory Governments may suspend the operation of this Agreement by notification to the Belgian Government through diplomatic channels.

Suspension by one of the signatory Governments shall also suspend its operation in respect of the other signatory Governments.

However, suspension shall not affect the operation of articles 8 and 10.

The Belgian Government shall inform the other signatory Governments of the receipt of notification of suspension as referred to in this article, as also of the receipt of a notification to the effect that the suspension has been terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Agreement in quadruplicate in the English language.

For Benelux :

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Belgium :

A. BOELAERTS  
Pretoria  
17 July 1971

For the Government  
of the Grand Duchy  
of Luxembourg :

A. H. HASSELMAN  
Pretoria  
30 November 1971

For the Government  
of the Kingdom  
of the Netherlands :

A. H. HASSELMAN  
Pretoria  
30 November 1971

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Lesotho :

LEABUA JONATHAN  
Maseru  
9 December 1971