

N° 467.

BELGIQUE ET PAYS-BAS

Echange de notes portant renouvellement de la Convention internationale sur le transport de marchandises par chemin de fer signée à Berne le 14 octobre 1890, ainsi que des actes qui la complètent. Bruxelles, les 23 septembre et 6 octobre 1920.

BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

Exchange of Notes concerning the revival of the International Convention for the transport of goods by rail, signed at Berne, October 14, 1890, together with all the relevant acts. Brussels, September 23 and October 6, 1920.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 467. — EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE REVIVAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ² FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GOODS BY RAIL, SIGNED AT BERNE, OCTOBER 14, 1890, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE RELEVANT ACTS. BRUSSELS, SEPTEMBER 23 AND OCTOBER 6, 1920.

French official text communicated by the Netherlands Minister at Berne. The registration of this exchange of notes took place August 27, 1923.

NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

BRUSSELS, *September 23, 1920.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In a verbal Note of March 1, 1919, Reference B. No. 385, the Minister for Foreign Affairs was good enough to inform the Netherlands Legation of the decision of the Government of the King to denounce the Berne International Convention of October 14, 1890, as the French and Italian Governments had done, and to make a fresh Agreement.

In this regard the French Minister at The Hague, in a letter of July 26 last, informed my Government that the French Government had made a proposal to the Governments concerned that the modifications embodied in a draft provisional Agreement, drawn up at Paris on September 6, 1919, should be introduced into the international regulations for the transport of goods by rail and that, as this proposal gave rise to certain objections on the part of various countries any action at the present moment, must be confined to the unconditional renewal of the Berne Convention of October 14, 1890 and all relevant Acts.

The Government of the Republic is prepared to regard these instruments as renewed, but as three months' notice of denunciation is required and such denunciation would have to be made at latest on September 30, to become operative on January 1 following, M. Benoist enquired whether the Government of the Queen concurred. Jonkheer van Karnebeek answered by letter confirming the Agreement to this effect between France and the Netherlands.

The Convention can only become operative again, if the States which have denounced it withdraw such denunciation.

I am accordingly instructed and have the honour to ask you to be good enough to inform me if the Government of the King is prepared to take a decision to this effect.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed) VAN VREDENBURCH.

His Excellency
Monsieur Henri JASPAR,
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brussels.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² British and Foreign State Papers: vols 82 (page 771), 87 (page 806), 92 (page 433).

MINISTRY
OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Direction B. No. 385.

BRUSSELS, October 6, 1920.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of September 23, No. 4629, referring to the Berne International Convention of October 14, 1890, regulating the transport of goods by rail.

You were good enough to remind me that the Convention in question was duly denounced by the Belgian Government in 1918.

As it has been impossible to obtain general agreement upon the terms of the Convention which is to replace that of October 14, 1890, and as moreover the continuance of the control of international goods traffic by uniform regulations is a matter of the greatest importance, the French Government thought it advisable to propose that the Convention, which had been denounced should be renewed. This proposal, moreover, complied with the terms of Article 366 of the Treaty of Versailles ; it therefore only remained to come to an understanding for the renewal of the Convention with those States, who are not signatories to the Treaty of Peace, but who were signatories to the Convention of October 14, 1890.

In endorsing the above proposal, the Belgian Government virtually withdraws, as the French Government has already done, the denunciation which it had notified to the various States signatory to the Convention of October 14, 1890.

The Convention, however, is only renewed upon condition that it may be denounced from year to year at three months' notice. According to Article 60, the Convention can only be denounced at intervals of every three years, upon one year's notice being given.

The denunciation therefore is only withdrawn subject to such modification of Article 60.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed) DELACROIX,
Minister for Foreign Affairs a. i.

His Excellency
Jonkheer VAN VREDENBURCH.