

N° 1795.

---

**BELGIQUE ET FRANCE**

Traité de travail. Signé à Bruxelles,  
le 24 décembre 1924.

---

**BELGIUM AND FRANCE**

Labour Treaty: Signed at Brussels,  
December 24, 1924.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 1795. — LABOUR TREATY<sup>2</sup> BETWEEN BELGIUM AND FRANCE.  
SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 24, 1924.

*French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Treaty took place July 19, 1928.*

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS and THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, being equally desirous of regulating in the most cordial and friendly spirit the position of Belgian workers employed in France and of French workers employed in Belgium, and of establishing, to the greatest possible extent, equality of treatment between their own nationals and the nationals of the other State in respect of all laws bearing on social welfare and employment, have resolved to conclude a treaty, and have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. HYMANS, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;  
M. P. TSCHOFFEN, Minister of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare ;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

M. Justin GODART, Minister of Labour, Health, Social Relief and Welfare of the French Republic ;  
M. Maurice HERBETTE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic accredited to His Majesty the King of the Belgians,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

*Article 1.*

The two Governments agree that no obstacle shall be placed in the way of the emigration of their respective nationals who are desirous of proceeding from one country to the other with a view to employment ; for this purpose, they shall afford every facility of an administrative nature to such workers and their families.

Provided they comply with the relevant administrative formalities, and subject to the temporary exceptions specified in Article 4, these workers and their families may enter the country of their destination, reside there and leave it at will.

*Article 2.*

The wages paid to immigrant workers shall be the same as those received, for the same work, by nationals of the same category employed in the same trade or, where no nationals of the same

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

<sup>2</sup> The exchange of ratifications took place February 10, 1928.

category are employed in that trade, the normal and current wages paid to workers of the same category in the district.

The Government of the country to which the workers proceed undertakes to see that, within its territory, the same wages are paid to immigrant workers as are paid to its own nationals.

*Article 3.*

In all that relates to conditions of work and livelihood, the workers of each of the two Contracting Parties shall enjoy the same protection as is accorded to nationals by the laws and customs of the country.

All complaints of workers of the other country in connection with the conditions of work and livelihood which may be offered them by their employers, and in regard to difficulties of all kinds shall, where such complaints entail action on the part of the authorities, be addressed or transmitted, either direct or through the diplomatic or consular channel, to the competent authorities of the country concerned, who shall make the necessary enquiries and shall alone be competent to intervene.

*Article 4.*

Should the state of the labour market at any given period and in any given district or trade make it impossible for individuals emigrating of their own accord in search of work to find employment, the Government concerned shall immediately inform the Government of the other country of this fact through the diplomatic channel, in order that the latter Government may take the necessary action. The two Governments undertake to notify each other, prior to their entry into force, of any restrictive measures which they may consider it advisable to apply to the workers in question.

*Article 5.*

The nationals of each State shall have the same rights and privileges in the territory of the other State as are enjoyed by its nationals, in all that concerns the acquisition, possession and transfer of small rural and urban property. They shall not, however, be entitled to claim any free grants made by either Government to builders and purchases of cheap dwellings, or privileges granted on account of war service, and they shall be subject to the regulations laid down, in the interest of national security and with regard to certain zones or districts, in the laws dealing with the residence and establishment of foreigners.

*Article 6.*

Workers and employers of either country who are concerned in collective labour disputes shall be eligible to sit on the conciliation and arbitration committees to which such disputes are submitted.

*Article 7.*

Subsidies to mutual aid societies for insurance against unemployment and assistance from public funds for the unemployed and from public institutions which provide relief work, shall be granted by each of the Contracting States to nationals of the other State.

*Article 8.*

Nationals of either of the two Contracting Parties shall, in the territory of the other, enjoy equality of treatment with the nationals of the latter country in regard to the application of the

laws which regulate the conditions of work and provide for the health and safety of the workers. This equality of treatment shall also apply to all provisions which may in future be adopted in either country in this connection.

*Article 9.*

Neither of the two Contracting States shall impose special rates or taxes on the nationals of the other State on account of their working within its territory.

The above provision shall not affect the stipulations of any laws and regulations dealing with general taxes on foreigners, and, in particular, those connected with the issue of *permis de séjour*. It shall not be interpreted as exempting the nationals of one of the Contracting States residing in the territory of the other State from the payment of any taxes which are at present or may in future be imposed on the nationals of the State itself.

*Article 10.*

The competent administrations in the two countries shall jointly decide on the detailed and routine measures necessary for carrying out the provisions of the present Treaty, which may require the cooperation of their administrative services. They shall also decide in what cases and under what conditions the two authorities shall correspond direct with one another.

*Article 11.*

The present Treaty shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Brussels as soon as possible.

It shall come into force as soon as the ratifications have been exchanged.

It shall remain in force for a period of one year, and shall be automatically renewed from year to year, unless denounced.

Denunciation must be notified three months before the expiration of each period.

All difficulties arising in connection with the application of the present Treaty shall be dealt with through the diplomatic channel.

Should it not be possible to arrive at a solution by this method, these difficulties shall be submitted, even at the request of only one of the two Parties, to one or more arbitrators, whose duty it shall be to solve them according to the fundamental principles and the spirit of this Treaty.

A special arrangement shall regulate the establishment and the functions of the Court of Arbitration. Each Party may, for purposes of information, consult one of the international bureaux or other international organisations competent to deal with the matter. Their opinion may be asked for the same purpose by agreement among the arbitrators.

Done in duplicate at Brussels, December 24, 1924.

(Signed) Justin GODART.

(Signed) Maurice HERBETTE.

(Signed) HYMANS.

(Signed) P. TSCHOFFEN.