

N° 1902.

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**BELGIQUE ET PAYS-BAS**

Convention tendant à rendre plus efficace et moins gênante l'application des mesures de police sanitaire maritime. Signée à Bruxelles, le 24 mars 1927.

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**BELGIUM  
AND THE NETHERLANDS**

Convention to render the Application of precautionary Health Measures at Sea more efficacious and less burdensome. Signed at Brussels, March 24, 1927.

TEXTE NÉERLANDAIS. — DUTCH TEXT.

N<sup>o</sup> 1902. — VERDRAG <sup>1</sup> TUSSCHEN NEDERLAND EN BELGIË TEN DOEL HEBBENDE DE TOEPASSING VAN DE MAATREGELEN VAN HET SANITAIR TOEZICHT OP DE SCHEEPVAART MEER AFDOENDE EN MINDER HINDERLIJK TE MAKEN. GETEEKEND TE BRUSSEL, 24 MAART, 1927.

*Textes officiels néerlandais et français communiqués par le ministre des Pays-Bas à Berne et le ministre des Affaires étrangères de Belgique. L'enregistrement de cette convention a eu lieu le 26 décembre 1928.*

HARE MAJESTEIT DE KONINGIN DER NEDERLANDEN en ZIJNE MAJESTEIT DE KONING DER BELGEN, wenshende de toepassing van de maatregelen van het sanitair toezicht op de Scheepvaart meer afdoende en minder hinderlijk te maken, hebben besloten, overeenkomstig artikel 41 van de Internationale Sanitaire Conventie <sup>2</sup> van Parijs van 1912, tot dat doel een Verdrag te sluiten en hebben te dien einde tot Hunne gevolmachtigden benoemd, te weten :

HARE MAJESTEIT DE KONINGIN DER NEDERLANDEN :

Zijne Excellentie Jonkheer VAN VREDENBURCH, Haar Buitengewoon Gezant en Gevolmachtigd Minister te Brussel, en

ZIJNE MAJESTEIT DE KONING DER BELGEN :

den Heer Emile VANDERVELDE, Staatsminister, Zijn Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken,

<sup>1</sup> L'échange des ratifications a eu lieu à Bruxelles, le 22 octobre 1928.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. IV, page page 281 ; et vol. XXIV, page 150, de ce recueil.

N<sup>o</sup> 1902. — CONVENTION <sup>1</sup> ENTRE LA BELGIQUE ET LES PAYS-BAS, TENDANT A RENDRE PLUS EFFICACE ET MOINS GÉNANTE L'APPLICATION DES MESURES DE POLICE SANITAIRE MARITIME. SIGNÉE A BRUXELLES, LE 24 MARS 1927.

*Dutch and French official texts communicated by the Netherlands Minister at Berne and the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place December 26, 1928.*

SA MAJESTÉ LA REINE DES PAYS-BAS et SA MAJESTÉ LE ROI DES BELGES, désireux de rendre plus efficace et moins gênante l'application des mesures de police sanitaire maritime, conformément à l'article 41 de la Convention sanitaire internationale <sup>2</sup> de Paris de 1912, ont résolu de conclure une convention à ce sujet et ont nommé à cet effet pour leurs plénipotentiaires, savoir :

SA MAJESTÉ LA REINE DES PAYS-BAS :

Son Excellence Mr. le Jonkheer VAN VREDENBURCH, son envoyé extraordinaire et ministre plénipotentiaire à Bruxelles ; et

SA MAJESTÉ LE ROI DES BELGES :

Mr. Emile VANDERVELDE, ministre d'Etat, son ministre des Affaires étrangères ;

<sup>1</sup> The exchange of ratifications took place at Brussels, October 22, 1928.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. IV, page 281 ; and Vol. XXIV, page 150, of this Series.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 1902. — CONVENTION BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS TO RENDER THE APPLICATION OF PRECAUTIONARY HEALTH MEASURES AT SEA MORE EFFICACIOUS AND LESS BURDENSOME. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, MARCH 24, 1927.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, being desirous of rendering the application of precautionary health measures at sea more efficacious and less burdensome, in conformity with Article 41 of the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris in 1912, have decided to conclude a Convention on this subject and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for this purpose :

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS :

His Excellency Jonkheer VAN VREDENBURCH, Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Brussels ; and

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. Emile VANDERVELDE, Minister of State, His Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

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

*Article 1.*

Without prejudice to the notifications, for which provision is made in Chapter I of the International Sanitary Convention concluded at Paris in 1912, each of the Health Administrations shall immediately notify the other by telegraph, of the first recognised case, whether imported or not, of plague, cholera, relapsing fever, typhus or smallpox found by it in the ports referred to in Article 5 below.

*Article 2.*

The exchange of information provided for in Articles 2 and 4 of the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris in 1912, concerning the course of epidemics and the precautions taken to circumscribe them shall also extend to relapsing fever, typhus and smallpox.

*Article 3.*

The Health Administrations shall communicate to each other all their publications concerning the state of public health, and particularly the course of infectious diseases.

<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.

*Article 4.*

The Health Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall notify one another of any measures made applicable to arrivals from any infected region of the territory of any Power other than the High Contracting Parties.

They shall similarly notify one another of the revocation or modification of such measures.

*Article 5.*

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall indicate to the other the port or ports in its territories that are adequately equipped for a thorough application of the measures referred to in Article 6. Each Party shall also give precise information, in respect of every port, concerning the composition and professional qualifications of the staff, and the kind of apparatus and processes employed, together with any technical details required for estimating the efficacy of the sanitary operations carried out in the port.

The list of ports approved by the High Contracting Parties as being adequately equipped at the present time shall be drawn up jointly by the health authorities of the High Contracting Parties. It may hereafter be supplemented by a further agreement.

When such an agreement has been concluded, the present Convention shall apply to the ports referred to therein as soon as publication has been effected in accordance with Article 13.

*Article 6.*

The port health authorities of the High Contracting Parties shall not be entitled to demand the carrying out of deratisation, disinfection or other precautionary sanitary measures in respect of any vessel of whatever nationality, which in the course of the same voyage has previously called at one of the ports of the other country referred to in the second and third paragraphs of Article 5, and has there been subjected to the same measures, provided that no fresh incident affecting health has occurred during the passage from one port to the other.

In order to enable the health authorities of the port of arrival to gauge the value, extent and efficacy of the sanitary measures adopted, the health authorities of the port of departure or call shall issue a declaration on one of the model forms agreed to by the health administrations of the two countries.

When, however, the vessel has entered the port, the captain shall be bound, if the local sanitary regulations so prescribe, to permit the examination of all sick persons on board and to take any steps which may be necessary to prevent rats from leaving the vessel.

*Article 7.*

The competent health authorities of the High Contracting Parties shall take steps to ensure that the application of sanitary measures shall cause as little disturbance as possible in the service of vessels working on a regular line.

In accordance with Articles 24, 29 and 34 of the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris in 1912 every vessel with a clean bill of health having on board a medical officer commissioned by one of the High Contracting Parties shall be dispensed from medical inspection and other health measures, provided that the aforesaid medical officer declares on oath that no case of plague, cholera, small-pox, typhus or relapsing fever has occurred on board the vessel since its departure; that no murine plague or any unusual mortality among rats has been noted and that the sanitary measures prescribed by him during the voyage have been successfully effected under his direct supervision.

A "commissioned" medical officer shall be taken to mean a medical practitioner of any nationality appointed or approved by one of the health administrations after the latter

has satisfied itself that he possesses the qualifications, experience and integrity which such an officer is expected to possess, and that his statements may be regarded by the Government health authorities as valid and reliable, failing proof to the contrary.

*Article 8.*

Vessels engaged in coastwise trade between the ports of the High Contracting Parties shall not be required to produce a bill of health.

This exemption shall be suspended during the whole period of infection if either country should become affected with plague or cholera, it being understood that the terms "infected" and "cessation of infection" are employed in the sense indicated in Articles 7 and 9 of the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris in 1912.

*Article 9.*

The competent sanitary authority may, if it thinks necessary :

(a) Take measures which have not been already carried out in a port of the other Party previously called at by the vessel ;

(b) Complete such measures if they have not been applied to every part of the vessel.

*Article 10.*

The competent health authorities reserve the right, in derogation to Article 6 and only in exceptional cases :

(a) To carry out afresh measures which they consider as not having been thoroughly executed ;

(b) To decide, on their own judgment, with regard to the application of Article 7, paragraph 2, whether the precautions taken during the voyage were sufficiently thorough, and, if not, to require that they shall be carried out again wholly or in part. If necessary, the Health Administration may take steps for the suspension or withdrawal of the commission previously granted to the commissioned medical officer.

In the cases provided for in (a) and (b), the Health Administration concerned shall immediately inform the health administration of the Contracting Party, stating the facts which gave ground for its decision.

*Article 11.*

The sanitary authorities shall facilitate, as far as possible, the exchange of individual or collective visits between the health officials of the two countries with a view to enabling them to satisfy themselves, on the spot, as to the efficiency of the port sanitary services.

Such officials shall in every case be provided by the Government Department under which they are serving with a special warrant, to be shown to the health authorities of the other Contracting Party.

*Article 12.*

Every year, before April 1st, the Health Administration of each Contracting Party shall transit to the other a report on the application of the present Convention in its ports during the previous year.

*Article 13.*

The present Convention, and the list prepared in conformity with Article 5, as also any alterations in the said list, from time to time as they occur, shall be published in the Official Journal of each of the High Contracting Parties.

*Article 14.*

The present Convention shall not in any way affect the special measures which each of the High Contracting Parties reserves the right to take with regard to emigrants under Article 49 of the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris in 1912.

*Article 15.*

Any disputes which may arise between the High Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which it has not been possible to settle through the diplomatic channel may, prior to any judicial or arbitral procedure, be submitted for an advisory opinion to an international public health organisation, designated jointly by the High Contracting Parties.

Any disputes which it has not been possible to settle either direct or on the basis of the opinion given by the above-mentioned technical organ, shall be submitted, at the request of one of the High Contracting Parties, to the Permanent Court of International Justice, unless, under some special agreement concluded hereafter, provision should be made for settling the dispute by arbitration.

*Article 16.*

The present Convention is subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Brussels as soon as possible.

*Article 17.*

The present Convention shall come into force fifteen days after the exchange of ratifications.

*Article 18.*

The present Convention shall remain in force for one year as from the date of its coming into force, and, unless one of the High Contracting Parties has notified the other within three months of the expiry of that period of its intention to denounce it, shall remain in force for another year, and so on from year to year in succession.

*Article 19.*

The present Convention shall only apply to the European territories of the High Contracting Parties.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention, which is drawn up in the Dutch and French languages, and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Brussels on March 24, 1927.

(Signed) Emile VANDERVELDE.

(Signed) VAN VREDENBURCH.