

N° 1652.

---

**GRÈCE ET LETTONIE**

Convention de commerce et de navigation, avec protocole et déclaration. Signés à Riga, le 25 février 1927.

---

**GREECE AND LATVIA**

Convention of Commerce and Navigation, with Protocol and Declaration. Signed at Riga, February 25, 1927.

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

No. 1652. — CONVENTION <sup>2</sup> OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION  
BETWEEN GREECE AND LATVIA. SIGNED AT RIGA, FEBRUARY  
25, 1927.

---

*French official text communicated by the Hellenic Minister at Berne. The registration of this Convention took place February 27, 1928.*

---

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK REPUBLIC and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, being desirous of promoting and developing economic relations between the two countries, have resolved to conclude a Convention of Commerce and Navigation, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for that purpose :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK REPUBLIC :

H. E. M. Nicolas C. XYDAKIS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Director of Political Affairs at the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs ;

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA :

H. E. M. Felix CIELENS, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND RIGHTS OF NATIONALS.

*Article 1.*

The nationals of each of the Contracting Parties shall be entitled, under the same conditions as nationals of the most favoured nation and subject to the laws and regulations which are or may be in force in the respective countries, freely to enter the territories of the other Contracting Party, to settle there and engage in commerce, industry or any other profession. They shall be entitled to acquire movable or immovable property in that country by inheritance, gift, bequest, purchase, exchange or any other legal means and to possess, hold and dispose of their property subject to the exceptions and restrictions established by the laws of the two Contracting Parties.

---

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

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

<sup>2</sup> The exchange of ratifications took place at Warsaw, February 16, 1928.

Each of the Contracting Parties undertakes not to require from the nationals of the other Party the payment of taxes, charges or contributions of any kind other or higher than those which are or may hereafter be demanded of the nationals of the most favoured nation.

*Article 2.*

The legal constitution and status of commercial, industrial, financial, insurance and other companies, cooperative societies, shipping companies and economic associations which have their headquarters in the territory of one of the two countries and are legally established in that country, shall be duly recognised in the other country. Subject to such rules and limitations as are laid down in the laws which are or may hereafter be in force, and provided that they satisfy and observe all formalities required by the said laws, they may extend their operations to the territories of the latter country, and acquire and enjoy rights, or carry on their industry therein. They shall enjoy treatment as favourable as that which is or may hereafter be granted to the like companies of any other Power and they shall have the same right as companies of the most favoured nation to acquire, possess, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property in that country.

The foregoing provision shall not affect the question of the right of any such company or association established in one of the two countries to carry on trade or industry in the other ; this right shall always be determined in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the country concerned.

The above-mentioned companies and associations shall in this respect enjoy the same rights and privileges as are or may be accorded to similar organisations of a third Power.

They shall not be subject to taxes, duties or contributions of any description or kind, whatever higher than those imposed on the companies and associations of the most favoured nation.

*Article 3.*

Nationals of either of the Contracting Parties and companies and associations domiciled in the territory of either Party shall have unhindered access to the Courts and various authorities of the other Party on the same terms as the latter Party's own nationals. In the exercise of this right they shall not be subjected to charges other or higher than those levied upon the nationals or upon the aforesaid companies of the country in question.

*Article 4.*

Nationals of either Contracting Party shall be exempt in the territories of the other Party from all military service and from the payment in cash or in kind of all taxes or duties imposed in lieu thereof. As regards forced loans and military requisitions and contributions levied in time of war or in exceptional circumstances, the two Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment. Nevertheless, owners, tenants or occupants of buildings or of commercial or industrial enterprises shall be subject to the same treatment as nationals of the country, and they shall be entitled to the same compensation as that which is granted to the country's nationals or to the nationals of the most favoured nation.

CHAPTER II.

COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT.

*Article 5.*

Commercial travellers of either Contracting Party, together with their models and samples, shall enjoy in the territory of the other Party the same treatment as is or may hereafter be granted in this respect to the most favoured nation, provided they comply with the laws and regulations in force.

*Article 6.*

Should either of the Contracting Parties impose prohibitions or restrictions on the import or export of goods, it shall grant to the other Party the same treatment as has been or may hereafter be granted to the same or like goods imported from or exported to any third country.

If any import or export prohibitions or restriction has been, or shall hereafter, be removed or relaxed, even temporarily, by one of the Contracting Parties, in favour of a third Power, the benefits of such removal or relaxation shall be extended immediately and under the same conditions to the same or like goods arriving from or consigned to the territories of the other State.

The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the imposition or maintenance of import or export prohibitions or restrictions relating to :

- (1) The public safety of the country.
- (2) Special provisions which the State in question may deem necessary owing to a state of war.
- (3) Sanitary or preventive measures against diseases of animals and plants.
- (4) Seeds which the importing country may think unsuitable by reason of their origin.
- (5) Articles which are the subject of a Government monopoly.

*Article 7.*

Should either of the Contracting Parties make the import or export of certain goods dependent upon prices or purchase or sale conditions controlled by the Government or any organisation authorised by the Government, the general conditions applicable to the other Party shall be not less favourable than those which are or may be applied to any third Power.

*Article 8.*

The two Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other, unconditionally and automatically, all favours, reductions or exemptions which they have granted or may hereafter grant to any third Power in regard to import duties and charges, all surtaxes, coefficients or supercharges which are or may be levied upon the import of goods, and to all internal charges on consumption or excise.

The two Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment as regards duties and all charges on exports of whatever denomination or kind.

They further undertake to grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment in regard to Customs formalities, Customs restrictions, the storage and safe-keeping of goods in Customs warehouses and charges relating thereto.

*Article 9.*

In all that concerns duties on consumption, production, business transactions, monopolies and excise and all other internal duties, the goods arriving and imported from one of the two countries shall enjoy in the other country treatment as favourable as that which is granted to the goods of the most favoured nation.

*Article 10.*

The two Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other freedom of transit and to apply in their mutual relations the provisions of the Convention<sup>1</sup> and Statute on Freedom of Transit, signed at Barcelona on April 20, 1921, and shall accord to each other most-favoured-nation treatment in this respect.

Nevertheless, the two Contracting Parties agree that the above provisions concerning most-favoured-nation treatment shall not apply when the restriction on the right of transit is imposed :

- (1) For reasons of public safety ;
- (2) As a sanitary or preventive measure against diseases of animals or plants.

*Article 11.*

Goods of whatever origin carried in transit through either country and consigned to or arriving from the other country shall not be subject in the country of transit to any import or export duty, charge or similar contribution or to any internal charges other than those intended exclusively to cover the cost of supervision and administration.

Goods of whatever origin carried in transit through either country, whether or not they are stored in free ports, Customs warehouses, transit stores or other Customs establishments shall, when imported into the other country, enjoy, as regards duties and other charges as well as in all other respects, treatment not less favourable than that which they would enjoy if they were imported directly from the country of origin.

*Article 12.*

In order to reserve the benefits of the above provisions for products originating in their respective countries and to prevent irregularities through the despatch of goods by circuitous routes, the two Contracting Parties may require that products and goods imported into their territories shall be accompanied by certificates of origin.

The Contracting Parties shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment as regards the form, contents and use of these certificates.

## CHAPTER III.

## NAVIGATION.

*Article 13.*

The documents and certificates issued for the purpose, in conformity with the laws and regulations of the respective countries, by the competent authorities of the said countries, shall be recognised as establishing the nationality of vessels.

Tonnage certificates and other documents regarding tonnage measurement issued by either Contracting Party shall be recognised by the other Party, provided that tonnage measurement has been carried out by the Moorsom system and the vessels of one Party shall not be subject in the territories of the other Party to charges for further measurement.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. VII, page 11 ; Vol. XI, page 406 ; Vol. XV, page 304 ; Vol. XIX, page 278 ; Vol. XXIV, page 154 ; Vol. XXXI, page 244 ; Vol. XXXV, page 298 ; Vol. XXXIX, page 166 ; Vol. LIX, page 344 ; and Vol. LXIX, page 70, of this Series.

*Article 14.*

Unless otherwise provided in the present Convention, Greek vessels and their cargoes in Latvia and Latvian vessels and their cargoes in Greece shall in all respects enjoy the same treatment as national vessels and their cargoes, whatever the place of departure or destination of such vessels and whatever the place of origin or destination of their cargoes.

It follows therefore vessels of either Contracting Party and their cargoes shall not be subject in the territories of the other Party to any duties or charges of any kind or denomination which may be levied on behalf of the State, or on behalf of communes or any institutions authorised by the Government, other or higher than those applied to national vessels and their cargoes.

Any privileges or exemptions which either Contracting Party may grant in one of these respects to any third Power shall also be applied simultaneously and unconditionally to the other Party.

Nevertheless, the provisions of the present Article shall not apply :

(1) As regards the favours which either country has granted, or may hereafter grant, to its own fisheries and their products ;

(2) As regards coasting trade and towage, in respect of which the Contracting Parties shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment, subject to reciprocity ;

(3) As regards the privileges granted to national shipbuilding ;

(4) As regards navigation on inland navigable waterways, whether natural or artificial, in respect of which the vessels of the two Contracting Parties and their cargoes shall be subject to the same conditions as vessels and cargoes of the most favoured nation.

Without prejudice to the other provisions of the present Article and subject to the provisions of the first paragraph in so far as they concern pilotage dues, it is understood that the laws and regulations in force in either country regarding the obligation to employ pilots shall apply to the vessels of the other Contracting Party to the same extent as to other foreign vessels.

*Article 15.*

Greek vessels entering Latvian ports and Latvian vessels entering Greek ports with the sole object of completing their cargoes or of unloading some portion thereof, shall be entitled, provided that they conform to the laws and regulations of the respective States, to retain on board any portion of the cargo which is consigned to another port or to another country and to re-export such portion of the cargo without being liable to pay any duties or charges on it except those for supervision ; the latter dues shall not, however, be charged at a higher rate than the lowest payable by national vessels or by vessels of the most favoured nation.

*Article 16.*

If a vessel belonging to either Contracting Party is shipwrecked, stranded, damaged or compelled to put into port in the waters of the other Party, the vessel and its cargo shall enjoy the same privileges and immunities as are accorded by the laws and regulations of the country in question in similar circumstances to national vessels. Assistance and relief shall be afforded to the master, crew and passengers, both for themselves and the vessel and its cargo, to the same extent as would be afforded to nationals.

As regards salvage charges, the laws of the country in which the salvage takes place shall be applicable.

Goods salvaged from a stranded or shipwrecked vessel shall not be subject to any Customs duties unless they are admitted for consumption in the country.

## CHAPTER IV.

## CONSULAR PROVISIONS.

*Article 17.*

The two Contracting Parties shall grant each other the right to appoint consular representatives in all ports, towns and localities of the other Party to which consular representatives of any third country are admitted.

After receiving an exequatur from the Government of the country in which they are residing, the consular representatives of either Contracting Party shall enjoy in the territories of the other Party all the privileges and exemptions and the same powers as are or may hereafter be accorded to the consular representatives of a third Power. Nevertheless, the privileges, exemptions and powers granted to the consular representatives of either country in the other country shall not be more extensive than those conferred on the consular representatives of the latter country in the territories of the former.

## CHAPTER V.

## FINAL PROVISIONS.

*Article 18.*

The following exemptions, immunities and privileges shall not be deemed to infringe the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment on which the present Treaty is based :

(a) Privileges which have been or may hereafter be granted to neighbouring States with a view to facilitating local traffic within either frontier zone (up to a maximum breadth of fifteen kilometres on each side of the frontier).

(b) Privileges which have been or may hereafter be granted by one of the Contracting Parties to a third State in virtue of a Customs union already in existence, or which may be concluded in the future.

(c) Special exemptions, immunities and privileges which have been or may hereafter be granted by Latvia to one of the Baltic States (Finland, Estonia and Lithuania) by reason of special agreements. The same applies to special privileges which Latvia may grant to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics in virtue of special Customs conventions or agreements.

*Article 19.*

Disputes and differences of opinion between the two Contracting Parties in regard to the application and interpretation of the present Treaty shall be settled by a mixed arbitral tribunal. The arbitral tribunal shall be constituted *ad hoc* and shall include an equal number of representatives of the two Parties. If these representatives do not succeed in reaching an agreement, they shall submit the dispute to an umpire, whom the President of the Permanent Court of International Justice may be asked to appoint, if necessary.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding.

*Article 20.*

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged as soon as possible.

It shall enter into force on the day of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for one year and thereafter by tacit renewal until three months after it has been denounced by either Contracting Party.

In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Riga on February the twenty-fifth, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-sev'n.

(L. S.) N. XYDAKIS.

(L. S.) F. CIELENS.

### PROTOCOL.

When proceeding to sign the Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Greece and Latvia concluded this day, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries made the following declarations :

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 8 of the present Convention, the natural or manufactured products originating in or arriving from Greece and enumerated in List A attached to the present Protocol, shall be imported into Latvia on payment of the duties specified in the said list.

Similarly, the natural or manufactured products originating in or arriving from Latvia and enumerated in List B attached to the present Protocol, shall be imported into Greece on payment of the duties specified in the said list.

### LIST A.

Latvian Tariff No.	Description of goods	Unit	Duty in Lats
ex § 7	Currants, black and white (seedless) . . . . .	1 Kg.	0.10
	Dried figs . . . . .	»	0.75
ex § 10	Aniseed . . . . .	»	2.—
ex § 15 (3)	Fennel . . . . .	»	2.—
ex § 21 (1)	Tobacco, in leaf form . . . . .	»	3.—
	Tobacco stems . . . . .	»	2.—
ex § 27 (1)	Spirits of all kinds, in barrels . . . . .	»	7.50
	Cognac (spirit of wine), in barrels . . . . .	»	5.—
ex § 27 (2)	Spirits of all kinds, in bottles . . . . .	»	9.—
ex § 28 (1)	Wines in large or small casks :		
	(a) Containing alcohol up to 13 degrees inclusive . . . . .	»	2.50
	(b) Containing alcohol from 13 degrees to 24 degrees inclusive . . . . .	»	4.—
ex § 50	Sponges . . . . .	»	3.—
ex § 82	Colophony . . . . .	»	0.08
ex § 86	Oil of turpentine . . . . .	»	0.35
ex § 117 (1)	Olive oil . . . . .	»	0.30
ex § 203	Oriental carpets (knotted) . . . . .	»	10.—



## LIST B.

Greek Tariff No.	Description of Goods	Unit	Duty in metallic drachmae
ex 202	Linoleum, in pieces . . . . .	100 Kg.	30

RIGA, February 25, 1927.

N. XYDAKIS.

F. CIELENS.

## DECLARATION.

When proceeding to sign the Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Latvia and Greece of this day's date, the Greek Plenipotentiary made the following declaration:

"The currants referred to in List A of the Protocol annexed to the aforesaid Convention are not at present subject to indirect taxation in Latvia. The imposition of such a tax would be regarded as amounting to an increase in the import duties laid down for the products in question and would therefore be contrary to the agreement established by the Convention."

RIGA, February 25, 1927.

N. XYDAKIS.