

N° 1942.

**BELGIQUE
ET GRANDE-BRETAGNE**

Déclaration concernant la suppression
de la légalisation de certains docu-
ments officiels. Signée à Bruxelles,
le 21 décembre 1928.

**BELGIUM
AND GREAT BRITAIN**

Declaration regarding the Abolition
of the Legalisation of certain
Official Documents. Signed at
Brussels, December 21, 1928.

No. 1942. — DECLARATION BETWEEN BELGIUM AND GREAT BRITAIN REGARDING THE ABOLITION OF THE LEGALISATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 21, 1928.

French and English official texts communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Declaration took place February 1st, 1929.

THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS and HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN, desiring to dispense with the legalisation of certain official documents whether issued in Belgium, or in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and intended for use for any purpose whatever in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in Belgium respectively have agreed as follows :

Article I.

(i) Copies of or extracts from *actes de l'état civil* (as defined in Article II (i) of this Agreement) contained in registers kept in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by registrars-general including the registrar-general of shipping and seamen, local superintendent registrars and registrars of births and deaths and registrars of marriages, certificates issued by the Patent Office in London relating to British patents, designs, and trade marks, as well as copies of or extracts from judgments, decrees, orders or other judicial proceedings of any Courts of Justice in Great Britain and Northern Ireland including extracts from the books of Council and Session Court or of any Sheriff Court in Scotland and all affidavits, pleadings or other legal documents filed or deposited in any such Court shall not require legalisation in order to be accepted as authentic in Belgium, provided they bear " prima facie " evidence of authenticity and are certified to be in conformity with the original by the registrar or his deputy or by other qualified person as indicated in article III (i).

(ii) In return, copies of or extracts from *actes de l'état civil* (as defined in Article II (ii) of this Agreement) drawn up in Belgium, certificates relating to Belgian patents, designs and trade marks, as well as copies of or extracts from decrees, judgments, orders or other judicial proceedings of Belgian tribunals or Courts and all affidavits, pleadings or other legal documents filed or deposited with any such tribunal or Court shall not require legalisation in order to be accepted as authentic in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, provided they bear " prima facie " evidence of authenticity and are certified in the manner indicated in Article III (ii).

Article II.

(i) The expression " Actes de l'état civil contained in registers kept in Great Britain and Northern Ireland " shall be understood for the purpose of the present Agreement to include the following :

- (a) Copies of entries of birth (in Scotland, extract entries of birth) ;
- (b) Copies of entries of still births (England only) ;

- (c) Copies of entries of marriage (in Scotland, extract entries of marriage) ;
- (d) Copies of entries of death (in Scotland, extract entries of death) ;
- (e) Copies of entries of registration of the birth of a legitimated person (England and Northern Ireland only) ;
- (f) Copies of entries in the Adopted Children Register (England and Northern Ireland only).
- (ii) The expression " Actes de l'état civil drawn up in Belgium " shall be understood for the purposes of the present Agreement to include the following :
- (a) Les actes de naissance ;
- (b) Les actes de présentation d'un enfant sans vie ;
- (c) Les actes de publication de mariage ;
- (d) Les certificats de publication de mariage et de non-opposition ;
- (e) Les actes de mariage ;
- (f) Les actes de divorce ;
- (g) Les actes de décès ;
- (h) Les actes de reconnaissance d'enfants naturels ;
- (i) Les actes de transcription des actes d'adoption.
- (iii) The lists of " Actes de l'état civil " contained in paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this Article may be at any time varied or extended by agreement of the contracting Parties expressed in the form of an exchange of notes.

Article III.

(i) In Great Britain and Northern Ireland copies of or extracts from actes de l'Etat Civil (as defined in Article II (i) of this Agreement) will be certified as in conformity with the original and bear the seal of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland, the signature of the Registrar-General or Assistant Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen or the signature of the local superintendent registrar or registrar of births and deaths, or registrars of marriages, as the case may be.

Documents proceeding from the Patent Office in London will bear the seal of that department.

Copies of or extracts from judgments, decrees, orders or other judicial proceedings of any of His Britannic Majesty's Courts of Justice in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, or affidavits, pleadings or other legal documents filed or deposited in any such Court will bear the seal of the Court responsible for the decree or judgment, or of the Court in which they have been filed or deposited or a certificate of such decree or judgment signed by the proper officer of the said Court.

(ii) Copies of or extracts from actes de l'état civil in Belgium will be certified as in conformity with the original and signed by the officer of état civil or the clerk of the tribunal in charge of the registers containing these actes de l'état civil or by his deputy, and furnished with the seal of the communal administration or of the office delivering such issues or extracts.

Certificates relating to Belgian patents will be furnished with the seal of the Patent Office and with the signature of an officer of the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Assistance delegated to certify its conformity with the original.

Certificates relating to Belgian designs, industrial models and trade marks will be furnished with the seal of the Patent Office and with the signature of an officer of the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Assistance delegated to certify its conformity with the descriptive document (procès-verbal) drawn up at the time of deposit by the authority legally constituted for that purpose

Copies of or extracts from judgments, decrees, orders or other judicial proceedings of any Belgian Courts or Tribunals, or affidavits, pleadings or other legal documents filed or deposited in any such Court, or Tribunal, will bear the seal of the office or the Court or Tribunal responsible for the decree or judgment, or of the Court or tribunal in which they have been filed or deposited and be certified as in conformity with the original by the Clerk of the Court or Tribunal or by his deputy.

Article IV.

This Agreement shall not be held in any way to derogate from the requirements of Article 8 of the Treaty between His Majesty the King of the Belgians and His Britannic Majesty signed on October 29th, 1901, relating to proof of documents submitted in connection with extradition proceedings.

Article V.

This Agreement, of which both the French and English texts are authentic, shall enter into operation one month after signature, and shall remain in force until terminated by a notice given six months in advance by either of the Contracting Parties to the other.

In witness whereof the undersigned have signed the present Agreement and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate at Brussels, the 21st day of December 1928.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.