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**UNION ÉCONOMIQUE  
BELGO-LUXEMBOURGEOISE  
ET PERSE**

Convention de commerce et de navigation avec protocole final, signés à Téhéran, le 9 mai 1929, et échange de notes y relatif de la même date.

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**ECONOMIC UNION OF  
BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG  
AND PERSIA**

Convention of Commerce and Navigation, with Final Protocol, signed at Teheran, May 9, 1929, and Exchange of Notes relating thereto of the same date.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 2569. — CONVENTION<sup>2</sup> OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC UNION OF BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG AND PERSIA. SIGNED AT TEHERAN, MAY 9, 1929.

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*French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Delegate of Persia accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Convention took place December 22, 1930.*

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, acting both ON HIS OWN behalf, and in virtue of existing agreements, ON BEHALF OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBURG, of the one part, and His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia, of the other part, being desirous of encouraging trade and of developing the economic relations between the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and Persia, have resolved to conclude a Convention of Commerce and Navigation and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

His Excellency M. Maurice CUVELIER, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Persia ;

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE SHAH OF PERSIA :

His Excellency Mirza Mohamed Ali Khan FARZINE, Acting Head of His Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

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

*Article I.*

In regulating their relations on the principle of Customs autonomy, the Contracting Parties agree that products of the soil and industry of Persia entering the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and, reciprocally, products of the soil and industry of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg entering Persia, shall not be subject to duties, co-efficients, taxes or charges of any kind, other or higher than those which are or may subsequently be levied on like products of any third country.

It is understood that if at any time one of the Contracting Parties reduces one or more of the minimum duties in its tariff, the benefit of these reductions shall be automatically granted to goods produced or manufactured in the territory of the other Party.

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<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 at Teheran, November 24, 1930.

*Article 2.*

Products exported from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties and consigned to the territory of the other Party shall not be subject to duties or charges other or higher than those which are or may hereafter be applied to like products consigned to the most favoured nation.

*Article 3.*

Most-favoured-nation treatment applies also to the method of collecting import and export duties, the system of warehousing goods, Customs charges and formalities, and the Customs treatment of goods whether imported, exported or in transit and their consignment "c/o Customs".

*Article 4.*

Products of the soil and industry of one of the Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the territory of the other Party, as regards internal taxes of any kind whatsoever, the same treatment as is or may hereafter be granted to like national products or like products of the nation most favoured in this respect.

*Article 5.*

The Contracting Parties agree in principle to do away with the necessity of producing certificates of origin. However, in cases where certain articles entering the territory of one of the Contracting Parties are liable to different Customs duties according to their origin or provenance, certificates of origin may, as an exceptional measure, be demanded so that articles coming from the territory of the other Party may be given the advantage of the lowest duties.

Should certificates of origin be demanded, the Contracting Parties agree in this connection to apply the provisions of the International Convention<sup>1</sup> relating to the Simplification of Customs Formalities, concluded at Geneva on November 3, 1923.

*Article 5 bis.*

The High Contracting Parties in their reciprocal relations undertake to carry out the provisions of :

- (1) The Convention concluded at Geneva in 1923 relating to the Simplification of Customs Formalities ;
- (2) The Convention and Statute on the International Régime of Maritime Ports<sup>2</sup>, signed at Geneva in 1923 ;
- (3) The Protocol on Arbitration Clauses<sup>3</sup> done at Geneva in 1923, concerning contracts which are considered as commercial under their national law ; whether they have ratified these instruments or not.

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<sup>1</sup> Vol. XXX, page 371 ; Vol. XXXV, page 324 ; Vol. XXXIX, page 208 ; Vol. XLV, page 140 ; Vol. L, page 161 ; Vol. LIV, page 398 ; Vol. LIX, page 365 ; Vol. LXIX, page 79 ; Vol. LXXXIII, page 394 ; Vol. LXXXVIII, page 319 ; and Vol. XCII, page 370, of this Series.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. LVIII, page 285 ; Vol. LXIX, page 102 ; Vol. LXXII, page 485 ; Vol. LXXXIII, page 416 ; and Vol. CVII, page 491, of this Series.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. XXVII, page 157 ; Vol. XXXI, page 260 ; Vol. XXXV, page 314 ; Vol. XXXIX, page 190 ; Vol. XLV, page 116 ; Vol. L, page 161 ; Vol. LIX, page 355 ; Vol. LXIX, page 79 ; Vol. LXXII, page 452 ; Vol. LXXXIII, page 393 ; Vol. LXXXVIII, page 312 ; Vol. XCVI, page 190 ; Vol. C, page 211 ; Vol. CIV, page 499 ; and Vol. CVII, page 470, of this Series.

*Article 6.*

There shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation between the territories of the Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties accordingly undertake not to hamper their reciprocal commercial relations by any import or export prohibitions or restrictions.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Parties reserve the right to adopt the following classes of prohibitions and restrictions, provided that these measures shall apply to all countries or to the countries in which the same conditions prevail :

- (1) Prohibitions or restrictions relating to public security ;
- (2) Prohibitions or restrictions imposed on moral or humanitarian grounds ;
- (3) Prohibitions or restrictions regarding traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war, or, in exceptional circumstances, all other military supplies ;
- (4) Prohibitions or restrictions imposed for the protection of public health or for the protection of animals or plants against disease, insects and harmful parasites ;
- (5) Export prohibitions or restrictions issued for the protection of national treasures of artistic, historical or archaeological value ;
- (6) Prohibitions or restrictions applicable to gold, silver, coins, currency notes, banknotes or securities ;
- (7) Prohibitions or restrictions designed to extend to foreign products the régime established within the country in respect of the production of, trade in, and transport and consumption of native products of the same kind ;
- (8) Prohibitions or restrictions applied to products, which, as regards production or trade, are or may in future be subject within the country to State monopoly or to monopolies exercised under State control.

Nevertheless, nothing in the present Convention shall affect the right of either Contracting Party to adopt measures prohibiting or restricting importation or exportation for the purpose of protecting, in extraordinary and abnormal circumstances, the vital interests of the country.

Should such measures be adopted, they shall be applied in such a manner as not to lead to any arbitrary discrimination against the other Contracting Party. These measures shall continue in force for the duration of the causes or circumstances from which they arise.

The Contracting Parties, moreover, agree not to appeal to the provisions of this Article in respect of any import or export prohibitions or restrictions which are not contrary to the provisions of the International Conventions for the abolition of import and export prohibitions and restrictions to which the two Parties may have acceded.

*Article 7.*

The Contracting Parties undertake to grant each other in their territory, subject to the fulfilment of the legal formalities, the right of warehousing and freedom of transit for luggage, goods and objects of every kind, vessels, vehicles, railway wagons and other means of conveyance, and guarantee each other in this respect the most favourable treatment granted to another State.

Goods of every description passing through the Customs territory of one of the Contracting Parties shall be liable, as regards warehousing and transit, exclusively to duties and taxes intended to cover the cost of supervision and administration, without prejudice however to the fiscal taxes on transactions relating to these goods during the period that they are warehoused or in transit.

The transit of goods may be prohibited :

- (A) In time of war and at any other time for reasons of security or public safety ;
- (B) For sanitary reasons or as a prophylactic measure against epizooties and plant diseases.

*Article 8.*

Commercial travellers representing business houses or industries situated in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties shall enjoy, in the territory of the other Party, the same treatment as the commercial travellers of the most favoured nation in everything connected with their business operations, and in particular as regards Customs facilities granted in respect of samples.

Nationals of one of the Contracting Parties travelling to fairs or markets for the purpose of carrying on their trade therein shall not be treated less favourably in the territory of the other Party than the nationals of the most favoured nation.

The above provisions not being applicable to itinerant trading or to hawking, both Contracting Parties reserve complete liberty of legislation in this respect.

*Article 9.*

In all matters relating to taxes, facilities or anything else, connected with merchant vessels and their cargoes, each of the High Contracting Parties shall grant most-favoured-nation treatment to the other Party.

*Article 10.*

Equality of treatment with a third State shall not be applicable :

- (1) To the privileges which are or may hereafter be granted by one of the Contracting Parties in frontier traffic with contiguous countries within a zone in both sides of the frontier, not exceeding as a general rule 15 kilometres ;
- (2) To special privileges granted in the case of a Customs union ;

*Article 11.*

The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Teheran. It shall enter into force fifteen days after the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for a period of five years. If it is not denounced six months before the expiration of these five years, it shall be prolonged by tacit agreement and shall only expire six months after one of the Contracting Parties has notified the other of its intention to terminate it.

*Article 12.*

The present Convention has been drawn up in duplicate.

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

Done at Teheran, May 9, 1929.

(Signed) M. CUVELIER.

(Signed) FARZINE.

## FINAL PROTOCOL.

On proceeding to sign the Convention on Commerce and Navigation concluded to-day between the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and Persia, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries made the following declaration, which will form an integral part of the Convention itself :

“ The Contracting Parties agree that the most-favoured-nation treatment accorded under Article 9 shall not apply to the facilities resulting from special agreements concluded by one of the Parties with regard to the inspection and tonnage measurement of ships.

“ The mutual recognition of tonnage measurement certificates and navigation permits or certificates of seaworthiness shall form the subject of a special agreement between the Contracting Parties as soon as possible. ”

TEHERAN, *May 9, 1929.*

(Signed) M. CUVELIER.

(Signed) FARZINE.

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

*Communicated by the Permanent Delegate of Persia accredited to the League of Nations,  
December 22, 1930.*

## I.

No. 2465.

TEHERAN, *May 9, 1929.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the following statement :

Considering that, as a result of the friendly relations already established between our two countries, we have to-day signed an Establishment Convention between Persia and Belgium and a Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Persia and the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg, in the hope that they will be ratified and will help to strengthen these relations, Persia, on condition of reciprocity, will continue to grant to the products of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg her minimum tariff and all reductions which may be made in the said tariff, during the time reasonably necessary for ratification.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) M. FARZINE,

*Acting Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

His Excellency Monsieur Cuvelier,  
Belgian Minister  
at Teheran.

## II.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

TEHERAN, *May 9, 1929.*

I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the following statement :

Considering that, as a result of the friendly relations already established between our two countries, we have to-day signed an Establishment Convention between Belgium and Persia and

a Convention of Commerce and Navigation between the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and Persia, in the hope that they will be ratified and will help to strengthen these relations, the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg, on condition of reciprocity, will continue to grant to Persian products its minimum tariff and all reductions which may be made in the said tariff, during the time reasonably necessary for ratification.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Maurice CUVELIER.

His Excellency,  
Mirza Mohamed Ali Khan Farzine,  
Acting Head of the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Teheran.

III.

TEHERAN, May 9, 1929.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

On signing the Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Persian and the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg, dated May 9, 1929, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the products of the Belgian Congo and the territories of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian mandate will continue, subject to reciprocity, to enjoy, on importation into Persia, the minimum Customs tariff applicable to the products of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg. This régime shall only be terminated after six months' notice or by the denunciation of the present Convention.

I have, etc.

(Signed) M. FARZINE.

His Excellency M. Maurice Cuvelier,  
Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary of Belgium,  
at Teheran.

IV.

TEHERAN, May 9, 1929.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In your letter of May 9, 1929, Your Excellency informed me of the decision of the Persian Government to allow the products of the Belgian Congo and the territories of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian mandate to enjoy the minimum Customs tariff applicable to the products of the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg. I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, subject to reciprocity, His Majesty's Government will continue to apply the most favourable Customs régime granted to the most favoured nation to Persian products imported into the Belgian colonial possessions. This régime shall only be terminated after six months' notice or by the denunciation of the Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Persia and the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg, dated May 9, 1929.

I have, etc.

(Signed) Maurice CUVELIER.

To  
His Excellency Mirza Mohamed Ali Khan Farzine,  
Acting Head of the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Teheran.