

N° 2867.

---

## FRANCE ET GRÈCE

Arrangement commercial, avec protocole annexe, signés à Athènes, le 23 mai 1931, et échange de notes y relatif, Athènes, les 23 mai et 2 juin 1931.

---

## FRANCE AND GREECE

Commercial Agreement, with annexed Protocol, signed at Athens, May 23, 1931, and Exchange of Notes relating thereto, Athens, May 23, and June 2, 1931.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 2867. — COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT <sup>2</sup> BETWEEN FRANCE AND GREECE. SIGNED AT ATHENS, MAY 23, 1931.

*French official text communicated by the Permanent Delegate of Greece accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Agreement took place December 26, 1931.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC and THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, being equally desirous of facilitating the exchange of commodities between the two countries, have decided once again to put into operation the Convention of Commerce and Navigation <sup>3</sup> signed at Athens on March 11, 1929, subject to the adjustments and additions mentioned below ; the *Modus Vivendi* of March 20, 1930, being and remaining abrogated. For this purpose they have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC :

M. Eleutherios VENISELOS, Prime Minister, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

M. Frédéric CLÉMENT-SIMON, Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary at Athens.

I. The French Government undertakes to apply the following régime to Greek wine imported into France :

A. Whatever its destination, Greek wine—other than liqueur wine, to which the régime of the Convention of March 11, 1929, applies—imported in receptacles other than flasks, bottles, flacons, stone jugs and similar containers, shall be admitted into France at a reduced tariff as far as is compatible with the importation capacity of the French market.

This capacity shall be fixed annually on the basis of the size of the French harvest (including Algiers and Tunis), it being understood that only that portion of the Tunisian harvest imported into France free of duty shall be included in this total, and that the French harvest shall be estimated in accordance with the declared production for the period in question, without reference to the unsold surpluses of previous years.

The importation capacity of the French market shall be fixed at the aggregate figure of 325,000 hectolitres for a harvest of 60,000,000 hectolitres or more.

If the harvest yields less than this normal amount, the figure of 325,000 hectolitres shall be raised, in accordance with the following scale, by an amount equal to the decrease in the harvest.

<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 Athens, October 14, 1931.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. XCV, page 401, of this series.

Class	Harvest in million hectolitres	Additional increase per million hectolitres below the normal harvest in each class
A	Not more than 60 and not less than 55	10,000
B	» 55 » » 50	20,000
C	» 50 » » 45	30,000
D	» » 45 » » 40	40,000
E	Below 40 —	50,000

Should France introduce legislation imposing any restriction whatsoever upon the freedom of wine-growers to dispose of all or part of their harvest, the first quota of 325,000 hectolitres shall be reduced automatically in a proportion equal to the proportion applicable to the whole of the French wine harvest. Should, however, this quota be reduced by the said measures below 280,000 hectolitres, the Hellenic Government shall be free to denounce the present Agreement after two month's notice.

B. As soon as the present Agreement is provisionally in force, the amounts thus fixed shall be subject to the minimum tariff imposed by the laws of March 2 and April 2, 1928, namely, 55 francs per hectolitre.

The surplus in excess of the quantities to which these provisions relate shall be admitted without any quantitative limitation at the minimum tariff leviable at the time of importation.

C. Sulphated must, ordinary wine and liqueur wine which have once passed through the Customs shall be subject to the same internal duties and charges as French wine and must. Wine mixed with Greek wine in conformity with the provisions of the present Agreement shall be subject to the same treatment as wine mixed with French wine.

Each of the two States shall be entitled to denounce the present Agreement after two months notice, should the trade in wine and must of the State of origin be impeded in the other State by legislative or administrative measures not applicable to the national products and enacted subsequently to the signature of the present Agreement.

The French Government agrees to take all the necessary steps, after the ratification of the present Agreement, to authorise the importation of Greek wine, white and rosé, for sale after admixture with French wine, provided the said wine contains not more than 12° of alcohol and that, under the supervision of the Excise, it is mixed with French wine containing at least 8° of alcohol. The proportion of French wine in the mixture shall be not less than thirty per cent and the amount of alcohol plus fixed acid in the mixture shall be at least thirteen per cent. Should France accord a similar authorisation for red wine to any other Power, the privileges thereby granted shall also be extended to Greece.

II. The French Government agrees to take the necessary steps to include sulphated must (referred to in No. 171 of the French Customs tariff) in the quota of 325,000 hectolitres on ratification of the present Agreement. It shall be included in a proportion to be fixed annually on the basis of information from the Greek Government, and within the limits of the said quota.

After the present Agreement has definitively come into force, the duty leviable on this sulphated must shall be the same as that on wine subject to quota, namely, 55 francs.

III. The duties set out in lists A and B annexed to the Convention of March 11, 1929, shall come into force as soon as the present Agreement is applied provisionally.

Item ex 115 of the French Customs tariff relating to colophony shall, however, be deleted from list A.

IV. As soon as the present Agreement has definitively come into force, the Hellenic Government and the French Government shall take the following steps :

1. Each of the two Governments shall refund to importers the difference between the lowest duties and the general tariffs for all goods imported into their respective

territories between April 17, 1931, and the date on which the Agreement comes into operation provisionally.

2. The payments made in respect of duty on sulphated must (No. 171 of the French Customs tariff) originating in and coming from Greece, and imported into France from April 1, 1931, shall be amended on the basis of the 55 franc rate, and the difference shall be refunded. Must to which this measure applies shall be included in the aggregate quota allocated annually to Greece.

3. Wine (No. 171 bis of the French Customs tariff) originating in and coming from Greece and imported into France between April 17, 1931, and the date on which the present Agreement comes into operation provisionally shall also be included in the said quota.

V. The present Agreement is concluded for two years from the date of signature.

It shall be ratified.

The present Agreement shall come into force provisionally ten days after signature, with the exception of the provisions calling for legislative measures.

It shall be prolonged by tacit consent unless denounced by one of the High Contracting Parties at least six months before the expiration of the period of two years, and shall remain in force until the expiration of a period of six months after its denunciation by one of the High Contracting Parties, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 1, paragraph A, *in fine*.

In faith whereof, the above Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate at Athens, May the twenty-third, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

(L. S.) E. K. VENISELOS.

(L. S.) F. CLÉMENT-SIMON.

#### ANNEXED PROTOCOL.

The French Government shall take the necessary steps to submit the present Agreement to Parliament for approval before July 14, 1931.

Should it not be approved by Parliament by that date, it shall be considered null and void.

Done in duplicate at Athens, May the twenty-third, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

E. K. VENISELOS.

F. CLÉMENT-SIMON.

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

## I.

LEGATION  
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC  
IN GREECE.

ATHENS, *May* 23, 1931.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

During the negotiations which led to the conclusion of the present Agreement, the Hellenic Delegation suggested, as a valuable counterpart for the advantages granted by this Agreement to French export products, an assurance by the French Government concerning purchases of Greek tobacco by the French State manufactures.

Although by law the French tobacco manufactures were assigned as security to the Amortisation Fund and *ipso facto* removed from the sphere of action of the French Government, the latter will recommend the " Service de l'Exploitation Industrielle des Tabacs " to apply for deliveries of Greek tobacco to an amount representing the sum of 13,500,000 francs in the course of the coming season, that is, as from June 1931 to June 1932 approximately.

The French Government will later recommend for the following season, that is, from June 1932 to June 1933 approximately, the purchase of tobacco from Greece similar in quantity and quality.

The Greek origin of the tobacco bought by the " Service de l'Exploitation Industrielle des Tabacs " will be established by certificates of origin issued by the Greek authorities.

The provisions contained in the letters exchanged on March 11, 1929, concerning purchases of Greek tobacco by the French State manufactures and annexed to the Convention on March 11, 1932, will be replaced by the above provisions.

I have, etc.

CLÉMENT-SIMON.

His Excellency  
M. Veniselos,  
Prime Minister,  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Athens.

## II.

MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ATHENS, *May* 23, 1931.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of to-day's date in the following terms :

During the negotiations which led to the conclusion of the present Agreement, the Hellenic Delegation suggested as a valuable counterpart for the advantages granted by this Agreement to French export products, an assurance by the French Government concerning purchases of Greek tobacco by the French State manufactures.

Although by law the French tobacco manufactures were assigned as security to the Amortisation Fund and *ipso facto* removed from the sphere of action of the French Government, the latter will recommend the "Service de l'Exploitation Industrielle des Tabacs" to apply for deliveries of Greek tobacco to an amount representing the sum of 13,500,000 francs in the course of the coming season, that is as from June 1931 to June 1932 approximately.

The French Government will later recommend for the following season, that is, from June 1932 to June 1933 approximately, the purchase of tobacco from Greece similar in quantity and quality.

The Greek origin of the tobacco bought by the "Exploitation Industrielle des Tabacs" will be established by certificates of origin issued by the Greek authorities.

The provisions contained in the letters exchanged on March 11, 1929, concerning purchases of Greek tobacco by the French States manufactures and annexed to the Convention on March 11, 1932, will be replaced by the above provisions.

I have the honour to take note on behalf of the Hellenic Government of that communication, and to be, etc.

E. VENISELOS.

His Excellency

M. F. Clément-Simon,  
Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the French Republic,  
Athens.

### III.

MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ATHENS, *May* 23, 1931.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

With reference to the Agreement signed to-day, I have the honour to inform you that we agreed on the following :

The quota granted annually to Greece shall be calculated for the annual period from January 1 to December 31.

For the period from the signing of the present Agreement up to December 31, 1931, a quota in proportion to the length of time still to run shall be granted to Greece.

In the event of the non-renewal of the Agreement, only a quota in proportion to the months still to run between January 1 and the date of the expiration of the Agreement shall be granted to Greece.

I have, etc.

E. K. VENISELOS.

His Excellency

M. Clément-Simon,  
Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the French Republic,  
Athens.

## IV.

LEGATION  
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC  
IN GREECE.

ATHENS, *May 23, 1931.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day's date, which was worded as follows :

“ With reference to the Agreement signed to-day, I have the honour to inform you that we agreed on the following :

The quota granted annually to Greece shall be calculated for the annual period from January 1 to December 31.

For the period from the signing of the present Agreement up to December 31, 1931, a quota in proportion to the length of time still to run shall be granted to Greece.

In the event of the non-renewal of the Agreement, only a quota in proportion to the months still to run between January 1 and the date of the expiration of the Agreement shall be granted to Greece.”

I have the honour to take note, on behalf of the French Government, of the said communication, and to be, etc.

F. CLÉMENT-SIMON.

His Excellency  
M. Veniselos,  
Prime Minister,  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Athens.

## V.

MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ATHENS, *May 23, 1931.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

I have the honour to inform you that, with a view to verifying the quotas of wines and musts imported into France in virtue of the Agreement signed at Athens on May 23, 1931, the consignments imported into France must be accompanied by special certificates issued by the competent service of the Greek Ministry of Finance, the final verification of the quantities imported being, however, a matter for the French Administration.

I have, etc.,

E. K. VENISELOS.

His Excellency  
M. Clément-Simon,  
Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the French Republic,  
Athens.

## VI.

LEGATION  
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC  
IN GREECE.

ATHENS, *May 23, 1931.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day's date, worded as follows :

“ I have the honour to inform you that with a view to verifying the quotas of wines and musts imported into France in virtue of the Agreement signed at Athens on May 23, 1931, the consignments imported into France must be accompanied by special certificates issued by the competent service of the Greek Ministry of Finance, the final verification of the quantities imported being, however, a matter for the French Administration. ”

I have the honour to take note, on behalf of the French Government, of the said communication and to be, etc.,

F. CLÉMENT-SIMON.

His Excellency  
M. Veniselos,  
President of the Council and  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Athens.

## VII.

MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ATHENS, *June 2, 1931.*

SIR,

With reference to the Commercial Agreement signed on May 23, 1931, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency, on behalf of the Hellenic Government, that we agree as follows :

It is understood that should the Commercial Agreement of May 23, 1931, become null and void as provided for in the Annexed Protocol, this shall not in any event be retroactive as regards goods imported into the respective territories of the High Contracting Parties between the date of the provisional application of the Agreement and the date on which it becomes null and void.

The Agreement of which notice is given in this letter shall be considered an integral part of the above-named Commercial Agreement.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

E. K. VENISELOS.

His Excellency  
M. Clément-Simon,  
Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the French Republic,  
En ville.

## VIII.

LEGATION  
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

ATHENS, *June 2, 1931.*

SIR,

With reference to the Commercial Agreement signed on May 23, 1931, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency, on behalf of the French Government, that we agree as follows :

It is understood that should the Commercial Agreement of May 23, 1931, become null and void as provided for in the Annexed Protocol, this shall not in any event be retroactive as regards goods imported into the respective territories of the High Contracting Parties between the date of the provisional application of the Agreement and the date on which it becomes null and void.

The Agreement of which notice is given in this letter shall be considered an integral part of the above-named Commercial Agreement.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

F. CLÉMENT-SIMON.

His Excellency  
M. E. K. Veniselos,  
Prime Minister,  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Athens.