

N° 2974.

BELGIQUE ET LITHUANIE

Convention de conciliation, d'arbitrage et de règlement judiciaire.
Signée à Genève, le 24 septembre
1930.

BELGIUM AND LITHUANIA

Convention of Conciliation, Arbitration and Judicial Settlement.
Signed at Geneva, September 24,
1930.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 2974. — CONVENTION ² OF CONCILIATION, ARBITRATION AND JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN BELGIUM AND LITHUANIA. SIGNED AT GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 24, 1930.

French official text communicated by the Lithuanian and Belgian Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place June 13, 1932.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS,

Inspired by the friendly relations existing between their respective nations ;

Being sincerely desirous of ensuring the settlement by pacific means of disputes which may arise between their countries ;

Noting that respect for rights established by treaty or resulting from international law is binding upon national tribunals ;

Recognising that the rights of each State cannot be modified except with its consent ;

Considering that the faithful observance, under the auspices of the League of Nations, of methods of pacific procedure renders possible the settlement of all international disputes ;

Highly appreciating the recommendation made to all States by the Assembly of the League of Nations in its resolution of September 26, 1928, to conclude Conventions for the pacific settlement of international disputes ;

Have decided to achieve their common purpose in a Convention, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA :

Dr. DOVAS ZAUNIUS, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania,

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. Paul HYMANS, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs,

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

CHAPTER I.

PACIFIC SETTLEMENT IN GENERAL.

Article 1.

Disputes of every kind which may arise between the High Contracting Parties and which it has not been possible to settle by diplomacy shall be submitted, under the conditions laid down

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Brussels, May 24, 1932.

in the present Convention, to a judicial or arbitral settlement preceded, according to the case in question, obligatorily or voluntarily, by resort to the procedure of conciliation.

Article 2.

Disputes for the settlement of which a special procedure is laid down in other Conventions in force between the High Contracting Parties shall be settled in conformity with the provisions of those Conventions.

If, however, a solution of a dispute is not arrived at by application of this procedure, the provisions of the present Treaty concerning arbitration or judicial settlement shall be applied.

Article 3.

1. In the case of a dispute the occasion of which, according to the municipal law of one of the High Contracting Parties, falls within the competence of the judicial or administrative authorities, the Party in question may object to the dispute being submitted for settlement by the various methods laid down in the present Convention until a decision with final effect has been pronounced within a reasonable time by the competent authority.

2. In such a case, the Party which desires to resort to the procedure laid down in the present Convention must notify the other Party of its intention within a period of one year from the date of the aforementioned decision.

CHAPTER II.

JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT.

Article 4.

All disputes with regard to which the Parties are in conflict as to their respective rights shall be submitted for decision to the Permanent Court of International Justice, unless the Parties agree, in the manner hereinafter provided, to have resort to an Arbitral Tribunal.

It is understood that the disputes referred to above include in particular those mentioned in Article 36 of the Statute¹ of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Article 5.

If the Parties agree to submit the disputes mentioned to an Arbitral Tribunal, they shall draw up a special agreement (*compromis*) in which they shall specify the subject of the dispute, the arbitrators selected and the procedure to be followed. In the absence of sufficient particulars in the special agreement, the provisions of The Hague Convention² of October 18, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes shall apply so far as may be necessary. If nothing is laid down in the special agreement as to the substantive rules to be followed by the arbitrators, the Tribunal shall apply the substantive rules enumerated in Article 38 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

¹ Vol. VI, page 379 ; Vol. XI, page 405 ; Vol. XV, page 305 ; Vol. XXIV, page 153 ; Vol. XXVII, page 417 ; Vol. XXXIX, page 165 ; Vol. XLV, page 96 ; Vol. L, page 159 ; Vol. LIV, page 387 ; Vol. LXIX, page 70 ; Vol. LXXXII, page 452 ; Vol. LXXVIII, page 435 ; Vol. LXXXVIII, page 272 ; Vol. XCII, page 362 ; Vol. XCVI, page 180 ; Vol. C, page 153 ; Vol. CIV, page 492 ; Vol. CVII, page 461 ; Vol. CXI, page 402 ; Vol. CXVII, page 46 ; and Vol. CXXVI, page 430, of this Series.

² *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 100, page 98.

Article 6.

If the Parties fail to agree concerning the special agreement referred to in the previous Article or fail to appoint arbitrators, either Party shall be at liberty after three months' notice to bring the dispute by an application direct before the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Article 7.

1. In the case of the disputes mentioned in Article 4, before any procedure before the Permanent Court of International Justice or any arbitral procedure, the Parties may agree to have recourse to the conciliation procedure provided for in the present Convention.

2. In the event of recourse to and failure of conciliation, neither Party may bring the dispute before the Permanent Court of International Justice or call for the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal referred to in Article 5 before the expiration of one month from the date of the termination of the proceedings of the Conciliation Committee.

CHAPTER III.

CONCILIATION.

Article 8.

All disputes between the Parties other than the disputes mentioned in Article 4 shall be submitted obligatorily to a procedure of conciliation before they can become the subject of arbitral settlement.

Article 9.

The disputes referred to in the preceding Article shall be submitted to a permanent or special Conciliation Commission constituted by the Parties.

Article 10.

On a request to that effect being made by one of the High Contracting Parties to the other Party, a permanent Conciliation Commission shall be constituted within a period of six months.

Article 11.

Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the Conciliation Commission shall be constituted as follows :

1. The Commission shall be composed of five Members. The High Contracting Parties shall each nominate one Commissioner, who may be chosen from among their respective nationals. The other three Commissioners shall be appointed by agreement from among the nationals of third Powers. These three Commissioners must be of different nationalities and must not be habitually resident in the territory nor be in the service of the Parties. The High Contracting Parties shall appoint the President of the Commission from among them.

2. The Commissioners shall be appointed for three years. They shall be re-eligible. The Commissioners appointed jointly may be replaced during their term of office by agreement between the Parties. Either of the High Contracting Parties may, however, at any time, replace the Commissioner whom it has appointed. Even if replaced, the Commissioners shall continue to exercise their functions until the termination of the work in hand.

3. Vacancies which may occur as a result of death, resignation or any other cause shall be filled within the shortest possible time in the manner fixed for the appointments.

Article 12.

If, when a dispute arises, no Permanent Conciliation Commission appointed by the Parties is in existence, a Special Commission shall be constituted for the examination of the dispute within a period of three months from the date on which a request to that effect is made by one of the Parties to the other Party. The necessary appointments shall be made in the manner laid down in the preceding Article, unless the Parties decide otherwise.

Article 13.

1. If the appointment of the Commissioners to be designated jointly is not made within the periods laid down in Articles 10 and 12, the making of the necessary appointments shall be entrusted to a third Power chosen by agreement between the Parties or, on request of the Parties, to the President-in-Office of the Council of the League of Nations.

2. If no agreement is reached on any of these procedures, each Party shall designate a different Power, and the appointments shall be made in concert by the Powers thus chosen.

3. If, within a period of three months, the two Powers have been unable to reach an agreement, each of them shall present a number of candidates equal to the number of members to be appointed. It shall then be decided by lot which of the candidates thus designated shall be appointed.

Article 14.

1. Disputes shall be brought before the Conciliation Commission by means of an application addressed to the President by the two Parties acting in agreement or, in default thereof, by one or other of the Parties.

2. The application, after giving a summary account of the subject of the dispute, shall contain an invitation to the Commission to take all necessary measures with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement.

3. If the application emanates from only one of the Parties, notification thereof shall be made without delay by that Party to the other Party.

Article 15.

1. Within fifteen days from the date on which a dispute has been brought by one of the Parties before a Permanent Conciliation Commission, either Party may replace its own Commissioner, for the examination of the particular dispute, by a person possessing special competence in the matter.

2. The Party making use of this right shall immediately notify the other Party: the latter shall in such case be entitled to take similar action within fifteen days from the date on which the notification reaches it.

Article 16.

1. In the absence of agreement by the Parties to the contrary, the Conciliation Commission shall meet at the seat of the League of Nations or at any other place selected by its President.

2. The Commission may, in all circumstances, request the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to afford it his assistance.

Article 17.

The proceedings of the Conciliation Commission shall not be public except when a decision to that effect has been taken by the Commission with the consent of the Parties.

Article 18:

1. In the absence of agreement between the Parties to the contrary, the Conciliation Commission shall lay down its own procedure, which must in all cases provide for both Parties being heard. In regard to enquiries, the Commission, unless it unanimously decides to the contrary, shall act in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

2. The Parties shall be represented before the Conciliation Commission by agents whose duty it shall be to act as intermediaries between the Parties and the Commission; the Parties may, moreover, be assisted by counsel and experts appointed by them for that purpose and may request that all persons whose evidence appears to them desirable shall be heard.

3. The Commission, for its part, shall be entitled to request oral explanation from the agents, counsel and experts of both Parties, as well as from all persons it may think it desirable to summon with the consent of their Governments.

Article 19.

In the absence of agreement to the contrary between the Parties, the decisions of the Conciliation Commission shall be taken by a majority vote and the Commission may not take decisions on the substance of the dispute unless all its members are present.

Article 20.

The Parties undertake to facilitate the work of the Conciliation Commission and particularly to supply it to the greatest possible extent with all relevant documents and information, as well as to use the means at their disposal to enable it to proceed in their territory and in accordance with their law to the summoning and hearing of witnesses or experts and to visit the localities in question.

Article 21.

1. During the proceedings of the Commission, each of the Commissioners shall receive emoluments the amount of which shall be fixed by agreement between the Parties, each of whom shall contribute an equal share.

2. The general expenses arising out of the working of the Commission shall also be divided in the same manner.

Article 22.

1. The task of the Conciliation Commission shall be to elucidate questions in dispute, to collect with that object all necessary information by means of enquiry or otherwise, and to endeavour to bring the Parties to an agreement. It may, after the case has been examined, inform the Parties of the terms of settlement which seem suitable to it and lay down a period within which they are to make their decision.

2. At the close of its proceedings the Commission shall draw up a report stating, as the case may be, either that the Parties have come to an agreement, and, if necessary, the terms of the agreement, or that it has been impossible to effect a settlement. No mention shall be made in the report as to whether the decisions of the Commission were taken unanimously or by a majority vote.

3. The proceedings of the Commission must, unless the Parties otherwise agree, be terminated within six months from the date on which the dispute is referred to the Commission.

Article 23.

The report of the Commission shall be communicated without delay to the Parties. The Parties shall decide whether it shall be published.

CHAPTER IV.

ARBITRAL SETTLEMENT.

Article 24.

If the Parties have not reached an agreement within the month following the termination of the proceedings of the Conciliation Commission referred to in the foregoing Articles, the matter shall be brought before an Arbitral Tribunal, constituted, in the absence of agreement to the contrary between the Parties, in the manner hereinafter described.

Article 25.

The Arbitral Tribunal shall be composed of five members. The Parties shall each nominate one member, who may be chosen from among their respective nationals. The other two arbitrators and the umpire shall be appointed by agreement from among the nationals of third Powers. These latter must be of different nationalities and must not be habitually resident in the territory nor be in the service of the Parties.

Article 26.

1. If the appointment of the Members of the Arbitral Tribunal is not made within a period of three months from the date on which one of the Parties submits to the other the request to constitute an arbitral tribunal, the making of the necessary appointments shall be entrusted to a third Power chosen by agreement between the Parties.

2. If no agreement is reached on this procedure, each Party shall designate a different Power, and the appointments shall be made in concert by the Powers thus chosen.

3. If, within a period of three months, the Powers thus designated fail to reach an agreement, the necessary appointments shall be made by the President of the Permanent Court of International Justice. If the latter is not available, or if he is a national of either of the Parties, the appointments shall be made by the senior Member of the Court not a national of either of the Parties.

Article 27.

Vacancies which may occur as a result of death, resignation or any other cause shall be filled within the shortest possible time in the manner fixed for appointments.

Article 28.

The Parties shall draw up a special agreement (*compromis*) specifying the subject of the dispute and the procedure to be followed.

Article 29.

In the absence of sufficient particulars in the special agreement, with reference to the points mentioned in the previous Article, the provisions of the Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes shall apply so far as may be necessary.

Article 30.

In the event of no special agreement being drawn up within a period of three months from the date of the constitution of the Tribunal, either of the Parties may bring the question before the latter by an application.

Article 31.

In the absence of a special agreement, or in the absence of indications in the agreement, the Tribunal shall apply the substantive rules enumerated in Article 38 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice. If no such rules applicable to the dispute exist, the tribunal shall decide the matter *ex aequo et bono*.

CHAPTER V.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 32.

1. In all cases where a dispute forms the subject of arbitration or judicial proceedings, and particularly if a question on which the Parties differ arises out of acts already committed or on the point of being committed, the Permanent Court of International Justice, acting in accordance with Article 41 of its Statute, or the Arbitral Tribunal, shall lay down in as short a time as possible the provisional measures to be adopted. The Parties shall be bound to conform to these measures.

2. If the dispute is brought before a Conciliation Commission, the latter may recommend to the Parties the adoption of such provisional measures as it considers suitable.

The Parties undertake to abstain from all measures likely to react prejudicially upon the execution of the judicial or arbitral decision or upon the arrangements proposed by the Conciliation Commission and, in general, to abstain from any sort of action whatsoever that might aggravate or extend the dispute.

Article 33.

If, in a judicial sentence or arbitral award, it is declared that a judgment, or a measure enjoined by a court of law or other authority of one of the Parties to the dispute is wholly or in part contrary to international law, and if the constitutional law of that Party does not permit or does not fully permit the consequences of the judgment or measure in question to be annulled, the High Contracting Parties agree that the judicial sentence or arbitral award shall grant the injured Party equitable satisfaction.

Article 34.

1. The present Convention shall be applicable as between the High Contracting Parties, even though a third Power has an interest in the dispute.

2. In conciliation procedure, the Parties may agree to invite such third Power to intervene.

3. In judicial or arbitral procedure, if a third Power should consider that it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected, it may submit to the Permanent Court of International Justice or to the Arbitral Tribunal a request to intervene as a third Party.

It will be for the Court or the Tribunal to decide upon this request.

4. Whenever the interpretation of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are Parties is in question, the Registrar of the Permanent Court of International Justice or the Arbitral Tribunal shall notify all such States forthwith.

Every State so notified shall have the right to intervene in the proceedings ; but, if it uses his right, the construction embodied in the decision will be binding upon it.

Article 35.

Disputes relating to the interpretation or application of the present Convention, including those concerning the classification of disputes, shall be submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Article 36.

The present Convention, which is in conformity with the Covenant of the League of Nations, shall not be interpreted as restricting the duty of the League to take, at any time, whatever action may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of the world.

Article 37.

1. The present Convention shall be ratified and the exchange of ratifications shall take place at Brussels.

It shall be registered at the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

2. The Convention shall be concluded for a period of five years dating from the exchange of ratifications.

3. If it has not been denounced at least six months before the expiration of that period, it shall remain in force for further successive periods of five years.

4. Notwithstanding denunciation by one of the Contracting Parties, all proceedings pending at the expiration of the current period of the Convention shall be duly completed.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done at Geneva, September the twenty-fourth, one thousand nine hundred and thirty.

(L. S.) ZAUNIUS.

(L. S.) HYMANS.