

BELGIQUE ET FRANCE

Arrangement sur la réparation des dommages de guerre subis par les habitants, ou causés sur les territoires des régions rattachées aux deux pays en vertu du Traité de Versailles du 28 juin 1919, signé à Bruxelles, le 20 novembre 1931, et échange de notes, Bruxelles, les 2 octobre et 17 novembre 1931.

BELGIUM AND FRANCE

Agreement regarding the Reparation of War Damage suffered by Inhabitants, or caused to Territories of the Regions annexed to the Two Countries in virtue of the Treaty of Versailles of June 28th, 1919, signed at Brussels, November 20th, 1931, and Exchange of Notes, Brussels, October 2nd and November 17th, 1931.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 3490. — AGREEMENT² BETWEEN BELGIUM AND FRANCE REGARDING THE REPARATION OF WAR DAMAGE SUFFERED BY INHABITANTS, OR CAUSED TO TERRITORIES OF THE REGIONS ANNEXED TO THE TWO COUNTRIES IN VIRTUE OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES OF JUNE 28TH, 1919. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1931.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Agreement took place September 13th, 1934.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS,
and

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,

Being desirous of extending to war victims who have become Belgian or French nationals in virtue of the provisions of the Treaty of Peace signed at Versailles on June 28th, 1919, the benefits of the Agreement for the reparation of war damages concluded between Belgium and France in Paris, have decided to conclude a special Agreement for that purpose and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. HYMANS, his Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

His Excellency M. CORBIN, his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the King of the Belgians ;

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

Article 1.

The Belgian Government shall grant the benefits of the Agreement concluded by Belgium and France in Paris on October 9th, 1919, and of the Additional Agreement of December 14th, 1923 :

(1) To Alsatians and Lorrainers not *ipso facto* reinstated in French nationality under §1 of the Annex to Part III, Section V, of the Treaty of Peace signed at Versailles on June 28th, 1919 ;

(2) To persons who, having lost French nationality in consequence of the Treaty of Frankfort, or having opted for France, later acquired a foreign nationality other than German nationality and subsequently obtained the status of citizens of Alsace-Lorraine

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 Paris, August 29th, 1934.

prior to August 3rd, 1914, as the result of which circumstances they have been unable to recover French nationality otherwise than through a claim under §2, No. 2, of the Annex to Part III, Section V, of the Treaty of Versailles ;

(3) To persons who, though of French nationality prior to 1870, lost such status in consequence of the Treaty of Frankfort, and, having subsequently acquired a foreign nationality, applied for French nationalisation in the course of the year following the entry into force of the Treaty of Peace of June 28th, 1919 ;

(4) To French people, or the descendants of French people, domiciled in Alsace-Lorraine who, having opted for France in 1871, were subsequently obliged to acquire the status of citizens of Alsace-Lorraine in order to resettle in the annexed territories ;

(5) German subjects born or domiciled in Alsace-Lorraine having served in the ranks of an allied army during the war ;

(6) To French nationals or persons assimilated thereto by the present Article, who suffered damages in the territories attached to Belgium in execution of the Treaty of Versailles.

Article 2.

The French Government shall grant the benefits of the Agreement concluded by France and Belgium in Paris on October 9th, 1919, and of the Additional Agreement of December 14th, 1923 :

(1) To persons having become Belgians in virtue of the provisions of Part III, Section I, of the aforesaid Treaty of Versailles, who suffered war damages in France ;

(2) To Belgians and persons having become Belgians in the manner stated above, who suffered war damages in the territory of Alsace and Lorraine.

Article 3.

For the purpose of the application of Belgian legislation under Article 4 of the Convention of October 9th, 1919, capital belonging to persons who under Article 1 of the present Agreement are henceforward to enjoy the benefits of the treatment accorded to French subjects shall be assimilated to French capital.

Similarly, for the purpose of the application of French legislation, capital belonging to persons who under Article 2 of the present Agreement are henceforward to enjoy the benefits of the treatment accorded to Belgian subjects shall be assimilated to Belgian capital.

French capital and capital assimilated thereto, invested in the territories attached to Belgium under the Treaty of Versailles, and Belgian capital and capital assimilated thereto invested in Alsace-Lorraine, shall be deemed to have been invested in Belgium and France respectively. In application of the same principle, companies having had their principal establishment in the territories attached to Belgium under the Treaty of Versailles shall be deemed to have had such establishments in Belgian territory as from August 1st, 1914, and, similarly, companies having had their principal establishment in Alsace-Lorraine shall be deemed to have had such establishments in French territory as from the same date.

Article 4.

Those concerned shall be allowed a period of six months as from the date of the entry into force of the present Agreement for filing their applications for reparation with the competent tribunals.

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

Done at Brussels, in duplicate, on November 20th, 1931.

(L. S.) (S.) HYMANS.

(L. S.) (S.) CORBIN.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

I.

LETTER ADDRESSED BY HIS EXCELLENCY M. CORBIN, AMBASSADOR OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
TO M. PAUL HYMANS, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT BRUSSELS.

EMBASSY OF FRANCE
IN BELGIUM.
No. 808.

BRUSSELS, *October 2nd*, 1931.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

Under cover of a letter dated November 8th, 1930, Your Excellency was good enough to transmit to my predecessor the text as proposed by the Royal Government of a draft Agreement to be signed by the representatives of our respective Governments with a view to securing the right to reparation for war damages to certain categories of persons—namely, in Belgium, to French nationals born in Alsace and Lorraine, and, in France, to Belgian nationals born in the territories attached to Belgium under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. The said Agreement would at the same time extend the area of application of the Franco-Belgian Agreement of October 9th, 1919, to the territories attached to the two countries under the aforesaid Treaty of Peace.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that my Government accepts the text proposed by the Royal Government, it being understood that the Convention implies the revision of any judgments, orders and decisions rendered by the authorities of the two countries which may be incompatible with the provisions of that instrument.

As the two Governments are in agreement as to the text of the proposed Convention, the President of the Republic has conferred on me full powers to sign it. I should be very grateful if Your Excellency would inform me as soon as possible of such date as may have been decided upon for the signature of the said Convention.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(S.) CORBIN.

II.

REPLY FROM M. PAUL HYMANS, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO M. CORBIN, AMBASSADOR
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AT BRUSSELS.

MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
Direction P.,
No. 291-C/7307.

BRUSSELS, *November 17th*, 1931.

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,

As I had the honour to inform Your Excellency in my letter of October 11th, No. 6430, I have communicated to the Minister for Finance the letter in which Your Excellency informed me that the French Government accepted the text of the draft Agreement drawn up by the Belgian Govern-

ment with a view to securing the right to reparation for war damages to certain categories of persons — namely, in Belgium, to French nationals born in Alsace and Lorraine, and, in France, to Belgian nationals born in the territories attached to Belgium under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. The aforesaid draft provides at the same time for the extension of the area of application of the Franco-Belgian Agreement of October 9th, 1919, to the territories attached to the two countries under the aforesaid Treaty of Peace.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, like the French Government, the Belgian Government considers that the proposed Convention implies the revision of any judgments, orders or decisions rendered by the authorities of the two countries which may be incompatible with the provisions of that instrument.

Consequently, I have had the instruments of the Agreement duly prepared, and I should be grateful if I might be informed whether it will be convenient for Your Excellency to sign them in my office on the 20th of this month at midday.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(S.) HYMANS.