

N° 4604.

LETTONIE ET POLOGNE

Convention vétérinaire concernant le transit des animaux, des viandes et des autres produits d'origine animale, avec annexes et protocole final. Signés à Riga, le 16 novembre 1937.

Texte officiel français communiqué par le ministre des Affaires étrangères de Lettonie. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 10 juillet 1939.

LATVIA AND POLAND

Veterinary Convention concerning the Transit of Animals, Meat and Other Products of Animal Origin, with Annexes and Final Protocol. Signed at Riga, November 16th, 1937.

French official text communicated by the Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration took place July 10th, 1939.

TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 4604. — VETERINARY CONVENTION ¹ BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND CONCERNING THE TRANSIT OF ANIMALS, MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN. SIGNED AT RIGA, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1937.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA and
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND,

Being desirous of regulating the question of the transit of animals, meat and other products of animal origin coming from one of the two countries and passing through the other, have decided to conclude a Convention to that effect and have appointed for this purpose as their Plenipotentiaries:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA :

His Excellency M. Jānis BIRZNIĒKS, Minister of Agriculture of Latvia ;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND :

His Excellency M. Franciszek CHARWAT, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Poland in Latvia ;

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

Article 1.

1. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to authorise the transit through its territory of horses, asses, mules, etc., cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, poultry, fish, crayfish, bees, and all animal products originating in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. The transit of the animals to which paragraph 1 above relates shall be subject to previous notification of the consignments to the veterinary authority designated by the transit country for that purpose, and shall be carried out under the conditions laid down in the Articles hereinafter following, due regard being had to the following provisions of the present Article. No notification shall be required for the transit of the animal products to which paragraph 1 above relates.

3. If cattle plague breaks out in the country of origin, the transit of animals shall in no case be allowed. The discovery of swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, sheep-pox or contagious peri-pneumonia of cattle may justify refusal by the transit country of the transit of animals susceptible to these diseases, regard being given to the number and position of the centres of infection in the country of origin. In the case of an outbreak of cattle plague in the country of origin, the transit of meat and animal products derived from the various species of ruminants shall be forbidden.

Article 2.

1. Animals in transit must be accompanied by a certificate of origin and health ; this certificate, which shall be drawn up in accordance with Model No. 1 attached to the present Convention, shall be issued by a Government veterinary officer or veterinary surgeon approved by the State.

¹ The exchange of ratifications took place at Warsaw, June 5th, 1939.
Came into force July 5th, 1939.

2. Certificates must be drawn up in the language of the exporting country and be accompanied by a translation into the French language.

3. Certificates must be issued not more than five days before the consignment is sent off, excluding the date of issue.

4. Certificates must contain a description of the animals full enough to enable their identity to be established at any moment. Should the animals have a permanent mark, their distinctive marks may be given in place of a description. Should the animals be described in special official identity certificates, the certificates of origin and health may, instead of giving a description of the animal, refer to the said documents, provided they are attached thereto. Collective certificates may only be issued for animals that are being conveyed to the same place and to a single consignee.

5. The certificates of origin and of health must also specify the station from which the animals are despatched, the number of the wagon or name of any other means of transport, the Christian name, surname and place of residence of the consignor and the station and country of destination.

6. No consular visa shall be required for the above-mentioned certificates.

Article 3.

1. In principle, animals may only be transported in wagons constructed to prevent the escape or dissemination of excreta and other materials liable to transmit infection. Transport may also be allowed in wagons which do not comply with the above-mentioned conditions if, after an examination of the conditions of the exporting country, such method of transport does not seem to be in any way dangerous. Nevertheless, animals shall only be conveyed in wagons so constructed as to reduce the dissemination of infectious materials to a minimum.

2. Ruminants and pigs may not be carried on a litter of straw or earth ; sawdust or peat shall be used for that purpose or, failing such products, a sufficiently thick layer of sand.

Article 4.

1. The transit of the animals referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1, of the present Convention shall be effected through the Customs offices open to traffic of that character.

2. Before the present Convention is put into force, the High Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other a list of the Customs offices open for the traffic in animals referred to in paragraph 1 above. The High Contracting Parties undertake to communicate to each other in due course any changes made in the said list.

3. Animals in transit shall undergo a veterinary inspection at the frontier station of the exporting country ; the conditions of transport shall also be investigated and the documents accompanying the animals checked and endorsed. The above-mentioned operations shall be carried out by Government veterinary officers or veterinary surgeons approved by the State as competent for frontier inspection. The veterinary officials competent for frontier inspection must be given due notice — not later than twenty-four hours before their arrival — of consignments of animals in transit as well as of the number of such animals. Before the present Convention comes into force, the High Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other the addresses of the veterinary officials competent for frontier inspection, and shall keep each other informed in due course of all changes in such addresses.

4. Consignments which do not comply with the conditions laid down in Article 2 of the present Convention, and consignments of animals found by the frontier veterinary officials to be suffering from or suspected of a contagious disease, and consignments of animals which have been conveyed with diseased or suspected animals or have come in contact with diseased or suspected animals (the same applies to consignments of animals which do not comply with the conditions

of the present Convention) shall be turned back. The reason for rejection shall be specified in the documents accompanying such consignments. In such cases, the veterinary surgeon on duty shall draw up a report on the case and shall immediately communicate it to the central veterinary authority of the transit country and to the central veterinary authority of the country of origin.

Article 5.

Animals in transit may only be unloaded with the permission and under the supervision of a Government veterinary officer of the transit country or a veterinary surgeon duly authorised for that purpose by the State, and the fact of such unloading must be mentioned on the certificate of origin and health. Animals may only be watered, fed, cleaned, or subjected to any treatment whatsoever, in the wagons themselves, under veterinary supervision, and subject to the so-called "chain-sealing" system or any other system offering similar guarantees.

With a view to obviating the various difficulties arising in the course of transit, the exporting country shall take steps to see that the animals are properly loaded and suitably fed and that they receive all necessary attention, in order to avoid needless suffering.

The High Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other, before the present Convention comes into operation, the regulations in force in their territories concerning the transport of animals by rail and the protection of animals.

Article 6.

1. Consignments of animals for transit shall be accompanied by a declaration from the country of destination or from the other countries through which they are to pass in transit to the effect that the animals will be admitted unconditionally. This declaration shall not be required if the countries in question have undertaken not to reject the animals in any circumstances.

2. If cattle plague, swine fever, fowl plague, foot-and-mouth disease or contagious peripneumonia of cattle is discovered among the animals transported, the country through which they have to pass shall be entitled to have the infected consignment slaughtered at the expense of the consignor. Should a consignment of poultry which is being transported contract an epizootic disease preventing the continuation of the journey, the poultry shall be slaughtered in accordance with the laws in force in the transit country. In such cases, the circumstances must be clearly stated in a report drawn up by the veterinary officers who took part in the inspection. If there is a veterinary representative of the country of origin in the transit country, he shall be immediately notified, in order that he may be present at the slaughter. A copy of the report shall be sent to the central veterinary authority of the transit country.

Article 7.

Meat fresh, chilled, frozen or preserved in a fresh state otherwise than by cold, and meat preparations, must, in order to be allowed to pass in transit, be accompanied by a certificate of origin and health, drawn up in accordance with Model No. 2 annexed to the present Convention, and with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Article 2 of this Convention.

Article 8.

1. Meat in transit shall be conveyed by rail in wagons closed and sealed by the Customs authorities of the country through which it is to pass.

2. Meat preparations and pork butchers' wares in transit shall be conveyed in closed packages or cases.

3. Wagons used for the transit of fresh meat must have impermeable floors.

4. The checking of consignments of meat and meat preparations at the frontier shall be confined to a simple examination of the certificates. Wagons will usually only be opened if the Customs authorities concerned consider this necessary in order to verify the contents. The

examination of the certificate shall be carried out jointly by the officials of the two States and shall take place at the station at which the wagons leave the exporting country.

Article 9.

1. The transit of meat to which Article 7 of the present Convention relates shall not be subject to any previous authorisation.

2. If a consignment of the meat mentioned in the said Article 7 is intended for or must pass in transit through a neighbouring country in respect of which the International Convention¹ concerning the Transit of Animals, Meat and Other Products of Animal Origin, concluded at Geneva on February 20th, 1935, is not in force, the admission of the said consignment shall be subject to the production at the station of entry of a previous undertaking by the country in question to admit such meat unconditionally.

Article 10.

1. Animal products for passage in transit, other than those mentioned in Article 7 of the present Convention, must be accompanied by a certificate of origin and health, drawn up in accordance with Model No. 3 annexed to the present Convention and with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Article 2 of this Convention. The transit of such products and checking at the frontier shall be carried out in the manner provided for in Article 8 of the present Convention.

2. Certificates of origin and health shall not be required for products which have undergone treatment regarded as adequate from the prophylactic point of view (drying, salting, arsenical or other treatment, antiseptic washing, stoving, disinfection, etc.). The following products shall be allowed to pass in transit without certificates and shall not be subject to restrictions for veterinary police reasons: melted tallow; denatured cracklings; lime-soaked or factory-washed wool; wool waste and wool from tanneries; feathers of all kinds packed in closed sacks; guts, gullets, stomachs, bladders, claws, dried or salted, suitably packed or placed in closed cases or barrels; hides of wild animals; leather parings treated with lime; hogs' bristles and animal hair completely dried or boiled or limed (tails, manes, etc.); horns, hoofs, claws and bones without fat or boiled or dried and without soft tissue; eggs, milk and milk products.

Article 11.

1. The transit of meat and of all other animal products liable to carry infection shall be effected through Customs offices open to such traffic.

2. The High Contracting Parties undertake to communicate to each other, before the present Convention comes into force, a list of the Customs offices open for traffic in the products referred to in paragraph 1 above. The High Contracting Parties also undertake to inform each other in due course of any changes made in the above-mentioned lists.

Article 12.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to provide the Customs offices referred to in Articles 4 and 11 of the present Convention with installations such as to enable sanitary duties to be carried out satisfactorily.

Article 13.

1. Should the measures referred to above prove inadequate, and should contagious diseases be introduced as a result of the transit of live animals, meat or products of animal origin, the country so infected may, while the danger exists, refuse to allow transit from the country from which the contagion was conveyed.

¹ Vol. CXCI, page 37, of this Series.

2. Limitations or prohibitions of traffic may only apply to areas affected by contagious disease and neighbouring areas. By area shall be understood: in Latvia the districts (*apriņķi*) and in Poland the districts (*starostwa*).

3. Transit may not be prohibited in the case of anthrax, emphysematous or symptomatic anthrax, hæmorrhagic septicæmia, rabies and glanders, swine erysipelas, tuberculosis and mange.

4. The period during which the risk of infection is recognised to exist shall be limited:

- (a) To one year for cattle plague;
- (b) To six months for contagious peri-pneumonia of cattle and infectious anæmia of horses;
- (c) To forty days for dourine, swine plague and septicæmia, sheep-pox;
- (d) To twenty-one days for foot-and-mouth disease and fowl plague.

This period shall be calculated from the date on which the disappearance of the disease has been established in accordance with the provisions in force in the State in question.

Article 14.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to notify each other without delay of all prohibitions and restrictions affecting the transit of live animals, meat and animal products, or of the cancellation of such measures.

Article 15.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to publish regularly a veterinary health bulletin meeting the requirements set forth below:

1. The veterinary health bulletins shall be published on the 1st and 15th of each month and shall supply full particulars concerning the previous fifteen days.

2. They shall be exchanged between the central veterinary authorities without passing through diplomatic channels.

3. They shall give full statistical information on the diseases mentioned below: cattle plague (*Pestis bovum*), foot-and-mouth disease (*Aphthæ epizooticæ*), contagious peri-pneumonia of cattle (*Pleuropneumonia contagiosa bovum*), anthrax (*Anthrax*), sheep-pox (*Variola ovium*), rabies (*Rabies*), glanders (*Malleus*), dourine (*Exanthema coitale paralyticum*), swine plague (*Pestis suum*), infectious anæmia of horses (*Anemia infectiosa equorum*).

4. They shall also supply statistical information with regard to other diseases.

The veterinary health bulletins must in every case show the veterinary health situation on the date of publication: that is to say, the number and designation of the main territorial divisions of the first and second degree — districts (*apriņķi*) in Latvia, voivodies and districts (*starostwa*) in Poland — the number of communes and farms infected on the date on which the bulletin appears, and of communes and farms newly infected during the period under review.

Article 16.

1. When an outbreak of cattle plague, swine fever or fowl plague, foot-and-mouth disease, rabies, contagious peri-pneumonia of cattle or dourine is first discovered in the territory of either of the High Contracting Parties, the central veterinary authority of the other Contracting Party shall at once be notified of the outbreak of the disease and of the centres of infection. Such notification shall be given by telegram or radiotelegram.

2. Further, the veterinary health authorities of the first degree of the neighbouring areas — districts (*apriņķi*) in Latvia, districts (*starostwa*) in Poland — shall notify each other direct

and without delay of the outbreak and extent in the areas under their jurisdiction of the diseases specified in paragraph 1 above, and also of the outbreak and extent of sheep-pox, glanders and bird cholera. In all urgent cases, such notification shall be given by telegram.

Article 17.

Each of the High Contracting Parties reserves the right to send, whenever it thinks fit and for the period it deems necessary, a representative into the territory of the other Contracting Party to obtain information in regard to the position in veterinary health matters, the organisation of the veterinary service and of the institutions connected therewith, and also regarding the execution of veterinary regulations.

The High Contracting Parties shall take the necessary steps to help the above-mentioned representatives to carry out their duties.

Article 18.

In order to preclude any difficulties which might arise in connection with the carrying out of the present Convention, and with a view to the quickest possible settlement of any question concerning the reciprocal traffic in animals, meat and other products of animal origin, the central veterinary authorities of the two High Contracting Parties shall be authorised to come to a direct agreement with each other.

Article 19.

If there should arise between the High Contracting Parties a dispute of any kind with regard to the interpretation or application of the present Convention, and if such dispute cannot be satisfactorily settled through the diplomatic channel, it shall be settled in accordance with the provisions in force between the High Contracting Parties concerning the settlement of international disputes.

Article 20.

The present Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Warsaw as soon as possible.

Article 21.

The present Convention shall come into force on the thirtieth day after the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification.

Article 22.

1. The present Convention is concluded for a period of two years starting from the date of its entry into force.

2. Unless the Convention is denounced by one of the High Contracting Parties three months before the expiry of the said period of two years, it shall be regarded as extended, by tacit agreement, for an indefinite period; in such case, each Contracting Party shall have the right to denounce it at any time by giving three months' notice.

3. Denunciation may only be effected by a written notification.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Riga, in duplicate, this 16th day of November, 1937.

J. BIRZNIKS.

Franciszek CHARWAT.

ANNEXED MODEL No. 1.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN AND HEALTH.

Station of despatch No. of wagon or description of other means of transport
 Name and address of consignor
 Station and country of destination

I, the undersigned
 (Name and title of the Government veterinary officer or veterinary surgeon approved by the State)
 certify that I inspected on the following animal (s)
 (date)
 and found it (them) to be healthy and free from any contagious disease.

I further certify that there has been no case of contagious peri-pneumonia of cattle, foot-and-mouth disease, sheep-pox, swine fever or fowl plague for the last forty days either in the commune of origin or in neighbouring communes within a radius of twenty kilometres, or in the districts passed through on the way to the place of loading.

Done on the
 (date) (Signature of the veterinary officer,
 stating official title)
 at
 (Official stamp or seal)

ANNEXED MODEL No. 2.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN AND HEALTH.

I, the undersigned
 (Name and title of the Government veterinary officer or veterinary surgeon approved by the State)
 certify that the products of animal origin described below :

 (weight) (nature of the goods)
 bearing the following marks
 despatched from
 (place of despatch)
 by
 (name and address of consignor)
 to
 (name and address of consignee)
 conveyed by
 (method of transport, No. of wagon or description of other means of transport)

are entirely derived from animals which were subjected to a veterinary examination and found to be in a healthy condition before and after slaughter, carried out in the public slaughter-house or export slaughter-house under the inspection of the official veterinary officer, that an examination for trichinæ was made with negative results, that the said products contain no preservative substance and have been prepared and despatched in accordance with the requirements of food hygiene.

Done at on the
 (date)
 (Official stamp or seal) (Signature of the veterinary officer, stating official title)

ANNEXED MODEL No. 3.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN AND HEALTH.

I, the undersigned
 (Name and title of the Government veterinary officer or veterinary surgeon approved by the State)
 certify that the products of animal origin described below :

.....
 (weight) (nature of the goods)
 bearing the following marks

despatched from
 (place of despatch)
 by
 (name and address of consignor)
 to
 (name and address of consignee)
 conveyed by
 (method of transport, No. of wagon or description of other means of transport)

come from a district in which anthrax, swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease or sheep-pox has not been severe or wide-spread, and are derived entirely from animals found to be free from diseases which can be communicated to man or to animals by the said products.

Done at on
 (date)

(Official stamp or seal)

.....
 (Signature of the veterinary officer, stating official title)

FINAL PROTOCOL.

On signing the Veterinary Convention concerning the transit of animals, meat and other products of animal origin concluded this day, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, duly authorised, being desirous of further defining and amplifying the provisions of this Convention, have agreed as follows :

1. The notification of consignments to the veterinary authority, as provided for in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the said Convention, must be received by the said authority at least forty-eight hours before the arrival of the consignments at the frontier station ; it shall be valid for a period of not more than three months from the date on which it is received by the above-mentioned authority.
2. The certificates of origin and health provided for in Article 2 of the said Convention in respect of the passage in transit of horses, asses, mules, etc., cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, shall only be issued for animals that have been, since birth, in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties.
3. In the case of transport by sea, the examination provided for in Article 4, paragraph 3, in Article 8, paragraph 4, and in Article 10, paragraph 1, of the said Convention shall be carried out at the port of entry of the transit country.
4. The following animals shall be regarded as suspect within the meaning of Article 4, paragraph 4, of the said Convention : animals that have been in the same truck or the same vessel as diseased or contaminated animals ; those that have been in contact during loading or unloading with diseased or contaminated animals ; and those that have been exposed to indirect infection, passing through premises or over platforms or gangways not disinfected, etc.

5. Except in the case provided for in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the said Convention, racehorses and horses intended for competitions or sporting events may be allowed to be imported and to pass in transit without previous notification, if they are accompanied, in lieu of the certificate provided for in this Convention, by a certificate issued by the presidents of horse-racing clubs (a list of which shall be sent by each High Contracting Party to the other). This certificate shall bear the stamp and endorsement of the club or society and give the name and domicile of the owner, the exact description of the animal, the place from which it comes and the place of destination ; it shall also include a declaration by a Government veterinary officer or veterinary surgeon approved by the State certifying that the animal is healthy and that the establishment from which it comes is free from contagious diseases.

6. As regards veterinary inspection charges, the two High Contracting Parties shall grant each other, so long as the present Convention is in force, most-favoured-nation treatment.

7. Similarly, the High Contracting Parties undertake reciprocally to maintain and expand the State veterinary service at present in force, as organised in accordance with the principles laid down in the International Convention¹ for the Campaign against Contagious Diseases of Animals, signed at Geneva on February 20th, 1935.

Done at Riga, in duplicate, the 16th day of November, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

J. BIRZNIKS.

F. CHARWAT.

¹ Vol. CLXXXVI, page 173 ; and Vol. CXCIII, page 314, of this Series.