

**SUPPLEMENTARY CONVENTION BETWEEN ESTHONIA AND LATVIA
ON FRONTIER QUESTIONS,
SIGNED AT TALLINN, NOVEMBER 1, 1923**

LATVIA of the one part and ESTHONIA of the other part, desiring to fix a permanent frontier between the two countries, both in the district referred to in Colonel Tallent's decision and also in those parts for which no special agreement has hitherto been concluded, and further desiring to clear up the misunderstandings which have arisen both in the application of the Convention, signed at Riga on October 19, 1920, with regard to the fixing and tracing on the ground of the frontier between the two Republics, the rights of nationals of each of the Contracting Parties in the territory of the other, and the status of immovable property intersected by the frontier-line, and also in the application of the Instructions signed on the same day and issued to the Mixed Delimitation Commission appointed to trace on the ground the frontier between Latvia and Esthonia, have decided to conclude a special supplementary Convention, and for this purpose have appointed as plenipotentiary representatives:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA:
M. Sigfrid MEIEROVICS, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTHONIA:
DR. Frederick AKEL, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The appointed plenipotentiaries, having met at Reval and having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1.

The State frontier between Charlottenburg and the point at which the Latvian-Esthonian frontier meets the Russian frontier in the district of Babino passes through the following points: From point N° 3, fixed on the ground by the Mixed Delimitation Commission, the State frontier proceeds in a straight line towards Charlottenburg, leaving in Latvian territory the buildings of the Charlottenburg estate; thence it proceeds as far as the military road and follows the northern side thereof, leaving it in Latvia; passes through the villages of Chelekhovo and Zabolotje in the direction of Chprekhtitchi, up to the point where this road crosses another near the village of Terekhovo; thence it follows the eastern side of this road, proceeds southwards, passes near the village of Terekhovo, leaving that village in Esthonia and reaches the point at which it crosses the projection of the frontier line fixed by the Treaty of Peace between Esthonia and Russia signed at Dorpat on February 2, 1920; thereafter it follows the course of the line laid down by the Russo-Esthonian Treaty of Peace as far as the tower of Chprekhtitchi used as a trigonometrical mark. From this tower as far as Babino the frontier follows the line fixed by the Treaty of Peace between Esthonia and Russia.

Article 2.

If the Governments of the two countries should at any future date find it possible to modify, on the basis of mutual compensation, any part of the frontier-line as established throughout its length, they shall, in principle, not be precluded from doing so.

Article 3.

Each Party shall grant to the nationals of the other Party, in respect of the acquisition, use, possession, and free disposal of immovable property, rights equivalent to those enjoyed by its own nationals.

Article 4.

The frontier roads may be used freely by the inhabitants of either country. Detailed conditions for the use of these roads shall be laid down by special agreements between the Latvian and Estonian Governments, and the preliminary agreement on this subject shall be concluded not less than 14 days before the coming into force of the present Convention.

Note. Pending the conclusion of a special agreement, the local Estonian population shall be entitled to the free and unrestricted use of the road from the Commune of Plater through the districts of Brinda, Rija (Ermesar) and Berzkalo to the township of Moizeküll, and the local Latvian population may similarly use the road from the Kirbel estate through the domain of Plater to the Commune of Arrakst.

Article 5.

The Mixed Delimitation Commission shall have full power to exchange State land belonging to one country for State land belonging to the other, and State land in one country for private land in the other.

The Mixed Delimitation Commission shall also afford assistance to the inhabitants of districts adjoining the frontier in the exchange of privately-owned land intersected by the frontier-line and in the exchange of immovable property between Estonians resident in Latvia and Latvians resident in Estonia.

The Delimitation Commission shall in all such cases draw up deeds, which shall be signed by both parties and both delegations to the Mixed Commission, or by persons authorised to act on behalf of the delegations. These deeds shall have the force of contracts acknowledged before a notary, and shall be free of all duties and taxes, including transfer fees, during the period provided for in Article 6 of the present Convention.

Article 6.

The period fixed in Article XVIII of the Convention of October 19, 1920, within which, the portions of immovable property referred to in the present Article must be liquidated, shall be extended to two years from the date on which the State frontier is permanently fixed.

It is agreed that such liquidation shall not take place in respect of that portion of any immovable property in which the economic centre of such property is situated.

Article 7.

With a view to expediting the work of tracing the frontier on the ground, the frontier-line from the sea to Charlottenburg shall, for the purpose of such operations, be divided into two parts. The operations in the section extending from the sea (Gulf of Riga) to the Commune of Liel-Lugazi shall be carried out by Latvia and from the Commune of Liel-Lugazi to Charlottenburg by Estonia.

The section of the State frontier-line from Charlottenburg to its point of junction with the Russian frontier in the district of Babino shall similarly be divided into two equal parts;

Esthonia will be responsible for tracing the frontier in the eastern portion and Latvia in the other.

The cost of fixing the frontier shall be borne by the State in charge of the work in the particular district concerned, and no steps shall be taken after the completion of the work to divide equally the expenditure incurred by the two Parties.

The above provisions shall constitute modifications mutatis mutandis to the Note to Article 2 of the Convention of October 19, 1920, and to Articles 11 and 12 of the Instructions annexed thereto.

Article 8.

The closing passage of Article 2 of the Instructions from the words „which must include an engineer officer,“ shall be deleted, and the Article shall be completed as follows: „for the purpose of carrying out its technical schemes and giving effect to its decisions, the Mixed Commission shall be authorised to form a Technical Sub-Commission, which may include, in addition to Members of the Commission, members of the technical staff employed by it.“

Article 9.

Article 8 of the Instructions, and the Note to that Article, shall read as follows: All angles, i.e. points at which the frontier turns, shall be indicated on the ground by frontier posts 2 metres in diameter and 1 metre in height. In the ground under each post there shall be a foundation composed of imperishable material and sheathed with brick or stone. On this foundation shall be placed a post of wood or iron according to the importance of the particular point. This shall be surrounded by a cairn constructed of stone, cemented and covered with earth, and shall be surrounded by a small ditch. Every frontier post shall be painted dark grey and shall bear the arms or emblems of Latvia and Esthonia, together with the number of the post. The frontier shall be shown by a ditch running in a straight line from one mark to the next. The dimensions of the ditches shall be as follows: width at the top, 1.2 m.; depth, 0.45 m.; width at the bottom, 0.3 m.; slope of sides, 45°.

The frontier line shall be 4 metres wide, a strip of ground 2 metres wide on each side of the mathematical frontier-line being alienated from Latvian and Esthonian territory for this purpose without compensation. The strip of land so alienated shall be regarded as neutral. For a width of 4.4 metres on each side of this strip of frontier land the use of the ground shall be restricted, the terms of such restriction to be fixed by special agreement between the two Governments.

Frontier posts and cairns shall be erected along the frontier-line on the main roads and near natural boundaries at points to be selected by the Delimitation Commission.

Frontier cairns with wooden posts similar to frontier posts shall be erected at intervals of a kilometre along frontier lines where the distance between two frontier posts exceed 1.5 km.

The frontier along natural boundaries shall be determined by perpendiculars from polygonal and principal lines, the angles of which must be shown by wooden posts and cairns. In wooden districts rides shall be cut having a width of 12.8 metres.

The official plan of the frontier shall be prepared by triangulation, the points being plotted by geographical coordinates. The official plan shall include the land for a distance of 100 metres on each side of the mathematical frontier line.

Note 1. The timber felled in making rides on land belonging to the State shall remain the property of the State on whose side of the mathematical frontier line it was felled. On privately-owned land such timber shall remain the property of the owner.

Note 2. On marshy ground the frontier posts and cairns may be replaced by piles.

Article 10.

Article 9 of the Instructions shall read as follows:

The official plans of the frontier shall be prepared on a scale of 1:5000. There shall be attached to the plan a table indicating and explaining the conventional signs used, and also a survey record containing a detailed description of the ground on which the frontier marks are situated. The entries on these plans shall be worded in the Latvian and Estonian languages.

The official plans shall be prepared for each State in duplicate; they shall be regarded as the original records of the frontier-line and shall be signed by the Members of the Mixed Commission.

The State frontier shall be deemed to be permanently fixed from the time when the Mixed Delimitation Commission signs the detailed description of the frontier-line, i.e. the deed recording the position of the frontier-line and the official plan.

A topographical map shall also be prepared on a scale of 1/2 verst: 1 in.; this may, however, be dispensed with by mutual agreement between the two Governments.

Article 11.

Article 12 of the Instructions shall read as follows:

The duties of the frontier-guards of the two States shall include the preservation of the new frontier posts until the State frontier-line is permanently fixed; the duties thereby involved shall be prescribed and allocated by the Mixed Commission.

The cost of preserving frontier posts during the tracing of the frontier on the ground shall be borne by the State which traces the frontier in the district in question. The two Governments shall conclude a special agreement with regard to the preservation, upkeep and repair of the frontier posts after the survey records and frontier maps have been approved.

Article 12.

The Governments of the two States shall be entitled to amend or supplement the above Instructions by mutual agreement.

Article 13.

The tracing of the State frontier from Charlottenburg to its point of junction with the Russian frontier in the district of Babino shall be carried out in accordance with the Convention of October 19, 1920, and the Instructions annexed thereto, together with all supplementary regulations or amendments.

Article 14.

The present Convention shall be ratified at the earliest possible date, and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Reval.

The Convention shall come into force on the date on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

Done in duplicate at Reval, this first day of November, nineteen hundred and twenty-three.

In faith whereof the plenipotentiary representatives of both Parties have signed the present Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

(Signed) Z. A. MEIEROVICS.

(Signed) FR. AKEL.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, 1924, vol. 25, p. 350-357.]