

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN LATVIA AND LITHUANIA CONCERNING THE  
CROSSING OF THE LATVIAN-LITHUANIAN FRONTIER BY THE  
INHABITANTS OF THE FRONTIER ZONE.  
SIGNED AT KAUNAS, OCTOBER 18, 1924**

THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA was represented by M. Antons BALODIS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Latvia in Lithuania, and by M. Valdemars LUDINŠ, Deputy-Director of the Administrative Department of the Ministry of the Interior, and THE GOVERNMENT OF LITHUANIA was represented by M. Pranas DAILIDE, Director of the Administrative and Judicial Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and M. Jonas DANAUSKAS, Director of the Department of Civil Security of the Ministry of the Interior. The Plenipotentiaries having communicated their full powers found in good and due form, agreed upon the following provisions:

***Article 1.***

The frontier zone shall be understood to mean a zone of ten kilometres in breadth towards the interior of each State, calculated from the frontier line. Nationals of Latvia and Lithuania residing habitually, or who have resided for at least six months in this zone, shall be entitled to receive identity cards authorising them to cross the frontier in either direction and enter the frontier zone of the other State.

***Article 2.***

These identity cards shall authorise the crossing of the frontier only at those points (frontier crossing points) which have been fixed for this purpose or which may hereafter be fixed in accordance with Article 3 of the Latvian-Lithuanian Convention of May 14, 1921.

Note. — The holders of identity cards referred to in the note to Article 4 of the present Agreement shall be entitled to cross the frontier passing through their lands.

***Article 3.***

Identity cards shall be issued by the chief district officials, their assistants, or the local government administrations.

Note. — Persons in the police, Customs or railways services shall receive identity cards issued by the head of their administration.

***Article 4.***

Identity cards shall be personal, except in the cases provided for in Article 12 of the present Agreement; they shall be valid for six months and shall entitle the holders to cross the frontier as often as they desire.

Note. — In conformity with Article 5 of the Latvian-Lithuanian Convention of May 14, 1921, persons whose lands are divided up by the frontier, members of their families and their work-people shall receive identity cards valid for one year. In cases in which such persons cross the frontier within the limits of their lands thus divided, shall only enjoy freedom of movement within the limits of the said lands.

Identity cards for one year shall also be valid for crossing the frontier at the crossing points, in accordance with the general provisions of the present Agreement.

**Article 5.**

Identity cards may not be granted to persons proceeded against by the Courts or under police supervision, or to persons who have been punished for crimes, convicted of smuggling, or suspected of conveying or concealing contraband goods, or to smugglers and mendicants.

**Article 6.**

Identity cards shall only be granted to minors under seventeen years of age or towards at the request and on the responsibility of their parents or guardians. Children up to fifteen (inclusive) may cross the frontier, if accompanied by their parents or guardians, in virtue of the identity cards issued to the latter, provided that the names of the children are entered on the cards.

**Article 7.**

Identity cards shall be issued in conformity with the annexed specimen, in the Latvian and Lithuanian languages, and shall contain the following information: Christian name and surname of father, date of birth or age, nationality, trade or profession, particulars of children under fifteen, domicile, special mark or signature of the holder, name of the crossing point or of the divided lands, and also the means of locomotion, if any, employed in crossing the frontier, and the period of validity of the card.

**Article 8.**

A special charge shall be imposed to cover the cost of issuing the identity card; this charge shall be fixed by agreement between the Ministers of the Interior of the two Contracting States.

Note. – The identity cards valid for one year mentioned in Article 4 of the present Agreement shall be issued free of charge. This shall also apply to the collective identity cards mentioned in Article 12 of the present Agreement.

**Article 9.**

On the expiration of the period for which the card is issued, the latter shall lose its validity, which may not be extended.

**Article 10.**

Persons crossing the frontier at a given crossing point must return by the same point.

**Article 11.**

Holders of identity cards are entitled after each crossing of the frontier to reside and move about freely within the frontier zone of the other State for a period not exceeding five days.

Note 1. – Pupils of Government or private schools who have crossed the frontier with identity cards shall be entitled to reside and move about freely in the frontier zone during the whole period of validity of their cards. Agricultural workers who have crossed the frontier and are engaged in agricultural or forestry work on farms situated in the frontier zone of the other State shall be entitled to the same privilege.

Note 2. – The holders of identity cards shall not be required to carry any other papers when crossing the frontier or during their residence in the frontier zone of the other State.

**Article 12.**

In cases in which local circumstances necessitate the crossing of the frontier by several persons at once, for example, excursions for scientific or educational purposes organised by State or private institutions, religious ceremonies or funeral processions, collective identity cards shall be issued in conformity with the annexed specimen, valid for a period not exceeding forty-eight hours.

**Article 13.**

In the event of a fire breaking out in the frontier zone, the firemen and the local inhabitants of the other State may, in order to render assistance, cross the frontier with the necessary appliances without identity cards and at other than the regulation crossing points.

**Article 14.**

On re-crossing the frontier, holders of identity cards must bring back with them the means of locomotion mentioned on their cards, should these be subject to Customs duties on export abroad in virtue of the Customs laws and regulations of the two States.

**Article 15.**

Any infringement of the provisions of the present Agreement shall be punished in accordance with the laws in force in the State on whose territory the infringement occurs.

**Article 16.**

The present Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period. If either of the Contracting States wishes to denounce the Agreement, it shall communicate its intention to the other State six months in advance.

**Article 17.**

The present Agreement shall be confirmed by the Governments of the two States and, when confirmed, shall enter into force on January 1, 1925.

Drawn up and signed in duplicate Latvian and Lithuanian texts, both of which are authentic.

KAUNAS, October 18, 1924.

(Signed) A. BALODIS

(Signed) P. DAILIDE

(Signed) V. LUDINŠ.

(Signed) J. DANAUSKAS.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 56, 1926, p. 165-171.]