

**PROTOCOL AMENDING THE CONVENTION REGARDING THE STATE
FRONTIER AND THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS OF THE FRONTIER ZONE,
CONCLUDED BETWEEN ESTONIA AND LATVIA AT RIGA, OCTOBER 19,
1920 AND THE ADDITIONAL CONVENTION REGARDING FRONTIER
QUESTIONS, CONCLUDED AT TALLINN NOVEMBER 1, 1923.
SIGNED AT TALLINN, FEBRUARY 23, 1927**

ESTONIA, of the one part, and LATVIA, of the other part, having found it necessary for technical and practical reasons, acting on the proposal of the Joint Frontier Commission, to introduce certain amendments and additions to the Convention regarding the State frontier and the rights of citizens resident in the frontier zone, concluded at Riga between Estonia and Latvia on October 19, 1920, and to the Supplementary Convention on frontier questions, concluded at Tallinn on November 1st, 1923, have decided to amend and supplement them by an appropriate Protocol, and for this purpose have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

THE GOVERNMENT OF ESTONIA:

His Excellency Dr Frédéric AKEL, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA:

His Excellency M. Janis SESKIS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Latvia at Tallinn;

Who having met at Tallinn and communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1.

Article XVII of the Convention regarding the frontier, and the rights of citizens resident in the frontier zone, concluded between Estonia and Latvia on October 19, 1920, is cancelled.

Article 2.

Article 3 of the Supplementary Convention on frontier questions, concluded between Estonia and Latvia on November 1, 1923, is cancelled.

Article 3.

Article 9 of the Supplementary Convention on frontier questions, concluded at Tallinn on November 1st, 1923, is amended as follows:

1. The diameter of the frontier-cairns mentioned in the first paragraph after the introduction shall be three metres instead of two; the frontier-posts mentioned in the same paragraph shall be coloured white instead of dark grey.

2. The first sentence of the second paragraph shall read as follows:

The frontier-line shall be four metres wide, a strip of ground two metres wide on each side of the mathematical frontier-line being alienated from Latvian and Estonian territory for this purpose; compensation shall be paid.

For the purpose of determining the amount of compensation payable, the alienated ground shall be divided into four categories:

- Ist category – land within urban areas, and garden ground;
- IInd category – arable land and meadows;
- IIIRD category – meadows of less value, pastureland, and forests;
- IVth category – marshes and other land unsuitable for cultivation.

The category of the ground, the price for each category, and the amount of compensation for each parcel alienated, shall be determined by the Joint Frontier Commission.

Each of the Contracting Parties shall pay half the total amount of the compensation due for alienated ground; the method of payment of compensation and settlement of mutual accounts shall be determined by special agreement between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

3. The same Article shall be supplemented by a third note as follows:

Note 3. – In the town of Walk, between frontier-posts No. 202 and 203, the boundaries of the Konnoaja (Varžupe) District (Magistrale) shall be indicated by underground marks only.

Article 4.

The third and fourth paragraphs of Article X of the Supplementary Convention shall read as follows:

The official plans shall be prepared in duplicate for each State; the original copy shall be signed by the members of the Joint Commission and annexed to the description of the State frontier, and the other shall be copied by means of carbon paper.

The State frontier shall be deemed to be permanently fixed as soon as the two Governments have approved the detailed description of the frontier-line, and the official plan annexed drawn up by the Joint Frontier Commission.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries of the two States have signed the present Protocol, which must be ratified, and shall come into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Riga as soon as possible.

Done at Tallinn in duplicate, February the twenty-third, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven.

Fr. AKEL.

J. SESKIS.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

I.

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TALLINN, February 23, 1927.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

On signing to-day the Protocol amending certain provisions of the Convention regarding the State frontier and the rights of citizens resident in the frontier zone, concluded on October 19, 1920, and the Supplementary Convention on frontier questions signed on November 1, 1923, which Protocol cancels among others Article 3 of the above-mentioned Supplementary Convention on frontier questions, I have the honour to inform you that the Estonian Government undertakes to grant national treatment to Latvian nationals as regards the use, possession and disposal of immovable property pending the final settlement of this question by the Treaty of Application of the Customs Union between Estonia and Latvia, signed at Riga on February 5, 1927.

It is agreed, however, that this undertaking does not affect the provisions of Article 18 of the Convention concluded between Estonia and Latvia on October 19, 1920, and Article 6 of the Supplementary Convention, signed at Tallinn on November 1, 1923, concerning the disposal of immovable property intersected by the frontier-line.

At the same time, the Estonian Government desires to state that it interprets the provisions of Article 6 of the above-mentioned Supplementary Convention, dated November 1, 1923, as meaning that the provisions only apply to immovable property which, in accordance with the respective laws in force in each of the two States, cannot be alienated and incorporated in the State domain.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.
Fr. AKEL.

His Excellency
M. Janis Seskis,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Latvia, Tallinn.

II.

LATVIAN LEGATION TO ESTONIA.
TALLINN, February 23, 1927.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

On signing to-day the Protocol amending certain provisions of the Convention regarding the State frontier, and the rights of citizens resident in the frontier zone, concluded on October 19, 1920, and the Supplementary Convention on frontier questions, signed on November 1, 1923, which Protocol cancels among others Article 3 of the above-mentioned Supplementary Convention on frontier questions, I have the honour to inform you that the Latvian Government undertakes to grant national treatment to Estonian nationals regarding the use, possession and disposal of immovable property, pending the final settlement of this question by the Treaty of Application of the Customs Union between Latvia and Estonia, signed at Riga on February 5, 1927.

It is agreed, however, that this undertaking does not affect the provisions of Article 18 of the Convention concluded between Latvia and Estonia, on October 19, 1920, and of Article 6 of the Supplementary Convention signed at Tallinn on November 1, 1923, concerning the disposal of immovable property intersected by the frontier-line.

At the same time, the Latvian Government desires to state that it interprets the provisions of Article 6 of the above-mentioned Supplementary Convention, dated November 1, 1923, as meaning that these provisions do not apply to immovable property which, in accordance with the respective laws in force in each of the two States, cannot be alienated and incorporated in the State domain.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.
J. SESKIS.

His Excellency,
Dr. Frédéric Akel,
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tallinn.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 61, 1927, p. 317-321.]