

No. 309

BELGIUM
and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Economic Co-operation Agreement (with annex). Signed at
Brussels, on 2 July 1948**

*French and English official texts communicated by the Officer in charge of the
Permanent Belgian Delegation to the United Nations. The registration took
place on 26 November 1948.*

BELGIQUE
et
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

**Accord de coopération économique (avec annexe). Signé à
Bruxelles, le 2 juillet 1948**

*Textes officiels français et anglais communiqués par le Chargé de la gestion de
la délégation permanente de Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations
Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 26 novembre 1948.*

No. 309. ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 2 JULY 1948

PREAMBLE

The Governments of Belgium and of the United States of America;

Recognizing that the restoration or maintenance in European countries of principles of individual liberty, free institutions, and genuine independence rests largely upon the establishment of sound economic conditions, stable international economic relationships, and the achievement by the countries of Europe of a healthy economy independent of extraordinary outside assistance;

Recognizing that a strong and prosperous European economy is essential for the attainment of the purposes of the United Nations;

Considering that the achievement of such conditions calls for a European recovery plan of self-help and mutual cooperation, open to all nations which cooperate in such a plan, based upon a strong production effort, the expansion of foreign trade, the creation or maintenance of internal financial stability and the development of economic cooperation, including all possible steps to establish and maintain valid rates of exchange and to reduce trade barriers;

Considering that in furtherance of these principles the Government of Belgium has joined with other like-minded nations in a Convention for European Economic Cooperation signed at Paris on April 16, 1948, under which the signatories of that Convention agreed to undertake as their immediate task the elaboration and execution of a joint recovery program, and that the Government of Belgium is a member of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation created pursuant to the provisions of that Convention;

Considering also that, in furtherance of these principles, the Government of the United States of America has enacted the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, providing for the furnishing of assistance by the United States of America

¹ Came into force on 3 August 1948 upon the deposit with the Government of the United States of America of the instrument of ratification by Belgium, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article XII.

to nations participating in a joint program for European recovery, in order to enable such nations through their own individual and concerted effort to become independent of extraordinary outside economic assistance;

Taking note that the Government of Belgium has already expressed its adherence to the purposes and policies of the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948;

Desiring to set forth the understandings which govern the furnishing of assistance by the Government of the United States of America under the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, the receipt of such assistance by Belgium, and the measures which the two Governments will take individually and together in furthering the recovery of Belgium as an integral part of the joint program for European recovery;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

1. The Government of the United States of America undertakes to assist Belgium, by making available to the Government of Belgium or to any person, agency, or organization designated by the latter Government such assistance as may be requested by it and approved by the Government of the United States of America. The Government of the United States of America will furnish this assistance under the provisions, and subject to all of the terms, conditions and termination provisions, of the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, acts amendatory and supplementary thereto and appropriation acts thereunder, and will make available to the Government of Belgium only such commodities, services, and other assistance as are authorized to be made available by such acts.

2. The Government of Belgium, acting individually and through the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, consistently with the Convention for European Economic Cooperation signed at Paris on April 16, 1948, will exert sustained efforts in common with other participating countries speedily to achieve through a joint recovery program economic conditions in Europe essential to lasting peace and prosperity and to enable the countries of Europe participating in such a joint recovery program to become independent of extraordinary outside economic assistance within the period of this Agreement. The Government of Belgium reaffirms its intention to take action to carry out the provisions of the General Obligations of the Convention for European Economic

Cooperation, and to continue to adhere to the purposes and policies of the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948.

3. With respect to assistance furnished by the Government of the United States of America to Belgium and procured from areas outside the United States of America, its territories and possessions, the Government of Belgium will cooperate with the Government of the United States of America in ensuring that procurement will be effected at reasonable prices and on reasonable terms and so as to arrange that the dollars thereby made available to the country from which the assistance is procured are used in a manner consistent with any arrangements made by the Government of the United States of America with such country.

Article II

GENERAL UNDERTAKINGS

1. In order to achieve the maximum recovery through the employment of assistance received from the Government of the United States of America the Government of Belgium will use its best endeavors:

(a) to adopt or maintain the measures necessary to ensure efficient and practical use of all the resources available to it, including:

(1) such measures as may be necessary to ensure that the commodities and services obtained with assistance furnished under this Agreement are used for purposes consistent with this Agreement and, as far as practicable, with the general purposes outlined in the schedules furnished by the Government of Belgium in support of the requirements of assistance to be furnished by the Government of the United States of America;

(2) the observation and review of the use of such resources through an effective follow-up system approved by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation; and,

(3) to the extent practicable, measures to locate, identify and put into appropriate use in furtherance of the joint program for European recovery, assets, and earnings therefrom, which belong to nationals of Belgium and which are situated within the United States of America, its territories or possessions. Nothing in this clause imposes any obligation on the Government of the United

States of America to assist in carrying out such measures or on the Government of Belgium to dispose of such assets;

(b) to promote the development of industrial and agricultural production on a sound economic basis; to achieve such production targets as may be established through the Organization for European Economic Cooperation; and when desired by the Government of the United States of America, to communicate to that Government detailed proposals for specific projects contemplated by the Government of Belgium to be undertaken in substantial part with assistance made available pursuant to this Agreement including whenever practicable projects for increased production of coal, steel, transportation facilities and food;

(c) to stabilize its currency, establish or maintain a valid rate of exchange, balance its government budget as soon as practicable, create or maintain internal financial stability, and generally restore or maintain confidence in its monetary system; and

(d) to cooperate with other participating countries in facilitating and stimulating an increasing interchange of goods and services among the participating countries and with other countries to trade among themselves and with other countries.

2. Taking into account Article Eight of the Convention for European Economic Cooperation looking toward the full and effective use of man power available in the various participating countries the Government of Belgium will accord sympathetic consideration to proposals made in conjunction with the International Refugee Organization directed to the largest practicable utilization of man power available in any of the participating countries in furtherance of the accomplishment of the purposes of this Agreement.

3. The Government of Belgium will take the measures which it deems appropriate, and will cooperate with other participating countries, to prevent, on the part of private or public commercial enterprises, business practices or business arrangements affecting international trade which restrain competition, limit access to markets or foster monopolistic control whenever such practices or arrangements have the effect of interfering with the achievement of the joint program of European recovery.