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INTERNATIONAL
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ORGANISATION



Treaty Series No. 16 (1987)

International Labour Convention No. 23 concerning the Repatriation of Seamen

Geneva, 23 June 1926

[The United Kingdom instrument of ratification was registered with the Director General of the International Labour Office on 3 June 1985 and the Convention entered into force for the United Kingdom on 3 June 1985]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
April 1987*

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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE REPATRIATION OF SEAMEN

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Ninth Session on 7 June 1926, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the repatriation of seamen, which is included in the first item of the agenda of the Session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,

adopts this twenty-third day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Repatriation of Seamen Convention, 1926, for ratification by the Members of the International Labour Organisation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation:

ARTICLE 1

1. This Convention shall apply to all sea-going vessels registered in the country of any Member ratifying this Convention, and to the owners, masters and seamen of such vessels.

2. It shall not apply to—

- (a) ships of war,
- (b) Government vessels not engaged in the coasting trade,
- (c) vessels engaged in the coasting trade,
- (d) pleasure yachts,
- (e) Indian country craft,
- (f) fishing vessels,
- (g) vessels of less than 100 tons gross registered tonnage or 300 cubic metres, nor to vessels engaged in the home trade below the tonnage limit prescribed by national law for the special regulation of this trade at the date of the passing of this Convention.

ARTICLE 2

For the purpose of this Convention the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them, viz.:

- (a) the term "vessel" includes any ship or boat of any nature whatsoever, whether publicly or privately owned, ordinarily engaged in maritime navigation;
- (b) the term "seaman" includes every person employed or engaged in any capacity on board any vessel and entered on the ship's articles. It excludes masters, pilots, cadets and pupils on training ships and duly indentured apprentices, naval ratings, and other persons in the permanent service of a Government;

- (c) the term "master" includes every person having command and charge of a vessel except pilots;
- (d) the term "home trade vessel" means a vessel engaged in trade between a country and the ports of a neighbouring country within geographical limits determined by the national law.

ARTICLE 3

1. Any seaman who is landed during the term of his engagement or on its expiration shall be entitled to be taken back to his own country, or to the port at which he was engaged, or to the port at which the voyage commenced, as shall be determined by national law, which shall contain the provisions necessary for dealing with the matter, including provisions to determine who shall bear the charge of repatriation.

2. A seaman shall be deemed to have been duly repatriated if he has been provided with suitable employment on board a vessel proceeding to one of the destinations prescribed in accordance with the foregoing paragraph.

3. A seaman shall be deemed to have been repatriated if he is landed in the country to which he belongs, or at the port at which he was engaged, or at a neighbouring port, or at the port at which the voyage commenced.

4. The conditions under which a foreign seaman engaged in a country other than his own has the right to be repatriated shall be as provided by national law or, in the absence of such legal provisions, in the articles of agreement. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall, however, apply to a seaman engaged in a port of his own country.

ARTICLE 4

The expenses of repatriation shall not be a charge on the seaman if he has been left behind by reason of—

- (a) injury sustained in the service of the vessel, or
- (b) shipwreck, or
- (c) illness not due to his own wilful act or default, or
- (d) discharge for any cause for which he cannot be held responsible.

ARTICLE 5

1. The expenses of repatriation shall include the transportation charges, the accommodation and the food of the seaman during the journey. They shall also include the maintenance of the seaman up to the time fixed for his departure.

2. When a seaman is repatriated as member of a crew, he shall be entitled to remuneration for work done during the voyage.

ARTICLE 6

The public authority of the country in which the vessel is registered shall be responsible for supervising the repatriation of any member of the crew in cases where this Convention applies, whatever may be his nationality, and where necessary for giving him his expenses in advance.

ARTICLE 7

The formal ratifications of this Convention, under the conditions set forth in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

ARTICLE 8

1. This Convention shall come into force at the date on which the ratification of two Members of the International Labour Organisation have been registered by the Director-General.⁽¹⁾
2. It shall be binding only upon those Members whose ratifications have been registered with the International Labour Office.
3. Thereafter, the Convention shall come into force for any Member at the date on which its ratification has been registered with the International Labour Office.

ARTICLE 9

As soon as the ratifications of two Members of the International Labour Organisation have been registered with the International Labour Office, the Director-General of the International Labour Office shall so notify all the Members of the International Labour Organisation. He shall likewise notify them of the registration of ratifications which may be communicated subsequently by other Members of the Organisation.

ARTICLE 10

Subject to the provisions of Article 8, each Member which ratifies this Convention agrees to bring the provisions of Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 into operation not later than 1 January 1928, and to take such action as may be necessary to make these provisions effective.

ARTICLE 11

Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention engages to apply it to its colonies, possessions and protectorates, in accordance with the provisions of Article 35 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

⁽¹⁾ The Convention entered into force on 16 April 1928.

ARTICLE 12

A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered with the International Labour Office.

ARTICLE 13

At least once in ten years the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision or modification.

ARTICLE 14

The French and English texts of this Convention shall both be authentic.

RATIFICATIONS

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of Registration of Ratification</i>
Argentina	14 Mar. 1950
Belgium*	3 Oct. 1927
Bulgaria	29 Nov. 1929
China 	2 Dec. 1936
Colombia	20 June 1933
Cuba	7 July 1928
Djibouti	3 Aug. 1978
Egypt	4 Aug. 1982
France†	4 Mar. 1929
German Democratic Republic	1 Jan. 1974
Germany, Federal Republic of	14 Mar. 1930
Ghana	18 Mar. 1965
Greece	6 May 1981
Iraq	23 Sep. 1976
Ireland, Republic of	5 July 1930
Italy‡	10 Oct. 1929
Liberia	21 June 1977
Luxembourg	16 Apr. 1928
Mauritania	8 Nov. 1963
Mexico	12 May 1934
Netherlands§	5 May 1948
New Zealand*	11 Jan. 1980
Nicaragua	12 Apr. 1934
Panama	19 June 1970
Peru	4 Apr. 1962
Philippines	17 Nov. 1960
Poland	8 Aug. 1931
Portugal	23 May 1983
Somalia	18 Nov. 1960
Spain	23 Feb. 1931
Switzerland	21 Apr. 1960
Tunisia	14 Apr. 1970
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	17 June 1970
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	4 Nov. 1969
United Kingdom*	3 June 1985
Uruguay	6 June 1933
Yugoslavia	30 Sep. 1929

* For Reservations and Declarations see page 8.

† Applies to French Overseas Departments and Territories without modification from 27 Nov., 1974.

‡ Ratification includes Italian Colonies.

§ Applies to Netherlands Antilles from 5 Aug., 1957.

|| Not recognised by the United Kingdom.

RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

BELGIUM

On ratifying the Convention the Government of Belgium made the following reservation:

“ Subject to subsequent decisions regarding application of Convention to the Belgian Congo and Territories under Belgian Mandate.”

NEW ZEALAND

On ratifying the Convention the Government of New Zealand made the following declaration:

“ Not applicable to Tokelau Islands.”

UNITED KINGDOM

On ratifying the Convention the Government of the United Kingdom made the following reservation:

“ The Government of the United Kingdom reserves the right to extend the said Convention at a later date to any territory for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom is responsible.”

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