



Treaty Series No. 5 (1934)

Exchange of Notes

between His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth
of Australia and the Belgian Government

regarding

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

London, December 14, 1933

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty*

LONDON

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

London, December 14, 1933.

No. 1.

Mr. Bruce to Baron de Cartier de Marchienne.

Australia House, Strand,

Your Excellency,

London, December 14, 1933.

I HAVE the honour to confirm to your Excellency, on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, the following arrangement which has been arrived at in the course of my discussions in Brussels, on the 16th and 17th November, with M. Suetens :—

1. His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia takes note that one of the principles which will henceforth determine the commercial policy of the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union will be the restoration by every possible means of the balance of trade with countries who have adversely affected exports from the Union by tariff measures or other restrictions.

His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia recognises that it is in the interests of both parties to increase Australian purchases in Belgium, a country which is one of the principal markets for Australian exports. For this reason, His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia hereby undertakes—

- (i) To give favourable consideration to the proposals which the Government of His Majesty the King of the Belgians will present in respect of the importation into Australia of Belgian goods.
- (ii) To conclude as rapidly as possible a commercial agreement determining the whole of the economic relations between the two parties.

2. Pending the determination of the policy to be applied in future in Australia to the importation of Belgian sheet glass, His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, while still maintaining its point of view with regard to the prohibition recently imposed upon the importation of Australian frozen meat into Belgium, notes the decision of the Government of His Majesty the

King of the Belgians to limit the granting of licences for the importation of Australian frozen meat into Belgium to a value equivalent to the total value of Belgian sheet glass, the importation of which may be authorised into Australia.

3. It is understood that, pending the conclusion of the commercial agreement referred to above, neither party will impose any new discriminatory measure whatever upon the importation of any commodity of the other.

4. In the event of the contemplated agreement not being concluded within a period of six months of the present exchange of notes, either Government may give at any moment thereafter one month's notice of its intention to resume its liberty of action.

The present note and your Excellency's reply in similar terms will be regarded as placing on record the agreement between the two Governments in this matter, which should come into force on the 14th December, 1933.

I have, &c.
S. M. BRUCE.

No. 2.

Baron de Cartier de Marchienne to Mr. Bruce.

Ambassade de Belgique,

M. le Haut-Commissaire, *Londres, le 14 décembre 1933.*

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser la réception de votre lettre du 14 de ce mois, et, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, de vous marquer mon accord sur les termes des quatre paragraphes dont la traduction est reproduite ci-après :

“ 1. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans le Commonwealth australien prend note qu'un des principes qui détermineront dorénavant la politique commerciale de l'Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise sera le redressement par tous les moyens de la balance des échanges avec les pays qui ont porté préjudice à l'exportation de l'Union par le moyen de mesures douanières ou d'autres entraves au commerce. Il reconnaît qu'il est de l'intérêt des deux parties d'augmenter les achats de l'Australie en Belgique, pays qui constitue un des principaux marchés pour l'exportation australienne. A cet effet, il s'engage :

- (i) A examiner avec bienveillance les demandes que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges lui présentera concernant l'importation des produits belges en Australie ;
- (ii) A conclure le plus rapidement possible un accord commercial réglant l'ensemble des relations économiques entre les deux parties.

“ 2. En attendant que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans le Commonwealth australien ait décidé quel régime sera appliqué à l’avenir en Australie à l’importation des verres à vitres de provenance belge, ledit Gouvernement, tout en maintenant son point de vue au sujet de la prohibition imposée récemment à l’importation en Belgique des viandes congelées australiennes, prend note de la décision du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges de n’accorder des licences pour l’importation en Belgique des viandes congelées australiennes que pour une valeur équivalente au montant de l’importation des verres à vitres belges qui pourra être autorisée en Australie.

“ 3. Il est entendu que, en attendant la conclusion de l’accord commercial dont il est question ci-dessus, aucune des deux parties n’appliquera de nouvelles mesures discriminatoires quelconques à l’importation des produits de l’autre.

“ 4. Dans le cas où l’accord projeté n’aurait pas été conclu endéans une période de six mois à dater du présent échange de notes, chacun des deux Gouvernements pourra, à tout moment après l’expiration de ladite période, notifier, un mois à l’avance, son intention de reprendre sa liberté d’action.”

Votre lettre précitée, ainsi que la présente réponse, prennent acte de l’accord intervenu en cette matière entre les deux Gouvernements. Cet accord doit entrer en vigueur à la date d’aujourd’hui, 14 décembre 1933.

Veillez, &c.

BARON DE CARTIER DE MARCHIENNE.

(Translation.)

Belgian Embassy,

London, December 14, 1933.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th of this month and to accept, on behalf of my Government, the arrangement recorded in the four paragraphs, of which the following is a translation :—

[Here follows the French translation of paragraphs numbered 1 to 4 in No. 1.]

Your note and the present reply constitute the agreement concluded in this matter between the two Governments. The agreement comes into force from to-day, the 14th December, 1933.

Accept, &c.

BARON DE CARTIER DE MARCHIENNE.