

GENEVA, November 1st, 1925.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT

PASSPORT CONFERENCE

PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS

II

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE
CONFERENCE ON PASSPORTS, CUSTOMS FORMALITIES
AND THROUGH TICKETS IN PARIS ON OCTOBER 21st, 1920.**

The International Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and Through Tickets held under the auspices of the Provisional Committee on Communications and Transit of the League of Nations, and charged with the study of the methods necessary to facilitate international passenger traffic by rail, at present more especially hindered by passport and Customs formalities, as well as by the difficulties of obtaining through tickets;

Convinced that the many difficulties affecting personal relations between the peoples of various countries constitute a serious obstacle to the resumption of normal intercourse and to the economic recovery of the world;

Being of the opinion, further, that the legitimate concern of every Government for the safeguarding of its security and rights prohibits, for the time being, the total abolition of restrictions and that complete return to pre-war conditions which the Conference hopes, nevertheless, to see gradually re-established in the near future;

Proposes that the League of Nations should invite the Governments to adopt the following measures with as little delay as possible :

I. PASSPORTS.

A. ISSUE OF PASSPORTS.

1. *The establishment of a uniform type of "ordinary" passport (non-diplomatic).* ("international type,") which will be identical for all countries, in order to facilitate control during the journey (model as per Annex I), to be issued at the latest by July 1st, 1921, and to supersede all other types.

2. *Duration of validity of passport.* — The passport will only be issued for a single journey or for a period of two years. The validity of the passport issued for two years may be extended.

3. *Fee to be collected.* — The fee charged shall not be of a fiscal character and will be collected without any discrimination between countries for which the passport is issued, and with absolute equality as between "nationals" and "non-nationals" in the event of a passport being issued by a Government to persons other than its "nationals".

4. *Diplomatic passports.* — Diplomatic passports or visas will only be granted to persons falling within the categories mentioned in Annex II, the form of diplomatic passport being left entirely to the discretion of the issuing State.

10. ~~INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL~~

1. *Limitation of validity of visas.* — "Provisional" visas (i.e., visas granted by the authorities issuing the passport or by their representatives) will only be accepted in case the validity of the passport is subject to doubt. Such visas will always be given free of charge.

11. ~~TRAVEL VISA~~

12. *Abolition of visa for all except "nationals".*

13. ~~TRAVEL VISA~~

1. *Duration of validity of visa.* — For passports issued for a single journey, the duration of validity of the visa will be the same as that of the passport. For passports issued for two years, the visa will be valid for one year, except in absolutely exceptional cases where a Government might deem it advisable to give a visa of less duration of validity in order not to refuse the giving of a visa altogether. Each Government will notify the Secretariat-General of the League of Nations every six months for the information of other Governments the number, both of ordinary temporary visas and exceptional visas of a less duration, given by its officials. It is understood, however, that duration of validity of visa does not in any way imply the right to stay or to settle for a corresponding period in the territory of the State granting the visa. Except for special reasons justified by considerations of health or of national security, visas given will always be valid at all frontiers.

2. *Visa charged.* — The maximum fee shall be 10 francs (gold). This charge will be made irrespective of the nationality of the holder of the passport or of the point of entry into or departure from the territory of the State issuing the visa. Nevertheless, the nationals of a State granting to nationals of another State the benefit of a reduced rate may themselves be accorded reciprocity arrangements of paying an equal rate. Any reduced rate which may be granted will apply equally to all States granting the same advantages. There shall be no individual reductions of any kind, except in the case of certain categories of persons who may be completely exempted from any charge whatever in accordance with rules to be fixed and published, such exemptions being subject to the conditions of equality and reciprocity laid down in the preceding paragraph.

14. ~~TRAVEL VISA~~

3. *Issue of visa.* — Transit visas will, unless for exceptional reasons (e.g., undesirables), be issued at once without requiring solely upon production of the entrance visa for the country of destination or allowing to transit visas for the intermediate countries.

4. *Duration of validity of visa.* — The duration of validity of a visa shall always be the same as that of the entrance visa of the country of destination, it being already understood, however, that the transit visa may sometimes be of some duration of validity shorter without voluntary interruption of the journey on the part of the traveller across the territory of transit in question.

5. *Visa charged.* — The maximum fee charged will be 10 francs (gold), and will be subject to the same provisions as contained in Article 13 as regards conditions of equality, reciprocity, the abolition of individual reductions and total exemptions.

15. ~~GENERAL PROVISIONS~~

16. *Family passports.* — The provisions of the above paragraphs will be applicable to family passports including husband, wife and children under fifteen years of age; a family passport being considered, especially as regards the charge levied, as an individual passport.

17. *Collective passports for emigrants.* — The same fee will be collected for collective passports for emigrants will be collected without any discrimination whatever based upon citizenship, nationality of the holder or the points of emigration or of exit from the territory of the State issuing the visa, subject, however, to the conditions of reciprocity provided for in Article 13. The provisions of Articles 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 will apply to such passports.

16. CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

1. *Abolition of examination of registered luggage in transit.* — Registered luggage is exempt from the examination of a State with the exception of the State from any Customs examination. With this object such luggage shall, for example, be either separately sealed by the Customs authorities or included in baggage or goods which are not in transit and which are subject to special charges and examinations also sealed by the Customs authorities.

15. *Passengers in transit with money and scrip.* — Passengers in transit entering countries where laws exist prohibiting the export of money and scrip will be permitted to claim a certificate setting forth the amount of such money and scrip which are in their possession. They will be entitled, on leaving the country, to take with them such money and scrip on surrendering the above-mentioned certificate. This privilege will be brought to the notice of the travelling public with the same publicity as the regulations prohibiting the export of capital.

III. THROUGH TICKETS.

16. *Through tickets.* — The States through which the Simplon-Orient-Express passes will, with the shortest possible delay, communicate to the League of Nations all technical information with regard to their system for through tickets at present in force, as well as any alterations of detail to such regulations which as a result of their experience may appear to them as indispensable or desirable. Such information will be brought to the notice of all States concerned with a view to facilitating, by means of special agreements, based if necessary on the above system, the extension of through bookings which is now recognised as being of urgent necessity.

IV. GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. *Periodical information.* — The Governments will forward to the League of Nations every three months any information of practical value concerning passports and Customs formalities in connection with passenger traffic and their application at the principal frontier stations and on international railway systems, as also any information as to new international services with through tickets, with particulars of the technical means employed to render possible such new services. Such information, if suitable, will be published by the League of Nations for the benefit of the public or of the companies interested.

The Conference proposes that the League of Nations should invite every Government to notify it, within a period of three months after the receipt of the present invitations, as to whether it agrees to carry out the aforesaid measures, in whole or in part, and from what date, specifying, if necessary, whether or not it proposes to limit the benefit of any of such measures to the nationals of States according reciprocal treatment to their own nationals. The reply of each Government will be communicated to every other Government through the medium of the League of Nations and will appear in the *Official Journal* of the League.

Any Government desiring at a future date to withdraw in whole or in part their acceptance of the above-mentioned measures should be invited to notify the League of Nations definitely at least three months in advance of the date when such a decision is to take effect.

The Conference proposes, further, that the League of Nations should bring to the notice of the Governments the following recommendations, the carrying into effect of which would appear highly desirable, but which do not appear to warrant definitive invitations.

Recommendations.

I. PASSPORTS.

(a) *Passport exemptions.* — That adjacent States should, whenever possible, enter into mutual agreements with a view to exempting from passport formalities all classes of persons holding papers which in practice can be taken as a guarantee of their identity (*e.g.*, Government and railway officials and persons in possession of marine identity papers, etc.).

(b) *Abolition of entrance visa for nationals.* — That the entrance visa should not be required for nationals.

(c) *Abolition of exit visa for nationals.* — That the exit visa (the abolition of which for persons other than nationals is provided for in the preceding resolution) should, as far as possible, be abolished also in the case of nationals.

(d) *Entrance visa for passports not covering all destinations.* — That, subject to the legitimate exercise of the right of asylum, the Governments should, as far as possible, enter into agreements with a view to preventing the granting by any State of entrance visas into its territory in cases where the passport itself has not been issued for that territory.

(e) *Facilities for sojourn.* — That States should accord to the holders of passports bearing regular visas such facilities for sojourn as are compatible with their health regulations, their economic situation and with the interests of national security and that, with this end in view, States should simplify, as far as possible, the regulations and procedure in force with respect to the sojourn of foreigners admitted into their respective territories.

(f) *Simplification of formalities.* — That States should enter as far as possible into mutual agreements with a view, first, to establishing joint control of passports at points of exit and entry of adjacent countries, pending the complete abolition of control at the point of exit; secondly, to providing that the authorities giving a visa for the country of destination should also undertake the necessary formalities for obtaining other visas, such as those for transit; and, thirdly, to combining passport formalities as far as possible with Customs formalities with a view to reducing to a minimum the time lost on the journey.

II. CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

(g) *International stations.* — That adjacent States should as far as possible enter into agreements to ensure a common Customs entrance and exit examination by the organisation of joint services.

(h) *Examination of outgoing registered luggage.* — That the examination of outgoing registered luggage should take place as far as possible before departure at important railway centres.

(i) *Examination of incoming registered luggage.* — That the examination of incoming registered luggage should take place as far as possible upon arrival at important railway centres.

(j) *Examination of luggage in general.* — That any further examination of hand and registered luggage should as far as possible take place (whenever this is feasible with number of staff available) on board corridor trains or, in the case of non-corridor trains, in the carriages themselves whilst at frontier stations.

(k) *Limitation of luggage.* — That, with a view to simplifying Customs formalities, the Governments should see that regulations concerning the limitation of weight and the description of articles which may be carried as luggage are strictly enforced.

III. THROUGH SERVICES.

(l) That international through trains and express trains connecting large centres should, as far as possible, be established at the earliest possible moment and that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the importance of taking the necessary measures to this end, if necessary by mutual agreement.

IV. TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(m) That the most efficient measures should be taken to ensure that the transport of emigrants be carried out in the conditions most favourable to public health; that corridor trains should be used, as far as possible, for the transportation of emigrants; that prolonged stoppages at frontier or other stations for the purpose of passports, Customs, or sanitary formalities in connection with the transport of emigrants should take place where material facilities exist which permit of this being done without danger to the public health; that authorities issuing passports to emigrants should, at the same time, furnish them with particulars of the sanitary and other conditions to which they will be subject, and the expenses which they will incur *en route* until arrival in the country of destination.

The Conference proposes that the League of Nations should invite the Governments to inform the League in due course of the action taken with respect to any or all of these recommendations.

(Signed) Jhr. J. LOUDON,
President.

(Signed) Robert HAAS,
Secretary-General.

Annex I

TYPE OF "INTERNATIONAL" PASSPORT.

(The model is that of a passport such as would be delivered by the Spanish Government.)

The passport is to contain 32 pages. The first four pages only are reproduced herewith. The other 28 pages should all be numbered and should contain the visas of the countries for which the passport is valid.

The passport should be drawn up in at least two languages, *i.e.*, in the national language and in French.

The passport must be bound in cardboard, bearing on the top the name and in the centre the coat of arms of the country and at the bottom the word "Passport", with the addition, according to the desire of the various Governments, of any practical information concerning the regime of passports.

Any passport of which the pages are entirely filled must be replaced by a fresh passport.

Este pasaporte contiene
32 páginas
Ce passeport contient
32 pages

(Armes
du
pays)

(timbre
de
l'impôt)

PASAPORTE
PASSEPORT

NOMBRE DEL PAIS
NOM DU PAYS

Nº del pasaporte }
Nº du passeport }
Nombre del portador }
Nom du porteur }
Acompañado de su esposa }
Accompagné de sa femme }
y de hijos.
et de enfants.

NACIONALIDAD }
NATIONALITÉ }

SEÑAS PERSONALES
SIGNALEMENT

	Esposa - Femme
Profesion } Profession }	
Lugar y fecha del nacimiento } Lieu et date de naissance }	
Domicilio } Domicile }	
Rostro } Visage }	
Color de los ojos } Couleur des yeux }	
Color del cabello } Couleur des cheveux }	
Señas particulares } Signes particuliers }	

HIJOS - ENFANTS

Nombre Nom	Edad Age	Sexo Sexe
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Esposa
Femme

(photo)

(Foto)

timbre
sec

FIRMA DEL PORTADOR
SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE

Y DE SU ESPOSA
ET DE SA FEMME

Firma del Expedidor :
Signature de l'agent délivrant le passeport :

Países en los cuales este pasaporte es válido
Pays pour lesquels ce passeport est valable

La validez deste pasaporte terminá :
Ce passeport expire le :

a menos que se renovado.
à moins de renouvellement.

expedido en }
délivré à }
fecha }
date }

RENOVACIONES
RENOUVELLEMENTS

1º
2º
3º
4º

Annex II

DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS.

1. The high dignitaries of the household of a Head of States.
 2. Diplomatic officials and their families ; consular officials and their families.
 3. The members of Governments, Ministers of State, the President and Vice-President of national legislative bodies and their families.
 4. The officials of the Foreign Office and their families.
 5. Cabinet couriers and persons charged by their Governments with official missions to foreign Governments or to official international bodies.
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