

N° 1141.

**FRANCE
ET TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

Convention relative à la protection
et à l'assistance judiciaire, avec
protocole de signature, signés à
Paris, le 7 octobre 1922.

**FRANCE
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Convention with regard to Judicial
Protection and Legal Assistance,
with Protocol of Signature, signed
at Paris, October 7, 1922.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 1141. — CONVENTION ² BETWEEN FRANCE AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH REGARD TO JUDICIAL PROTECTION AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE, SIGNED AT PARIS, OCTOBER 7, 1922.

French official text communicated by the Permanent Delegate of the Czechoslovak Republic accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Convention took place April 13, 1926.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, having jointly decided to conclude a Convention for the purpose of ensuring constant legal protection and the advantages of legal assistance to the nationals of both Parties, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly empowered to that effect, have agreed as follows :

Article 1.

French citizens in Czechoslovakia and Czechoslovak citizens in France shall, subject to reciprocity, have free access to the Courts of Justice in the other country, so long as they comply with the legislation in force in that country, whether as plaintiffs or defendants, before all the courts of every instance established by law. They shall be entitled to employ in all legal proceedings such counsel or representatives, of whatever category, as are authorised by the legislation of the country, and shall in all these respects be entitled to the same rights and privileges as are or may hereafter be granted to the nationals of the State in question.

Article 2.

No fee, security or deposit shall be exacted from the nationals of either High Contracting Party who institute proceedings before the Courts of the other Contracting Party, whether as plaintiffs or interveners, to which the nationals of the country in question would not, under its legislation, be liable under similar circumstances.

Article 3.

The nationals of the two High Contracting Parties shall reciprocally be entitled to the advantages of legal assistance in the same manner as the nationals of the respective countries, so long as they comply with the laws in force in the country in which assistance is applied for.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Paris, February 27, 1926.

Article 4.

Indigent nationals of either High Contracting Party shall, in the territory of the other Contracting Party, be entitled, free of charge, to copies of documents concerning legal status in all cases in which the legislation of the country in which these documents are applied for allows similar favours to the nationals of the said country. The documents requisite for their marriages shall be legalised free of charge by the diplomatic or consular agents of the two Contracting Parties.

Article 5.

A certificate of indigence shall be issued to a national of the other Contracting State, who applies for assistance, by the authorities of his habitual place of residence.

If he is not resident in the country in which the application is made, the certificate of indigence shall be endorsed and legalised free of charge by the diplomatic agent or by the consul of the country in which the certificate has to be produced.

If the applicant resides in the country in which the application is made, information may also be obtained from the authorities of the State of which he is a national.

Article 6.

When legal assistance is granted by one of the two Contracting Parties either to one of its own nationals or to a national of the other Party, the service of documents effected in the other State in connection with the same proceedings, shall not render the State making the application liable to any repayment of charges to the State to which application is made, except in respect of the costs of a special mode of procedure in accordance with Article 3 of the Declaration concerning the transmission and service of legal documents and the execution of *commissions rogatoires*.

In such cases, the execution of *commissions rogatoires* shall involve no charges other than the repayment, by the State making the application to the State to which application is made, of the fees of experts and of the costs of a special mode of procedure in accordance with Article 4 of the above-mentioned Declaration.

Article 7.

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged in Paris as soon as possible.

The present Convention is concluded for a period of five years.

If within six months of the end of that period neither of the Contracting Parties shall have notified its intention of ceasing to apply it, the said Convention shall continue to be in force for a further period of six months, and shall be renewed for successive periods of six months, until a date six months after its denunciation by one of the Parties.

In faith whereof, the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have affixed their seals thereto.

Done in Paris on October 7, 1922, in duplicate.

(L. S.) ŠTEFAN OSUSKÝ.

(L. S.) R. POINCARÉ.

PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being about to sign the Convention concerning legal protection and assistance, are agreed that the exemption provided for in Article 4 of the said Convention from charges in respect of delivery to indigent persons of copies of documents concerning legal status, shall not include exemption from stamp duty.

Done in Paris, in duplicate, on October 7, 1922.

(Signed) ŠTEFAN OSUSKÝ.

(Signed) R. POINCARÉ.