

No. 31343

**LITHUANIA
and
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Agreement on merchant shipping. Signed at Vilnius on 18 November 1993

Authentic texts: Lithuanian and Russian.

Registered by Lithuania on 28 October 1994.

**LITUANIE
et
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE**

Accord relatif à la marine marchande. Signé à Vilnius le 18 novembre 1993

Textes authentiques : lituanien et russe.

Enregistré par la Lituanie le 28 octobre 1994.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON MERCHANT SHIPPING

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Russian Federation, hereinafter called the Contracting Parties,

Desiring to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries in the field of merchant shipping,

On the basis of the provisions of the Treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on the basis for relations between States of 29 July 1991² and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Russian Federation on the principles of cooperation and the terms for reciprocal relations in the field of transport of 12 February 1992,³

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

In the present Agreement:

The term “vessel of a Contracting Party” shall mean any merchant vessel registered in the shipping register or any other relevant official list of that Contracting Party and flying its flag in accordance with its legal provisions. This term shall not, however, include warships, fishing vessels, hydrographic survey and scientific research vessels.

The term “member of the crew” shall mean the master and any other person actually employed for duties on board during a voyage in the working or servicing of a vessel and included in the crew list.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall make every effort to promote freedom of merchant shipping and shall refrain from undertaking any activities that could prove detrimental to the normal development of international shipping.

Article 3

1. The Contracting Parties shall promote the development of merchant shipping between ports in their countries, guided in this respect by the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

2. With respect to the movement of cargo between ports in their countries, the Contracting Parties shall promote close cooperation between their charter, shipping and shipping-related enterprises and organizations.

¹ Came into force on 19 January 1994, the date of the last of the notifications by which the Contracting Parties informed each other of the completion of the national legal procedures, in accordance with article 19.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1787, No. I-31051.

³ See p. 53 of this volume.

Article 4

1. The Contracting Parties agree:

(a) To promote participation of vessels of the Contracting Parties in sea trade between the ports of their countries. In this connection, the Contracting Parties shall conclude a separate agreement establishing simplified arrangements for the movement of cargo and passengers by coastal navigation vessels between ports in the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation;

(b) To cooperate in the elimination of any obstacles which may hamper the development of trade between the ports of their countries;

(c) Not to hinder the participation of the vessels of one Contracting Party in trade between the ports of the other Contracting Party and the ports of third countries.

2. The provisions of this article shall not affect the right of vessels of third countries to participate in trade between the ports of the Contracting Parties.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with the legislation in force in their respective territories, render all necessary assistance to the shipping or shipping-related enterprises or organizations of one Contracting Party in establishing routes to or from the other Contracting Party's ports, and in setting up representative offices in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 6

1. Each Contracting Party shall afford vessels of the other Contracting Party most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of free access to ports, provision of berths at wharves, use of ports for loading and unloading of cargoes and for embarking and disembarking of passengers, payment of tonnage and other port dues and use of services intended for maritime shipping.

These arrangements shall not, however, apply to ports which have been closed to international shipping.

2. Each Contracting Party shall extend the treatment stipulated in paragraph 1 of this article to vessels operated by maritime shipping enterprises of the other Contracting Party sailing under the flag of third countries, unless this conflicts with its obligations arising from international agreements or its own relevant legal provisions.

Article 7

Each Contracting Party shall adopt, within the limits of its laws and port regulations, all appropriate measures in order to facilitate and expedite maritime traffic, to prevent unnecessary delays to vessels and to expedite and simplify, as much as possible, customs and other formalities applicable in ports.

Article 8

1. Ship's documents on board the vessel issued or recognized by one of the Contracting Parties shall be recognized by the other Contracting Party.