



Western Armenia ratifies the Treaty of Sèvres

Introduction:

"The Times" Correspondent in Paris, wrote the following article on August 11, 1920,
PEACE WITH TURKEY, Eleven Allied powers sign Treaty, [1]

Paris, August 10 1920,

The Turkish Treaty has a length been signed. The ceremony took place at 4 o'clock this afternoon at Sevres.

After the delay caused by the Greco-Italian negotiations came another due to the refusal of the Turkish Delegates to sign the Treaty without the counter signature of Serbia, unless they should receive special permission from Constantinople.

Serbia has not given her signature because she is unwilling to bear the burden of that portion of the Turkish debt which it was arranged should be transferred to the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, together with former Turkish territory.

Permission to sign, however, reached General Hadi Pasha, Riza Tewfik Bey, and Reshid Bey at half-past 1, and the ceremony could thus take place a few hours later.

M. Millerand presided over the ceremony. After the three Turkish Delegates has signed, the representatives of the Allies affixed their signatures, Sir George Grahame acting for Great Britain.

Signatures were affixed to three documents – the Treaty itself, the Italo-Greek Protocol, and a Protocol concerning the zones of influence in Asia Minor. The course of procedure was similar to that adopted for the signature of previous Treaties. The Turkish representatives were dressed in frock coats, but retained their fezzes throughout the ceremony, in accordance with national custom.

The Powers signing the Turkish Treaty were Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Armenia, Belgium, Greece, Poland Portugal, Rumania, and CzechoSlovakia. Serbia and the Hedjaz were not represented.

Nothing but the ratification of the Treaty of Peace with Hungary, and the Treaty signed yesterday with Turkey now intervenes between Great Britain and a legal termination of the war which began in 1914.

Peace with Germany was signed at Versailles on June 28, 1919, and ratified on January 10 of this year.

Peace with Austria was signed at Saint-Germain on September 10, 1919, and was ratified on July 16 of this year.

Peace with Bulgaria was signed at Neuilly on November 27, 1919, and was ratified on August 9 of this year.

Peace with Hungary was signed at Versailles (Trianon) on June 4 of this year, but has not yet been ratified.

¹ The Times, August 11, 1920

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on June 1, Mr. Bonar Law stated that an Order in Council under the Termination of the Present War (Definition) Act could not be issued until the Treaties with Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Turkey has been signed and the necessary ratifications deposited.

Official Press Release on the Ratification of the Treaty of Sèvres by Western Armenia

For this reason, on May 9, 2016, a special Bill was filed and sent to the Presidency of the Parliament of Western Armenia for the ratification of the Treaty of Sevres by Western Armenia.

The draft Act was amended several times. This third version, was adopted on June 24, 2016 at 23:30 (Yerevan time), by members of the Parliament of Western Armenia and the members of the Presidential Legal Council of the Republic of Western Armenia.

The Bill that suggests the ratification of the Treaty of Sevres and additional Treaties signed on August 10, 1920, was presented and defended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Western Armenia Mr. Karnig Sarkissian, and supported by the Prime Minister Mr. Tigran Pashabezyan, was passed and adopted unanimously with one vote against. Taking into consideration that the government of the Republic of Western Armenia is based outside Europe, the bill suggests also to authorize the President of the Republic of Western Armenia, Arménag Aprahamian, for the ratification of the Treaty.

The day of June 24, 2016 is regarded as a historic day for the ratification of the Treaty of Sevres by the President of the Republic of Western Armenia, Arménag Aprahamian.

The Bill that was passed is composed of two sections.

First article. - The President of the Republic is authorized to ratify the Treaty of Peace signed at Sèvres August, 10, 1920 and the Additional treaties appendices below listed and signed on the same day:

- Treaty between Armenia and the Principal Allied Powers in order to define the provisions that may be considered necessary by these Powers to protect the interests of the inhabitants of that State not being part of the majority of the population in terms of race, language or religion,
- Additional Protocol putting into function the diplomatic services in the territory of signatory states,
- The Treaty with the Principal Allied Powers to define the necessary provisions by these Powers to ensure freedom of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce with other nations.

Second article - The President of the Republic is authorized to apply the exequatur of the Arbitral Sentence of President Woodrow Wilson dated November 22, 1920.

The ratification of the Treaty of Sèvres by Western Armenia falls into a very particular context of international events. Indeed, just a few hours before this ratification, the “Brexit” referendum took place resulting in a 51.9% for the exit of the Great Britain from European

Union. The same day Pope Francis denounced the genocide perpetrated against the Armenians during His speech in Yerevan.

The exit of Britain from the European Union is an unprecedented crisis indicator following the war in Syria, the refugee crisis and the disinterestedness in the fate of the Middle East including the fate of Western Armenia.

Legal reminders:

The pages 457-458 of the Treaty of Sèvres specify the ratification conditions as transcribed below:

- The Present Treaty shall be ratified, in French, English, and Italian.
- In case of any divergence, the French text shall prevail, except in Parts I (Covenant of the League of Nations) and XII (Labour), where the French and English texts shall be of equal force.
- The ratifications are to be deposited in Paris, as soon as possible.
- Governments that are located outside Europe, will be entitled to inform about their ratification to the Government of the French Republic through their diplomatic representatives in Paris; in that case they must transmit the instrument of ratification as soon as possible.
- A first report on the deposition of the ratifications will be drawn as soon as the Treaty is ratified by Turkey on the one hand, and by three of the Principal Allied Powers on the other.
- From the date of this first report the Treaty will come into force between the High Contracting Parties who have ratified it.
- For the determination of all periods of time provided in the present Treaty, this date will be the date of the coming into force of the Treaty.
- In all other respects the Treaty will enter into force for each Power at the date of the deposition of their ratifications.
- The French Government will transmit to all the signatory Powers a certified copy of the reports on the deposition of ratifications.
- In Faith Whereof the above-named Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty.
(14 signatory)

Historical reminders:

- The Armenian State on the territory of Western Armenia was recognized *de facto*, on **January 19, 1920** (Day of Independence) by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers.
- The Armenian State on the territory of Western Armenia was recognized *de jure*, on **May 11, 1920** by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers.
- The government of Armenia, the major Allied Powers, the Allied Powers and Turkey signed **the Treaty of Sevres on August 10, 1920**.
- **On November, 22**, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Arbitral Award defining the boundaries between the state of Armenia in the territory of Western Armenia and Turkey.

- **On December 17, 2004**, the **National Council of the Armenians of Western Armenia** declared its existence in Shushi.
- **On January 20, 2007**, the delegates of the **Assembly of the Armenians of Western Armenia** adopted a formal declaration of the rights of the Armenians of Western Armenia.
- **On 04 February 2011**, the National Council becomes the **Government of Western Armenia**.
- **January 24, 2013**, the National Council of Western Armenia and the Government of Western Armenia declared together about the project to constitute the **Parliament of Western Armenia** through democratic elections. On 16 December 2013, 64 members of parliament were formally elected by the Armenians of Western Armenia present on the voters' list.
- **December 16, 2013**, the first **President of the Republic of Western Armenia** is officially elected by the members of the Parliament.
- **On February 23, 2014**, a Presidential Decree states that the Republic of Western Armenia is the **Continuity State of the State of Armenia as recognized in 1920**.
- **On February 16, 2014**, a Presidential decree officially assigns **Garin** (Erzurum) in Western Armenia as the headquarters of the National Council and the Government of Western Armenia.
- **June 24, 2016**, on behalf of Western Armenia the **President ratifies the Treaty of Sèvres**.

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