CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

FOR THE YEARS 2007-2008

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Sofia, 15 November 2006

1. ECONOMY

1.1. General

1.1.1. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Flemish Government, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties," have agreed upon the importance of long-term economic relations based on co-operation in different fields.

The co-operation shall be concretised by the exchange of knowledge and experience regarding economic and regional development policies and the use of modern management techniques.

Both Parties shall send each other documentation and information concerning the subjects mentioned above.

1.1.2. Both Parties shall examine the possibility of exchanging experts in the economic fields to be determined through bilateral agreement.

1.2. Specific Actions

- 1.2.1. Economic, industrial and regional policies.
- 1.2.1.1. At the request of the other Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experiences regarding economic, industrial and regional development policies. Particular attention shall be paid to co-operation between the regions, as well as co-operation with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes (Structural Funds, Interreg).
- 1.2.1.2. Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of officials of the administrations concerned (Economy, Regional Policy) in the fields of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and knowledge concerning the following subjects:
 - economic and industrial policies (in particular concerning small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs): aid to enterprises; entrepreneurship (mentorship projects); investment incentives;
 - development of industrial zones;
 - regional policy;
 - urban economy policy;
 - Structural Funds (in particular European Regional Development Fund), legal basis, financial management and control of the Structural Funds;
 - contacts with the European Commission and the elaboration of programmes (especially concerning Interreg IIIC);
 - Euro Info Centres;
 - regeneration of post-industrial mining areas.

1.2.2. Economic development policy

Both Parties shall exchange information and experience in the field of economic development.

Particular attention shall be paid to the SME sector.

1.2.3. Regional development policy

Both Parties shall exchange experience, knowledge, documentation, work models and information on their activities in the field of regional development. The Flemish Party shall put its experience in the field of sub regional economic policy and the Spatial Economy Strategic Plan at the disposal of the Bulgarian Party. The Flemish

Party shall present the ideas regarding regionalisation to the Bulgarian Party, and especially the practical evolution in:

- Flemish legislation on regional policy and its compatibility with European legislation;
- financing sources for regional support; management of European funds;
- administrative governance at the regional and local level.

Both Parties shall incorporate the issue of special economic areas into their cooperation and shall exchange their experience in this field. Special emphasis shall be put on the aspect of sustainable industrial sites.

- 1.2.4. Small and medium-sized enterprises
- 1.2.4.1. Both Parties shall stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SMEs.
- 1.2.4.2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts between Bulgarian and Flemish SMEs.
- 1.2.5. Enterprise coaching programme: mentorship projects

Both Parties shall exchange experience and knowledge in the field of mentorship projects.

Mentorship projects aim at professionalizing the management of small enterprises and at enhancing networking between enterprises.

The strategy consists in setting up fixed groups of small enterprise managers meeting with one or two "mentors" to exchange experience on a monthly basis during one or two years. The "mentors" are executives from large companies or experienced independent consultants who are willing to put their experience at the disposal of other entrepreneurs.

2. TOURISM

- 2.1. Both Parties shall exchange information about legislation and regulations concerning tourism, statistical data, documentation and studies about tourism development. The Flemish Party shall provide technical assistance (advice) to the Bulgarian Party in the sphere of rural and biking tourism.
- 2.2. The Flemish Party shall provide technical assistance (advice) to the Bulgarian Party in the sphere of cultural tourism considering the historical traditions, the rich Flemish cultural heritage and the Flemish valuable experience in this sphere.
- **2.3.** Both Parties shall promote the mutual exchange of tourism promotion material and the participation of different tourism organisations in tourist events.
- **2.4.** Both Parties shall encourage the organisation of study trips for researchers and experts in the field of tourism.
 - The Flemish Party is prepared to receive two experts active in the field of tourism for a study visit of up to four (4) days to Flanders.
- 2.5. Both Parties shall promote the organisation of seminars, colloquiums and task forces concerning tourism items proposed by the interested Party with the aim of exchanging experience and ideas, as well as the organisation of working meetings and roundtables.
- **2.6.** Both Parties shall encourage the establishment of contacts between the relevant branch organisations in Varna and Antwerp in the sphere of yachting aimed at exchanging experience and ideas on future joint work and programme.

2.7. Both Parties shall exchange experience in the implementation of the meetings and events industry, considering the ample experience of Flanders in this sphere.

3. FOREIGN TRADE

- **3.1.** Both Parties shall commit themselves to promoting trade relations between Flanders and Bulgaria.
- 3.2. Both Parties shall organise economic seminars and economic missions, as the occasion arises.
- **3.3.** Actions planned (with reservation) by the Flemish Party in the 2007-2008 period are:
 - 2006 December: participation in the multisectoral trade mission to Sofia, headed by HRH Prince Philippe);
 - 2007: participation with group stand (with Awex) in the Plovdiv Fair;
 - 2008: seminar on environmental technology and opportunities in Sofia.
- 3.4. Both Parties shall exchange information with regard to business opportunities and investments. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, both Parties shall exchange information regarding their respective markets and sectors and their experience and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.
- **3.5.** Both Parties shall encourage and facilitate direct contacts and co-operation between Flemish and Bulgarian chambers of commerce and industry and other foreign trade associations.

4. ENERGY

Both Parties will cooperate in the field of energy, in particular on the following themes: energy efficiency, security of energy supply, renewable energy sources. Both Parties are prepared to cooperate in initiatives concerning the introduction of policies, practices and technologies for sustainable energy development.

5. AGRICULTURE - Horticulture

Within its budgetary means the Flemish Party shall examine the possibilities to cooperate with the Bulgarian Party in the fields of:

- **5.1.** Exchange of experience in the monitoring of scientific research projects at the agricultural research institutes, designated by the ministries.
- 5.2. The Flemish Party (Department for Agriculture and Fisheries) is willing to provide the necessary contact details of the institutions that are capable to execute joint scientific and research projects in the following fields:
 - evaluation of the agro ecological potential of farming regions and diversification of farm production;
 - optimisation of irrigation methods in conditions of water scarcity in greenhouses;
 - new methods and techniques for environmentally sound, resource-effective production and storage of high-quality and safe foodstuffs, beverages and plant- and animal-based organic products;

- food chain traceability for food safety improvement;
- socio-economic problems of rural development.

Considering the membership of Bulgaria in the European Union from 1 January 2007 and the need to apply the CAP, the Bulgarian Party wishes a further pursuit of cooperation with the Flemish Party in the sphere of agriculture for meeting the EU requirements. This co-operation will seek transfer of Flemish experience and conduct of joint research for determination of:

- standards of good agricultural and environmental status, reckoned with the specific indicators for Bulgaria, including soil and climatic conditions, the existing agricultural systems and the structure of farms;
- instructions for compatibility of conventional and organic farming and farming using GMOs.

5.3. Organic farming

- getting familiar with the system of supervising the organic produce control and certification bodies in Flanders (legal framework, procedures, supervision-related documentation, sanctions, produce labelling etc.);
- getting familiar with the system of organic farming support in Flanders and with the activities for promotion of organic farming and informing consumers of organic products.

6. ENVIRONMENT

6.1. The Flemish Land Agency (FLA) would like to exchange its scientific and technological expertise of the sustainable development of the open space with partner organisations in Bulgaria.

More specifically the FLA has expertise in the following work fields:

- project management and execution of land development projects;
- land consolidation;
- land development for nature;
- land bank and local land banks;
- erosion measures;
- agro-economical studies;
- environmental impact assessment (EIA);
- implementation of manure policy (in the framework of the implementation of European regulations and directives: nitrates directive 91/676/EG, council regulation (EEC) No 1774/2002 on animal by-products, water framework directive 2000/60/EG, Integrated pollution prevention and control directive 96/61/EG, national emission ceilings directive 2001/81/EG, council regulation (EEC) No 259/93 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community);
- geographical information systems (GIS) and aerial photogrammetry;
- rural development;
- agro-environmental agreements with farmers;
- participation of local stakeholders;
- integrated approach of projects.

The exchange of sustainable land development methods between the FLA and the Bulgarian partners can be organised through:

- study visits by Bulgarian partners to land development projects in Flanders;
- study visits by the FLA to land development projects in Bulgaria;
- exchange of information about the methods and technology;
- development of a demonstration project in Bulgaria.
- **6.2.** The Flemish Environment Agency (FEA) proposes to provide expertise through training of official experts with a maximum of 15 man-days a year (1/2 month per year) on one or more of the following issues:
 - monitoring network on air quality (set up, sampling and analyses);
 - monitoring network on chemical and biological water quality (set-up, sampling and analyses) and surveillance of inland surface water quality;
 - emission inventories of air and water;
 - environmental reporting, including environmental impact analysis and strategic environmental analysis;
 - price-fixing and levies on waste water;
 - collecting and reporting of water and air monitoring data;
 - integrated water policy;
 - pollutant release transfer registers (PRTR).

The training shall be organised in mutual consultation on the basis of a specific request and programme proposal, after having checked the feasibility of the desired result within the training period.

6.3. Waste treatment

The Flemish Agency for waste treatment (OVAM) is prepared to receive Bulgarian experts on waste management and soil decontamination in order to exchange expertise and information on specific topics.

6.4. Ecological Engineering: an integrated management of waterways in Bulgaria

Within the framework of 'Environmental education and education for sustainable development' and 'Waterways and Maritime Affairs' of the co-operation programme for the years 2007-2008 between the government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the government of Flanders the following project is proposed: "Environmental education for sustainable development in combination with an integrated management of waterways and coastal areas".

The project will be the basis for an institutional strengthening of the knowledge of ecological aspects in river management projects in Bulgaria.

- 1) It consists of the development of a handbook and the organisation of training workshops for the personnel of the Bulgarian ministries responsible for Transport, Environment and Public Works. The objective is to transfer knowledge of ecological aspects in river management projects. In this way the project will support the programming of sustainable projects in the fields of both transportation and environmental policy in Bulgaria.
- 2) After the handbook is developed, a course consisting of training sessions for the specialized personnel of the Bulgarian ministries responsible for Transport, Environment and Public Works will be organized by the Flemish partner. Local Flemish knowledge on these issues will be transferred to the Bulgarian government.

The project is on national level and the results can be implemented by the Bulgarian government on the different waterways projects. Bulgaria has an extended network of both natural and manmade waterways (canals) which cross several ecological important areas (Natura 2000, connection elements, ...). The handbook and the training sessions shall identify:

- Implementation procedures of good practices for the ecological engineering for the plans, programs, projects on waterways through all steps, from preparing, design and implementation on a sustainable and an integrated way.
- Relevant national framework evaluation regarding environment mitigation for plans, programs, projects on waterways (several Directives (EIA, SEA, Habitats, 92/43/EEC, 79/409/EEC, 2000/60/EEC, 2003/4/EC), Bulgarian Protected Area Network (future 2000 Nature sites), RAMSAR Convention, ICPDR, and so on.
- **6.5.** The Nature and Environmental Education service (NEE) is prepared to invite a Bulgarian delegation to introduce them within the NEE-working and -structure on the Flemish level in an active an interactive way.

Taking into account the wishes/needs, the NEE can organise one or more days with the following interests:

- introduction of and getting acquainted with the working of the NEE service within the Flemish policy and with the networking on NEE (diverse target groups) and Education for Sustainable Development
- introduction of and making acquaintance with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to higher education (and, if preferred, linked with a school visit); getting acquainted with the educational means
- introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development;
- site visit to one or more NEE-centres, getting acquainted with the common educational means
- 6.6. The Flemish Party is prepared to invite, during the validity of the present Programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) within the frame of the above mentioned fields for a period of five (5) days in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts with the Flemish actors.

6.7. Co-operation in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol

Bulgaria and Flanders are willing to co-operate within the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular to facilitate co-operation in the field of Joint Implementation under Article 6 and in the field of Emissions Trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

For this purpose a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Bulgaria and the Government of the Flemish Region will be drawn up which will detail procedures described in the Kyoto Protocol in relation to Bulgarian – Flemish co-operation regarding Articles 6 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

7. TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (ROAD TRAFFIC, WATERWAYS AND HYDROTECHNICAL WORKS)

7.1. Road Traffic

Road traffic and transport in general

The Flemish Party is willing to receive two (2) delegations of five (5) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, depending on the topics of interest, information, training and documentation (including on-the-spot inspections on different locations) regarding:

- traffic plans with loops and small buses, one way traffic;
- mobility plans and mobility covenants;
- the establishment and functioning of a Flemish Traffic Centre; traffic management by the federal police (for example block driving and a roadside emergency telephone network);
- the layout and interpretation of multimodal traffic models;
- variable message signing and traffic monitoring, moveable road information devices, co-ordination of traffic lights control, priority measures for public transport in road traffic (traffic lights influencing);
- the development of a website on road construction works and traffic regulations, provision of road signs at road work areas, road signs, markings, etc.
- the reduction of traffic jams and unsafe situations because of road works on motorways;
- black spot management;
- information about GIS (Geographic Information System), the organisation of traffic census inquiries and traffic measurements, the application of digital image processing (video cameras) for traffic management; RDS-TMC systems, in-car telematics;
- information about projects on controlled access, the introduction of an alternative merging system to join the traffic on traffic lanes, the construction of roundabouts and speed reducing designs, measures on carpooling, the construction of cycle tracks and footpaths, the construction of car parks;
- cycle tracks management;
- pedestrian track management;
- facilities for disabled people (facilities to improve accessibility for everyone)
- road safety facilities in school areas;
- information about road safety in general: traffic safety and communication with road users, road safety education in schools, road users awareness raising and main research methods;
- Public Private Partnership (PPP);
- the cleaning and maintenance of roads; control methods and equipment for measuring the condition of the roads;
- surface friction testing on road markings using the SRT and Grip Tester methods;
- the organisation of activities and principles in cases of emergency works needed;
- a temporary (on peak hours) overtaking prohibition for trucks on certain motorways;
- noise reduction measures on roads, including noise reduction barriers, low noise road surfaces, and tyres;
- control of overloaded trucks on motorways;
- intermodal transport (incl. car sharing).

At the request of the Bulgarian Party (the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works), the Flemish Party is willing to assist them in providing expertise within the following fields and under conditions to be agreed upon later:

- urban transport policy;
- safety audits of existing roads, as well as projects audits, collection of data about road
 accidents and the setting up of a data base, including the required activities for
 analysis of the causes of road accidents;
- the introduction of technical safety measures on urban and non-urban roads;
- the organisation of technical specialised visits (training) in the field of implementation and deployment of the latest technologies for traffic management in Flanders (ITS in road management, a multimodal information centre and video processing techniques) for three (3) experts of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Republican Road Infrastructure Fund;
- co-operation in the area of road safety communication and exchange of information methodology, exchange of expertise and know-how on road safety education and research planning;
- in connection with the utilisation of the public urban and interurban transport, the following expertise can be put at the disposal of the Bulgarian Party:
 - data communication between vehicles and the fixed installation as a combination between radio, GPS and devaluation systems;
 - the integrated exploitation and information systems with, in the near future, travel information derived from those systems will be available on the Internet;
 - the construction of intermodal transfer points for the multimodal usage of bus and railway stations and for P/R.
 - sharing the Flemish experience in performing international non accompanied combined transportation, as well as in the construction of freight settlements in the framework of the development of combined transport.

7.2. Waterways and Maritime Affairs

Both Parties shall seek to transfer and exchange experience regarding the following topics.

Management of integrated coastal areas:

- information will be exchanged in connection with the environment, infrastructure and tourism;
- the Flemish Party is prepared to work with the Bulgarian Party within the framework of EU programmes in connection with the problems mentioned above.

Inland Waterways Policy

- The Flemish Party is willing to receive two (2) delegations of five (5) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, depending on the topics of interest, information, training and documentation (including on-the-spot inspections on different locations) regarding the development of the river information services and systems.
- information will be exchanged concerning the implementation of directive 2005/44/EC (RIS directive) and the implementation of the NAIADES programme on the promotion of inland waterways transport.

- The Bulgarian Party is interested in the Development of a Bulgarian - Flemish project for the creation of an inland waterways virtual RIS center for monitoring, simulation and exchange of information about the navigation. The RIS center will be located in Rousse, Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Party will investigate the possibility to present a project between an expert Flemish promoter and relevant Bulgarian partners within the framework of the Flemish Co-operation Programme for Central and Eastern Europe..

Port infrastructure, management and policy:

- dredging operations for maintenance of coastal areas and river mouths;
- hydrography and hydrometry of tidal rivers;
- dredging operations and infrastructural development of a Flemish sea port;
- co-operation between Bulgarian and Flemish ports;
- systems for monitoring and accident prevention at ports.

Both Parties shall co-operate on port related issues through:

- establishing and encouraging trade contacts between Bulgarian and Flemish ports.

The Flemish Party shall familiarise the Bulgarian Party with its experience in the sphere of reorientation of road traffic to water transport.

The Flemish Party shall familiarise the Bulgarian Party with its experience in the development of intermodal transport and short sea shipping.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICING, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

- 8.1. Both Parties shall exchange information and expertise in the area of provision of administrative services and development of the functional structures of e-government, in particular in such areas as:
 - development of electronic services for individuals;
 - development of electronic services for business;
 - creation of an integrated ICT platform contributing to secure the interoperability and to integrate the e-government services.
- 8.2. Both Parties shall exchange information and expertise concerning the implementation of policies for accelerated development of the information society in such areas as:
 - building of an up-to-date secure and accessible ICT infrastructure;
 - promoting scientific researches, technological development and innovations in the area of ICT.
- 8.3. Both Parties shall exchange information and expertise regarding the construction and development of the e-government, in particular in such areas as building of the national state communication network.

9. SOCIAL POLICY, WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Both Parties shall co-operate and exchange information, documentation and experience in the fields of welfare and social services.

9.1. Social welfare and health care

- general welfare policy, in particular scientific research, the quality system, inspection and supervision, client consultation, co-operation between public and private welfare organisations at the international, federal, regional and local levels;
- programming, endorsement and subsidisation of social and health establishments;
- elderly care, particularly in rest homes, clinics and nursing homes;
- support to services and facilities;
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control);
- voluntary work;
- health and social care insurance and management of the case insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from a long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- co-operation with justice in the field of welfare and health care.

9.2. Health care

- mental health care, integration of the mental health care in the common health care, integration of the psychiatric care in the public health care, passage from institutional psychiatry to psychiatry in the community;
- preventive health care policy (e.g. cancer prevention; prevention of suicide and depression; prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);
- co-operation and follow-up of vaccination programmes and prophylaxis of infectious diseases (e.g. the battle against sexually transmitted infections, e.g. AIDS);
- primary health care and residential care;
- inspection, counselling and handling of complaints in connection with environment licences;
- building a system of communication and management of the risk of adverse environmental impacts on human health;
- conduct of research for assessment of health risk resulting from environmental pollution;
- identification of risk population groups exposed to adverse environmental impacts;
- development and improvement of a system for drug addiction prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

9.3. Social services

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, social integration of migrants, combating poverty and social exclusion;
- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional social work units, crisis
 intervention and crisis relief, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for
 mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim
 support, telephone counselling services;
- family help and home care;
- child protection and special youth assistance, particularly residential, semiresidential and ambulatory care;
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care;
- child and family: child care, preventive child care, help in case of child abuse, adoption etc.;

- care for the handicapped people;
- mediation: family mediation (divorce mediation, child custody mediation and access mediation), mediation in the context of criminal law (restorative justice, reparation of harm, settlement of conflict and debt mediation.
- development of alternative social services: sheltered housing for people with mental disabilities, day care centres, social rehabilitation and integration centres;
- restructuring of the existing specialised institutions through full capacity utilisation:
- deinstitutionalisation of children through prevention, reintegration of children in a
 family and near-family environment, provision of alternative services to children
 in the community, placement with foster families and with families of relatives or
 close friends;
- improvement of living conditions for institutionalised children, people with disabilities and elderly people;
- creation of conditions for provision of high-quality social services by nongovernmental organisations;
- assistance to working employers in raising their children aged between 0 and 3.

10. EMPLOYMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SPECIFIC RISK GROUPS ON THE LABOUR MARKET

- 10.1. Both Parties shall co-operate in the field of employment and vocational training and shall encourage contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 10.2. Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange experience in the field of labour market policy, the regulations, employment policy, legislation, statistical data and other information concerning employment and vocational training.
- 10.3. At the request of the Bulgarian Party, the Flemish Party (department Labour and Social Economy, WSE) will accept a Bulgarian delegation (three to five experts) to Flanders during 2007-2008. The Flemish Party expects a request of the Bulgarian Party concerning their fields of interest in order to organise and prepare the visit.
- 10.4. Both Parties shall deepen their co-operation in the field of the European Social Fund (ESF) and shall exchange information and know-how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.
- 10.5. The Flemish Party (department WSE) shall act as a mediator for possible cooperation with all actors and networks active in the fields of vocational training, the labour market and employment.
- 10.6. The Flemish Party (department WSE) is prepared to study all questions raised by the Bulgarian Party regarding problems of the labour market, guidelines and training and opportunities to offer a form of co-operation:
 - familiarisation with the experience of Flanders in the process of introduction of a gender mainstreaming approach in the elaboration of the policy;
 - prevention of social exclusion of risk groups and their sustainable inclusion into the labour market: security in flexibility;

- encouragement of employers who provide and ensure vocational training for their factory and office workers (especially oriented at elderly workers) for the purpose of job security and career growth. Active social inclusion policy for disadvantaged groups on the labour market;
- establishment of a national information system on supply and demand of vocational training on a short-term and a long-term basis;
- study, popularisation and implementation of good practices in the sphere of continuing training.

11. CULTURE

11.1. General

Both Parties shall exchange, at the request of the other Party, information and publications regarding visual arts, design, architecture, museums, cultural heritage, popular culture, literature, translations, performing arts, music, artists' accommodations, amateur arts, socio-cultural work for adults, libraries, cultural centres, local cultural policy, festivals and competitions with an international dimension, including information and documentation on cultural co-operation in general.

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party shall provide for twenty (20) days for the exchange of experts in the fields mentioned above.

Both Parties wish to enhance their European cultural co-operation and effectively co-operate in the framework of the cultural programmes of the Council of Europe and UNESCO, respectively to use the opportunities provided by the cultural programmes of the European Union,

Both Parties shall promote direct contacts between the cultural institutions and associations.

11.2. Visual arts

Both Parties are willing to exchange annually one (1) artist/expert in the sphere of visual arts for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days.

The Bulgarian Party would like to receive one artist under financial terms determined according to the effective domestic legislation.

Both Parties are willing to exchange information and documentation on architecture, design, visual arts, centres for artists, international competitions, organisations of artists and general cultural policy.

Both Parties are willing to co-operate in the field of fashion and design by organisation of training, exchange of designers and fashion experts and will examine the possibility of implementation of joint initiatives and fashion events. The Bulgarian Party is willing to co-operate with Antwerp in its capacity as a leading design centre in Europe.

Both Parties will examine the possibility of organising and participating in festivals and other public cultural events.

During the validity of the present Programme the Flemish Party wishes to invite one (1) graphic designer for a working visit of two (2) weeks at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. Free accommodation shall be provided as well as a per diem of € 50.00.

11.3. Cultural heritage

Both Parties are willing to exchange four (4) experts in the field of cultural heritage - tangible and intangible - (e.g. museums, folk culture) to analyse the possibilities to develop joint projects (e.g. in the field of the digitising of cultural heritage).

In the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003, both Parties will study the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding the registration and preservation of the intangible heritage of Bulgaria and Flanders. During the first phase, the Flemish Department of Culture and the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria can exchange experience and knowhow.

11.4. Performing arts

During the validity of the present Programme, Both Parties shall exchange one (1) theatre and dance expert for a period of (3) days at most.

11.5. Music

Both Parties shall exchange two (2) experts in the field of music for a period of five (5) days at most during the validity of the present Programme.

11.6. Literature

The Flemish Party shall receive one (1) Bulgarian translator at *Vertalershuis* in Louvain for a period of 1 (one) month during the validity of the present Programme. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of \in 1000.00.

Further details regarding the eligibility requirements and the registration procedure are available from the Ministry of Culture.

After the stay of Louvain, the translator will can be offered accommodation via the residences of the Het beschrijf Literary Organisation, where s/he will be able to work jointly with a Flemish author. Further details regarding the eligibility requirements and the registration procedure are available from the Ministry of Culture.

In the same way, an opportunity will be provided for Bulgarian authors to enter the Het beschrijf writers-in-residence scheme. Further details regarding the eligibility requirements and the registration procedure are available from the Ministry of Culture.

11.7. Libraries

The Flemish Party suggests to develop a training programme for experts in the public library sector in mutual consultation, with a view to supporting the promotion of this expertise in Bulgaria.

Annually, three (3) Flemish experts shall visit Bulgaria for seven (7) days in order to organise a training programme.

Both Parties commit themselves to sharing and promoting the "best practices" of both countries.

11.8. Amateur arts

Both Parties wish to develop projects in the field of amateur arts in mutual consultation. They have in mind mentorship projects, the exchange of knowledge and experience, training and apprenticeship programmes, the exchange of groups and the exchange of publications, documentation and information.

Both Parties shall exchange three (3) experts in the field of amateur arts for a period of four (4) days, so as to examine the possibility of these joint projects.

12. NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION

The Flemish Party proposes to develop a training programme for people responsible for non-formal education in mutual consultation. During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party shall receive four (4) persons (civil servants and field workers) for a specific training programme.

Possible topics are: the detection of needs in adult education programmes (acquiring an insight into the needs of learners or potential learners), the creation of partnerships between providers of adult education programmes, the development of a culture of learning, increased accessibility of the provision, activities with immigrants, the role of the support centres, local cultural policy, volunteer work, etc. Good French or English skills are required.

13. YOUTH

- 13.1. During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties must send four (4) experts (senior civil servants and experts) for a study visit of seven (7) days, to elaborate a youth strategy at all levels (local, regional and national) and to establish better cooperation between these levels.
- 13.2. During the validity of this action Programme, both Parties shall exchange delegations of up to 4 (four) members (senior civil servants and experts) for a period of 7 (seven) days at most with the aim of elaborating the ideas of the White Paper of the European Commission "A New Impetus for European Youth" by exchanging good practices regarding the themes discussed in the White Paper.
- **13.3.** Both Parties agree to send or receive youth workers for participation in selected international (youth) events.

14. SPORT

Annually, both Parties shall make a quota of twenty (20) days available to provide athletes, trainers and policy-makers of the other Party with the possibility of taking part in training and clinics in the field of sport.

15. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Both Parties will examine in what way they can further optimize the cooperation in the context of the European Research Area, both at the level of research teams and at the level of research and innovation policy.

16. EDUCATION

16.1. Exchange of information and documentation

Both Parties, at the request of the other Party, shall exchange information and experience regarding the education structure and organisation, the professional

recognition on the basis of the Community Directives and the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, the development of an accreditation system and other topical issues related to education, such as third-cycle master's degree courses.

16.2. Exchange of professors / teachers / experts / policymakers

Considering the membership of Bulgaria in the EU from 1 January 2007, Flanders may assist the Bulgarian State in the field of higher education, through training programmes, training of civil servants and experts, the transfer of legislation at the level of educational sectors in which Flanders has a certain experience (Interuniversity co-operation network).

The Parties can exchange annually two (2) experts/professors attached to an institute of higher education/government, for a period of (7) days at most, to discuss the educational reforms resulting from the implementation of the Bologna Declaration or to participate in short seminars, conferences, congresses or symposia in order to promote networking and exchange between the institutes of higher education.

16.3. Specialisation scholarships

Both Parties shall provide each other with 2 (two) specialisation scholarships for the academic years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, for a duration depending on the syllabus (minimum 9 months, maximum 12 months).

16.4. Research Scholarships

Both Parties shall provide each other with one six-month research scholarship each for the academic years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. At the request of the sending Party, this period can be divided into periods of at least three months each.

16.5. Summer scholarships: "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course

The accession of Bulgaria to the EU will increase the demand for people who understand and speak the Bulgarian language because, on the one hand, it will be used at the European institutions and, on the other, both the political and economic relations will increase. That is why it is very useful to encourage the study of other languages at summer courses.

The Bulgarian Party shall provide annually to the Flemish Party 2 (two) scholarships for attendance of the summer courses in Bulgarian language and literature, which are organised by the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia and by the Sts Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo. The applicants are expected to possess rudimentary knowledge of the Bulgarian language.

The Flemish Party shall provide annually to the Bulgarian Party two (2) scholarships for attendance of the "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course which shall be organised either at the University Hasselt or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University. These courses shall be organised on an annual basis. The three-week courses shall be above all intended for Dutch language and literature students at Bulgarian institutes of higher education. The applicants are expected to have a reasonable command of Dutch at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

Both Parties shall encourage the direct co-operation of institutions of secondary education in the countries of the two Parties through the EU programmes for cooperation in education (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci) as well as through other programmes.

To this end, the Flemish Party shall invite participants from Bulgaria to each contact seminar that it organizes within the framework of the Socrates programme.

The Flemish Party also refers to its programme "Euroklassen", which allows Flemish secondary schools to apply for a subsidy to organise a short class exchange with a secondary school abroad and to finance its own travel and accommodation costs and the costs to host the partner school.

The Bulgarian Party is willing, as far as available funding allows, to support these projects and to finance the international travel costs of the Bulgarian partner schools.

16.6. Secondary vocational training in agriculture and tourism

Both Parties shall encourage exchange of experience in organising the activities for management of agricultural and forestry schools, tourism colleges, education and advice in agriculture and tourism.

17. Capacity building

17.1. Port Training and Port Management

The Flemish Party offers to the Bulgarian Party the possibility to send experts to seminars, in the field of port training and port management, organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center vzw) in the course of 2007 and 2008.

The Bulgarian Party shall present its candidates for these seminars and the participants shall be selected by APEC.

The Flemish Party shall cover the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are borne by the participant.

17.2. Co-operation between regional and local authorities

The Flemish Party shall promote co-operation between Flemish and Bulgarian organisations in the framework of the Flemish Co-operation Programme for Central and Eastern Europe aiming at transferring expertise in the field of developing projects for regional, interregional, inter-municipal and cross-border co-operation.

17.3. Training of Bulgarian diplomats

The Flemish Party (Foreign Affairs department) is willing to receive in 2007 at its representation within the Belgian representation to the European Union two (2) or three (3) Bulgarian diplomats for a period of up to two (2) weeks to get acquainted with the internal procedures and the decision making processes on European topics that are within the competence of the Flemish Government.

The Flemish Party is willing to participate in the expenses of the visits.

Financial and practical arrangements will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

18. MANAGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN FUNDS

18.1. European Social Fund

The Flemish Party and the Bulgarian Party shall cooperate in the field of the new strategic priority of ESF for the programming period 2007-2013, "Strengthening the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local level". The Flemish Party shall provide expertise and advice to the Bulgarian Party for capacity building in the delivery of policies and programmes, especially through exchange of experience and training and specific support to key services. At the request of the Bulgarian Party, the Flemish Party is willing to exchange delegations of 3-4 people for 4-5 days.

18.2. Financial Management of the Structural Funds

Regarding the willingness of both Parties to expand the cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of Flanders in new fields promoting the strengthening of the administrative capacity concerning Structural Funds, the following is agreed:

- 1. At the request of the Bulgarian Party the Flemish Party is willing to organize contacts between relevant partners in Flanders and Bulgaria aiming at establishing appropriate systems and procedures for financial management and control in order to fulfill the specific requirements of the Structural Funds regulations.
- 2. The Bulgarian Party will investigate the possibility to present projects between expert Flemish promoters and relevant Bulgarian partners within the framework of the Flemish Co-operation Programme for Central and Eastern Europe..

19. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

19.1. General

Both Parties shall send their proposals for the new co-operation Programme at the latest six (6) weeks before the date foreseen for the meeting of the joint committee.

They agree that their future co-operation should be developed in as concrete a way as possible, starting from realistic projects. It should avoid general points such as exchange of information or proposals without a real commitment from the Parties involved.

The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed:

- all activities and exchanges mentioned in this Programme shall be carried out within the limits of the financial resources at the disposal of the two Parties;
- the activities and exchanges envisaged in this Programme shall not exclude other initiatives or visits which might be proposed and agreed in advance by both Parties through diplomatic channels or by direct mutual agreement;
- the organisation of music, dance and theatre performances and exhibitions, other than those mentioned in this programme, should a priori be based on a direct agreement covering financial and other terms between the organisations and artists involved in such events;

- both governments can subsidise projects as well.

Other conditions are to be agreed upon by the partners on a case by case basis.

All the details related to the specific cooperation programmes carried out under this Programme, shall be agreed upon between the competent authorities of the two Governments, which will be coordinators in the relevant sectors. The competent authority/coordinator in the economy, foreign trade and tourism and energy sectors of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be the Ministry of Economy and Energy.

19.2. Scholarships

1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 16.3 (specialisation) and 16.4 (scientific research) shall be governed by the following general provisions:

The applicants should be under 35 years of age and they must have a master's degree or equivalent and an excellent academic record.

- a) The candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.
- b) By 1 April of each calendar year, the sending Party shall present to the receiving Party the candidates' completed scholarship application forms and other documents as specified in the application form. All documents shall be submitted in Dutch or in English, French or German in the case of Bulgarian applicants, and in Bulgarian or in English, French or German in the case of Flemish applicants:
 - a detailed curriculum vitae mentioning the knowledge of languages;
 - a detailed study- or work programme which one wants to take at a recognized institution in the guest country;
 - letters of recommendation and eventual admission to the institution.
- c) By 1 July of each calendar year, the receiving Party shall inform the sending Party whether the candidates have been accepted, and shall at the same time communicate to the sending Party the names of the institutions accepting them for study stays.
- d) The sending Party shall provide precise and detailed information about each scholarship holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks before the commencement of his/her stay.
- 2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 16.3 (specialisation) shall be governed by the following <u>financial provisions</u>:
 - a) The sending Party shall cover the international return expenses for travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
 - b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 770,00;
- enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Community, the maximum amount of which shall be

- determined annually (in the academic year 2005-2006 the maximum amount is EUR 505,00;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Bulgaria

- accommodation at a student dormitory at the cost of between BGN 30.00 and BGN 45.00 monthly;
- a monthly allowance of BGN 210.00;
- health insurance according to Bulgarian legislation;
- exemption from tuition fees with the exception of education in music and medicine.
- 3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 16.4 (scientific research) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:
 - a) The sending Party or the candidate shall cover the international return expenses for travel to and from the place of study.
 - b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 740.00;
- a starting allowance of EUR 125.00 granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one month;
- bealth insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Bulgaria:

- accommodation at student dormitory at the cost of between BGN 30.00 and BGN 45.00;
- a monthly allowance of BGN 210.00;
- health insurance according to Bulgarian legislation;
- exemption from tuition fees with the exception of education in music and medicine.
- 4. The exchange of scholarships under Article 16.5 (summer courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:
 - a) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees, board and lodging, expenses for participation in excursions within the framework of the course programme, and health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.
 - b) The Bulgarian Party shall arrange for the participants in the summer seminars accommodation in a student dormitory, meals and a cultural programme. The participants in the seminar shall be exempt from a tuition fee.

The return expenses for travel to and from the place of conduct of the seminars, as well as the insurance, shall be covered by the sending Party.

19.3. Exchange of persons

The conditions described in this paragraph refer to any exchange of people mentioned in the working programme, unless otherwise stipulated.

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days max. and at the invitation of the receiving Party) as determined in the present Programme shall be implemented according to the following criteria:

- a) The sending Party must provide to the receiving Party a curriculum vitae, an invitation, a plan of activities and the dates of arrival and departure of the people concerned at least two (2) months in advance;
- b) The receiving Party shall inform the sending Party, at least one (1) month in advance, whether the candidates have been accepted;

 The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the exact dates of departure and arrival at least three (3) weeks in advance.
- c) To be covered by the sending Party:
 - return international travel expenses.
- d) To be covered by the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of EUR 37.00 per day (excluding transport costs) or EUR 50.00 per day (including transport costs);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Bulgaria:

- accommodation, meals and domestic travel expenses, in accordance with the working programme and at the discretion of the receiving bodies;
- The persons will be responsible for taking out insurance before entering Bulgaria.

19.4. Film

- To be covered by the sending Party: forwarding expenses.
- To the receiving Party: organisation costs.

19.5. Exchange of exhibitions

Arrangements shall be discussed and agreed upon on a case by case basis by the Parties concerned. If not, the following rules are applicable:

The sending Party takes care of:

- design, preparation, production and packing of the exhibition;
- international transport to its first location in the receiving country and return transport from its last location to the country of origin or to another country;
- insurance from nail to nail;
- supply of the material for the production of the catalogue (texts, photos, slides, etc.);
- travel expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition to supervise the mounting and/or dismantling as well as packing and/or unpacking of the works.

The receiving Party takes care of:

- making available appropriate exhibition halls with the necessary security infrastructure (climatic conditions, guards, etc.);
- providing the necessary staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling of the exhibition;
- printing of the catalogue, if agreed by both Parties, and the posters and invitations;
- organising general publicity as well as the opening ceremony for the exhibition;
- accommodation expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition and supervising the mounting and/or dismantling; the duration of any such visit shall be agreed upon in advance;
- providing the sending Party with ten (10) copies of all material published in connection with the exhibition (catalogue, poster, invitation, etc.).

In case of damage, the receiving Party shall not proceed with the restoration of the works without the prior approval of the sending Party, but shall supply all relevant documentation and assistance to enable the sending Party to pursue any claim for compensation from the relevant insurance company.

Both Parties shall agree on the conditions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. All disputes concerning the interpretation or realisation of this programme of activities shall be settled through negotiation between the signatories.

20. AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE COLLABORATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties agree on extending their co-operation by means of mutually supported projects.

The Flemish Party proposes to put at the disposal of the Bulgarian Party the expertise and experience present in Flanders and the Bulgarian Party wishes to collaborate preferably in the following priority fields: SME-development, economy, economic and industrial policy, tourism, and investments, employment, structural funds, regional cooperation, agriculture, environment and public health, transport and capacity building, administrative competence and management, infrastructure, professional education and trilateral co-operation in order to assist the country to meet the requirements demanded of the country to make its entry in the EU and to adapt to the new conditions of its full membership in the Union.

In accordance with the Flemish policy towards Central and Eastern Europe, central contact points have been designated in the Foreign Affairs administration in Flanders and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bulgaria in order to collect and select project proposals and to transmit them to the respective contact points.

The Parties agree that members of the Flemish and Bulgarian contact points have regular meetings, alternately in Flanders and in Bulgaria aiming to review the procedure of the handling of project proposal, collecting, assessing, approving, implementing and monitoring of the projects and to examine the execution of the projects already approved, in co-operation with the representatives of the competent Flemish administration and Bulgarian ministries – sectoral coordinators.

All the proposals have been evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures. Both Parties have established a ranking list on either side.

The following project proposals had been registered:

Project nummer	Project name	Budget €	Promoter	Partner
BUL/001/06	Network Evening- and Weekend Training Centres for Entrepreneurs in Bulgaria	125.336,50	Foundation Marcel De Bisschop Aalst- Gabrovo vzw	Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry - (BCCI) Sofia
BUL/002/06	Developing of a model for home care in the region of Ruse (Bulgaria)	57.460,00	Vlaamse Christelijke Mutualiteiten	Ruse Organisation Caritas
BUL/003/06	Creation of a Supported Living Centre for disadvantaged people in the district of Mladost (Sofia)	130.754,00	ADO Icarus vzw	RSSP (Regional Society for Social Prosperity - Sofia Region)
BUL/004/06	Training and transfer of know-how in the field of social policy and HRM to companies in the Sofia Region	87.930,84	Voka - Kamer van Koophandel Limburg	Bulgarian Chamber of Commere and Industry
BUL/005/06	Developing the expertise in business support organisations in Bulgaria regarding "Acquis Communautaire" and transferring Flemish "Acquis" expertise, expertise in innovation, sustainable development and other internationalisation aaspects to Bulgarian enterprises	91.190,00	Voka - Kamer van Koophandel Antwerpen- Waasland	BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
BUL/006/06	Training, networking and capacity building as tools for accession and sustainable development	114.420,00	Pluralistisch Platform Gehandicapte nzorg	Agency for Social Development - VISION
BUL/007/06	Improving the Competitiveness and Professionalism of Bulgarian Bakery and Confectionary by Transfer of Flemish Experience and Best Practices	100.097,53	Syntra West vzw	Federation of Bakers and Confectioners in Bulgaria (FBCB)
BUL/008/06	Capacity building on European Guidelines for Environmental Management in Bulgarian ports	207.344,00	VUB - Departement Menselijke Ecologie	University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (UCTM) - Ecology Center at UCTM

Project	Project name	Budget €	Promoter	Partner
nummer	Sat up of a Dulancian maties 1	170 000 00	Maile	Institute for
BUL/009/06	computing/data grid for research	170.000,00	Universiteit Brussel	Institute for Parallel Processing - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IPP- BAS)
BUL/010/06	sustainable and ecological fruit farming	55.868,00	Agriv-Consult	Fruit Growing Institute (FGI)
BUL/011/06	implementation of the tourism and recreation strategy in and around Kjustendil	80.184,00		Municipality of Kjustendil
BUL/012/06	Mental Health: Dealing with Depression and Anxiety in Primary Health Care Settings	67.990,00	Interuniversit air Centrum voor Research en Actie (BICRA) vzw	National Center of Public Health Protection
BUL/013/06	Bulgarian Climate Communities: promoting energy citizenship in communities for climate protection	156.364,00	Bond Beter Leefmilieu	Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP)
BUL/014/06	Capacity building for investigation, registration and reporting of contaminated sites	158.878,10	Ecolas nv	Environment Executive Agency
BUL/015/06	for benchmarking water companies in Bulgaria	78.796,00	Hemmis nv	Bulgarian National Association on Water Quality (BNAWQ)
BUL/016/06	of the Flemish 'Good Lovers' concept in the Bulgarian context for improving sexual and relational education of youth for improving sexual health of youth and the prevention of HIV in Bulgaria	145.873,01	Sensoa vzw	Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (BFPA)
BUL/017/06	Implementation of farm gate nutrient balances in Bulgaria: a management tool towards sustainable agriculture	189.700,00	UGent, Vakgroep Bodembeheer en Bodemhygiën e	Institute of Soil Science "Nikola Poushkarov" (ISS)
BUL/018/06	Home Social Services for Elderly and Disabled People	132.380,00	VFG	REHA Association

Project	Project name	Budget €	Promoter	Partner
nummer				
BUL/019/06	Air pollution assessment and	197.836,00	Vlaamse	Geophysical
	abatement in Bulgaria in view		Instelling	Institute (GPhI),
	of the country's accession to		voor	Bulgarian
	the EU		Technologisc	Academy of
			h Onderzoek	Sciences
			(VITO)	
BUL/020/06	Knowledge transfer of ISPA guidelines and Manual during preparation of the Fund application using an integrated water planning	121.860,00	Aquaplus member of the Aquafin group	NGO 'Sred-Eko Union'
BUL/021/06	Family centres for children in	145.431,00	ZEWOPA	Health forum
	Bulgaria		vzw	

Both Parties have agreed to submit the following project for possible funding to the Flemish government within the available budget of EUR 630,000.00 for 2006 in a priority order proposed by both Parties:

Project number	Project name	Co-ordinator	Proposed budget
BUL/001/06	Network Training Centres SME	Foundation Marcel	90.000,00 EUR
	Bulgaria	De Bisschop Aalst-	
		Gabrovo vzw	
BUL/012/06	Dealing with Depression and Anxiety	Belgisch	45.000,00 EUR
	for GPs	Interuniversitair	
		Centrum voor	
		Research en Actie	
		(BICRA) vzw	
BUL/014/06	Contaminated sites register	Ecolas nv	110.000,00
	_		EUR
BUL/017/06	Farm gate nutrient balances in	UGent, Vakgroep	130.000,00
	Bulgaria	Bodembeheer en	EUR
		Bodemhygiëne	
BUL/021/06	Family centres in Bulgaria	ZEWOPA vzw	90.000,00 EUR
BUL/018/06	Quality of Life	VFG	80.000,00 EUR
BUL/015/06	KPI-Water Bulgaria	Hemmis nv	55.000,00 EUR
BUL/010/06	Ecofruit-EcotraBulgaria	Agriv-Consult	30.000,00 EUR

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint Committee in Brussels in October 2008.

This programme shall come into force from the day of its signing.

Drawn up in Sofia on 15 November, 2006, in two (2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Bulgarian and English languages. Both texts are legally valid. In the case of dispute, the English text shall prevail.

On behalf of the government of Flanders,

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Bulgaria,

Geert Bourgeois

Ivailo Kalfin