

Co-operation Agreement

between

the Government of Flanders

and

the Government of the Slovak Republic

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Co-operation Agreement
between the Government of Flanders
and the Government of the Slovak Republic

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

hereinafter referred to as “the Contracting Parties”,

Reaffirming the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two Contracting Parties, the mutual trust and adherence to the values of freedom, democracy, justice and solidarity;

considering the process of rapprochement between the European Union and its member-states on one side, and the Slovak Republic - on the other side, as an associate member, whose final aim is the full membership to the European Union;

having regard to the willingness to expand the co-operation between the Slovak Republic and Flanders, to combine to the greatest extent the bilateral and multilateral programmes, to establish co-operation in new fields, as it has been set in the Agreement, and as far as they fall within the competence of the Contracting Parties,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. The Contracting Parties shall strengthen and expand their mutual co-operation in the fields of economy, technology, education, science, youth, culture and media policy, social welfare policy, health care, housing policy, environment, infrastructure, transport, telematics, agriculture and agrarian industry, vocational training and employment, tourism, sports and administrative reform. To that end the Contracting Parties shall promote the co-operation between the institutions and companies, operating in the above-mentioned fields.

Art. 2. 1" Within their mutual economic co-operation, the Contracting Parties shall pay special attention to the following fields:

- a) supporting common projects in the field of industry;
- b) enlarging bilateral trade and economic relations at the institutional and commercial levels;
- c) developing co-operation projects and supporting the relationships between the partners in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's);
- d) regional economic development;
- e) promoting investments into each other's economy and establishing joint ventures;
- f) transferring technologies (especially ecologically sound technologies) and know-how;
- g) establishing training programmes for Slovak management staff;
- h) co-operation within European Union-programmes.

2" To that end the Contracting Parties shall promote the exchange of managers, professors and lecturers who are specialised in establishing structures for small and medium-sized enterprises, and also of management programmes for SME directors and managers.

Art. 3. The Contracting Parties shall enhance the development of co-operation and the exchange in the field of pre-primary and primary and secondary education, higher education, post-graduate studies and adult education.

Art. 4. The Contracting Parties shall encourage co-operation and exchange in the fields of science and technology between their respective universities, research institutes and scientific institutions.

- Art. 5. 1° The Contracting Parties shall promote co-operation and exchange in the fields of ~~culture and arts.~~ and they shall attach special importance to activities, contributing to the Contractin, Parties' cultural development and the arts, as well as to the mutual propagation of their languages and cultures.
2° The Contracting ~~Parties~~ shall promote the exchange and the co-production of audio-visual productions, the latter in particular within the framework of the European co-operation.
- Art. 6. The Contracting Part-ies shall support the development of co-operation in the fields of tourism, sport and youth policy. To that end they shall exchange experience and information about their respective policies.
- Art. 7. The Contracting Parties shall co-operate in the field of labour policy, particularly with respect to employment and vocational training, labour and labour relations, in so far as these fields fall within the competence of each of them. To that end the Contracting Parties shall promote the exchange of experts and social partners in these fields.
- Art. 8. The Contracting Parties shall co-operate in the fields of social care and health care, more particularly with respect to health services social welfare and social services.
Special attention shall be paid to health care services, health promotion, prevention ,integration of the handicapped, planning and programming.
- Art. 9. 1° The Contracting Parties shall develop co-operation in the fields of environ-ment, environmental planning, housing construction, infrastructure, transport and transport telematics.
2° The Contracting Partics shall enhance the exchange of scientific and technical data and transfer of technologies, especially in the field of protection and improvement of the environment and infrastructure.

- Art. 10.** 1° The Contracting Parties shall develop co-operation in the fields of agriculture and rural development.
- 2° To that end the Contracting Parties shall encourage the exchange of experience and information, in particular in the framework of European Union programmes.
- Art. 11. 1°** In the fields which have been the subject of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall aim at co-operation within the framework of international organisations, especially within European institutions.
- To that end the Contracting Parties may inform each other about their opinions, and in a more general sense they may discuss specific issues.
- 2° The Contracting Parties shall co-operate within the framework of programmes of international organisations in the fields that lie within the Contracting Parties' competence, thus expressing their special relations of friendship.
- Art. 12. 1°** In order to put into practice the present Agreement the Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Committee Flanders-Slovak Republic.
- 2° The Joint Committee shall hold its meetings at least once every two years, consecutively in Brussels and in Bratislava.
- 3° The Joint Committee may initiate working groups to hold intersessional meetings in order to assess the process of implementation of the working programmes.
- Art. 13. 1°** The Joint Committee shall be presided over by ministers, designated by each of the Contracting Parties, or by their delegates.
- 2° The Joint Committee shall work especially on the following tasks:
- a) making observations how co-operation has developed and assessing the results;
 - b) adapting priorities and determining the policy, which shall be pursued at stated intervals;
 - c) examining and approving programmes, under which signature of regular memoranda of understanding has not been envisaged;
 - d) supervising the appropriate financing of the programmes, resulting from this Agreement;
 - e) considering all issues regarding the implementation, operation and interpretation of this Agreement.

- Art. 14.** 1" This Agreement is subject to the approval of both Contracting Parties in accordance with their internal legislation and it shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the mutual written notification by the Contracting Parties that all the conditions for the internal legislation concerning the validity of the Agreement were fulfilled.
- 2" This Agreement is concluded for a period of five (5) years and its validity will be automatically prolonged by another two (2) years provided that one of the Contracting Parties does not give notice in writing of its intention to terminate this agreement not later than six (6) months before the validity of this initial period or any subsequent period expires.
- 3" In case of denunciation, the Contracting Parties shall take the necessary steps in order to ensure the accomplishment of the implemented joint projects under this Agreement until its termination.

Done in *Bratislava*, on *30th May 2002* in two originals, each in the Dutch, Slovak and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In the case of differences in interpretation, the decisive wording is in the English language.

For the Government of Flanders,

For the Government
of the Slovak Republic,


