

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMISSION  
FLANDERS - SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
HELD IN BRATISLAVA**

**From 02 February till 03 February 2006**

The second meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2006-2007 to implement the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Flanders was held in Bratislava from 02 till 03 February 2006. The chairman of the Slovak delegation welcomed the Flemish delegation and presented the members of his delegation and added the names of the persons to be contacted within the respective administrations or services:

**Slovak delegation:**

**Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic**

- Kálmán Petöcz director at the Office of the Government  
T.00 421 2 5729 5502 [kornelia.cajkova@government.gov.sk](mailto:kornelia.cajkova@government.gov.sk)
  
- Mária Berová chief state advisor at the Office of the Government  
T. 00 421 2 5729 5502 [maria.berova@vlada.gov.sk](mailto:maria.berova@vlada.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Economy and Trade**

- Emil Pícha director general  
T. 00 421 2 4854 7121 [picha@economy.gov.sk](mailto:picha@economy.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Environment**

- Katarína Nováková director general  
T. 00 421 2 5956 2351 [novakova.katarina@enviro.gov.sk](mailto:novakova.katarina@enviro.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Culture**

- Ladislav Šimko director  
T. 00 421 2 5939 1332  
[ladislav\\_simko@culture.gov.sk](mailto:ladislav_simko@culture.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Construction and Regional Development**

- Vladimíra Olléová director general

**Ministry of Agriculture**

- Kristína Ruzsíková advisor  
T. 00 421 2 526 6296 [kristina.ruzsikova@land.gov.sk](mailto:kristina.ruzsikova@land.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications**

- Kvetoslav Kmec director  
T. 00 421 2 5949 4746 [kvetoslav.kmec@telecom.gov.sk](mailto:kvetoslav.kmec@telecom.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family**

- Sandra Štichová director  
T. 00 421 2 5975 2613 [stichova@employment.gov.sk](mailto:stichova@employment.gov.sk)

**Ministry of Health Care**

- Zuzanna Škublová advisor  
T. 00 421 2 5937 3268 [zuzana.skublova@health.gov.sk](mailto:zuzana.skublova@health.gov.sk)

**Slovak Academy of Sciences**

- Ján Barančík director  
T. 00 421 2 5249 4217 [barancik@up.upsav.sk](mailto:barancik@up.upsav.sk)

The chairman of the Flemish delegation thanked for the kind reception and presented the members of his delegation and added the names of the persons to be contacted within the respective ministries:

**Flemish delegation:**

**Co-ordination Department**

**Administration of Foreign Affairs of Flanders**

- Freddy Evens head of division Europe  
T. 02-553 59 20 [freddy.evans@coo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:freddy.evans@coo.vlaanderen.be)
- Etienne Schollaert assistant to the director, secretary  
T.02-553 59 02 [etienne.schollaert@coo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:etienne.schollaert@coo.vlaanderen.be)

**Welfare, Public Health and Culture Department**

**Culture Administration**

- Danny Deweerdt chief collaborator  
T.. 02-553 69 18 [danny.deweerd@wvc.vlaanderen.be](mailto:danny.deweerd@wvc.vlaanderen.be)
- Marie-Anne Van Hijfte assistant to the director  
T. 02-553 42 36 [marianne.vanhijfte@wvc.vlaanderen.be](mailto:marianne.vanhijfte@wvc.vlaanderen.be)
- Noemi De Clercq assistant to the director  
T. 02 553 42 35 [noemi.declercq@wvc.vlaanderen.be](mailto:noemi.declercq@wvc.vlaanderen.be)

**Environment and Infrastructure Department**

**Roads and Traffic Administration**

- Etienne De Winne inspector general  
T. 02-553 79 19 [etiennere.dewinne@lin.vlaanderen.be](mailto:etiennere.dewinne@lin.vlaanderen.be)

The negotiations were held in a constructive atmosphere, and resulted in a draft text of the Co-operation Programme for the years 2006-2007, which was signed by the heads of the delegation in implementation of the Co-operation Agreement between Flanders and the Slovak Republic.

Both Parties also agreed to refer to each other's websites - which will contain updated information about their mutual cooperation.

The Slovak Party will be providing information on this co-operation on the website of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, [www.government.gov.sk](http://www.government.gov.sk).

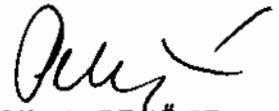
The Flemish Party will, in view of this, have a special link on its website [www.flanders.be](http://www.flanders.be).

For all information and follow-up of this co-operation programme in both countries, the diplomatic channels will be used.

Bratislava, February 3, 2006



Freddy EVENS



Kálmán PETŐCZ

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME**  
**FOR THE YEARS 2006 - 2007**  
**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**  
**AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

In implementation of the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Flanders signed in Bratislava on May 30, 2002 both Parties have agreed upon the following Co-operation Programme for the period 2006-2007 elaborated during the second meeting of the Joint Commission Slovak Republic - Flanders held in Bratislava from 2 till 3 February 2006.

**PART 1.  
ECONOMY**

**Article 1.1.  
General**

1. Both Parties agree on the importance of economic relations, based on co-operation in different fields.

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

Both Parties shall exchange documentation and information concerning the subjects mentioned above.

2. Both Parties shall investigate the possibility of exchanging experts in the economic fields to be determined by common agreement.

**Article 1.2.**

**1.2.1. Specific actions  
Economic, industrial and regional policies**

1. At the request of the other party, both parties shall exchange information and experiences on economic, industrial, regional and regional development policies.  
Particular attention shall be paid to co-operation between the regions and also together with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes.
2. Both parties shall exchange a delegation of officials of the administrations (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 SME's);
  - regional policy (subregional economic policy aimed at subregions);
  - aid to companies;
  - entrepreneurship (parenthood projects);
  - structural funds;
  - contacts with the European Commission and the elaboration of programmes (i.a. concerning Interreg-programmes).

**Article 1.2.2.**  
**Regional development policy**

Both Parties shall exchange experiences, know how, documentation, work models and information concerning their activities in the field of regional development, including the experience in the field of sub-regional economic policy. The Flemish Party shall put its experience in the field of Flemish sub-regional economic policy and the Strategic Urban Economy Plan at the disposal of the Slovak Party. In particular the Flemish Party shall propose to the Slovak Party the ideas regarding regionalisation, especially the practical evolution in:

- Flemish legislation on regional policy and its compatibility with European legislation;
- financing sources for regional support.

Both Parties shall include in their co-operation the issue of special economic zones and they shall exchange their experiences in this field. Special attention may go to areas zoned for economic activities.

**Article 1.2.3.**  
**Small and medium-sized enterprises**

1. Both Parties stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SME's.
2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts among Slovak and Flemish SME's.

**Article 1.2.4.**  
**Enterprise coaching programme: Parenthood projects**

Both Parties shall exchange experience and know how in the field of parenthood projects.

The parenthood projects aim at professionalising small enterprise management and promoting networking among enterprises.

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

**PART 2.**  
**FOREIGN TRADE**

Both Parties shall commit themselves to promoting trade relations between Flanders and the Slovak Republic.

Both Parties shall organize economic seminars and economic missions, as opportunity requires.

Actions planned (with reservation) by the Flemish Party in the period 2006-2007 are:

In 2006:

- From March 7th till 10th a product sample boot on Salima, Brno. Target are both the Czech as the Slovak market.

In the course of 2005 Flanders Export Promotion Agency and Flanders Foreign Investment Office merged in a new institution called "FIT – Flanders Investment and Trade", which deals with various aspects of international enterprise:

- export;
- attracting foreign investors to Flanders;
- promoting Flemish investments abroad, technological exchange, joint ventures, several forms of co-operation.

Both Parties will 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 experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.

### **PART 3. TOURISM**

1. Both Parties shall promote the exchange of information about legislation and regulations concerning tourism, statistical data, documentation and studies about tourism development.
2. Both Parties shall promote the exchange of tourism promotion material and the participation of different tourism organisations to tourist events both in Flanders and in the Slovak Republic.
3. Both Parties shall encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and experts in the field of tourism.

### **PART 4. AGRICULTURE**

#### **Article 4.1.**

Both Parties wish to co-operate in the field of agriculture:

- co-operation projects in the field of flax culture, taking into account the historical tradition that Flemish agriculture has in this field;
- projects of co-operation in the field of oil-bearing, albuminous crops and cereals.



#### **Article 4.2.**

Both Parties wish to co-operate in the field of horticulture concerning:

- co-operation projects in the field of irrigation systems in glasshouses;
- co-operation in the field of growing trees and fruit culture.

The Flemish Party will examine the possibilities to co-operate in specific projects with special focus on rural development programme. These projects should be elaborated in close co-operation with Flemish research institutes, socio-economic umbrella organisations and Flemish business community.

#### **Article 4.3.**

The Flemish Party is prepared, within its financial possibilities, to share knowledge and experience within the field of production, processing and the sale of fruit vegetables and fish (in accordance with European legislation).

The Slovak Party welcomes help and passing experience in the field of potato growing.

#### **Article 4.4.**

The Flemish Party will create the opportunity to share knowledge and experience in the field of the foundation and functioning of producers co-operations.

### **PART 5. ENVIRONMENT**

Both Parties are, depending on possibilities of financing, prepared to collaborate on the following items in the field of environment:

1. The Flemish Land Agency (FLA) would like to exchange her scientific and technologic knowledge of the sustainable development of the open space with partner organisations in the Slovak Republic.

The FLA uses different techniques for reallocation, topography and ground works (roads, water retention basins, erosion measures, ...), land bank, manure bank, geographical information systems (GIS), aerial photogrammetry, nature development, rural development, agri-environmental agreements with farmers, participative and integrated approach of projects, ... The FLA wants to exchange her technology, as it is used in different projects and wants to broaden the knowledge and experiences, by participating in international co-operation projects in Europe, and more specific in the new member states of the EU.

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

- study visits by the Slovak partners to land development projects in Flanders;
- study visits by the FLA to land development projects in the Slovak Republic;
- exchange of information and technology about the methods used for the inventarisation and study of different aspects: agro-economy, landscape, ecology, water- and soil management, manure management, GIS and aerial photogrammetry, e-government,

- reallotment and land bank, environmental impact assessment (EIA), rural development, village renewal;
  - export of knowledge about the used management information systems, like for instance the management of land ownership rights, land use practice, hunting rights etc.;
  - development of a demonstration project in the Slovak Republic.
2. The Flemish Party is prepared to invite, during the validity of this Co-operation Agreement, a team of experts (fluent English required) in the fields of waste management and soil decontamination, water, nature and environmental education and forest management for a period of five (5) days in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts with the Flemish actors.
3. Flemish Environment Agency

The Flemish Environment Agency (VMM) proposes to provide expertise through training of official experts with a maximum of 15 man-days a year (1/2 month/year) on one or more of the following issues:

1. monitoring network on air quality (set up, sampling and analyses);
2. monitoring network on chemical and biological water quality (set up, sampling and analyses) and surveillance of inland surface water quality;
3. emission inventories of air and water;
4. environmental reporting, environmental impact analysis and strategic environmental analysis;
5. price-fixing and levies on waste water;
6. collecting and reporting of water and air monitoring data;
7. integrated water policy;
8. Pollutant Release Transfer Registers (PRTR).

The training is organised in mutual consultation on specific request and programme proposal enabling to check the feasibility of the desired result within the training period.

## **PART 6. INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Article 6.1. Road Traffic and Transport in General**

The Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) delegation of five (5) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, in function of the interesting points, information, formation and documentation (including on-the-spot inspections on different locations):

- traffic plans with loops and small buses, one way traffic;
- mobility plans and mobility agreements;
- the creation and the functioning of a Flemish Traffic Centre; traffic management by the federal police (for example blockdriving and a road side emergency telephone network);
- the drawing up and interpretation of multimodal traffic models;
- variable message signing and traffic monitoring, moveable road information devices, the co-ordination of traffic lights control, priority measures for public transport in road traffic (traffic lights influencing);
- the development of an internet site on road construction works and traffic regulations;

- the development of intranet and CD-ROM applications about road signalisation at road works areas ( road signs, markings, ...);
- 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-TMS 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 tracks management;
- facilities for disabled people;
- road safety measures in school areas;
- information about road safety in general: traffic safety and communication with road users, road safety education in schools, road users awareness rising and main research methods;
- Public Private Partnership (PPP);
- the cleaning and maintenance of roads; system of road management;
- surface friction testing on road markings by the methods SRT and Grip Tester;
- 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 barriers on motorways;
- control of overloaded trucks on motorways.

At the request of the Slovakian Party, the Flemish Party is willing to assist them in providing expertise within the following fields and under conditions to be agreed upon later:

- safety audits of existing roads, as well as projects audits, the 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;
- introduction of technical safety measures on urban and non-urban roads;
- organisation of a technical specialised visit (training) for three (3) experts in the field of implementation and deployment of the newest technologies for traffic management in Flanders (ITS in road management, a multimodal information centre and video processing techniques) for employees of the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic – Directorate for Roads;
- co-operation in the area of road safety communication and sharing of information methodology, exchange of expertise and know-how on road safety education and research planning;
- as regards the utilisation of the public urban and interurban transport, the following expertise can be put at the disposal of the Slovakian 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 available on the Internet;
  - the construction of intermodal transfer points for the multimodal usage of bus and railway stations and 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.

**Article 6.2.**  
**Waterways and Maritime Affairs**

1. Exchange of information and experiences

Both Parties are willing to exchange information and experiences regarding one or more of the following topics:

1.1 Policy

- general policy on waterways;
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU law;
- implementation of directive 2005/44/EG (“RIS directive”);
- regulations for the handling of hazardous goods in port areas;
- regulations for inland navigation.

1.2 Inland port infrastructure, management and policy

- design and construction of inland port infrastructure;
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging operations.

1.3 Waterways

- design and execution of structural waterworks;
- re-use of building materials for structural waterworks;
- water control and fight against flooding;
- maintenance of waterways.

1.4 New techniques

- construction of environmentally engineered banks;
- development of a Hydro-Meteo System;
- dredging, processing and storing of polluted dredged materials;
- development of River Information Services (RIS).

2. Scientific co-operation

The Flanders Hydraulics Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Flanders is willing to establish new contacts with administrations and scientific institutions in the Slovak Republic in order to develop co-operation programmes in one or more of the following study areas:

- hydraulic and hydrological studies by means of physical and mathematical models;
- port engineering and port planning, dredging works;
- environmental studies with regard to environmentally friendly engineering structures along waterways;
- training by means of navigation simulator and towing tank.

**Article 6.3.**  
**Spatial planning, Housing, Monuments and Sites**

At the request of either Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experience in the fields of housing policy and housing services.

At the request of either Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experience in the fields of immovable heritage and spatial planning.

**PART 7.**  
**SOCIAL POLICY, WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and experience in the fields of welfare, social services and public health.

**Article 7. 1.**

**Social welfare and health care policy**

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

**Article 7. 2.**

**Health care**

- mental health care (e.g. integrated mental health care, psychiatric home health care, ambulatory psychiatric care, psychotherapy);
- preventive health care policy (i.a. cancer prevention, heart diseases prevention; prevention of suicide and depression; prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);
- coordination of health care provision on regional level;
- health information systems and data management.

**Article 7. 3.**

**Social Services**

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, integration of migrants in society, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- 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 counseling services;
- family help and home care;
- child protection and special youth assistance, particularly residential, semi-residential 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, restorative justice) and debt mediation.

## **PART 8. EMPLOYMENT**

1. Both Parties shall continue the co-operation in the field of employment policy and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
2. Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy.
3. On request of the Slovak Party the Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) will accept a Slovak delegation (three to five experts) to Flanders during 2006-2007. The Flemish Party expects a request of the Slovak Party concerning their fields of interest in order to organise and prepare the visit.
4. Both Parties encourage the co-operation in the field of the European Social Fund and they shall exchange information and know-how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.
5. The Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.
6. The Flemish Party (Vlaams Departement Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible co-operation with any actor or network active in the field of labour market and employment policy.

## **PART 9. CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

### **Article 9.1.**

1. The Slovak Party shall support exchange of experience within the framework of supra-national and interregional co-operation.
2. The two Parties shall support co-operation in the field of home affairs, with emphasis on local government, town and municipality administration and intermunicipal co-operation. They shall support mutual contacts between such local governments.

### **Article 9.2**

1. The Slovak Party shall facilitate contacts through the **Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic**.
2. The Flemish Party shall support contacts through the Administration of Home Affairs of Flanders, which will, if necessary, request the co-operation of the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities.

**PART 10.  
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

Both Parties shall intensify the co-operation between their knowledge institutes. Specific attention will be given to the exchange of researchers, joint projects under the EU Framework Programme and co-operation in the field of science popularisation.

**PART 11.  
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Both Parties are willing to exchange a mixed delegation of four (4) experts (civil servants and representatives of the sectors) 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 of October 17th 2003, both Parties will study the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding, amongst other things, the inventarisation and the preservation of the immaterial heritage in Slovakia and in Flanders. In a first phase experiences and know-how can be exchanged between the Flemish department of Culture and the Slovakian Cultural Heritage General Department.

**PART 12.  
LIBRARIES**

The Flemish Party proposes to develop, in mutual consultation, a training programme for experts in the public library, in view of supporting the promotion of expertise in the Slovak Republic.

The Flemish Party shall, annually, receive one (1) expert for an apprenticeship of four (4) days. A good knowledge of French or English is required.

Annually, one (1) Flemish expert will go to Slovakia for four (4) days in order to organise a training programme.

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

**PART 13.  
EDUCATION**

The priority of the Slovak Republic in the area of education and science corresponds with the priorities of the EU. In this connection the Slovak Republic supports all education purposes and science activities forward of advance mutual information and co-operation between several countries of EU. Co-operation Programme between Slovak Republic and Flanders is one of the steps.

Academic years 2006 – 2007 and 2007 - 2008

Articles concerning the exchange of experts and scholarships

### **Article 13.1.**

The co-operation programme with the Slovak Republic is an interesting supplement in the renewed policy of Flanders in regard to Central and Eastern Europe. The bilateral agreement is an eminent tool for the Flemish government to build a network of contacts and exchanges between institutions of higher education, commercial organisations, companies, administrations and the academic organization of the Slovak Academy of Science.

The offer of postgraduate studies, taught in English, is listed in the brochure "Higher Education in Flanders": <http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/pub/> International courses and International Training Programmes, listed in the Vlir- brochure, "*Study in Flanders and make things happen at home*" can be found on the website: [www.vlir.be](http://www.vlir.be)

### **Article 13.2.**

#### **Exchange of professors / teachers / experts / policymakers**

Both Parties shall exchange each year two (2) experts / professors from a higher education institution / government for a stay of seven (7) days at most in order to follow up expert training.

### **Article 13.3.**

#### **Research Scholarships**

The Flemish Party offers the Slovak Party for each of the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 six (6) months annually for research. On request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

## **PART 14.**

### **YOUTH**

1. During the validity of this Co-operation Programme, both Parties shall exchange four (4) experts (civil servants and youth workers) for a study visit of each time seven (7) days, to elaborate a youth (work) policy at all levels - local, regional and national.
2. In the course of this work-programme, both Parties shall exchange delegations of up to four (4) persons (responsible civil servants and youth workers) for a maximum of seven (7) days in order to elaborate on the ideas of the White Paper of the European Commission 'A New Impulse for Europe's youth' and the European Youth Pact by exchanging good practice. Both Parties shall focus on active citizenship, participation, empowerment, non-formal education and youth information.
3. Both Parties agreed to send or receive youth workers for participation in selected international (youth) events.



**PART 15.**  
**CAPACITY BUILDING: PORT MANAGEMENT**

The Flemish Party (Administration of Foreign Affairs of Flanders) shall offer the Slovak Party the possibility to send experts to seminars in the field of port management training organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre vzw) in the course of 2006 and 2007.

The Slovak Party shall present its candidates for these seminars. The participants shall be selected by APEC. The Flemish Party shall cover the costs of the participation in these seminars. International travel expenses are to the account of the participant or the organisation to which he or she belongs.

**PART 16.**

**CO-OPERATION THROUGH PROJECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
FLEMISH CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME  
WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

Both Parties confirm their willingness to continue their co-operation by means of projects in 2006 – 2007.

Both Parties will try to build on previously built-up contacts and networks and concentrate on those sectors where co-operation provides a mutual advantage and may lead towards a win-win situation.

The priorities of the Slovak Party are the following:

- strengthening the administrative and judicial capacity, management of European funds for regional development and within the framework of agricultural policy, combating corruption and economic crime, support to implementation of health reform, regional development, the environment, and strengthening structural provisions in relation to the Roma Community and non-discriminative legislation, to integrate the Slovak Republic into European Research Area,
- share experience within the field of competitiveness business assistances through innovation, share experience within the field of Public Private Partnership.

The Flemish Party annually launches a call for proposals. Every two years the Slovak Republic will be a priority partner. For 2006 a call has been launched and project proposals can be filed until 24 March 2006.

The Flemish Party is willing to fund 50% of the budget within its budgetary limits. The other 50% must be foreseen by a partnership of the Flemish promoter, the Slovak partner(s) and/or the Slovak authorities.

All project proposals shall be evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures. During a bilateral meeting the projects proposed for funding shall be selected.

**PART 17.**  
**FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 17.1.**  
**General Provisions**

1. The exchange of research scholarships under Article 13.3. 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 Slovak applicants, and in Slovak 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 13.3. (scientific research) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- 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 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;
- health insurance and third party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;

In the Slovak Republic:

- the precise conditions will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

**Article 17.2.**  
**Exchange of persons**

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

- a) The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the curriculum vitae, the invitation, goals and programmes as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the people concerned at least three (3) months in advance.
- b) The receiving Party shall confirm it is prepared to receive the people concerned six (6) weeks before departure. The time of departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks on beforehand.
- 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 the Slovak Republic

- the precise conditions will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

## **PART 18. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 18.1.**

1. The provisions of the present Co-operation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that will be negotiated and agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.
2. Any disputes regarding the interpretation or implementation of the present Programme shall be solved through negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

### **Article 18.2.**

1. The Co-operation Programme is subject to the internal procedures of each of the Parties.
2. The Co-operation Programme shall come into force on the day of the servicing of the last notification to the other Party. It will be valid till 31st December 2007.
3. The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Brussels in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Done in Bratislava February 3, 2006 in two original copies, each in the Dutch, Slovak and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In the event of different interpretation of the Co-operation Programme the English text shall prevail.

For the Flemish Party

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right, and a smaller, more fluid signature below it.

Freddy EVENS

For the Slovak Party

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line and a smaller, more fluid signature below it.

Kálmán PETŐCZ