

**COOPERATION PROGRAMME**  
**FOR THE YEARS 2011 - 2013**  
**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**  
**AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

For the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Flanders that was signed in Bratislava on May 30, 2002, both Parties have agreed upon the following Cooperation Programme for the period 2011-2013. It was elaborated during the fourth meeting of the Commission Slovak Republic – Flanders that was held in Bratislava on April 13, 2011.

## **PART 1 ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The Parties shall promote the exchange of information, best practices and role models between entities responsible for outlining and executing entrepreneurship policies.

The parties shall also facilitate and promote direct contacts between project promoters and projects in the field of “entrepreneurship” financed either through regional, national and/or European funding sources (ERDF, CIP,...).

### **Priority themes in economic cooperation**

Both Parties agree to develop cooperation, besides Foreign Trade and Investment which form separate Articles under Part 2, mainly in the fields of

- biotechnologies
- nanotechnologies
- communication technologies
- further advanced technologies generating higher added value
- energy cooperation, specifically information exchange on policy and stimulation of joint R&D and technology projects in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy distribution (development of smart grids) and knowledge exchange on scientific research on nuclear energy

## **PART 2 FOREIGN TRADE**

### **Trade**

Both Parties are committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and the Slovak Republic. For that purpose, they will exchange information regarding business and investments opportunities.

**For Flanders**, the above will be realized by Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT), the official Flemish institution supporting Flemish companies in various kinds of international enterprise, as well as helping foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders. FIT will provide assistance wherever possible to improve the contacts with private entrepreneurs.

**For Slovak Republic** the activities will be supported by SARIO - Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency.

### **The Flemish Party**

- Will exchange information regarding its markets and sectors, useful contacts, experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.
- Within its new export promotion strategy 2011-2015, Flanders Investment & Trade has planned the following actions:
  - Invitation of buyers and decision-makers from the Slovak Republic in the environmental sector to Brussels (in cooperation with Awex), September 2011
  - Multisectoral trade mission to Slovak Republic (in cooperation with Awex), May 2013

### **The Slovak Party**

- Commits itself to furthering and promoting trade relations between the Slovak Republic and Flanders. To that end seminars, trade fairs and economic missions will be organised.
- SARIO as well plans the following actions (conditional):
  - Visit at Boist Habitat in Namur, the International Fair of wood and habitation, and organizing cooperation discussions for the Slovak companies (although Namur is situated in Wallonia there will be participation of the Flemish companies);
  - Seminar on Slovak investment and business environment and SME support organized by UNIZO on April 28, 2011;
  - Slovak stand at Metapro, the International Metalworking Fair, in February 2012, cooperation discussions of the Slovak companies with the Flemish counterparts;
  - Slovak stand at Meubelbeurs, the International Furniture Fair, in 2013, cooperation discussions of the Slovak companies with the Flemish counterparts;
  - Participation at further Fairs in Flanders connected with cooperation discussions of the Slovak companies with the Flemish counterparts.

### **Investment**

Both Parties through SARIO (Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency) and FIT (Flanders Investment & Trade) will favour activities of the investors from their countries on their respective territories.

## **PART 3 TOURISM**

### **Both Parties shall**

- Promote the exchange of information on legislation and regulations concerning tourism, statistical data, documentation and studies on the development of tourism.
- Encourage the exchange of tourism promotion material and they shall promote the participation of tourism organisations in tourism events in Slovakia and in Flanders.
- Encourage the organisation of study visits for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and specialists in the field of tourism.
- Encourage the organisation of seminars, colloquiums and workshops on tourism themes that are proposed by one of the Parties, to exchange experience and ideas.

## **PART 4 AGRICULTURE**

Both Parties agreed to promote cooperation in the field of agriculture, rural development and promoting research and new technologies as well as advanced ways of production.

### **Cooperation in the field of Agriculture**

#### **The Slovak Party offers to enhance the cooperation in the fields of:**

- Agricultural products and foods as a protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) or traditional specialty guaranteed (TSG) in accordance with Council Regulations (EC) n° 510/2006 and (EC) n° 509/2006 - exchange of information and experience with the process of registration, marketing and controls on the market in the EU quality policy;
- Cooperation with Animal Production Research Centre in Nitra and scientific and research solutions of problems in the sphere of biology and breeding farm animals, particularly in terms of greening, product quality and economic rationalization of production processes in commodity cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, poultry and bees;
- Exchange of know-how in the field of oil-bearing, albuminous crops and cereals;
- Information exchange system of production support and sale of regional products and specialties, sales from courtyard, the sale of primary products and foodstuffs to the final consumer;

## Cooperation in the field of Producer Groups and Associations

### **The Flemish Party**

- Offers to exchange its knowledge, experience and experts in the field of the foundation and functioning of producer groups and producers' associations and their operational programmes in the framework of the common organisation of the market for fruits and vegetables.

## Rural development

### **The Flemish Party**

- Will examine the possibilities to support the Slovak Party in the implementation of the rural development programme and the use of structural funds for pillar II of the common agricultural policy.

## Production, Processing and Sale

### **The Flemish Party**

- Is prepared, within its financial possibilities, to share its knowledge and experience within the field of production, processing and the sale of fruit and vegetables in accordance with European legislation.

## Science and Innovation in Agriculture

### **Both Parties**

- Shall intensify the cooperation between their scientific institutes in the field of agriculture.
- Specific attention will be given to the exchange of researchers, joint projects under the EU Framework Programme and cooperation in the field of popularising science.

## **PART 5 ENVIRONMENT**

### **For the Flemish Party**

- The Nature and Environmental Education Unit (EE) is prepared to invite a delegation to introduce them within the (N)EE-working, the educative environmental care projects and the structure on the Flemish level in a profound and participative way.
- Taking into account the wishes/needs, the (N)EE-unit can organise 3 or 4 days with the following interests, possibly in a follow-up project (MOS, Ecocampus, ...):
  - introduction of and making acquaintance with the working of the (N)EE-unit service within Flanders, with Education for Sustainable Development as the frame of reference, and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and on ESD;
  - making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education and, if preferred, linked with one or more school visits; getting acquainted with the educational means;
  - introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus-project, a new project to introduce environmental care in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management, student life), and, if preferred, linked with a visit to a university or an institution of higher education;
  - introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on ESD in the formal education and informal or/and non-formal education; making acquaintance with examples of good practices how ESD can be introduced in (N)EE;
  - site visit to one or more (N)EE-centres, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, ...), and to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

### **Both parties are**

- Willing to cooperate in the field of **the air quality** improving in urban areas such as Antwerp and Bratislava by exchange of experiences and measures taken to solve the problem mainly in exceedances of PM10 limit values.
- Prepared to invite, during the validity of the present program, a team of maximum 5 experts (fluent English required) for a period up to five working days within the frame of air protection in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.
- Prepared to invite, during the validity of the present programme, a team of maximum 5 experts (fluent English required) for a period up to 5 working days within the frame of policy development, management planning and implementation of Natura 2000 in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.
- Willing to exchange knowledge of support of awareness rising of municipalities and inhabitants in the area of **waste management**, particularly in separate collection of waste streams with emphasis on bio-waste, thermal recovery of wastes and support of secondary materials from wastes.
- Prepared to invite, during the validity of the present programme, a team of maximum 5 experts (fluent English required) for a period up to 5 working days within the frame of waste management in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.
- In addition and taking into account the wishes/needs of both sides, the follow-up projects can be prepared:
  - Awareness raising campaigns on support of separate collection of municipal waste, with emphasis on bio-waste
  - Education support activities of municipalities (mayors and delegates) in waste management
  - Site visit to one or more Flemish areas with best practices

### **The Slovak Party proposes as well**

- In the field of **emissions trading** to examine the possibilities of trading with additional AAUs under the Green Investment Scheme, should the Flemish Party be interested.
- To develop cooperation in the field of the **nature and landscape protection**, namely through sharing experience in implementing the NATURA 2000 (exchanging information on the strategy, setting the conservation objectives, involving owners and users of the land, identifying the best economic tools) and launching the pilot projects.

## **PART 6 MOBILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS**

**Both Parties agreed to explore following areas of cooperation:**

### **Mobility and Traffic Safety**

#### **Education regarding car use**

- Promotion of equal alternatives to make road traffic less dependent on the use of cars;
- Revaluation of pedestrian and cycling traffic and not making (small) travels dependable on combustion engines.

#### **Reduction of the accident rate and the promoting of desired (traffic) behaviour**

- Promoting desired (traffic) behaviour and choices, such as adjusted speed, avoiding driving alone in a car, fighting/advising against drinking and driving, etc.
- Specific policy regarding road safety.

#### **Instruments: ITS/Computer/High Tech/data flow**

- Consultation with regard to cross border communication networks and exchanging interesting sources through the growing number of media channels and technical innovations;
- Management of an internet site with public information;

- Laws and Legislation;
- Development and use of mobility indicators for defining policy and strategic research of passenger and freight transport on main roads and in metropolitan areas.

### **Roads and Traffic**

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

- Measures aimed at reducing accidents caused by young and elderly drivers (in particular those with involvement of pedestrians);
- Technical means used by roadside inspections for road safety in connection with application of strict liability;
- management of accident black spots;
- GIS application (geographic information system) by processing of the information on traffic and traffic accidents.

### **Ports and Waterways**

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

- General policy on (inland) ports and waterways;
- The relation between inland navigation and the environment and the interrelations of the functions of waterways;
- Integrated water policy and the implementation of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC on navigable waterways;
- Multifunctionality of waterways and the implementation of the Flood Risk directive 2007/60/EC;
- Implementation of RIS Directive 2005/44/EC;
- Policy in terms of regulation, operation, commercialisation and promotion of inland waterways;
- Modal shift promotion;
- Production and distribution process of inland ENC's (IENC).

### **Study visits**

**Both Parties**

- Shall cooperate by enabling the participation of a specialist in workshop courses, masteries in the field of mobility and public works.
- Are prepared to consider receiving two delegations of maximum five (5) Slovak/Flemish experts for a period of five (5) days at the most in Flanders/Slovakia to exchange information, training, documentation (including site visits to various locations to be determined) and knowledge about one or more of the aforementioned themes, according to their points of interest.

## **PART 7 WELFARE**

### **On the Flemish side**

Agency "Kind en Gezin"(Child and Family):

- Is willing to exchange information, knowledge, experience, documentation and tools in the broad domain of the preventive healthcare and wellbeing of young children, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), target groups and social vulnerable families.
- Can provide information about selection procedures, training and evaluation instruments from childcare workers.
- Can provide information about the organization of integrated early childhood preventive care (family/child centers).
- Can provide tools in the domain of unsafe children's articles, web courses (for instance breastfeeding), pictographic material, material about child development, family supporters, vaccination, experience in early eye or hearing screening, etc.

### **On Both sides**

- Mutual exchange visits will be organized within the limits of the available financial resources.
- Different channels of communication will be used to realize the above mentioned exchanges.

## **PART 8 EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL ECONOMY**

### **Both Parties**

- Shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy, namely in issues concerning making work pay, activating the searchbehaviour, public employment services, jobseekers' guidance and counselling, job creation measures, employment incentives used to better integrate target groups in the labour market in order to improve inclusiveness and social cohesion, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 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, vocational and entrepreneurial training.
- Encourage the cooperation 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.
- Shall cooperate on request of the other party regarding the following topics:
  - matching vocational education with labour market needs, permanent dialogue among social partners;
  - adequate vocational education tailor made to the LM (labour market) needs across specific regions;
  - social inclusion of vulnerable groups via *social innovation* pilot projects
  - sustainable jobs creation
  - recognition of non-formal and informal education
  - labour force ageing issue and employment policies for 50+
  - support of labour force mobility through EURES

## **PART 9 PUBLIC GOVERNANCE**

**On the Flemish side** - Public Governance Department, and  
**on the Slovak side** - the Office of the Government and other relevant ministries

- Will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between administrations.
- In particular contacts will be established between experts in the fields of human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, Flemish government architect, facility management, regulation management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities.
- Specific topics for cooperation may be further defined and agreed upon by both authorities' competent services.

## **PART 10 CULTURE**

### **Both Parties**

- Shall inform each other in an active way concerning important developments in cultural policies. That means that both Parties will keep each other informed, on a regular basis of policy matters and their international context, including the identification of the stakeholders involved and references to other sources that may be available.
- May decide by consensus to organise specific projects in that field, such as exchanges, training, on the job training, seminars, residences, etc., when common subjects, of considerable present political

importance have been detected. When one of the Parties participates in an important international project, it will associate the other Party – as far as possible – as a privileged partner.<sup>1</sup>

- Are willing to improve and to stimulate the networking of the heritage institutions of their countries for the purpose of exchange of practices, experts and competences related to movable and intangible heritage.
- Will study, in the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003 the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding the methods of registration and preservation of the intangible heritage of Slovakia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Slovak Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

## **PART 11 SPORTS**

**The Flemish Party** - General Commissioner's Office for the Advancement of Physical Development, Sports and Outdoor Recreation (BLOSO), and

**the Slovak Party** - Ministry of Education

- Shall support mutual contacts in the field of sports and also the exchange of athletes, trainers and policy-makers in the field of physical education and sport. The thematic orientation of these exchanges and the practical conditions shall always be agreed upon directly between the responsible bodies.

### **Both Parties**

- Shall annually make a quota of fifteen (15) days available to provide athletes, trainers and policy-makers with the possibility to take part in apprenticeships, clinics, study trips and congresses and seminars in the field of sport in the other country.

## **PART 12 SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

### **Both Parties**

- Shall strive for joint participation of Flemish and Slovak researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development.
- Shall intensify the cooperation between their knowledge institutes. Specific attention will be given to the exchange of researchers, joint projects under the EU Framework Programme and cooperation in the field of popularising science.

## **PART 13 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, HOUSING POLICY AND IMMOVABLE HERITAGE**

### **The Flemish Party**

- Is willing to explain the Flemish policy in the field of immovable heritage. Subject to budgetary and staff constraints, follow-up and further development of this proposal can be discussed on the occasion of meetings of competent intergovernmental organisations (Council of Europe, UNESCO, etc.).
- In the field of town and country planning and housing the Flemish Party is willing to receive a delegation and give a brief presentation of spatial planning or housing policy in Flanders.

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<sup>1</sup> The Flemish Party wants to draw attention to the possibilities for artists, writers and translators to enter the residence programme of the following organisations (participants should meet the criteria and pass the selection):

- Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee: offers residences in the field of graphic arts, ([www.fransmasereelcentrum.be](http://www.fransmasereelcentrum.be))
- Het Beschrijf: offers residences in Brussels and Vollezele for writers and translators, ([www.beschrijf.be](http://www.beschrijf.be))
- Flemish Literature Fund: offers residences for translators in the Translators' House in Antwerp, ([www.fondsvoordeletteren.be](http://www.fondsvoordeletteren.be))



Both Parties shall exchange information and experiences on housing policy, immovable heritage and spatial planning at the request of the other Party.

## **PART 14 EDUCATION**

### **Exchange of information and documentation**

#### **Both Parties shall**

- At the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information on all types and levels of education.
- Inform each other in an active way concerning important developments in educational policies: recognition of diplomas, equivalence of studies abroad, accreditation...

### **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 (2 x 7 days) at most, in order to participate in seminars, symposiums, colloquia. These exchanges will be used to build a network of contacts and exchanges between institutions of higher education.

### **Specialisation scholarships**

#### **The Flemish Party**

- Offers the Slovak Party for each of the academic years 2011 – 2012 and 2012 - 2013 one (1) scholarship for recognized postgraduate programs at higher education institutions<sup>2</sup>.

### **Research Scholarships**

#### **The Flemish Party**

- Offers the Slovak Party for each of the academic years 2011 – 2012 and 2012 - 2013 six (6) months annually for research. At the request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

### **Summer scholarships: “Dutch Language and Culture” summer course**

#### **The Flemish Party**

- Suggests the mutual examination of the possibility and conditions for the Slovak side to participate at the summer courses of the Dutch language and culture organized by the Dutch Language Union (NTU). The summer courses are organised under the auspices of the Dutch Language Union. These courses are aimed at advanced students of Dutch wishing to spend a short period in the Netherlands or Flanders during summer. A limited number of scholarships are available for these courses<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> All information on study opportunities in Flanders (useful addresses of university colleges and universities, accredited non Dutch-language courses) can be found on <http://www.studyinlanders.be/> or [www.flamenco-vzw.be](http://www.flamenco-vzw.be)

<sup>3</sup> In the Netherlands the course is held in Zeist; in Flanders it is held in Gent (University of Gent). The Dutch Language Union is a Dutch-Flemish organisation set up in 1980 by treaty between the Netherlands and Belgium. The Dutch Language Union promotes and finances projects relating to the Dutch language, literature, education and culture, both in and outside the Dutch language area. Summer courses in Dutch language, literature and culture are a good supplement to the Dutch courses being taken at an academic level by students abroad. More information about the summer courses 2011 can be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union: [http://taalunieversum.org/en/dutch\\_worldwide/summercourses\\_in\\_dutch/](http://taalunieversum.org/en/dutch_worldwide/summercourses_in_dutch/) and [http://taalunieversum.org/wereldwijd/zomercursussen\\_voor\\_studenten/2011/](http://taalunieversum.org/wereldwijd/zomercursussen_voor_studenten/2011/)

## **PART 15 YOUTH POLICY**

### **Both Parties**

- Shall, according to the interest of the other Party, exchange information and documentation regarding youth policy and youth work strategy.
- Shall exchange four (4) experts (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants and youth workers/experts) for a study visit up to seven (7) days to elaborate a youth (work) policy at all levels (local, regional and national).
- Shall exchange four (4) experts (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants and youth workers/experts) for a period up to seven (7) days with the aim of deepening and enlarging the ideas, themes and instruments of the new framework of the EU youth policy (Council Resolution no. 27th of November 2009) and the framework of cooperation on youth policy of the Council of Europe (based on Resolution CM/Res (2008)23).
- Agree to send or receive youth workers/experts for participation in selected international (youth) events.

## **PART 16 COOPERATION THROUGH PROJECTS**

### **Both Parties**

- Confirm their willingness to continue their cooperation by means of projects
- Will try to build on previously built-up contacts and networks and concentrate on those sectors where cooperation provides a mutual advantage and may lead towards a win-win situation.

### **The Slovak Party would like to concentrate on following priorities:**

- To promote/improve the judicial cooperation with the elimination of administrative and judicial obstacles to the good functioning of cross-border civil and penal proceedings in the European area according to the objectives arising out of membership of the EU within the harmonisation of the European legal Instruments;
- To improve the daily life of individuals and businesses by enabling them to assert their right throughout the EU (notably by fostering Access to justice);
- To improve the contacts, exchange of information and networking between legal, judicial and administrative authorities and the legal professions, including by way of support of judicial training, with the aim of better mutual understanding among such authorities and professionals;
- To further improve mutual trust with the view to ensuring protection of rights of victims and of the accused;
- 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, strengthening structural provisions in relation to the Roma Community and non-discriminative legislation, integrating the Slovak Republic into European Research Area;
- Sharing experience within the field of competitiveness, business assistance through innovation, sharing experience within the field of Public Private Partnership.

## PART 17 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The exchange of scholarships under Part 14 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.
- The candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.
- 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;
- 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.
- 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.

The exchange of scholarships under Article **Specialisation scholarship** shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- The sending Party shall cover the international return expenses for travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
- The receiving Party shall cover:

### **In Flanders:**

- a monthly allowance of 840.00 euros;
- health insurance and third party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;
- the Flemish Party shall provide the admitted applicants with a sum designed to cover 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 2010-2011 the maximum amount is 567,80 euros); if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he has to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish Party by herself/himself.

The exchange of scholarships under Article **Research scholarships** shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- The receiving Party shall cover:

### **In Flanders:**

- a monthly allowance of 800.00 euros;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

### 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:

- 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.

- 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.
- To be covered by the sending Party: return international travel expenses
- To be covered by the receiving Party:

**In Flanders:**

- accommodation and breakfast;
- in case no other provisions have been agreed among the partners, a fixed allowance of 37.00 euros per day (excluding transport costs) or 50.00 euros 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 1**

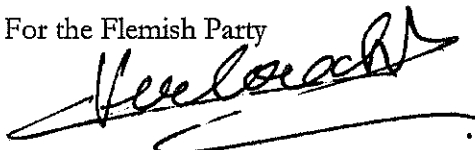
1. The provisions of the present Cooperation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that will be negotiated and agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.
2. Any disputes regarding the interpretation or implementation of the present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

### **Article 2**

1. The Cooperation Programme is subject to the internal procedures of each of the Parties.
2. The Cooperation 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 2013.
3. The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Brussels in the fourth quarter of 2013.

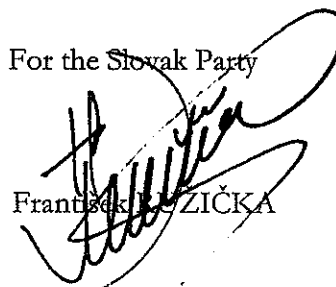
Done in Bratislava on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011 in two originals in the English languages. The copies in the Dutch and Slovak languages shall be exchanged through diplomatic channels. In the event of different interpretations of the Cooperation Programme the English text shall prevail.

For the Flemish Party



Koen VERLAECKT

For the Slovak Party



František M. ZIČKA