

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
AND
THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURE OF FLANDERS, KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

The Minister of Transport of the Republic of Colombia and the Minister of Public Works, Energy, the Environment and Nature of Flanders, Kingdom of Belgium, have the intention to co-operate on various fields related to maritime and inland waterway transportation, waterway and hydraulic infrastructures and port development.

The cooperation could embrace such issues as:

1. The exchange of experience and background information on

- cargo flows, shipping and business opportunities;
- port planning, operations and maintenance;
- port infrastructure and installations;
- inland waterways infrastructure and river ports;
- international legislation on maritime and inland waterway transport.
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2. The exchange of experts by

organising seminars, workshops, practice weeks or training programs for the technical, commercial and juridical aspects, mentioned under 3.

3. The transfer of technology, covering issues such as

3.1. Infrastructure and environment:

- planning of maritime and inland waterway transport;
- planning of maritime and river port construction;
- port and marine environmental issues;
- dredging and hydrography to maintain the navigability of port access and river channels;

3.2. Management and operations

- operation of specialised terminals;
- handling and transportation of different types of cargo;
- maintenance of infrastructure and equipment;
- port management, operations and performance;
- short sea shipping and inter-modal transport system;
- computerisation and electronic data interchange;
- handling and transport of hazardous cargo.

3.3. Legal aspects, international as well as domestic

- related to private sector participation;
- related to the handling and transportation of hazardous cargo;
- related to international navigation in border crossing rivers and maritime navigation channels;
- related to the environment.

4. Enhance the friendly relationship by organizing, participating in or contributing in each other's cultural and social activities.

It is understood that above endeavours are in no way imperative or have any limiting character.

Both parties will three-yearly draw up concrete programs on cooperation. Costs involved in any of the above activities will be shared between both parties on a case-by-case basis agreed upon in advance.

The cooperation will primarily be based on mutual respect and friendship inspired by the friendly relationship between both countries.

Made in two originals on September 6, 2005 in Brussels.

The Minister of Public Works, Energy, the
Environment and Nature of Flanders,
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KRIS PEETERS

The Minister of Transport
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