

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

FLANDERS (KINGDOM OF BELGIUM)

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

The Government of Flanders and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

- guided by the principles of democracy, social justice and solidarity enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution of the ILO and in the Declaration of Philadelphia;
- sharing, in the exercise of their respective competences, common priorities in the sphere of international cooperation, in particular the field of economic and social development;
- pointing out that following the constitutional reform of the Belgian state Communities and Regions exercise competences in the sphere of economic and social development and that the Government of Flanders exercises regional as well as community competences;
- sharing the concern to promote the exchange of the know-how and experiences of either party, in a spirit of reciprocity;

agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The contracting parties shall intensify their cooperation in, among other areas, the field of economic expansion policies, namely regional and local economic development, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, partnerships between enterprises; the field of employment policies, continuing education and vocational training, and the implementation of placement and employment programmes for job-seekers; the promotion of equal opportunities and salaries; social assistance policy for the benefit of the most vulnerable social groups; youth policy and particularly assistance in the protection of young persons in the labour relations context.

ARTICLE 2

The jointly defined cooperation programme shall take due account of the international cooperation priorities of the Government of Flanders as well as those fixed by the International Labour Office and its objectives defined for each country and its technical cooperation activities. It shall essentially comprise programmes and projects of which the objectives beneficiaries and the rules of implementation shall be determined by common consent.

ARTICLE 3

The programme decided upon in this way for the benefit of ILO member States and of the social partners shall reflect partially or completely, as the case may be, the whole range of the Organization's services and means of action, namely research and study activities, consultative services and technical cooperation projects.

In cases where the ILO needs to procure goods or services from outside the Organization in the performance of activities financed by the Government, the ILO will give due consideration, compatible with its rules and practices concerning procurement and with the needs of the recipient countries, to procuring Flemish goods or services whose availability has been drawn to its attention by the Government.

ARTICLE 4

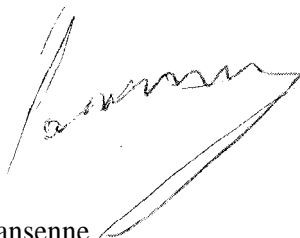
The specific rules for the cooperation between the International Labour Organization's International Training Centre, which is located in Turin (Italy), and the Government of Flanders are specified in the attached technical annex.

ARTICLE 5

In order to reinforce their cooperation the parties shall also stimulate the exchange of the research and studies carried out by the International Labour Office and the Flemish universities and institutions specialized in the field of social and labour market policies.

Done in two original copies, in the English and the Dutch languages, the two versions being equally valid, neither version prevailing, on the second of October 1997.

For the International Labour Organization



Michel Hansenne
Director-General of the International
Labour Office

For the Government of Flanders



Luc Van den Brande
Minister-President

COOPERATION BETWEEN
FLANDERS (KINGDOM OF BELGIUM)
AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE 1

The contracting parties shall, under the present agreement, draw up a three-year cooperation programme. This programme shall be defined taking into account the multilateral cooperation priorities of the Government of Flanders as well as those fixed by the Board of the Centre. It shall essentially comprise cooperation and training projects, of which the objectives, beneficiaries and methods of implementation shall be determined by common consent.

ARTICLE 2

The projects decided upon in this way for the benefit of ILO member States and the social partners shall reflect partially or completely, as the case may be, the whole range of the Organization's services and means of action. In particular consultative services, the organization of training courses at the Centre, in the beneficiary country and in Flanders, the development and production of teaching material, the organization of individual training programmes (receiving of trainees) and the exchange of information.

The Government of Flanders shall designate for each joint project the Flemish (public, mixed or private) body or the experts that will constitute the technical counterpart associated with its realization.

ARTICLE 3

The projects defined shall, in each case, be the subject of a complementary financial agreement. Each complementary agreement shall comprise a concise summary of the objectives and methods of implementation of the project as well as the methods of funding agreed upon by the contracting parties.

The Government of Flanders shall determine for each project the administrative and financial procedures that it will adopt with a view to raising the corresponding funds. A period of three months is fixed by common consent between the approval in principle of each project and the signing of the corresponding complementary agreement.

ARTICLE 4

Should this prove to be useful and possible, the contracting parties shall encourage the setting up of partnerships with other development cooperation organizations, and principally the United Nations programmes and agencies, the national development cooperation agencies, the regional banks, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the European Union development cooperation programmes.

In addition, they shall examine the possibility of setting up partnerships between the Centre and the technical counterpart bodies designated by the Government of Flanders with a view to jointly replying to invitations to tender for training projects originating with such bodies as the European Union, the World Bank or the regional banks.

ARTICLE 5

In order to reinforce their cooperation, the contracting parties shall encourage the exchange and secondment of officials and experts. The objectives and the procedures for such exchanges and secondments shall be defined on a case-by-case basis taking into account the administrative and statutory procedures applied by the Centre and the Government of Flanders in such matters.

Exchanges of experts or officials can also be programmed between the Centre and the public or mixed- bodies that shall be designated by the Government of Flanders as technical counterparts for the projects.

ARTICLE 6

In addition, and complementary to the three-year programme, the Government of Flanders undertakes to reply to requests made by the Centre so as to identify experts who can participate in its programmes or recommend institutions, enterprises or study centres that could receive trainees.

ARTICLE 7

The Centre undertakes to mention the Government of Flanders' support in any official document containing an indication of the institutions or partner States of the Centre as well as in any document pertaining to the realisation of joint projects.

The Centre also undertakes to inform the Government of Flanders of any project or training activity carried out in cooperation with Flemish institutions or enterprises and financed out of other multilateral or bilateral sources for development cooperation.

ARTICLE 8

This agreement is concluded for a period of five (5) years, renewable each year thereafter by tacit agreement. It can only be terminated by either party by giving notice no less than three (3) months prior to the date of expiry of this agreement.

ARTICLE 9

A joint committee is entrusted with the follow-up and the evaluation of the joint projects. The committee shall meet once a year, alternately in Brussels and in Turin, in order to evaluate their implementation and to take the measures that contribute to achieving its objectives. The ILO Liaison Office to the European Community and the Benelux countries in Brussels shall be invited to take part in these meetings.