

COOPERATION PROGRAMME

FOR THE YEARS 2012 - 2014

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS



COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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FLANDERS AND CATALONIA

FOR THE YEARS 2012 - 2014

The chairman of the Catalan delegation welcomes the Flemish delegation and presents the members of the Catalan delegation:

Presidency Department

Mr. Germà Gordó, secretary for the Government

Mr. Senén Florensa, secretary for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Salvador Sedó, director general of External Relations

Ms. Ares Montardit, officer of the General Direction of External Relations

Department of Culture

Mr. Valentí Sallas, Head of the International Relations Area

Ms. Cristina Sanchis, Officer of International Relations

Department of Social Welfare

Mr. Xavier Alonso, Head of the Area of Immigration and Laboral Relations

Ms. Mireia Llorens, Head of the International Area

Ms. Patrícia Oquendo, Officer of the International Area

Ms. Sara Molins, Officer at the International Area.

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment

Ms. Maria Teresa Martí i Castro, Secretary General

Mr. Joan Mier i Albert, Head of External Relations

Department of Enterprise and Labour

Ramon Pinós, Head of Institutional Relations , ACC10

Department of Governance and Institutional Relations

Mr. J. Pere Camino Pons, Head of Institutional Programmes at the Catalan school of Public Administration

Department of Territory and Sustainability

Mr. Francesc Vilaró i Casalinas, Head of Technical Cabinet

The chairman of the Flemish delegation thanks for the kind reception and presents the members of the Flemish delegation:



Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs

Koen Verlaeckt

Secretary General, Chairperson of the Flemish
Delegation

Yves Wantens

Representative of the Flemish Government in Spain

Michel Dingenen

Policy Advisor, Foreign Affairs Division

Department of Public Governance

Jan De Mulder

Policy Advisor

Flanders Investment and Trade

Dirk Verlee

Flemish Economic Representative, Madrid

Ingrid De Grande

Flemish Economic Representative, Barcelona

Department of the Services for the General Government Policy

Thomas Leys

Language Legislation Support Centre
(Taalwetwijzer)



The Government of Catalonia and the Government of Flanders (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), with a view to implementing the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Government of Catalonia, signed in Barcelona on 20 February 2008, and pursuant to the outcome of the Catalonia - Flanders Joint Committee meeting held in Barcelona on October 21st 2011, have agreed as follows:

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1.1. General bilateral and multilateral cooperation

1.1.1 Delegations abroad

Both Parties will organise regular contacts between their delegates and delegations abroad and specifically amongst those dealing with the international organisations.

Both Parties will in this respect exchange information and experiences regarding the following aspects of subnational representation abroad:

- General aspects of the model of representation abroad (diplomatic recognition, relations with the national embassies, criteria for establishing delegations in certain countries, etc.);
- Relations with the country where the delegation is based; collaboration between the delegation and the host country's institutions and services; relations with other foreign delegations in the host country;
- Coordination established between their departments of Foreign Affairs and their delegations abroad;
- Relations between their own departments of Foreign Affairs and their national Foreign Affairs authorities with regard to subnational representation abroad;
- Management of the delegations (legal status, staff recruitment, wages, law applicable, kind of activities developed, interaction with other services within the delegation such as foreign trade, tourism etc.)

1.1.2 Signature of international agreements

Catalonia and Flanders will exchange information about the agreements signed with other countries, regions and international organisations within the areas of their jurisdiction.

The Flemish Party is willing to inform the Catalan Party about its procedures to sign and ratify international agreements.



1.1.3 International organizations

Both Parties will exchange information and experiences about their policy towards international organisations such as UNESCO, ILO, WHO, WTO, UNAIDS, UN WOMEN, Council of Europe, UNRWA and the OECD

To this end they may organise study visits or seminars for their respective civil servants.

The Flemish Party may present examples of good practices, such as;

- the renewed Fund in Trust cooperation agreements with UNESCO and the ILO;
- the participation on behalf of Belgium in international organisations;
- the renewed Funding programme for placements for young people in international organisations.

The Catalan Party may present their examples of good practices, such as:

- the organisation of the Forum of Cultures under the auspices of UNESCO;
- the experience in UNIFEM;
- the experience in UNU;
- its model of relations with civil society related to UNESCO;
- development cooperation through international organisations.

Both Parties will encourage the contacts between the Flemish UNESCO Commission, the two Flemish UNESCO clubs and the Catalan UNESCO Center.

1.1.4 Regional and cross-border cooperation

Since Catalonia and Flanders cooperate in the framework of several European regional associations (e.g. REGLEG, 4 Motors for Europe, PURPLE, NRG4SD), both Parties will search a common position when possible.

They will exchange experiences on cross-border cooperation, in the case of Flanders the *Euregio Benelux Middengebied and Euregio Maas-Rijn*, the *EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai* and the *EGTC West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale*, and for Catalonia the *Working Community of the Pyrenees* and the *Pyrenees Mediterranean Euroregion and the EGTC Pyrenees Mediterranean..*

1.1.5 Joint workshops

Flanders , through its delegation in Spain, will co-organize in 2011 – 2012 with the government of Catalonia a workshop in Catalunya on the new financing system of the federated entities in Belgium on the one hand and the proposed fiscal pact in Catalunya on the other hand.

In the first trimester of 2012 Flanders will invite delegates from the Government of Catalonia to attend a seminar in Brussels on the Flemish plan, Flanders in Action, aiming at developing Flanders into a top performing state by 2020.



1.2. Development Cooperation

Contacts between the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD) and the Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA) will seek to establish the proper framework for further cooperation by sharing experiences on internal organisation of agencies, strategies and budgeting.

Flanders and Catalonia will compare their respective country strategy for Mozambique and identify possible area of cooperation and information exchange.

Catalonia and Flanders will make efforts to harmonise their responses to policy challenges in Mozambique.

2. EUROPEAN UNION

2.1. Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of the EU decision-making process by exchanging information, opinions and positions concerning general EU matters.

- Information shall be exchanged on institutional achievements concerning the involvement and participation of regions in EU affairs. In this regard, institutional reforms in Belgium and Spain can be mutually inspiring despite the existing differences.
- Both Parties will inform each other on initiatives and good practices concerning the inclusion of regional representatives at the expert groups and comitology within the Commission and working parties within the Council of the European Union.
- Both Parties shall exchange experiences and enhance a dialogue concerning the application of Community law. Particular attention shall be paid to working methods and policy instruments to prevent and manage infringements, as well as court rulings that imply issues of regional autonomy. To this end, both Parties will encourage study exchanges between the administrations concerned.
- Both Parties shall exchange experiences and good practices concerning the information-flow within their administrations on new European legislative initiatives, policies and priorities.
- Both Parties are willing to exchange information concerning each other's experiences on the application of EU legislation on European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

2.2. Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of the EU decision-making process by exchanging information, opinions and positions concerning specific dossiers, the common agricultural policy or the EU budget. The cooperation shall be structured through contacts between the Representation of the Flemish Government and the Catalan Delegation to the European Union in Brussels. When appropriate, common initiatives can be undertaken in this regard.

2.3 Both Parties shall stimulate the cooperation between Flemish and Catalan institutions, organisations, civil society and companies in the framework of EU programmes and initiatives.

- EU programmes and initiatives can be scrutinised on opportunities for cooperation between Flanders and Catalonia which can be of common interest.



- Institutions and organisations of the respective Parties will be encouraged to contact one another in order to participate in European projects. On the Flemish side, the official Flemish contact points as well as VLEVA (the Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe) and on the Catalan side the department of Foreign Affairs including the delegation of Catalonia in the EU would be key partners for stimulating such initiatives.
- Joint activities or joint participation in consultations of the European Commission in matters of common interest shall be encouraged. On the Flemish side, the department of Foreign Affairs and VLEVA (the Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe) would be the most appropriate partners for such initiatives. On the Catalan side the department of Foreign Affairs including the delegation of Catalonia in the EU will coordinate such initiatives.

2.4. Both Parties are committed to further consolidate and reinforce the cooperation in the framework of RegLeg and the Committee of the Regions.

- Experiences regarding the internal monitoring of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles shall be exchanged.
- Coordinated actions by both Parties will give momentum to the Interregional Group of regions with legislative powers in the Committee of the Regions, prepared on the basis of the RegLeg Co-ordination Committee actions.

3. ECONOMY, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Both Parties will explore the possibility of establishing a common area of cooperation on funding programmes provided by the public sector, aiming at growth and innovation of enterprises. This common area of cooperation can include:

- networking
- exchange of information
- mutual opening of funding programmes.
- joint funding of cross-border R&D projects

3.1. Trade, innovation and business (*ACCÍÓ– FIT*)

3.1.2 Introduction

The Flemish Party is committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and Catalonia. For that purpose, they will exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, the Flemish Party will also exchange information regarding its market and sectors, useful contacts, experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international entrepreneurship.

For Flanders, the above will be realized by Flanders Investment & Trade, the official Flemish institution supporting Flemish companies in various kinds of international entrepreneurship, as well as helping foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders.

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Within its new export promotion strategy 2011-2015, Flanders Investment & Trade will focus in the coming years on the following promising target sectors in Catalonia

- Creative industry
- Construction (i.e. renovation)
- Logistics
- Food & Beverages

Flanders has planned the following actions enhancing trade relations between Catalonia and Flanders:

2012

- High profile business lunch for the audiovisual sector (meetings with Flemish production companies and Spanish Programma Directors)
- Flemish Booth at "Mobile World Congress" in Barcelona
- Flemish Booth at "Alimentaria" in Barcelona

2013

- Multisectoral Trade Mission to Catalonia
- Flemish Booth at "Construmat" in Barcelona
- Flemish Booth at "Mobile World Congress" in Barcelona

2014

- Flemish Booth at "Mobile World Congress" in Barcelona
- Flemish Booth at "Alimentaria" in Barcelona

In addition to these actions, the Flemish economic representative in Barcelona returns once a year to Flanders for individual meetings with Flemish companies in order to give them tailor made advice concerning business opportunities in Catalonia and how to approach the Catalan market.

3.1.2 Motors for Europe: Economy Group

Flanders participates as an associate region to the meetings of the Economics Group since 2005 at the proposal of Catalonia, will continue participating in the Economy Group of 4 Motors for Europe. From the Flemish side both IWT and Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) take part herein according to a distribution of tasks.

IWT will attend an exploratory meeting on setting up a "Green Mobility" programme.

3.1.3 Flanders District of Creativity

Cooperation within this network promoted by Flanders from 2004 to foster the multilateral regional cooperation on the subject of creativity and innovation.

Normally every year it develops:

- A World-Wide Forum of the Creativity (CWF) with periodicity of a year in Flanders and two in other member regions.
- An Inverse Mission, with the objective to promote mutual knowledge between member territories.



- Several meetings of the International Board, normally 3 or 4 per year to define common actions.

Catalonia has appointed a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) as liaison with the Districts of Creativity network. At least three times a year this SPOC attends the International Council, which is organised by Flanders DC.

Catalonia will attend the het Creativity World Forum, which takes place in November 2011. The Catalan delegation will be appointed. Two speakers will be sent to participate in the panel discussions at the Forum.

3.1.4 RTPO network

At initiative of ACC10 and created in 2007 in order to sum up several regional organizations working for the promotion of the internationalization of the companies in the respective territories, with the aim of participating together in international projects. ACC1Ó and FIT (Flanders International Trade) are founding members and they participate regularly and actively. The active participation of Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) in the RTPO network, in which it is a founding member and member of the Executive Committee, will be continued. FIT takes part at all meetings, including the meeting of October 14 in Genval (Belgium).

3.1.5 Staff exchange programme

FIT would like to continue sharing knowledge with ACC10 in the field of multilateral development organisations. Acc10 will be briefed regularly on FIT-IFI activities (like seminars, trade missions, info sessions in Brussels of the EU, ...). And ACC10 is more than welcome to join the FIT missions with a focus on international financial institutions.

FIT is interested in learning more about the business opportunities in working together with ITER. ACC10 could share their knowledge as the ITER-HQ is based in Barcelona....

3.2. Industry, science and technological innovation (*ACC1Ó– FIT*)

3.2.1 Technology Transfer Cooperation between Flanders and Catalonia

In the framework of the existing cooperations between Flanders and Catalonia in the field of Technology Transfer both regions would like to continue collaborating in the processes of internationalization of Technology Transfer of the Catalan and Flemish companies.

IWT co-operates with ACC1Ó and other Catalan Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) partners in an EEN network, when opportunities arise. In this framework IWT also supports occasional missions of other activities within EEN, or set up by Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT).

4. EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

4.1 Exchange programme on programs and employment policies and possibilities for the promotion of mobility among unemployed.

Both parties will cooperate in the area of employment and business policy and will exchange information about programs and policies managed by both organisations. In particular:

- The accompaniment and the orientation to the persons in the process of jobs seekers.
- The labour intermediation.
- The public services of employment and the collaboration public-private.
- The mobility of young people to work abroad and do internships in companies.
- The e-learning as a tool of training to achieve territorial diversity.
- The tools for detection of qualification needs in the companies.
- Both parts shall decide the realization of common projects related with the former subjects. In particular, the Occupational Service of Catalonia (SOC), from the point of view of the international cooperation, is especially interested in exploring ways of promotion of the mobility of unemployed to promote internships in multinational companies of persons (youngsters) for improving their employment.

The Flemish Party (Flemish Department of Work and Social Economy) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational and entrepreneurial training, labour market, social economy and employment policy.

The Flemish Party is ready to:

- Investigate, if in the country of the other Party workers can be found for Flemish bottleneck vacancies;
- Exchange information in this respect and make bilateral agreements with the competent employment services of the other Party regarding the exchange and fulfilment of job vacancies.

The impact of the subject of this cooperation can in no way have a negative impact on the labour market situation of one or of both Parties.

5. TOURISM

5.1 Actions of crossed promotion

Both parties agree on including specific actions of touristic promotion in further markets in their respective promotion annual plans of (Program of Actions and Goals -PAO- in the case of Catalonia). Every year one or two products and/or segments where the action would be concentrated could be identified. Both parts would compromise to facilitate the information and contacts and to loan the support necessary for the good development and success of the action.

Example for 2012:



- Catalonia: agreement with the Automobile Club of Flandes (VAB - www.vab.be) for the promotion of determinate Catalan destinations (Destinations of Family Tourism, etc, Pirineus) among its members.
- Flanders: agreement with the RACC (Automobile Club of Catalonia) for the promotion of determinate destinations of the Flemish region among its members.

5.2 Working online

Both parties shall exchange information and experience in the field of tourism with specific attention for all matters concerning working online.

6. AGRICULTURE

- 6.1. The Flemish Party (i.c. the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) continues to cooperate with Catalonia through the PURPLE network (European regions raising awareness about rural areas in peri-urban regions), more specifically in information exchange on awareness about peri-urban identity, challenges and problems.
- 6.2. ILVO (Institute for research in agriculture and fisheries) and IRTA (Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries) will search for scientific cooperation opportunities in the field of agriculture.
- 6.3. The Catalan Party is willing to put at the disposal of the Flemish Party, within the budgetary limits, its knowledge and experience in the field of risk management in compliance with the European legislation.
- 6.4. The Flemish Land Agency (VLM) and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment of Catalonia are looking for measures to promote the cooperation between farmers in an individualistic environment:
 - To organise visits of farmers leading associations and farmers representatives to farms and farming facilities that deal with manure questions
 - To organise exchanges of technical staff of Flanders and Catalonia to compare different management technologies and processing of manures. There will be one meeting in Catalonia and one meeting in Flanders
 - To study the possibility of jointly participate in European projects
- 6.5. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment of Catalonia and the Flemish Land Agency (VLM) will exchange information concerning the implementation of the nitrates directive and the request for derogation.
- 6.6. The Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment of Catalonia are will work closely:
 - To organise visits of forest owners associations and related bodies to innovative forest initiatives related with sustainable forest management and renewable energy production from forest biomass

- To promote the cooperation and exchange of information between the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) and the Forest Technology Center of Catalonia
 - To analyse respective approaches to support and promote sustainable bioenergy plantations to mitigate climate change
 - To cooperate in the development of new poplar clones to improve disease tolerance and wood quality and production
 - To study the possibility of jointly participate in international projects
- 6.7 Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment of Catalonia and the Flemish Land Agency (VLM) will exchange information concerning the development and implementation of the biomass action plans at a regional level.
- 6.8 In addition *ad hoc cooperation* occurs on the basis of concrete questions, without necessity to incorporate it explicitly in a cooperation agreement or working plan.
- 6.9 The Flemish Land Agency and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and the Natural Environment of Catalonia will organize an exchange visit to each of the regions and explore possibilities for cooperation concerning:
- the creation of stronger survival opportunities for agriculture in peri – urban areas;
 - the development of alternatives for farms and farmers allowing them to respond more effectively to the relatively large market opportunities in the nearby city.
 - During exchange visits the following topics may be addressed:
 - the realization of new opportunities for short chain sale;
 - ways to bring the urban population more in touch with surrounding agricultural areas;
 - the alternatives that may be offered by an urbanizing environment in order to maintain agricultural use within this environment;
 - opportunities for urban agriculture;
 - initiatives concerning pocket gardens, picking-gardens, etc..

7. ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY

- 7.1 Promoting regional policies through the exchange of experiences, information and joint work among the governments of Catalonia and Flanders on the following issues:
- Air quality policy for monitoring and reducing PM10 particles and NOx.
 - Environmental education with large-scale projects such as the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education.
 - Coordination of both Environmental Departments international agendas especially with our joint participation to interregional networks such as nrg4SD and the 4 Motors of Europe and to United Nations environmental conferences on climate change and sustainable development.




- Water policy related with the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive particularly focusing the water basin participation and the water tariffs.

8. MOBILITY, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

8.7 Both Parties distinguish several areas and themes of common interest; for which concertation, exchange of best practices or active cooperation can be set up.

- Opening up the hinterland from the seaports
- Logistic developments in the hinterland
- Shortsea Shipping (SSS) in the Catalan and Flemish seaports
- Environment and sustainable development in seaports situated in metropolitan cities
- Cruise ports

9. LANDSCAPE, SPATIAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

9.1 As far as town and country planning and housing are concerned, the Flemish Party is willing to exchange information with the Catalan Party about spatial planning or housing policy or heritage in Flanders and in Catalunya.

10. WELFARE AND SOCIAL ACTION

10.1 Regarding *Social Action*, the Flemish Part would like to exchange information on the following subjects:

- Support of children and families in need of social assistance and protection
- Knowledge management in the field of Social Services

The Flemish 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.

More especially, The Flemish agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can provide information about selection procedures, training and evaluation instruments from childcare workers.

The Flemish agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can also provide information about the organization of integrated early childhood preventive care (family/child centres). The Flemish agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can provide tools in the domain of unsafe children's articles, webcourses (for instance breastfeeding), pictographic material, material about child development, family supporters, vaccination, experience in early eye or hearing screening, etc. The exchange on the above mentioned items can be realized through different channels of communication. Mutual exchange visits can be organized within the limits of the available financial resources.

From the catalan side these proposals are under consideration and will be confirmed later on.

10.2 Inclusion technical workshops

Both parties agree on the organisation of Technical workshops to exchange and promote the analysis of the social reality in both territories and the identification of good practices in the field of social inclusion.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH

11.1 Organization of the domiciliary attention in relation to the use of ITC in home care
Sharing experiences of the strategies and implementation of the ITC in the domiciliary attention.

11.2 Development of Health Plans and Evaluation of the objectives of Health
Share methodologies in the development of the Plans of Health in the respective territories and the evaluation of the objectives of health.

11.3 Exchange of experiences in eHealth (Electronic Health)
Share experiences of the strategies at governmental level of the implementation of the new information technologies in the sanitary sector. .

11.4 Exchange of experiences in implementation of public health policies at local level
Sharing experiences of the strategies and implementation of public health policies in the territory.

11.5 Policies of Mental Health oriented at the prevention of suicide and the promotion of mental health
Sharing experiences of the strategies and implementation of the policies of mental health directed at the prevention of the suicide and of the promotion of the mental health.

All proposals will be developed in a specific working plan that will include timing, mechanisms of evaluation and follow-up.

It is proposed to start with 1 activity, develop and evaluate this, and then continue with more activities. Priorities will be determined in mutual agreement between the two Parties.

12. YOUTH

The work programme regarding Youth will be discussed at the Youth sub-commission. This sub-commission meeting (for multilateral and bilateral co-operation) will be held in Barcelona on 8 and 9 November 2011. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed afterwards.

13. IMMIGRATION

13.1 Exchange information on the distribution of competences in immigration subjects, on the systems of coordination at estate, regional and local level, on the policies of first reception/welcome and more specific exchange of knowledge and information concerning 'the civil effect' of an integration certificat', and on the policies for linguistic integration of the immigrated population.



The activity would consist in fostering exchange of experiences and good practices in subjects of common interest through the participation in congresses, seminars, international experts meetings and institutional visits.

14. EDUCATION

14.1 Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information regarding education policy. They shall promote and encourage the cooperation between the institutions of higher education.

14.2 Both parties shall exchange information about language skills of their students, and the education policies in this field.

15. CULTURE

15.1 Catalonia Cinema in Flanders. Flanders Cinema in Catalonia.

Catalan cinema week in Flanders and Flanders cine week in Catalonia. To develop the project of Catalan Cinema in one of the most important cities in Flanders as Anvers, Gent o Bruges (as parallel activity or in a different week of the projection of Catalan Cinema in Brussels).

The cinematograph production of Flanders could be projected in a cinema in Barcelona and also in another city.

These activities are financed by the organisers themselves in common agreement.

15.2 Catalan literature in Flanders and Flemish literature in Catalonia.

Both Parties will work jointly to promote presentation at the international house of literature Passa-Porta in Brussels (of two or three books from Catalan authors translated to Dutch. Presentation of the Catalan editorials that more have exported to Flanders in the last years. Meetings with Catalan authors and readings of books.

The Catalan party also suggests the same activities for the Flemish part in literary houses and festivals in Catalonia.

Bi-annual residence exchange: One Catalonian writer in residence at Passa Porta Brussels. One Flemish writer in residence in Catalonia. Presentation of these writers, introduction in the respective literary life of Flanders and Catalonia, stimulation of translations.

These activities are financed by the organisers themselves in common agreement.

15.3 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.



- 15.4 When common subjects, of considerable present political importance have been detected, the Parties may decide by consensus to organise specific projects in that field, such as exchanges, training, on the job training, seminars, residences, etc.
- 15.5 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.
- 15.6 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)
 - Het Beschrijf: offers residences in Brussels and Vollezele for writers and translators, (www.beschrijf.be)
 - Flemish Literature Fund: offers residences for translators in the Translators' House in Antwerp, (www.fondsvoordeletteren.be)
- 15.7 Both Parties 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.
- In the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003, both Parties will study the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding the methods of registration and preservation of the intangible heritage of Catalonia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Catalanian Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.
- 15.8 Both Parties will identify the possibilities of co-producing films and television series via the regional film funds. The contact point in Flanders for this is the Flemish Audiovisual Fund (www.vaf.be)
- 15.9 Both parties will encourage the exchange of good practices on the storage and retrieval of film heritage and the co-operation between institutions for audiovisual heritage (www.cinematik.be)
- 15.10 Both parties will promote and improve the spread of each other's films on each other's territory, in particular with regard to the opportunities of digitalization for subtitling

16. SPORTS

The Flemish Part proposes:

Cooperation in the field of sport will mainly consist in exchanging best practices regarding (high level) sport policies. This can relate to education and training in sports, exchange of athletes and trainers, scientific research on sport, policy themes etc.

Depending on the needs and requirements of both Parties, more precise actions will be agreed upon. This cooperation is based on mutual respect and equal contribution of both partners with a constant view to strengthening their capacities.



The Catalan Part will consider these proposals and send confirmation to the Flemish Part afterwards.

17. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

17.1 The Flemish Party and the Catalan Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations and institutes.

In particular contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of: human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration and language policies, sustainable urban development policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, better regulation policy, policy planning and evaluation, as well as research and international cooperation activities.

The concerned administrations are:

For Flanders: the Public Governance department, the Government Personnel Agency, the Agency for Recruitment and Selection, the Agency for Interior Affairs, the Language Legislation Support Centre (Department of the Services for the General Government Policy), and other agencies or services that belong to the public governance policy field;

For Catalonia: the School of Public Administration (EAPC), the Institute for Autonomous Studies (tEA), the Secretary of Linguistic Policy and other institutions working in the field of public administration.

The following specific cooperation topics were outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both Parties:

- The legal framework for the use of languages and the protection and guarantee of linguistic rights of the citizens; public management approaches, including methodologies for job classification, rationalisation of ranks and grades, pay scales, rewarding systems, the implementation of competency based and performance-based management; relevant ICT systems and e-government applications; policies on administrative burden reduction and regulatory simplification, regulatory management approaches including indicators, participatory and electronic tools; research policies including methodologies for evaluation and long term policy development; research results regarding the impacts of constitutional reforms and regionalisation processes on regional public management and participation to supranational policy making; research on institutional changes and developments in self-government and processes of regionalisation",
- The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Catalan Party will cooperate and exchange information about the following subjects: the organisation of local elections; local finances and local statistics; autonomous local enterprises; cooperation between local authorities; internal multi-level governance including scale and competencies; the relationship between central and local authorities: policy support and administrative control.

The following particular future activities have been identified by the Catalan School of Public Administration (EAPC) and the Flemish Public Governance department:

17.4 Seminar of the Catalan School of Public Administration (EAPC-Barcelona)



Joint organisation of a seminar for high level civil servants of the Flemish administration, on:

- Model of relationships : Central State- Catalunya;
- Ideas and strategies for the improvement of the public administration (*quality assurance, efficiency issues, business information, funding systems, capacity and competency development, human resources policy, organisational change, etc*).

17.5 Study visit in the framework of a common public training programme

Study visit for public employees of both institutions in the framework of training programs to be carried out in the respective public administrations with the objective of studying the organization and the public function of the Flemish/Catalan government. Likewise a review and update of the both countries new developments in the field of public management and governance during a worklunch.

17.6 Realization of joint international projects

Collaboration through exchange of information and a joint commission with a view to identify interesting projects for both administrations in order to consider the participation or the creation of cooperation consortiums for bidding for European projects.

18. UNIVERSITIES

18.1 Both Parties are willing to promote the relations of their respective universities to foster projects of common interest that would reinforce subjects as the linguistic model, the internationalisation strategies and the European programmes.

18.2 Both Parties shall promote the relation and exchange of experiences with the Agency Study in Flanders and the Secretary for Universities and Research.

19. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Both Parties will agree bilaterally and case by case on the financial and general conditions for each specific action.

The provisions of the present Cooperation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that will be agreed upon by the Parties.

Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of the present Cooperation Programme shall be solved by negotiation between the Parties.

The Cooperation Programme shall enter into force on the day of its signature. It shall remain in force until 31 December 2014 unless stipulated differently in the present programme for specific policy areas.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Brussels (in the last quarter of the year 2014).



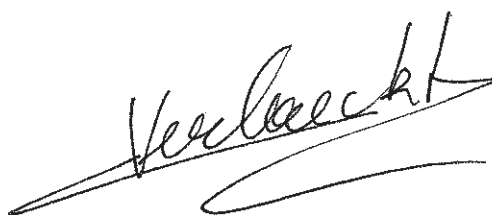
Done in Barcelona on 21 October 2011, in two original copies in the English language. The Dutch and the Catalan versions will be exchanged through the channel of the respective Foreign Affairs services. Should any differences in the interpretation of the Cooperation Programme occur, the English version shall prevail.

For the Government of Catalonia

For the Government of Flanders



Senén Florensa
Secretary for Foreign Affairs



Koen Verlaeck
Secretary General for Foreign Affairs