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**Memorandum of Agreement on cooperation between the Russian  
Federation State Committee for Higher Education  
and  
the Flemish Ministry of Education**

The State Committee for Higher Education (Russian Federation) and the Flemish Ministry of Education, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"

- pointing to the good relations that exist between the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community;

- convinced that cooperation in the field of education and research constitutes one of the main foundations of bilateral relations and is an important element in ensuring the stability of such relations;

- taking into account the positive experiences of the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community in developing ties in the field of science and technology;

- recognizing the need to intensify joint activities at a time when scientific knowledge is being dynamically expanded and deepened while scientific research and development and education are internationalizing;

- guided by the desire to arrive at forms of bilateral cooperation between Flemish universities and Russian educational institutions in the field of education, scientific research and technology which correspond to the new political, economic and social conditions in the Russian Federation, which are partly connected with the economic reforms taking place there;

have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Principles of Cooperation**

The Parties propose to set out in this Memorandum the details of bilateral cooperation in the field of education and research between the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community.

The Parties shall effectuate and develop cooperation in education, science and technology in areas as defined by mutual agreement. They shall do so to their mutual advantage and on the basis of equality, for the purpose of longterm and structural cooperation.

The Parties agree to be highly selective with regard to cooperation in the area of education and research. They shall therefore concentrate on a limited number of areas in order to make cooperation as effective as possible. The areas in question should be those in which the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community have a mutual interest and in which education and research is of a high level and enjoys international prominence.

The criteria for selecting joint projects and fields of activities in these areas shall be mutual advantage for both Parties or their reference to the special expertise of one or both Parties.

## **Article 2**

### **Policy studies and information exchange**

The Parties shall promote the study of important issues relating to developments in science and technology, including:

- science and technology policy as it relates to the totality of scientific and technological relations between the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community ;
- cooperation on major projects and important initiatives in the area of research and development.

The Parties shall inform one another about the organizational structure of their respective education systems, about the training of researchers within those systems and about their education policies.

## **Article 3**

### **Fundamental research**

The Parties shall develop cooperation in the area of fundamental research. Both Parties shall promote initiatives aiming at the provision of material support for joint activities. This shall include providing the necessary bilateral and multilateral funds for financing fundamental research.

## **Article 4**

### **Applied research**

Recognizing that innovation and technological progress are of particular importance for the dynamic development of their economies, the Parties shall make every possible effort to promote and extend cooperation in the field of industrial research and new science-based technologies, with due regard for the relevant intellectual and industrial property rights.

Both Parties shall support each other's project and research organisations in establishing links with enterprises and organisations which are interested in applying the results of research and development.

## **Article 5**

### **Education**

Cooperation in the field of education shall include the following:

1. exchange of students, trainees and lecturers of higher education institutions in the field of humanitarian, natural and technical sciences;

2. possible policy-related cooperation concerning the following:

- greater autonomy for institutions;
- improve the quality education;
- develop the funding systems;
- develop evaluation techniques;

3. studying of each other state's language and culture.

## **Article 6**

### **International programmes**

The Parties shall promote the development of joint projects which can be incorporated in both existing and future international programmes and which help scientists, specialists and lecturers in both countries to become more actively involved in the realization of their projects.

## **Article 7**

### **Forms of cooperation**

Cooperation within the framework of this Memorandum may take the following forms:

- joint education and training projects, where possible in combination with research projects;
- the exchange of teaching materials;
- the exchange of lecturers higher education institutions;
- the exchange- of undergraduate students;
- theoretical and practical courses for the administrative staff in the Russian Federation or in the Flemish Community;
- the exchange of research students;
- joint scientific conferences symposia or working groups;
- the implementation of research and technology projects, by means of joining scientific research groups and "twinning" of laboratories;
- the establishment of centres of organisations for innovation and the transfer of know-how which contribute to the timely introduction of new techniques and technologies;
- the exchange of scientists and specialists;
- joint scientific conferences, symposia or working groups;
- the exchange of technical information and documentation of a scientific nature.

## **Article 8**

### **The role of the Parties**

The responsibilities of the Parties shall be

1. to create the conditions for ensuring the proper implementation of the provisions contained in this Memorandum. In doing so their aim shall be to make every effort to facilitate direct cooperation between Russian and Flemish academic staff, researchers, higher education institutions and, where possible, companies by removing practical obstacles;
2. to promote the involvement of educational and research institutions and organizations in both countries into cooperation. For the purpose of implementing cooperation programmes the Parties shall attract research organisations from both governmental and non-governmental sector and individual scientists and specialists;
3. to be responsible for coordinating activities. They shall provide one another with full details regarding cooperation partners (researchers, institutions, companies, etc.)

## **Article 9**

### **Implementation and consultation**

In order to ensure the effective implementation of this Memorandum a commission on 'education and research' shall be set up and shall meet annually. At this annual meetings the commission shall:

- evaluate the progress of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community in the fields of education and scientific research;
- identify the problems affecting or impeding cooperation;
- find the efficient ways to coordinate bilateral and multilateral initiatives for education and scientific cooperation;
- select priority areas for cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community.

The commission will set up working groups for specific areas of cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology.

**Article 10**  
**Intellectual property**

The Parties ensure that intellectual and industrial property rights resulting from the joint activities are fairly distributed and protected in accordance with their national laws and regulations and the provisions of international conventions and treaties to which the Russian Federation and the Flemish Communities are parties.

**Article 11**  
**Duration, evaluation**

This Memorandum shall be agreed on for a period of three years and shall thereafter be tacitly extended for further periods of three years unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it, in which case it shall be terminated one year after the written notification is received.

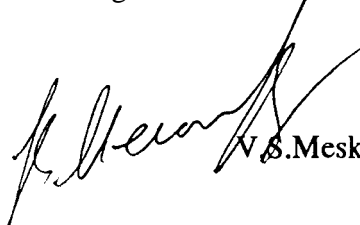
The Parties deem it necessary after a period of two years to evaluate the activities carried out in the framework of this Memorandum and to compile reports on the progress of the joint endeavours of the Russian Federation and the Flemish Community in the fields of research, technology and higher education.

The complete working plan following up the present Memorandum is to be discussed and signed by October, 1, 1994.

This Memorandum does not create rights or obligations under international law.

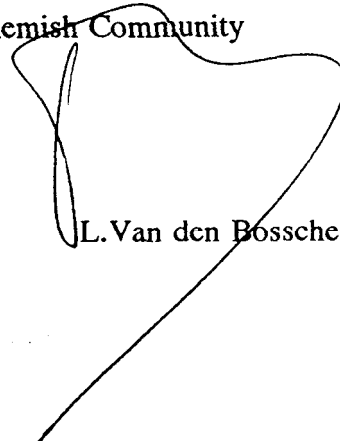
Done in Moscow on 11 May 1994, in duplicate, in English and Russian. In the event of disputes, the English text shall take precedence.

The Vice-Chairman of the Russian  
Federation State Committee  
for Higher Education



V.S. Meskov.

The Minister of Education  
of the Flemish Community



L. Van den Bossche