

Agreement on Cooperation
between
the Government of Flanders
and
the Government of the Czech Republic

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Agreement on Cooperation
between the Government of Flanders
and the Government of the Czech Republic

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

Proceeding from the relations of friendship and cooperation, mutual trust and adherence to the common values of freedom, democracy, justice and solidarity;

Considering their cooperation in the European framework;

Guided by the interest of both Parties in expanding and deepening cooperation between the Flemish Community and the Flemish Region (hereinafter referred to as “Flanders”) on the one hand, and the Czech Republic on the other hand;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. The Parties shall strengthen and expand the mutual cooperation and promote cooperation between institutions, organisations and companies in the fields that lie within their competence, in particular:

- a) economy,
- b) agriculture,
- c) transport,
- d) science and research,
- e) technology,
- f) education,
- g) vocational and professional training,
- h) culture and preservation of cultural heritage,
- i) media policy,
- j) social policy,
- k) employment policy,
- l) housing policy and infrastructure,
- m) health care,
- n) environment,
- o) youth and sports,
- p) tourism,
- q) public administration.

Art. 2. 1” Within the mutual economic cooperation, the Parties shall pay special attention to the following fields:

- a) economic restructuring,
 - b) development of structures for small and medium-sized enterprises,
 - d) creation of favourable conditions for investment and establishment of joint ventures,
 - d) promotion of transfer of technologies, especially environment friendly technologies, and of know-how,
 - e) promotion of expanded bilateral trade exchange and development of trade contacts,
 - f) sectoral programmes,
 - g) training programmes,
 - h) regional economic development,
 - i) cooperation within European programmes.
- 2” Cooperation listed in para. 1 shall be developed in particular through exchanges of experts and through the exchange of experience and information related to legislation regulating individual fields of economic cooperation.

- Art. 3. The Parties shall promote the development of cooperation and exchanges at all levels of education and life-long learning.
- Art. 4. The Parties shall encourage cooperation and the exchange of, information and experience in the field of research and development between their respective institutes of higher education and research institutes.
- Art. 5. 1° The Parties shall promote cooperation in the field of culture and arts, with priority given to acquainting themselves with each other's culture and language.
2° The Parties shall promote cooperation and exchanges in the field of audio-visuals.
- Art. 4. 1° The Parties shall encourage the cooperation in the field of tourism.
2° The Parties shall encourage the cooperation in the field of sports.
3° The Parties shall encourage the cooperation in the field of youth exchanges.
4° The Parties shall support the exchange of experts, experience and information in the fields mentioned under paras. 1, 2 and 3 of this Article.
- Art. 7. 1° The Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of social policy with special regard to employment policy, vocational training, labour and labour relations, in so far as these fields lie within the competence of each of them.
2° The Parties shall cooperate in the field of social protection, with a special regard to social welfare, social services and integration of the handicapped, and in the field of health care with special attention to be paid to prevention and health care services.
3° Cooperation listed in paras. 1 and 2 shall be developed in particular through the exchange of information, experience and expert publications and the organisation of study visits of experts.
- Art. 8. The Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of the environment and environmental planning, and shall encourage the exchange of experts and scientific and technical information and materials related to this field.

- Art. 9. The Parties shall promote the development of cooperation in the field of housing construction, municipal policy, infrastructure and transport. The Parties shall encourage the exchange of experts, information and materials in these fields.
- Art. 10. The Parties shall promote cooperation in the fields of agriculture and rural development.
To that end the Parties shall encourage the exchange of experts, experience and information, in particular in the framework of European programmes.
- Art. 11. The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation and partnerships between Flemish cities and municipalities and cities and municipalities in the Czech Republic.
- Art. 12. The Parties shall also cooperate within the framework of programmes of international organisations in the fields that are the subject of the present Agreement.
- Art. 13. 1° For the purpose of the implementation of the present Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Joint Committee Flanders-Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Joint Committee”) to be composed of representatives of the bodies participating in the implementation of the cooperation under the present Agreement.
- 2° The Joint Committee shall hold its meetings at least once every two years, alternately in Brussels and in Prague. The Joint Committee shall alternately be presided over by ministers appointed by each of the Parties, or by their delegates.
- 3° The Joint Committee may initiate working groups to hold intersessional meetings in order to evaluate the implementation of concrete programmes of cooperation.
- 4° The Joint Committee shall work in particular on the following tasks:
- a) monitoring of the implementation of cooperation developed under the present Agreement and evaluation of its results;
 - b) drafting the implementation programmes of cooperation for fixed periods, in general for two year periods; the entry into effect of these implementation programmes shall be subject to their due examination and approval by each of the Parties; the Parties shall inform each other of the approval of the implementation programmes of cooperation;
 - c) consideration of issues related to the interpretation and implementation of the present Agreement.

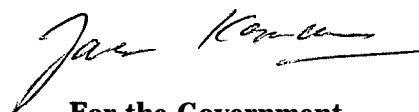
Art. 14. 1° The present Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely. Either of the Parties may at any time terminate its validity by giving notice. In such event the validity of the Agreement shall expire six months following the date of servicing the notice of termination to the other Party.
2° In the event of termination of the present Agreement, both Parties shall take the necessary steps to ensure the completion of joint projects launched under the present Agreement.

Art. 15. 1° The present Agreement is subject to approval in accordance with the internal legislation of each of the Parties of which the Parties shall notify each other.
2° The Agreement shall enter into effect on the day of the servicing of the last notification to the other Party.

Done in Prague on *February 12, 2002*, in two original copies, each in the Dutch, Czech and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In the event of different interpretation of the Agreement the English text shall prevail.



For the Government of Flanders,



**For the Government
of the Czech Republic,**