

Cooperation treaty
between
the Government of Flanders
and
the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

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**COOPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Hereinafter called the Parties,

Reaffirming the ties of friendship and the cooperation between the peoples of both Parties, the mutual trust and the concern for the collective values of freedom, democracy, justice and solidarity;

Considering that the historical changes have created the possibility to develop and bring about a justified and lasting peace in Europe, based on the Charter of the United Nations and on the principles of the Final Helsinki Act and on the Paris Charter for a new Europe;

Having decided to confirm the existing cooperation;

Wishing to extend this cooperation into new areas determined in the present treaty and being within their specific authority, in order to contribute to establishing closer links between Flanders and the Republic of Lithuania.

HAVE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 1.

Both Parties will intensify their cooperation in the fields of economy, science, technology, culture, education, social policy, environment and environmental planning, infrastructure, vocational training and employment, transport, tourism, agriculture and agro-industries, telecommunication and media: this list not being exclusive of other potential matters.

To that end they will promote cooperation between the institutions and companies active in the above-mentioned fields.

Both Parties will promote the exchange of experiences in the field of technical, technological and administrative know-how.

ARTICLE 2.

Both Parties confirm that they are willing to extend the economic relations between Flanders and the Republic of Lithuania.

They will encourage cooperation, especially in the fields of:

- restructuring the Lithuanian economy,
- developing structures for small and medium-sized enterprises,
- attracting investments and establishing joint-ventures,
- transferring technology, know-how, managerial experience,
- developing commercial contacts and bringing about cooperation between companies and institutions,
- sectoral programs,
- expansion of the bilateral trade.

To that end both Parties will promote, among other things, the exchange of managers, professors and lecturers who are specialised in establishing structures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and management programmes for SME-directors.

ARTICLE 3.

Both Parties will stimulate cooperation and exchanges between public and private bodies in the field of basic and applied scientific research and technology development. At regular intervals both Parties will determine which sectors have priority for the scientific and technological development of both Parties.

ARTICLE 4.

Both Parties encourage cooperation and exchanges in the cultural and socio-cultural fields. They will support actions contributing to the cultural development and the propagation of their respective cultures in the other country.

Both Parties will continue to support exchanges in the field of art and they will contribute to the protection of their common cultural heritage.

Furthermore, they will promote the exchange of audio-visual means.

Both Parties will support and promote cooperation in the field of tourism and sports. To that end they will encourage exchanges of experts and they will exchange experiences and information about their tourism policy.

Both Parties will search for closer forms of cooperation within the cultural sector and other sectors that are mentioned in the present treaty.

ARTICLE 5.

Both Parties will enhance the development of cooperation and exchanges in the field of elementary and secondary education, university education and higher education and continuous training.

They will promote exchanges of and training courses for professors and students.

ARTICLE 6.

Both Parties will work together in the field of employment-finding and vocational training. Both Sides will encourage their respective institutions to exchange experiences with respect to labour and employment, more particularly, with respect to vocational training, labour relations and social deliberation.

Exchanges between social partners and experts in the field of social relations will be promoted.

ARTICLE 7.

Both Parties will work together in the social field, more precisely with regard to health, welfare and social services.

Special attention will be paid to medical care and treatment, prevention, integration of the handicapped, social security and counselling, education, planning and programming.

ARTICLE 8.

Both Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges in the fields of environmental planning (including management of the land), housing, municipal policy, infrastructure, transport and telecommunication.

They will promote the exchange of scientific and technical data and technology transfer, especially regarding environmental protection and improvement.

ARTICLE 9.

In the fields to which this treaty applies, both Parties aim at cooperation within the framework of international organizations. To that end they can provide information to one another on their position and - more generally - deliberate on matters.

Both Parties will cooperate within the framework of programmes of international organizations in the fields that fall within their authority, thus expressing their special ties of friendship and partnership.

ARTICLE 10.

With the implementation of the present treaty in mind, both Parties will establish a Joint Committee Flanders - Lithuania.

This Committee will hold a meeting at least every two years, alternately in Brussels and Vilnius.

The Joint Committee can instruct working groups to hold intermediate meetings in order to assess the implementation of the working programmes.

ARTICLE 11.

The Joint Committee will be presided over by the ministers designated by the governments of the Parties, or by their delegates.

The Joint Committee has the following tasks :

- a) examining how cooperation has developed and assessing the results;
- b) discussing the operation of the subcommittees;
- c) adapting the priorities and determining the policy to be conducted at regular intervals;
- d) examining and approving programmes and projects planned for the near future;
- e) finding and supervising suitable financing for the programmes originating from the present treaty;
- f) considering all problems regarding implementation, operation and interpretation of the present treaty.

ARTICLE 12.

The present treaty will remain in force for a period of five (5) years. It will be automatically renewed for successive periods of two (2) years. Both Parties may terminate the treaty by notification to the other Party at the latest six (6) months before a period expires. In that case the treaty remains operative till the end of that period.

In case of termination, both Parties will take the measures required to guarantee the completion of any joint projects emerging from the present treaty.

ARTICLE 13.

Both Parties shall notify each other that the legal requirements for the entry into force of the present treaty have been complied with. This treaty shall enter into force on the date of reception of the latter of these notifications.

Done at Vilnius on*March 7, 1996*....., in two original copies, both in Dutch, in Lithuanian and in English, the three versions being equally valid. In the event of any difference of interpretation of any provision of the treaty the text in English will prevail.

For the Government
of Flanders,



For the Government of the
Republic of Lithuania,

