

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME**  
**FOR THE YEARS 2013-2015**  
**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY**  
**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS AND THE GOVERNMENT**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**Vilnius, November 7<sup>th</sup> 2012**

The seventh meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2013-2015 to implement the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Flanders was held in Vilnius on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The chairman of the Lithuanian delegation welcomed the Flemish delegation and presented the members of his delegation:

**Lithuanian delegation:**

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Tomas Gulbinas

Director of the European Affairs Department,  
Head of delegation

## Ministry of Economy

- Mindaugas Danys

**Director for Small and Medium Business Department**

## Ministry of Education and Science

- Stanislovas Žurauskas

Deputy Head, Division of Science, Department of  
Higher Education, Science and Technology  
Chief Specialist International Cooperation Division

- Aurelija Širkaitė

## Ministry of Environment

- Julija Kuklyte
- Jolanta Meilė Lozoraitienė

Climate Finance and Project Management Division  
Chief Specialist, European Union and International  
Relations Division

## Ministry of Health

- Edita Selvenytė

Public Health Department, Nutrition and Physical  
Activity Division, Chief Specialist

## Ministry of Interior

- Paulius Skardžius
- Birutė Česnulevičienė

Director, Public Governance Policy Department  
Head, Civil Service Policy Division

## Ministry of Culture

- Gediminas Rutkauskas
- Ina Kniurienė

Vice-Minister of Culture  
Chief Specialist, Strategic Planning and Control  
Department, International Relations and European  
Affairs Division

## Ministry of Agriculture

- Jokūbas Drazdas

Chief Specialist EU Affairs and Export Promotion  
Coordination Division

## Ministry of Transport and Communications

- Arenijus Jackus

Director, Development and International Relations  
Department

- Jolanta Šukštienė

Chief Specialist, International Cooperation Division

**Civil Service Department under the Ministry of the Interior**

- Laima Tuleikienė

Director

**Lithuanian Road Administration under the Ministry of Transport and Communications**

- Egidijus Skrodenis Deputy Director

**The National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health**

- Ieva Jankauskaitė Head officer, Insurance Development Department  
Quality Management Division

**Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour**

- Laura Bačinskienė Head, Information Analysis and International  
Relations Division

The chairman of the Flemish delegation thanked for the kind reception and presented the members of his delegation:

**Flemish delegation:**

**Foreign Affairs department**

- Koen Verlaeckt
- Koen Haverbeke

Secretary General, Head of delegation  
Representative of the Flemish  
Government in Lithuania (based in  
Warsaw)

- Peter Van Heesvelde

Policy advisor, secretary

**Public Governance department**

- Jan De Mulder

Policy advisor

**Mobility and Public Works department**

- Olivier Vandersnickt

Policy advisor

**Environment, Nature and Energy department**

- Quirina Huet
- Annemie Neyens
- Isabelle Vanden Bulcke

Policy advisor

Policy advisor

Policy advisor

**Flanders Heritage Agency**

- Barbara Dubaere

Policy Officer International  
Cooperation

Both delegations, hereafter called the Parties, agreed upon the following:

## **1. ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The Parties shall promote the exchange of information, best practices and role models between entities responsible for outlining and executing entrepreneurship policies.

The parties shall also facilitate and promote direct contacts between project promoters and projects in the field of “entrepreneurship” financed either through regional, national and/or European funding sources (ERDF, CIP, ESF).

## **2. FOREIGN TRADE**

The Parties are committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and Lithuania. For that purpose, they will exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, they 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. For Lithuania this will be realized by Enterprise Lithuania.

The following initiatives are planned for 2012-2013:

2012:

FIT invited two Lithuanian buyers from the Lithuanian supermarket chain MAXIMA to Belgium in order to meet Flemish companies of his interest. The purpose of this action was to establish B2B-contacts between the Lithuanian company and potential Flemish suppliers. This action took place in October of 2012. 14 Flemish companies had the opportunity to meet the purchasing managers of the Maxima chain.

2012:

Enterprise Lithuania will invite the Flemish purchasers in the textile and IT industry to Lithuania in order to meet Lithuanian based companies. The purpose of this action is to establish B2B-contacts between the Lithuanian suppliers and potential Flemish purchasers. The event will be organised in 2012.

2013:

FIT will invite a Lithuanian buyer in the DIY-sector (Senukai) to Brussels in order to meet Flemish companies of his interest. The purpose of this action is to establish B2B-contacts between the Lithuanian company and potential Flemish suppliers. This action will take place in the first half of 2013.

2013:

Enterprise Lithuania will invite a Flemish purchasers of the food industry to Lithuania in order to visit Lithuanian based companies. The purpose of these visits is to establish B2B-contacts between the Lithuanian suppliers and potential Flemish purchasers. The event will be organising in 2013.

The export promotion actions for 2014 and 2015 still have to be defined.

### **3. AGRICULTURE**

- 3.1. The Flemish Party shall, within its budgetary possibilities, put at the disposal of the Lithuanian Party its knowledge and experience in the field of the production, processing and marketing of fruit, vegetables, animal breeding (cattle, pigs, sheep), animal registration and identification and animal waste treatment in accordance with the European regulations. The Flemish Party shall also provide the opportunity to exchange its knowledge and experience concerning the establishment and operation of producer organizations.
- 3.2. The Flemish Party shall, among other things, in co-operation with the practical training centers, provide the opportunity to train or further train local practical work teachers in giving after-school training and refresher training with main focus on sustainable agriculture.
- 3.3. Important components of training may be:
- management training depending on the crops and the region;
  - sustainable farming techniques, organic farming;
  - training in practical techniques: masonry, welding, maintenance of farm machinery and small repairs, claw nursing, milk hygiene, etc.;
  - technical training: tillage, ploughing, manuring, sowing techniques, animal feed, etc.

### **4. ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY**

#### **4.1. Nature and Environmental education**

The Flemish Party, the Environmental Training and Education Service (ETE), offers to invite a Lithuanian delegation and to introduce it to the environmental education (EE) operation and structure at the Flemish level in an active and interactive way.

Taking into account the wishes/needs, the ETE Service can organise one or more days with the following topics, interests, possibly in a follow-up project (MOS, Ecocampus):

- introduction of and making acquaintance with the operation of the ETE Service within the Flemish policy, with the networking on EE (diverse target groups) and on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as the frame of reference;
- introduction and making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School) and his evolution, an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education (and teacher training) and, if preferred, linked with one or more school visits; getting acquainted with the relevant educational means;
- introduction of and getting acquainted with the Ecocampus-project, introducing environmental care and sustainable development in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management), and, if preferred, linked with a visit to a university or an institution of higher education;
- introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on ESD in formal education and informal or/and non-formal education; presenting examples of good practices of how ESD can be introduced in EE;
- site visits to one or more Flemish Knowledge and Training centres for Nature and Environment, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, etc.), and

to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

#### **4.2. Emission Trading**

In the field of emission trading, both parties propose to examine the possibilities of trading with additional AAU's under the Green Investment Scheme.

#### **4.3. Flemish Public Waste Agency**

The Flemish Public Waste Agency (OVAM) is prepared – within its financial possibilities - to invite a number of experts and practitioners in the field of Waste Management and Soil Sanitation in order to exchange know-how and information concerning specific items in this matter. The invited experts and practitioners are primarily to be from the municipal level, as representatives of institutions directly responsible for carrying out and working out the legislation on the waste management and soil sanitation in Lithuania.

#### **4.4. Sustainable Energy**

The parties are prepared to cooperate in the field of energy on those themes that fall within the competences of the Flemish party (renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy distribution and energy research), subject to the availability of financial and human resources and based upon a specific request for the exchange of information or the organization of an expert meeting.

The parties encourage contacts between each other's companies, local authorities and research institutions and are prepared to play a facilitating role, should there be a specific request.

Specifically in the context of the European financing programmes, such as for instance « Intelligent Energy for Europe », the parties encourage information exchange between the respective focal points, so as to match potential partners. In this regard, the parties wish to focus the effort of encouraging participation in European programmes that are in line with the energy policy of the parties and with a potential added value.

#### **4.5. Expert exchange**

Both parties are prepared to invite, during the validity of the present programme, a team of maximum 5 experts (fluent English required) for a period up to five working days within the frame of environment, nature and energy, in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.

### **5. MOBILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **5.1 Ports and Water Policy**

Both Parties propose to exchange information and experience regarding one or more of the following subjects:

- foster contacts between Lithuanian and Flemish ports;
- exchange information and experiences on Motorways of the Sea;
- exchange information about Short Sea Shipping;
- hinterland connections from seaports;
- logistics developments in the hinterland;
- greening of maritime transport with regard to air pollution, the use of LNG as a fuel for maritime shipping (Lithuania and Flanders are both located in an Emission Control Area.);
- the role of the waterways in adapting to climate change.

Both Parties will facilitate co-operation and the establishment of maritime connections between Lithuanian and Flemish ports.

## **5.2 Roads policy**

Both Parties propose to exchange information and experience regarding one or more of the following subjects:

- analysis of the methodology used in the planning and prioritization of projects promoting modalities of control technical condition of national roads and highways network to implement an integrated strategy of modernization and rehabilitation, respectively the construction of new roads and highways;
- experience exchange regarding the implementation of a modern data structure corresponding to the present technologies regarding the spatial data, GIS;
- information exchange in order to gain insight in the use of PMS software.
- road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS);
- control of construction quality;
- environment protection, respectively measures to reduce noise, to protect flora and fauna etc.;
- multiannual maintenance of road infrastructure, namely a comparative analysis of road maintenance during summer or winter and solutions to reduce the costs;
- methods for identifying and attracting private capital in road infrastructure, namely the implementation of the major highway construction projects in the PPP system.

Both Parties are prepared to consider receiving two delegations of maximum five (5) Lithuanian / Flemish experts for a period of maximum five (5) days in Flanders / Lithuania to exchange information, training, documentation (including site visits to various locations to be determined) and knowledge about one or more of the aforementioned themes, according to their points of interest.

## **6. EMPLOYMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy, vocational and entrepreneurial training.



Both Parties encourage the cooperation in the field of the European Social Fund and they shall exchange information and know-how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.

The Flemish Party (Vlaamse Departement Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational and entrepreneurial training, labour market and employment policy.

Both Parties encourage the cooperation in the field of lifelong learning and more specific on skills forecasting and skills matching and training vouchers, related with the needs of the economy and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.

## **7. CULTURE**

### **Culture policy**

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.

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.

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.

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](http://www.fransmasereelcentrum.be))
- Het Beschrijf: offers residences in Brussels and Vollezele for writers and translators, ([www.beschrijf.be](http://www.beschrijf.be))
- Flemish Literature Fund: offers residences for translators in the Translators' House in Antwerp, ([www.fondsvoordeletteren.be](http://www.fondsvoordeletteren.be))

The Lithuanian Party wants to draw attention to the possibilities for visual and performing arts, art critics and curators to enter the residence programme of the following organisations (participants should meet the criteria and pass the selection):

- Nida Art Colony: offers residences for professional artists, designers, architects, art critics and curators ([nidacolony.lt](http://nidacolony.lt))
- Arts Printing House: offers residences for professional international artists in Contemporary Dance, Theatre, Circus and Interdisciplinary Art fields ([www.menuspaustuve.lt](http://www.menuspaustuve.lt))

The Parties shall, within their possibilities, collaborate in organising the following events presenting Lithuanian culture in Ghent during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council in 2013:

- exhibition of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis in the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent,
- participation of the Lithuanian artists in Flanders Festival.

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 Lithuania and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Lithuanian Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

The Flemish Regulator for the Media proposes to share his knowledge, working methods and points of view with the Lithuanian media regulator. Agreements in this field can be made between the Flemish Regulator for the Media and his Lithuanian counterpart.

Both Parties agree to promote the contacts between Flemish and Lithuanian local authorities in the field of culture and promote the usage of the available international funding for their joint activities in this area.

## **8. YOUTH**

The work programme regarding Youth shall be discussed at the Youth Sub-Commission. This sub-commission meeting (for multilateral and bilateral co-operation) was held in Riga, November 2 – 4 2011. The minutes of the meeting are distributed afterwards.

The next meeting of the Youth Sub-Commission, including evaluation and follow-up of the agreed activities in frames of the Co-operation Programme for the Years 2012 – 2014 shall take place in Vilnius in the end of 2014.

Both Parties agree to promote the contacts between Flemish and Lithuanian local authorities in the field of youth policy and promote the usage of the available international funding for their joint activities in this area.

## **9. SPORTS**

Both Parties promote cooperation between Flemish and Lithuanian institutions, including local authorities, in the field of sport policy and encourage direct communication between national non-governmental sport organizations. For further cooperation institutions and non-governmental sport organizations negotiate directly.

## **10. WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **10.1. Public Health & (Health) Care**

- preventive health care for the young child (organisation and expertise): development, hearing screening, vaccination, breastfeeding, toy safety,
- improvement of Health Care Financing (assessment and reduction of inequalities in health).

Both Parties agree to promote the contacts between Flemish and Lithuanian local authorities in the field of public health and healthcare policy.

### **10.2. Welfare / Well-being & care**

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- general welfare work; primary care, crisis intervention and crisis relief, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim support, telephone counselling services;
- voluntary work;
- cooperation with justice in the field of welfare
- family friendly policy;
- special youth care, particularly residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care;
- integrated youth care, i.e. youth care and general prevention regarding youth welfare;
- children and families: preventive child care, parenting support, child care services, child abuse counselling, adoption, ECEC (early childhood education and care) etc.;
- mediation: family mediation (divorce mediation, child custody mediation and access mediation), mediation in the context of criminal law (restorative justice, reparation of harm, settlement of conflict, restorative justice) and debt mediation, community mediation (neighbours, neighbourhood mediation).

### **10.3. The Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family)**

The Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) is able and willing to exchange information, knowledge, experiences, documentation and/or tools in the domain of the preventive healthcare, about the wellbeing of young children, in the domain of childcare and concerning target groups and social vulnerable families.

More especially, the Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can exchange information, experiences and documentation about the organization and regulation of child care in Flanders and Brussels.

The Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can also provide information about the organization of integrated early childhood preventive care (family 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.

## **11. EDUCATION**

### **11.1. Exchange of information and documentation**

During the validity of the present programme, both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information on all types and levels of education.

The Parties shall promote direct co-operation and exchange between universities and other educational institutions in both countries, in particular within the framework of the programmes of the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organisations. The terms of the co-operation shall be agreed upon and specified through direct contacts between the institutions concerned.

Both Parties take a particular interest in advanced academic programmes for foreign students, in the exchange of experience regarding the implementation of the Bologna Declaration and in the challenge of “the Bologna process beyond 2010”.

All information on study opportunities can be found:

1. in Lithuania (links to all higher education institutions, search for information on study programmes in foreign languages, Lithuanian language courses, available scholarships) – [www.studyinlithuania.com/](http://www.studyinlithuania.com/);
2. in Flanders (useful addresses of university colleges and universities, accredited non Dutch-language courses) can be found at - <http://www.studyinflanders.be/>.

### **11.2. Exchange of experts/policymakers**

Both Parties shall promote direct contacts and the exchange of experts/policy makers in higher education.

The exchange of experts/policy makers shall be implemented in agreement between the sending and receiving institution.

### **11.3. Scholarships**

#### **11.3.1. Scholarships for Studies**

The Parties shall optimize, in consultation with each other, the system of awarding scholarships to residents of the other state for postgraduate studies in their higher education institutions in order to increase added value for both higher education systems. The Parties shall take these steps in the framework of the national policies on the promotion of student mobility and of the mobility strategy of the European Higher Education Area.

The Flemish Party is ready to explore, in function of the budgetary capacities in the coming years, the possibility to consider scholarships for studies at higher education institutions of the Flemish Community.

The Lithuanian state scholarships for Flemish students' periods of studies in Lithuanian higher education institutions in the coming years shall be subject to

available budgetary resources. Terms and conditions thereof shall be announced in the calls for application advertised on the website: [www.smpf.lt](http://www.smpf.lt).

#### **11.4. Research Scholarships**

The Flemish Party is ready to explore, in function of the budgetary capacities in the coming years, the possibility to consider scholarships for research studies at higher education institutions of the Flemish Community.

The Lithuanian state scholarships for Flemish researchers' research stays in Lithuanian higher education institutions in the coming years shall be subject to available budgetary resources. Terms and conditions thereof shall be announced in the calls for application advertised on the website: [www.smpf.lt](http://www.smpf.lt).

#### **11.5 Summer scholarships**

##### **11.5.1 "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course**

The Dutch Language Union offers support for Dutch language departments, teachers and students of the Dutch language abroad, like for example, summer courses of the Dutch language, literature and culture, teaching resources and continuing studies courses.

The Dutch Language Union offers two summer courses: one in Ghent (BE) and one in Zeist (NL). During the course in Ghent, special attention goes to the Flemish culture.

More information about the support and the summer courses can be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union:  
[http://taalunieversum.org/en/dutch\\_worldwide/](http://taalunieversum.org/en/dutch_worldwide/).

##### **11.5.2 Lithuanian language and culture courses**

In order to promote the study of the Lithuanian language and culture, the Lithuanian Party annually offers scholarships to foreign students, teachers and researchers of higher education and research institutions for 3-4 weeks' summer language and culture courses organised by one of the universities of Lithuania. The courses organized on beginners, intermediate and advanced levels are offered to students, teachers and researchers of higher education and research institutions of Flanders. A number of scholarships is revised annually and is subject to available budgetary resources. Concrete universities offered selected for summer language and culture courses for a particular year, terms and conditions shall be specified in the calls for applications advertised on the website: [www.smpf.lt](http://www.smpf.lt).

#### **12. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, HOUSING POLICY AND IMMOVABLE HERITAGE**

At the request of the other Party both Parties shall exchange information and experiences and promote inter-municipal cooperation on Town and Country planning, Housing Policy, Communal services, Local transportation and Immovable Heritage.

##### **Cultural heritage**

The Flanders Heritage agency is willing to provide advice and expertise on the implementation of the Arches-project, a generic system for collecting data on heritage



(buildings, structures, landscapes, heritage ensembles, archaeology etc.) in Lithuania. The results of the Arches-project (an initiative of the Getty Conservation Institute and the World Monuments Funds, the Flanders Heritage Agency is one of the advising partners) will be made available free of charge by the end of 2012 under an open source license and can be adapted by the cultural heritage field for inventorying, documenting and management of sites.

The government of Flanders took the lead of the reflection group 'EU and cultural heritage' in 2010–2011 and still supports the initiative. In 2013, Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Department will chair the reflection group. The Flemish Heritage Agency is willing to support the Lithuanian party in its role as chairman of the reflection group and in the organization of this EU-conference by acting as first contact point and secretariat for the reflection group, as facilitator between all relevant parties and by providing all necessary advice, expertise and support.

### **13. SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

Both Parties shall examine ways of further optimizing their cooperation in the broad field of scientific research and innovation, in order to reach the goals of the European Research Area. This may include e.g. cooperation in the European Union framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and the future "Horizon 2020" programme (as of 2014), or in other relevant European initiatives, if this is appropriate and mutually beneficial for each Party's research community participants.

Both Parties will stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and cooperation in scientific research and innovation between the public and the private sectors, in order to enhance the development of fundamental, strategic and applied research. This includes, at various policy levels, the exchange of best practices between relevant public and private institutes, the interaction between the academic community and the business community, and the valorisation of research results into societal and economical applications.

Both Parties strive for joint participation of Flemish and Lithuanian researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development, or in other EU initiatives. For the Flemish Party, the National Contact Point of the Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders ([europrogs@iwt.be](mailto:europrogs@iwt.be)) will be the one stop shop. For the Lithuanian Party, this function shall be carried out by the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (e-mail: [info@mita.lt](mailto:info@mita.lt), <http://www.mita.lt/en/>).

### **14. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE**

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Lithuanian Party will co-operate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations. In particular, contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of human resources management, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, performance measurement, impact assessment of public policies. Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Lithuanian Party will cooperate and exchange information about the following subjects: the organization of local

elections; local finances and local statistics cooperation between local authorities; internal multilevel governance including issues like scale and competences; the relationship between central and local authorities focusing on policy support and administrative control.

## **15. CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **Port Training and Port Management**

The Flemish Party offers to the Lithuanian Party the possibility to send experts to seminars, in the field of port training and port management, organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center vzw) during the validity of this work programme.

The Lithuanian Party shall present its candidates for these seminars and the participants shall be selected by APEC.

The Flemish Party shall cover the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are borne by the participant.

## **16. CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

The Flemish Party informs the Lithuanian Party on its plans for the centenary of the First World War (2014-2018) and its devastating impact in the 'Flanders Fields' theatre of war.

The Flemish Party invites the Lithuanian Party to identify possible joint activities in this regard.

## **17. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

Both Parties shall send their proposals for the new co-operation Programme at the latest six (6) weeks before the date foreseen for the meeting of the joint committee.

They agree that their future co-operation should be developed in as concrete a way as possible, starting from realistic projects. It should avoid general points such as exchange of information or proposals without a real commitment from the Parties involved.

The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed:

- all activities and exchanges mentioned in this Programme shall be carried out within the limits of the financial resources at the disposal of the two Parties;
- the activities and exchanges envisaged in this Programme shall not exclude other initiatives or visits which might be proposed and agreed in advance by both Parties through diplomatic channels or by direct mutual agreement;
- the organisation of music, dance and theatre performances and exhibitions, other than those mentioned in this programme, should a priori be based on a direct agreement covering financial and other terms between the organisations and artists involved in such events;
- both governments can subsidise projects as well.

Other conditions are to be agreed upon by the partners on a case by case basis.

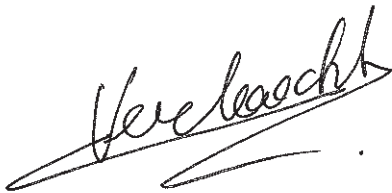
## 18. FINAL PROVISIONS

Both Parties shall agree on the conditions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. All disputes concerning the interpretation or realisation of this programme of activities shall be settled through negotiation between the Parties.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint commission in Brussels in the first half of 2015. In the case of the need this date could be changed by a mutual agreement.

Signed in Vilnius on November 7, 2012, in two (2) original versions in English and Lithuanian, both texts being equally authentic. In the case of dispute, the English text shall prevail.

On behalf of the  
Government of Flanders,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verlaeckt', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Koen Verlaeckt  
Secretary General  
Foreign Affairs Department

On behalf of the  
Government of the Republic of Lithuania,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gulbinas', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Tomas Gulbinas  
Director of European Affairs Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs