

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME  
FOR THE YEARS 2006-2008  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA**

**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA**

**Riga, 9 May 2006**

The fifth meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2006-2008 to implement the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Republic of Latvia was held in Riga on 9 May, 2006.

The chairperson of the Latvian delegation welcomed the Flemish delegation and presented the members of delegation:

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

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

## **1. ECONOMY**

### **1.1. In general**

1.1.1. Both Parties agree on the importance of economic relations, based on co-operation in different fields.

The co-operation shall be concretised by the exchange of knowledge and experience on the economic and regional development policies and on the use of modern management techniques.

Both Parties shall exchange documentation and information concerning the subjects mentioned above.

1.1.2. Both Parties shall investigate the possibility of exchanging experts in the economic fields to be determined by common agreement.

### **1.2. Specific actions**

#### **1.2.1. Economic, industrial and regional policies**

1.2.1.1. At the request of the other Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experience on economic, industrial, regional and regional development policies.

Particular attention shall be paid to co-operation among the regions and the co-operation with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes.

1.2.1.2. Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of officials of the ministries concerned (Economy, Regional Policy) in the fields of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and know how concerning the following subjects:

- sustainable economic and industrial policy (in particular concerning PME's);
- regional policy (sub regional economic policy aimed at sub regions);
- aid to companies;
- entrepreneurship (parenthood projects);
- structural funds;
- contacts with the European Commission and the elaboration of programmes (i.a. concerning Interreg-programmes).

#### **1.2.2. Regional development policy**

Both Parties shall exchange experiences, know how, documentation, work models and information on their activities in the field of regional development, including the experience in the field of sub-regional economic policy. The Flemish Party shall put its experience in the field of Flemish sub-regional economic policy and the Strategic Urban Economy Plan at the disposal of the Latvian Party. In particular the Flemish Party shall propose to the Latvian Party the ideas regarding regionalisation, especially the practical evolution in:

- Flemish legislation on regional policy and its compatibility with European legislation;
- financing sources for regional support.

Both Parties shall include in their co-operation the issue of special economic zones and they shall exchange their experiences in this field. Special attention may go to areas zoned for economic activities.

#### 1.2.3. Small and medium-sized enterprises

1.2.3.1. Both Parties stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SME's.

1.2.3.2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts among Latvian and Flemish SME's.

1.2.3.3. Both Parties shall exchange information and experience on the development of policy concerning support for SME's and facilitation of entrepreneurship as well as co-operate in questions concerning EU new initiatives.

#### 1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme: Parenthood projects.

Both Parties shall exchange experience and know how in the field of parenthood projects.

The parenthood projects aim at professionalizing small enterprise management and promoting networking among enterprises.

The strategy consists in setting up fixed groups of small enterprise managers meeting with one or two counsellors on a monthly basis during one or two years to exchange experiences. The counsellors are executives from large companies or experienced self-employed who are gladly willing to put their experience at the disposal of other entrepreneurs.

## 2. FOREIGN TRADE

The Flemish Party is committed to further encourage trade relations between Latvia and Flanders. This will be realized by "Flanders Investment & Trade", the new institution that has been created in July 2005 and which is the merger between the former "Flanders Export Promotion Agency" and "Flanders Foreign Investment Office". Flanders Investment & Trade deals with export promotion and various kinds of international enterprise (e.g. technology exchange, joint ventures and other kinds of co-operation) as well as attracting foreign investors to Flanders. To this end, Flanders has a Flemish economic representative in Vilnius who acts as liaison officer between Flemish and Latvian companies and institutions. This representative stays at the disposal of Latvian entrepreneurs looking for Flemish goods or services, for co-operation with Flemish business partners or for investment possibilities in Flanders. Once a year this economic representative goes back to Flanders in order to discuss business opportunities in Latvia with Flemish companies and to give them tailor-made advice on how to approach the Latvian market and companies.

Flanders Investment & Trade established a long-range strategy for the Baltic States and for Latvia in particular that will focus in the coming years on a series of sectors which represent promising co-operation opportunities: transport & logistics, the food and retail sector, the agricultural industry, interior decoration, construction materials, mechanical engineering and environment. Flanders Investment & Trade will organize various kinds of actions (such

as trade missions and B2B-individual consultations) for which the active co-operation of Latvian sector federations or other parties concerned is needed.

Flanders Investment & Trade plans the following actions for the coming years:

2006

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia: Multisectoral trade mission (November 2006)

2007-2008 (with reservation)

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia: Sectoral trade mission in the field of construction materials and interior decoration and a Flemish "food" week in the retail sector.

Both parties will continue to exchange information regarding business and investments opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, both Parties will also exchange information regarding their respective markets and sectors and their experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.

### **3. AGRICULTURE**

3.1.1. Both Parties shall examine the possibility to co-operate to the mutual benefit of both Parties with regard to the exchange of knowledge and information in the area of relations with the European Commission and others in the field of rural development and other agriculture related policy areas.

3.1.2. The Flemish party shall provide its experience with regard to dealing with the European Commission and the European Commission practice.

3.2.1. The Flemish Party shall, among other things, in co-operation with the practical training centres, 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.

3.2.2. 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.;
- other areas of mutual interest and know-how.

### **4. ENVIRONMENT**

Both Parties are, depending on possibilities of financing, prepared to collaborate on the following items in the field of environment:

4.1. The Flemish Land Agency (FLA) would like to exchange its scientific and technological expertise of the sustainable development of the open space with partner organisations in Latvia.



More specifically the FLA has expertise in the following work fields:

- projectmanagement and execution of land development projects;
- land consolidation;
- land development for nature;
- land bank and local land banks;
- erosion measures;
- agro-economical studies;
- environmental impact assessment (EIA);
- implementation of manure policy ( in the framework of the implementation of European regulations and directives: nitrates directive 91/676/EG, council regulation (EEC) No 1774/2002 on animal by-products, water framework directive 2000/60/EG, Integrated pollution prevention and control directive 96/61/EG, national emission ceilings directive 2001/81/EG, council regulation (EEC) No 259/93 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community);
- geographical information systems (GIS) and aerial photogrammetry;
- rural development;
- agri-environmental agreements with farmers;
- participation of local stakeholders;
- integrated approach of projects.

The exchange of sustainable land development methods between the FLA and the Latvian partners can be organised through:

- study visits by Latvian partners to land development projects in Flanders;
- study visits by the FLA to land development projects in Latvia;
- exchange of information about the methods and technology;
- development of a demonstration project in Latvia.

**4.2. The Environmental Integration and Information Division wants to co-operate in the field of exchanging knowledge concerning the ecological development of waterways and highways by:**

- Contributing to the development of a handbook of design and management of waterways and highways. The following theme's (unlimited) will be dealt with:
  - a manner to detect and evaluate the problem;
  - the different, possible measures (ranked from best to least ecological solution) which can be taken to solve the problem;
  - in the selection of the different measures, a point of special interest will be technical and nautical aspects of the highway/waterway;
  - construction of ecological riverbanks or roadsides;
  - construction of ecological shores (wave screens, puddle/mud verges)
  - restoration of meanders;
  - construction of spawning place for fishes;
  - defragmentation along highways and waterways;
  - management.
- holding a course on these theme's for colleagues, civil servants of the partner country: with this, beside attention for technical aspects, special attention will be paid tot the manner of communication and co-operation between the administrator of the infrastructure department (most of the time the construction supervisor) and the environmental administration (often the demanding partner for ecological approach).

- exchange of a limited delegation of officials. We can illustrate them different realised projects on the previous mentioned topics. Just like examine / advise about different opportunities on potential locations.

**4.3.** The Flemish Environment Agency (FEA) proposes to provide expertise through training of official experts with a maximum of 15 man-days a year (1/2 month per year) on one or more of the following issues:

- monitoring network on air quality (set up, sampling and analyses);
- monitoring network on chemical and biological water quality (set-up, sampling and analyses) and surveillance of inland surface water quality;
- emission inventories of air and water;
- environmental reporting, including environmental impact analysis and strategic environmental analysis;
- price-fixing and levies on waste water;
- collecting and reporting of water and air monitoring data;
- integrated water policy;
- pollutant release transfer registers (PRTR).

The training shall be organised in mutual consultation on the basis of a specific request and programme proposal, after having checked the feasibility of the desired result within the training period.

**4.4.** The Flemish Party is prepared to invite, during the validity of the present Programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) in the fields of waste management and soil decontamination, water, nature and environmental education and forest management for a period of five (5) days in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts with the Flemish actors.

## **5. TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **5.1. Road Traffic and Transport in General**

The two parties shall exchange information, documentation and expertise in the form of expert meetings and seminars, in the following fields:

(a) Traffic and Town planning:

- traffic prognoses;
- means to improve fundraising from actual users;
- the drawing up and interpretation of multimodal traffic models;
- temporary (during rush hours) overtaking prohibition for lorries on motorways;
- cycle and pedestrian track management;
- motorway service areas.

(b) Public Private Partnership (PPP)

(c) Road Traffic Safety:

- policies to reduce the occurrence of traffic congestions and safety measures applied during works on motorways;

- information on projects on controlled access and the introduction of an alternative merging system to join the traffic on traffic lanes;
- construction of roundabouts and speed reducing devices, policies to encourage carpooling, construction of cycle and pedestrian tracks, construction of car parks;
- traffic safety measures in the vicinity of schools;
- traffic safety and communication with road users, traffic education classes at schools, measures to raise the safety awareness of road users, and main methods of research;
- road tunnel safety;
- black spot management;
- safety audits of existing roads, as well as project audits, the collection of data about road accidents and the setting up of a data base, including the required activities for analysis of the causes of road accidents.

(d) Road Maintenance and Management

- road cleaning and maintenance including wintermaintenance, and control of overloaded lorries on motorways;
- control methods and technologies for measuring the condition of roads and the condition traffic signalisation;
- the role of emergency repair services in dealing with the consequences of emergencies and the principles of organization of their work.

(e) Mitigating the environmental impact of traffic

- noise reduction measures, including sound barriers , road surfaces and tyres.

(f) Public Transport

- facilities to improve accesability for everyone;
- models of integrated transport systems, eg traffic plans with loops and small buses, one way traffic, mobility plans and mobility agreements;

(g) Development of Telematics

- variable message signing and traffic monitoring, moveable road information devices, the co-ordination of traffic lights control, priority measures for public transport in road traffic (traffic lights influencing);
- creation of a website on ongoing road construction works and traffic regulations;
- possible uses of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), organization of works on roads and traffic signs , traffic control, RDS-TMC (Radio Data System – Traffic Message Coding);
- the functioning of a Flemish Traffic Centre: traffic management f.e. blockdriving, a road side emergency telephone network;
- as regards the utilisation of the public urban and interurban transport:
  - data communication between vehicles and the fixed installation as a combination between radion, GPS and devaluations systems;
  - the integrated exploitation and information systems with travel information derived from those systems available on the Internet in the near future;
  - the construction of intermodal transfer points for the multimodal usage of bus and railway stations and P/R (park & ride);
  - sharing the Flemish experience in performing international non accompanied combined transportation, as well as in the construction of freight settlements in the framework of the development of combined transport.

The Flemish Party is willing to receive two (2) delegations of five (5) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, in function of the interesting points, information, formation and documentation in the form of expert meetings and seminars (including on-the-spot inspections on different locations).

At request of one of both two parties, they are willing to assist each other in providing expertise, etc... under conditions to be agreed upon later.

## **5.2. Water infrastructure and maritime affairs**

### **5.2.1. Exchange of information and experiences**

Both parties are willing to exchange information and experiences regarding one or more of the following topics:

#### **1.1. Policy**

- general policy on waterways and maritime affairs;
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU law;
- regulations on the handling of hazardous cargo in port areas;
- regulations for maritime transport (governmental control in ports, shipping safety, etc.);
- promotion of modal shift;

#### **1.2. Port infrastructure and port management**

- design and construction of port infrastructure;
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging operations;

#### **1.3. Waterways**

- construction of environmentally engineered banks;
- maintenance of waterways, dredging, processing and storage of polluted dredged materials;

### **5.2.2. Co-operation on port related issues and Shortsea Shipping**

Both parties are willing to:

- facilitate contacts between Latvian and Flemish ports;
- exchange information on Shortsea Shipping;
- create favourable conditions to generate traffic flows between Latvia and Flanders through Shortsea Shipping;
- exchange information and experiences on Motorways of the Sea;

The Flemish Shortsea Promotion Centre is willing to assist the creation of a Shortsea Promotion Centre in Latvia by means of exchanging information and experience.

### **5.2.3. Scientific co-operation**

The Flanders Hydraulics Research laboratory of the Ministry of Flanders is willing to establish new contacts with administrations and scientific institutes in Latvia in order to develop co-operation programmes in one or more of the following study areas:

- hydraulic and hydrological studies by means of physical and mathematical models;
- port engineering and planning, maritime access channels and dredging works;
- environmental studies concerning environmentally friendly engineering structures along waterways;
- nautical studies and training by means of a navigation simulator and towing tank.

## **6. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

- 6.1.** Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy and vocational training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 6.2.** 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 and vocational training.
- 6.3.** The Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment and vocational training within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.
- 6.4.** 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 training, labour market and employment policy.
- 6.5.** The Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training (VDAB) is prepared to investigate all questions raised by the Latvian party in the fields of labour market issues, guidance and training and possibly to propose a form of co-operation.  
Since Latvia has become a member state of the European Union, organisations from the country can now also act as partners in the transnational projects and networks of the VDAB.

## **7. CULTURE**

### **7.1. General**

Due to an internal reorganisation of the Flemish Department for Culture, Youth, Sport and Media the agency of Arts and Heritage, as well as the agency of Socio-cultural Work for Youth and Adults cannot at this moment take part in a structural, long-term commitment but remain willing to consider, examine and if possible support individual proposals within these fields of cooperation and exchange.

### **7.2. Literature**

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party is prepared to receive one (1) translator from Latvia at the Vertalershuis in Leuven for a period of one (1) month. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of € 1,000.00.

The Flemish Party wishes to draw the attention of the Latvian Party to the possibility for foreign writers to apply for a residence in one of the two writers residences in Flanders (Brussels and Vollezele) coordinated by the literature organisation 'Het Beschrijf' ([www.residencesinlanders.be](http://www.residencesinlanders.be)).

The Latvian Party draws the attention of the Flemish Party to the Cross-Cultural Writers and Translators House in Ventspils, which will be opened on June 30, 2006, with the goal of forming a multifaceted contemporary residence center that would provide an appropriate environment and support for professional writers and translators from several countries, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and resources (more information: [www.literature.lv](http://www.literature.lv)).

### **7.3. Plastic Arts**

Both Parties propose to develop exchange projects of exhibitions in the field of fine arts. To that purpose both Parties exchange two (2) experts in fine arts for five (5) days.

## **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) is meant to be held in Tallinn before the end of 2006. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed afterwards.

## **9. SPORTS**

Annually, both Parties shall make quota of fifteen (15) days available to provide athletes, trainers and policy makers with the possibility to take part in apprenticeships, clinics, study trips and congresses and seminars in the field of sport in the other country.

## **10. MEDIA AND FILM**

**10.1.** The Flemish Party is prepared to consider a limited placement for one (1) person at the Internationaal Perscentrum Vlaanderen (International Press Centre Flanders).

**10.2.** The Flemish Party proposes to exchange best practices and information with regard to (investigative) journalism, public television, etc.

**10.3.** The Flemish Party proposes to further the exchange of information, the co-operation and the cross-programming of Flemish and Latvian movies at the occasion of audiovisual festivals in Latvia and Flanders. The Flemish Party wishes to mention in particular the European Film Festival in Brussels, where European debut movies can be programmed.

**10.4.** The Flemish Party informs the Latvian Party about an audiovisual production that is being developed in the framework of workshops of the Flemish Audiovisual Fund and that is enacted in a hospital in Latvia. The Flemish Party welcomes this co-operation and invites the Latvian Party to make it permanent by (among others) co-operation between the National Film Centre of Latvia and the Flemish Audiovisual Fund and co-operation and

consultations between their national representatives with the European co-production fund Eurimages.

## **11. SOCIAL POLICY, WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information with respect to any privacy regulations, documentation and experience in the fields of welfare and social services.

### **11.1. Social welfare and health care policy**

- the general welfare policy, in particular scientific research, the quality system, inspection and monitoring, client consultation, co-operation between the public and the private sectors at the international, national, regional and local levels;
- programming, recognition and subsidising of welfare and health facilities;
- elderly care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes, and apartments for the elderly;
- support to services and facilities;
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control);
- voluntary work;
- health and social care insurance and management of the care insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from a long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- co-operation with the justice in the field of welfare and health care.

### **11.2. Health care**

- mental health care (e.g. integrated mental health care, psychiatric home health care, ambulant psychiatry);
- preventive health care policy (i.a. cancer prevention and screening programmes; suicide prevention; prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);
- co-ordination and monitoring of vaccination programmes and prophylactic of infectious diseases (i.a. fighting sexually transmittable diseases (e.g. HIV);
- primary health care and home health care;
- health care system management (including exchange of information on e-Health implementation) rationalizing the expenditures and budgeting and improving the quality, efficiency and accessibility of the health care services to EU citizens;
- inspection, counselling and treatment of complaints about environmental licences.

### **11.3. Social Services**

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, integration of migrants in society, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional social work units, 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 counseling services;
- family help and home care;
- child protection and special youth assistance, particularly residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care;
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care

- child and family: child care, preventive child care, help in case of child abuse, adoption etc.;
- care for the handicapped people;
- 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.

## **12. EDUCATION**

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

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

For the time being both Parties particularly want to receive information on the professional recognition based on European Directives, on the implementation of the Bologna-declaration, on the development of an accreditation system, on advanced academic programmes for foreign students and other topical education-related issues.

### **12.2. Secondary education**

The Flemish Party shall invite participants from Latvia to each contact seminar that it organizes within the framework of the Socrates Programme (or its successor).

The Flemish Party shall bear the accommodation and organisation costs, included: accommodation, meals, local transportation and all organisation costs during the full duration of the programme; not included: insurance for health and third party liability, personal costs for two (2) participants from Latvia per year for the proposed seminars.

The Latvian Party shall bear the international travel expenses of these participants.

Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct co-operation of institutions of secondary education in the countries of the two Parties, through the EU programmes for co-operation in education (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci) as well as through other programmes. In this respect, the Flemish Party refers to its programme "Euroklassen", which allows Flemish secondary schools to apply for a subsidy to organise a short class exchange with a secondary school abroad and to finance its own travel and accommodation costs and the costs to host the partner school.

The Latvian Party is willing, as far as available funding allows, to support these projects and to finance the international travel costs of the Latvian partner schools.

### **12.3. Higher Education**

#### **12.3.1. Exchange of academic staff and experts**

During the validity of the programme both parties shall exchange each year two (2) experts/ academic staff from an institute of higher education for a stay of seven days at most in order to discuss the educational reforms following the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, to allow them to attend congresses, conferences and colloquia or to build a network of contacts and exchanges between institutions of higher education.



#### 12.3.2. Specialisation scholarships

The Flemish Party offers for each of the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 two (2) scholarships for recognized postgraduate programs at higher education institutions.

The scholarships offered by the Flemish Party are valid for one academic year only. For a specialisation programme of two years, a new application needs to be made after the first year

The offer of postgraduate studies, taught in English, is listed in the brochure "Higher Education in Flanders": <http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/pub/> International courses and International Training Programmes, listed in the Vlir-brochure, "*Study in Flanders and make things happen at home*" can be found on the website: [www.vlir.be](http://www.vlir.be)

#### 12.3.3. Research Scholarships

The Flemish Party offers the Latvian Party for each of the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007 – 2008 six (6) months annually for research. At the request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

#### 12.3.4. Summer scholarships: "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course

In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in Latvia, the Flemish Party shall annually offer the Latvian Party a number of summer scholarships for participation in the "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course held either at the University Hasselt or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University. These three-week courses are intended mainly for persons not resident in the Dutch language area who are not native speakers of Dutch. Applicants are expected to have a reasonable command of the Dutch language at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

The Dutch Language Union will send the "Dutch Language and Culture" brochure to all institutions where the Dutch language is instructed, also to the Belgian Embassy in Latvia. The brochure (including the English version) can also be found at the web site of the Dutch Language Union: [www.taalunieversum.org/taalunie/summer\\_courses\\_in\\_dutch/](http://www.taalunieversum.org/taalunie/summer_courses_in_dutch/)

#### 12.4. Life-long learning

In Flanders a network exists of academies that offer both to adults and to children a music teaching after school hours. This teaching is being organised in accordance with central legislation and quality control and is, to a large extent, financed by the Flemish central authorities.

The Flemish Party (Education Department) wishes to receive information about the existence of a similar system in Latvia and – should that be the case – to set up an exchange project on the theme "Methods in music teaching".

## **13. TOURISM**

- 13.1** The Flemish Party shall exchange information on legislation and regulations concerning tourism, statistical information, the instruments used for measuring the effects of promotion actions, documentation and studies concerning the development of tourism.
- 13.2.** The Flemish Party shall encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and experts in the field of tourism.
- 13.3.** The Flemish Party shall stimulate the organisation of seminars, colloquia and workshops on tourism items that may be proposed by the other Party, in order to exchange ideas and experience.

## **14. CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **Port Training**

The Flemish Party offers to the Latvian Party the possibility to send experts to seminars in the field of Port training, organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center vzw) in the course of 2006 - 2008.

The Latvian Party shall present its candidates for these seminars. The participants shall be selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are to the account of the participant.

## **15. SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

Both Parties shall examine ways of further optimizing their cooperation in the framework of the European Research Area, both in the field of research groups and science and innovation policies.

- 15.1.** The conditions for cooperation in the fields of science and technological innovation can be elaborated in a separate settlement, in case both Parties can reach an agreement.
- 15.2.** In the field of bilateral cooperation both Parties will stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and cooperation in science and technological innovation. They will search for suitable occasions for contacts among scientific institutions, companies, universities and administrations that are in charge of scientific and technological innovation policies.
- 15.3.** As far as multilateral cooperation is concerned both Parties strive for joint participation of Flemish and Latvian researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development.

## **16. COLLABORATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

Both Parties agree on extending their co-operation in 2006 - 2008 by means of mutually supported projects.

Both Parties have designated central contact points in order to collect and select project proposals and to transmit them to the respective contact point. The final date for submission of applications for the budget year 2006 was 24 March 2006.

All the proposals for 2006 have been evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures and both Parties established a ranking list.

For the year 2006, the following projects have been registered:

<b>Project number</b>	<b>Name of the project</b>	<b>Promoter</b>	<b>Latvian partner</b>
<b>LET-001-06</b>	Developing of a regional emergency plan	CM Oostende	S.P.O.
<b>LET-002-06</b>	Training program for hospital management	CM Oostende	S.P.O.
<b>LET-003-06</b>	Planprovid	West-Vlaamse Intercommunale (wvi)	Vidzeme Development Agency
<b>LET-004-06</b>	Knowledge exchange in spatial development	Universiteit Gent	Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government
<b>LET-005-06</b>	Empowerment network	VFG vzw	The Aluksne NGO Support Centre
<b>EST-001-06</b>	Baltic Cinema (Brussels) Flemish Cinema (Tallinn & Riga)	vzw GC Ten Weyngaert	Estonian Film Foundation

Precise budgets will be discussed with promoters.

Both Parties discussed about these projects and compared their ranking lists. Within the budgetary limits, they agreed to propose the following projects for funding by the Flemish government:

<b>Project number</b>	<b>Name of the project</b>	<b>Flemish ranking</b>	<b>Latvian ranking</b>
<b>LET-001-06</b>	Developing of a regional emergency plan	1	1
<b>EST-001-06</b>	Baltic Cinema (Brussels) Flemish Cinema (Tallinn & Riga)	2	4
<b>LET-004-06</b>	Knowledge exchange in spatial development	3	3
<b>LET-005-06</b>	Empowerment network	3	2

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

### **17.1. General**

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;
- 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.

### **17.2. Scholarships**

17.2.1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 12.3.2. (specialisation) and 12.3.3. (scientific research) shall be governed by the following general provisions:

- a) The applicants should be under 35 years of age and they must have a master's degree or equivalent and an excellent academic record.
- b) The nominees shall be selected by the sending Party.
- c) The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the nominees' filled out scholarship application forms and other documents required in the scholarship application forms before 1 April of each calendar year. All documents can be submitted in Dutch for Latvian applicants and in Latvian for Flemish applicants or in the English, French or German languages.
  - a detailed curriculum vitae mentioning the knowledge of languages;
  - a detailed study or work programme which one wants to take at a recognized institution in the guest country;
  - letters of recommendation and eventual admission to the institution;
  - transcript of records.
- d) The receiving Party shall inform the sending Party, before 1 July of each calendar year, whether the nominees have been admitted and shall simultaneously communicate to the sending Party the names of institutions accepting them for the study periods.
- e) The sending Party shall give precise details concerning each scholarship-holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of his/her stay.

17.2.2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3.2. (specialisation) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- a) The sending Party shall cover the international return expenses for travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
- b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 770.00;
- enrolment fees to be paid to a Flemish Community institute or to an institute subsidised by the Flemish Community, limited to a maximum amount that will be readjusted annually (academic year 2005-2006: EUR 505.00);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;
- domestic travel costs provided that the journeys are part of the adopted programme.

In Latvia:

- scholarship in accordance with the applicable Latvian legal regulations, the amount of which shall be communicated through diplomatic channels;
- exemption of tuition fees;
- the necessary and urgent medical care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by accepted individuals during their stay in Latvian, with the exception of treatment of chronic diseases and dental prostheses;
- accommodation and meals in university accommodations under the same conditions that are granted to Latvian citizens;
- expenses for travel within the state territory provided that the journeys are part of the respective study programme.

17.2.3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3.3. (scientific research) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- a) The sending Party shall cover the international return expenses for travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
- b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders :

- a monthly allowance of EUR 740.00;
- a starting allowance of EUR 125.00 granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one (1) month;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Latvia:

- scholarship in accordance with the applicable Latvian legal regulations, the amount of which shall be communicated through diplomatic channels;
- exemption of tuition fees;
- the necessary and urgent medical care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by accepted individuals during their stay in Latvian, with the exception of treatment of chronic diseases and dental prostheses;
- accommodation and meals in university accommodations under the same conditions that are granted to Latvian citizens;
- expenses for travel within the state territory provided that the journeys are part of the respective study programme.

17.2.4. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3.4. (summer courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- a) The Flemish Party informs the Latvian candidates for the summer course *Nederlandse taal en cultuur* of the commissions decision ultimately by 1 April.
- b) The Latvian Party shall inform the Flemish Party, by 1 June of each calendar year, whether the nominees have been admitted and shall simultaneously communicate to the Flemish Party the names of institutions admitting them.
- c) The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Latvian candidates for participation in summer courses of the Dutch language and culture are specified by the Dutch Language Union (cf. brochure).
- d) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees, board and lodging, expenses for participation in excursions within the framework of the course programme, and health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.
- e) The Latvian Party shall cover the admission fees, board and lodging, and expenses for participation in excursions organized within the summer language courses, the necessary and urgent medical care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by accepted individuals during their stay in Latvia, with the exception of treatment of chronic diseases and dental prosthesis.

### **17.3. Exchange of persons**

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days max. and at the invitation of sending Party) as determined in the present programme shall be implemented according to the following criteria:

- a) The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the curriculum vitae, the invitation, goals and programmes as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the people concerned at least three (3) months in advance.
- b) The receiving Party shall confirm it is prepared to receive the people concerned six (6) weeks before departure. The time of departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks on beforehand.
- c) To be covered by the sending Party:
  - return international travel expenses.
- d) To be covered by the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of EUR 37.00 per day (excluding transport costs) or EUR 50.00 per day (including transport costs);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Latvia:

- the precise conditions will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

### **17.4. Film**

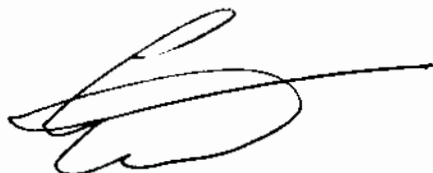
- To be covered by the sending Party: forwarding expenses.
- To the receiving Party: organisation costs.

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 Signatories.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission in Brussels in the first half of 2008.

Drawn up in Riga, on 9 May 2006, in two (2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Latvian and English languages. Both texts are legally valid. In the case of dispute, the English text shall prevail.

For Flanders,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke.

Freddy Evens

For the Republic of Latvia,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a long horizontal stroke at the top and a series of loops below.

Inta Vasaraudze