

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

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

**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**

and

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA**

Hereinafter referred to as 'the Parties',

**Reaffirming** the ties of friendship and the cooperation between both peoples, 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;

**desirous** to confirm the existing cooperation;

**wishing** to extend this cooperation with new areas such as determined in the present treaty and in so far as they are within their specific authority, in order to contribute to establishing closer bonds between Flanders and the Republic of Estonia.

**HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

## ARTICLE 1.

The Parties will intensify their cooperation in the fields of economy, science, technology, culture, education, social policy, housing policy, environment and environmental planning, infrastructure, transport, agriculture and agro-industry, vocational training and employment, tourism, telecommunication and media policy.

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

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

## ARTICLE 2.

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

The Parties will encourage cooperation, especially in the fields of :

- restructuring the Estonian economy,
- developing structures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's),
- establishing management programmes for Estonian managers;
- attracting investments and establishing joint-venture deals,
- transferring technology (especially ecologically sound technology) and know-how,
- developing commercial contacts and bringing about cooperation between companies and institutions,
- sectoral programs,
- expansion of the bilateral trade.

To that end the 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 and management programmes for SME-directors.

## ARTICLE 3.

The 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 the Parties will determine which sectors have priority for their scientific and technological development.



#### ARTICLE 4.

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges in the cultural and sociocultural fields. Preferably, the Parties will support actions contributing to cultural development and to the propagation of their respective languages and cultures in the other country.

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

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

The 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.

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

#### ARTICLE 5.

The 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.

The Parties will promote exchanges of and training courses for professors and students.

#### ARTICLE 6.

In so far as these fields fall within the authority of the government of Flanders, the Parties will work together in the fields of labour and employment, more particularly with respect to vocational training, labour relations and social deliberation.

The Parties will promote exchanges between social partners and experts in the field of social relations.

#### ARTICLE 7.

The Parties will work together in the social field, more particularly 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.

In so far as they fall within the authority of the government of Flanders, the Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges in the fields of environment, environmental planning (including management of the land), housing, municipal policy, infrastructure, transport and telecommunication.

The Parties 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, the Parties aim at cooperation within the framework of international organizations. To that end the Parties can provide information to one another on their position and - more generally - deliberate on matters.

The 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, the Parties will establish a Joint Committee Flanders-Estonia.

The Joint Committee will hold a meeting at least every two years, alternately in Brussels and Tallinn.

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 their government, or by their delegates.

The Joint Committee has the following tasks :

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

## ARTICLE 12.

This treaty will enter into force on the day when both Parties have notified each other that their internal legal requirements for the entry into force of this treaty have been fulfilled.

The treaty will remain in force for a period of five (5) years and will continue to be in force thereafter for a similar period or periods unless, one year before the expiry of the initial or any subsequent period, either Party notifies the other Party of its intention to terminate the treaty. The notice of termination will become effective one year after it has been received by the other Party.

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

Done in Tallinn, on ..... *March 4, 1996* ....., in two original copies, each one in the Dutch, Estonian and English languages, the three versions being equally valid. In case of disputes the text in English will serve as a basis for settlement.

For the Government  
of Flanders,

For the Government of the  
Republic of Estonia,

