

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME  
FOR THE YEARS 2001-2003  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ESTONIA  
  
IN\_ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ESTONIA

Tallinn, 12-13 June 2001

The chairman of the Estonian delegation welcomes the Flemish delegation and presents the members of the Estonian delegation :

Estonian delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**External Economic Policy department**

Mait Martinson, trade negotiator, head of delegation

Mariin Ratnik, attache, External Economic Policy department

Ministry of Education

International Co-operation department

Margus Haidak, head of department  
Katrin Rein, expert

Ministry of Culture

Madis Järv, counsellor of External Affairs  
Tamara Luuk, cultural attaché at the mission of the Republic of Estonia to EU and at the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia

Association of Estonian Cities

Jaanus Tärnov, executive officer

Ministry of Economic Affairs

Ele-Merike Pärtel, head of the division of development of External Trade

Ministry of Agriculture

Ene Lepp, head of bureau of Foreign Relations

Ministry of Transport and Communication

Toomas Leetjõe, acting head of the bureau of Foreign Relations and European Integration  
Tõnu Naestema, permanent undersecretary

Estonian Embassy in Brussels

Andres Talvik, counsellor of Economic Affairs

The chairman of the Flemish delegation thanks for the kind reception and presents the members of her delegation :

**Flemish delegation:**

Co-ordination department

**Foreign Affairs administration**

Diane Verstraeten,	director-general, head of the delegation
Freddy Evens,	head of division Europe
Ursula Van Riet,	assistant to the director, secretary

Welfare, Public Health and Culture department

Suzanne-Vanaudenhove,	co-ordinator international relations
-----------------------	--------------------------------------

**Culture administration**

Marie-Anne Van Hyfte,	assistant to the director
Theo Van Malderen,	cultural contact point

Environment and Infrastructure department

**Roads and Traffic administration**

Etienne De Winne	inspector-general
------------------	-------------------

**Waterways and Marine Affairs administration**

Aimé Van Hoeylandt,	co-ordinator
---------------------	--------------

Flemish Land Agency

Hans Dufourmont,	assistant to the director
------------------	---------------------------

Economics, Employment, Home Affairs and Agriculture department

**Employment administration**

Conny Costermans,	assistant to the director
-------------------	---------------------------

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

## 1. ECONOMY

### 1.1. General

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

The co-operation will be concretised by the exchange of knowledge and experience on the economic and regional development policy and on the use of modern management techniques in the industry.

1.1.2. Both Parties will exchange a group of maximum five (5) experts for a maximum of five (5) days in the economic field, to discuss and investigate topics which are of particular importance to them. Precise details about this exchange will be communicated via diplomatic channels.

### 1.2. Specific actions

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

1.2.1.1. At the request of the other Party, both Parties will exchange information and experience regarding economic, industrial and regional development policies. Special attention will be paid to co-operation between the regions and also together with third regions in the corresponding EU programs (Structural Funds, Interreg).

Both Parties will stimulate co-operation in economic and regional development. They will hereby encourage mutual contacts between public and private institutions in Estonia and Flanders. Both Parties will determine which fields of the economy are of prior importance to their economic and regional development.

1.2.1.2. Both Parties will exchange a small delegation of officials of the administrations concerned (Economy, Trade, Industry, Regional Policy) in the field of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and knowledge concerning the following subjects:

- economic and industrial (particularly regarding SMEs) policies;
- regional policy (eventually aimed at sub-regions);
- aid to enterprises;
- entrepreneurship (PLATO);
- new technologies to encourage rational use of energy and renewable and alternative energy sources;
- quality and productivity management;
- Structural Funds (EFRD, Interreg);
- contacts with the European Commission and the development of programmes (especially regarding Interreg III c);
- urban economic policy ;
- Euro Info Centres.

Both Parties will alternately organise economic seminars on investments and SME policy.

The Flemish Party will offer **to** co-operate in the adjustment of economic legislation, particularly regarding industrial and regional policies, to European market requirements.

#### 1.2.2. Regional Development **Policy**

Both Parties will exchange experience, knowledge, documentation, work models and information on their activities in the field of regional development, Flemish sub-regional economic policy and the Strategic Urban Economy Plan. Notably, the Flemish Party will present the ideas regarding regionalisation to the Estonian partners, especially the practical evolution in:

- Flemish legislation on regional policy and its compatibility with European legislation;
- financing sources for regional support;
- a management model for the subsidised regions (for instance searching for investors).

Both Parties will include the issue of special economic areas in their co-operation (for instance industrial zones) and they will exchange their experience about this (for instance databases, activity allocation procedures).

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

Both Parties will stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SMEs.

Both Parties will encourage the development of direct contacts between Estonian and Flemish SMEs.

#### 1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme : business angels

Both Parties will exchange experiences and knowledge in the field of business angels.

Business angels aim at professionalising small enterprise management and enhancing networking between enterprises.

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

Plato projects are organised by several organisations. According to the organising institution, they take place under the following names: PLATO, Ondernemers voor Ondernemers (OVO, Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs).

## **2. FOREIGN TRADE**

Both Parties will commit themselves to promote trade relations between Flanders and Estonia. To this end, Flanders has a Flemish economic representative in Helsinki, who is competent for Estonia since 1993.

Both Parties will organise economic seminars and economic missions according to the opportunities that present themselves.

Both Parties will exchange information - at the request of the other Party - about their respective markets and sectors and their experiences and knowledge in the field of export promotion and co-operation proposals for enterprises.

### 3. **AGRICULTURE**

The Flemish Party will examine the possibility of assisting the Estonian Party, in co-operation with the Flemish socio-economic co-ordinate organisations, Flemish research institutions and businesses in the further development and realisation of its rural development programme within the framework of the SAPARD programme of the EU through intellectual support and target-oriented projects.

The Flemish Party will examine the possibility of exchanging Flemish knowledge and experience in processing and marketing agricultural, horticultural and fishery products with the Estonian Party, in accordance with European legislation. In this respect, the Flemish Party also will examine the possibilities of exchanging knowledge and experience on the formation and functioning of structured socio-economic rural organisations, such as producer organisations, with the Estonian Party.

The Flemish Party will examine to offer the Estonian Party the possibilities of exchanging knowledge and experience concerning the development of investment programmes for independent family farms or joint ventures thereof, aimed at sustainable development (among other things cross compliance with environmental legislation).

The Flemish Party will examine to offer to the Estonian Party the possibilities of exchanging knowledge and experience regarding new agricultural activities and agricultural diversification with a view to balanced, integrated rural development.

The Flemish Party will examine to offer, in collaboration with vocational practice centres, the possibilities of educating or perfecting local teachers in giving vocational training and continuing education, with special attention to sustainable agriculture.

The following items are important in this education:

- management education in function of cultivation and area;
- practical work in greenhouses;
- techniques for sustainable agriculture and organic farming;
- education in practical techniques: building and maintenance of farm buildings and greenhouses, welding, ploughing, maintenance of agricultural machinery and small repairs, claw nursing, milk hygiene, etc.;
- technical education: tillage manuring, sowing techniques, feeding of livestock, etc.;

#### 4. ENVIRONMENT

Depending on financing possibilities, both Parties are prepared to co-operate and exchange experiences in the field of environment on the following aspects:

- 4.1. The Flemish Land Agency, the Support Centre GIS-Flanders, and the Estonian Environment Information Centre, Ministry for Environment, wish to co-operate in the development of a monitoring system for the water quality of lakes by means of earth observation techniques.
- 4.2. The Flemish Land Agency, the Support Centre GIS-Flanders, and the Estonian Environment Information Centre, Ministry for Environment, wish to co-operate in the development of a digital land use map for the inventory of wetlands by means of radar technology.
- 4.3. The Flemish Land Agency, the Support Centre GIS-Flanders, and the Estonian Environment Information Centre, Ministry for Environment, wish to co-operate in the development of a digital land use map for the inventory of vegetation and infrastructure by means of digital earth observation images. This map must be combined with the inventory of the wetlands (cf. 2).
- 4.4. The Flemish Land Agency, the Support Centre GIS-Flanders together with the Forests and Green Spaces Division of the Environment, Nature, Land and Water Management administration, and the Forest Survey Centre, Estonian Environment Information Centre, Ministry for Environment, wish to co-operate in the construction of a database for forest inventory.
- 4.5. The Flemish Land Agency, the Support Centre GIS-Flanders, and the Forest Survey Centre, Estonian Environment Information Centre, Ministry for Environment, wish to co-operate in the development of a change detection system on the basis of satellite images to monitor deforestations.
- 4.6. The Flemish Land Agency, the Support Centre GIS-Flanders, and the Estonian Environment Information Centre, Ministry for Environment wish to co-operate on flooding risk analysis.
- 4.7. The Flemish Environmental Administration (AMINAL) is prepared to co-operate with Estonia in the field of Nature and Environmental Education.
- 4.8. The Flemish Environmental administration (AMINAL) is prepared to invite an Estonian delegation of five (5) senior experts for a period of five (5) days in the fields of waste treatment, waste water treatment, nature conservation and development, forestry conservation and education in the field of nature and environment in order to exchange technical know-how and to establish contacts with the Flemish experts in these matters.
- 4.9. Estonia and Flanders are prepared to co-operate within a project on the selection of potential special protection areas under the bird-directive by the application of the EU-IBA-criteria in Estonia.

## 5. INFRASTRUCTURE

### 5.1. Road Traffic

The Flemish Party is willing to receive a delegation Of six (6) experts for a period of five (5) -days in five (5) cities (Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent and Leuven), to give information (including on-the-spot inspections) on:

- road safety in general
- traffic plans with loops and smaller buses
- traffic lights influence by buses
- traffic management by the police
- the creation of a traffic centre
- draw up multimodal traffic models
- information about road signs and markings
- the development of an internet site on construction works and regulation
- the development of intranet applications
- information on GIS (Geographic Information System)
- the organisation of traffic census inquiries and traffic measures
- the applications of digital image processing (video cameras) for traffic management
- projects on controlled access
- the construction of roundabouts and speed reducing designs
- measures on carpooling
- information on traffic regulation
- road safety information and communication with road users
- road safety education in schools, road users awareness rising and main research methods
- RDS-TMC systems
- mobility agreements
- plans on cycle tracks and footpaths
- the organisation of a roadside emergency telephones network
- changeable road signs for traffic reports and mobile warning screens
- the co-ordination of traffic lights control
- public transport
- the construction of car parks
- the cleaning (maintenance) of roads
- the role of emergency repair service to remove the results of emergencies as well as the principles of the organisation of their work
- a temporary (on peak hours) overtaking prohibition for trucks on certain motorways
- the introduction of an alternate merging system to join the traffic on traffic lanes

At the request of the Estonian Party, the Flemish Party is willing to assist them in providing expertise within the following fields and under conditions to be agreed upon later:

- establishing data on road traffic accidents
- incorporating data on road traffic accidents in a (road) database, that is, the required activities in analysing the causes of road traffic accidents
- introducing technical safety measures on urban and non-urban roads
- organising a technical specialised visit (training) for six (6) experts for the implementation of the last technological



- realisation in the field of traffic management in Flanders (telematics in road management, multimodal information centre and video processing techniques) for staff members of the ministry of Traffic in Estonia.
- providing expertise in different areas to the officials of the ministry of Traffic among other things in the preparation of the law on road safety and the road safety programme with a view to the year 2005, the arrangement of the Estonian law concerning the regulation of the public road transport
  - to put at the disposal of the Estonian Party the report about the European legislation concerning public transport on land, water and air, which has been established on request of the Lithuanian Ministry of Transport, and which can be an interesting document for Estonia.
  - co-operation in road safety communication and information methodology sharing
  - expertise and co-operation in road safety education and research planning
  - co-operation in road users behaviour research and surveillance methodology elaboration
  - In connection with the utilisation of the public urban and interurban transport, the following expertise can be put at the disposal:
    - data communication between vehicles and the fixed installation as a combination between radio, GPS and devaluation systems
    - the integrated exploitation and information systems (Hastus) with, in the near future, travel information derived from those systems will be available on the internet
    - the maintenance of vehicles (planning, organisation, optimisation)
    - the construction of intermodal transfer points with in particular the combination of bus and rail stations and P/R.

## 5.2. **Waterways and Marine Affairs**

### 5.2.1. Civil servants exchange

Two (2) Estonian and two (2) Flemish civil servants will be invited respectively to Flanders and to Estonia, in order to exchange their knowledge on one (1) or more of the hereunder mentioned items :

#### a/ Port infrastructure, - management, - policy

- design and construction of port infrastructure (marine and interior ports);
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging operations;
- regulations for the treatment of dangerous cargo in port areas;
- regulations for maritime transport (governmental control in ports, shipping safety, etc.)

b/ Waterways

- design and execution of structural waterworks
- water control and fight against flooding
- recycling of construction materials for structural waterworks
- maintenance of waterways (dredging operations)

c/ New Techniques

- construction of environmentally engineered banks
- development of a "Hydro Meteorological System"
- dredging, processing and storage of polluted dredging materials
- development of a "Global Marine Distress Safety System"

5.2.2. Scientific co-operation

Flanders Hydraulics Research Laboratory of the Flemish Ministry is willing to elaborate new contacts with the administrations and scientific institutes of Estonia in order to start co-operation programmes in one (1) or more of the following fields :

- hydraulic and hydrological studies by means of physical and mathematical models
- port engineering and planning, access channels and dredging
- ecological studies concerning environmentally friendly structures on waterways
- nautical studies and training by means of shipping simulator and towing tank.

**6. PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS**

Both Parties will exchange one(1) or two(2) experts during maximum eight (8) days, in order to study aspects of the preservation of monuments in Flanders, respectively in Estonia, to be agreed upon in advance and to exchange experience regarding the emerging problems.

**7. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

**Labour market, vocational training and employment policy**

The Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and the Flemish Employment administration will continue their co-operation within the framework of the working programme for 2001-2003.

Both Parties will continue labour market and employment policy co-operation and in this respect they will encourage contacts between the competent authorities and between the social partners.

In this respect, the Flemish Party (the Employment administration) will invite a delegation of one(1) to three(3) experts for a working stage in 2001 or 2002 in order to transfer knowledge on the functioning and management of the EU Structural Funds, especially the European Social Fund, and within the scope of Phare-Institution Building.

Within the framework of the Flemish co-operation programme with Central and Eastern Europe, the Flemish administration will examine the possibilities for and play a stimulating role in realising the new projects concerning employment.

The Flemish administration will act as a facilitator for possible co-operation with all actors and networks that are active in vocational training, the labour market and the employment policy.

At the request of the other Party, both Parties will exchange information on labour market policy and vocational training.

The two Parties will examine the terms of a joint action with third countries, that are offered by the international bodies.

## **8. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Both Parties will further co-operation in the field of the municipal policy and the management of cities and municipalities and encourage mutual contacts in this field. As a first step training sessions can be organised.

The Flemish Party will facilitate contacts through the Flemish Home Affairs administration and facilitate further co-operation between the Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) and the Association of Estonian Cities.

The Flemish Party will - more specifically - put its expertise in intermunicipal action in various fields of joint municipal interest at the disposal of the Estonian Party.

Direct contacts between local governments in both countries will be organised.

## **9. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Both Parties will examine in what way they can co-operate more closely in order to achieve the European Research Area both at the level of research groups and at the level of research policy.

9.1. Co-operation in the field of science, research and technology can be regulated by a special agreement, should the Parties agree to do so.

9.2. To this end the Parties will encourage and facilitate, on the basis of mutual benefit, exchanges and co-operation in the fields of theoretical and applied sciences and provide appropriate opportunities for contacts between scientific institutions and organisations, research institutes, companies, universities as well as other institutions of higher education, scholars, researchers and experts. They will also encourage joint activities in specialised areas and topics of common interest.

In order to develop and expand the scientific and technological co-operation, the Parties can facilitate, inter alia:

- Visits, study trips and consultations of researchers and other experts

- Joint elaboration and implementation of research programmes and projects and exchange of results thereof

- Organisation of joint courses, conferences and symposia

- Exchange of audio-visual material of scientific nature

- Organisation of scientific exhibitions and displays

- Exchange of scientific literature, documentation and information.

- 9.3. With regard to multilateral co-operation, both Parties will aim at the joint participation of Flemish and Estonian researchers in the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.
- 9.4. Both Parties will study the possibility of setting up a training and best practise exchange programme in the field of Research and Technological Innovation policy, with a view to establish structural co-operation within the framework of the planned European Research Area (ERA).

## 10. **CULTURE**

### 10.1. **Special event**

The Estonian Party will organise a cultural event, called "Homage to Flanders" in October-November 2001 which will present Estonian culture in Antwerpen, Gent, Brussel and Leuven.

The Flemish Party will offer its financial support to this event which amounts to maximum 8.750 Euro.

### 10.2. **Literature**

The Flemish Party is prepared to receive one (1) translator from Estonia at the "Vertalershuis" in Leuven for a period of one (1) month. Contrary to the usual financial arrangement when receiving guests, this translator will be offered both free accommodation and a 50.000 BEF (1.239,47 €) subsidy.

The Estonian Party is prepared to receive one (1) writer or translator from Flanders at the "Writers house Käsmu" for the duration of one (1) month per annum. The Estonian Party will offer free accommodation and subsistence costs. The Flemish Party will cover the international travelling cost

### 10.3. **Performing arts**

The Flemish Party is prepared to send a small dance group of maximum six (6) persons to Estonia for a period of five (5) days at most.

The Estonian Party is willing to send two (2) dance experts for fourteen (14) days to study contemporary dance in Flanders.

### 10.4. **Music**

Both Parties are prepared to exchange a small music ensemble (a trio or a quartet) for a concert trip of five (5) days at most. Both Parties are also prepared to send two (2) specialists in the field of music for a maximum of three (3) weeks.

The number of specialists can be modified on the condition that the limit of the sixty-two (62) days is respected. Should the number of days required exceed fifteen (15) days per annum, the other Party has to be informed at the beginning of its financial year.

10.5. Plastic Arts and Museums

- 10.5.1. The Flemish Party wishes to invite one (1) graphic designer for a fourteen (14) days working stay at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. He/she will be offered free accommodation as well as a 50 Euro- daily allowance (inclusive of per diem, transport charges and the purchase of material).

The Estonian Party is willing to receive one (1) Flemish graphical Artist for a similar period of fourteen (14) days, and guarantee him/her accommodation and 25 Euro subsistence costs. He/she will be hosted at the EKL (Estonian Artists Union) guest studio, and will be given the opportunity to work at the experimental workshop of graphical art in Tallinn. The Estonian Party will be notified six (6) months in advance.

- 10.5.2. Both Parties are prepared to send each other a number of art publications.
- 10.5.3. Both Parties are prepared to exchange one (1) specialist for a period of ten (10) days in the fields of plastic arts, applied art, architecture, design or museums. The number of specialists can be modified on the condition that the limit of the days, ten (10) in total, is respected.
- 10.5.4. Both Parties will foster the exchange of information and experiences in the fields of museums and the preservation and administration of cultural heritage.
- 10.5.5. The Flemish Party informs the Estonian Party that Bruges will be the European Capital of Culture in 2002.
- 10.5.6. Both Parties will stimulate both direct contacts between their respective museums and the exchange of information.

The Flemish Party informs the Estonian Party that, during Belgian EU Presidency, Flanders is organising the European Museum Advisors Conference (EMAC) from 9 to 13 October. The Flemish Party wishes to invite one (1) specialist to participate in the conference. Travel, accommodation and registration costs that go with this will be covered by the Flemish Party.

- 10.5.7. The Estonian Party invites the Flemish artist Marie-Jo Lafontaine to exhibit her installation "Identity room" during the video and installation festival in Rakvere in July 2001. The Flemish Party will cover the international travelling cost of Martial Thomas (assistant of the artist) and transport of material all together for maximum 675 Euro.

The Estonian Party also invites M.J. Lafontaine to lecture at the international colloquium "Nocturnus" held on the island of Muhu in September 2001. The Flemish Party will cover the travelling and hotel costs of the artist totalling in 875 Euro. Both Parties are considering the possibility of organising a personal exhibition of M.J. Lafontaine in the Art Hall of Tallinn within the period of this agreement.

10.6. Public libraries

The Flemish Party proposes to develop jointly a stage programme for librarians.

During the validity of the present programme, the Flemish Party will receive two (2) librarians for a period of ten (10) days for a specific training in a Flemish public library. Good knowledge of French or English is required.

10.7. Cultural Centres

During the validity of the present work programme, the Flemish Party will offer a ten (10) days' training annually to a person in charge of a cultural centre.

Good knowledge of French or English is required.

10.8. Non-formal adult education

The Flemish Party proposes to develop a training programme for people in charge of non-formal adult education by mutual agreement.

During the validity of the present programme, the Flemish Party will receive four (4) persons annually for a period of ten (10) days for a specific training programme.

Themes may include quality management, migrant work, the role of support centres, voluntary work, fund-raising, and so on.

Good knowledge of French or English is required.

10.9. Film

Both Parties will consider supporting the co-operation between the Flemish and the Estonian film sector.

**11 HEALTH CARE**

The Health Care administration will encourage further exchange of information and experience in the field of health promotion, disease prevention and the organisation of the care sector. The contact persons known on both sides will be responsible for the concrete interpretation of this co-operation, which is often specified ad hoc, allowing to go more deeply into specific and at times unexpected needs from the field of action.

**12 YOUTH**

As far as youth is concerned, the necessary arrangements were made within the sub-committee, the programme of which continues until the end of 2001.

**13 SPORT**

Every year, both Parties will provide a fifteen (15) days' quota to enable athletes, trainers, policy-makers and scientific staff members to take part in stages, clinics, study visits and scientific sport congresses and seminars in the other country.

**WELFARE**

Both Parties will co-operate and exchange information, documentation and experience in the field of welfare and social services, especially for :

- general welfare policy, in particular scientific research, the quality system, inspection and monitoring, consultation with customers , co-operation between the public and the private sector on the regional and local level;
- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social. policy, integration of migrants in society, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies and children's rights;
- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional care units, crisis care and urgent shelter , care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help to victims and victim support; family help and home care;
- elderly and senior -citizens care in particular rest homes, nursing homes and apartments for elderly people;
- child and youth care, in particular youth protection, special youth assistance, residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care, mediation and conciliation;
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care. voluntary care.

## 15. EDUCATION

## 15.1. Exchange of information and documentation:

During the validity of the present programme, both Parties will, at the request of the other Party, exchange all requested, useful information regarding all types and levels of education.

## 15.2. Higher education

15.2.1. Exchange of professors, specialists

Both Parties will offer twenty (20) days for study visits of experts of both sides to enable both Parties to become acquainted with each other's needs and expertise with a view on starting up co-operation projects in the fields of education, training and capacity building.

This contingent of days can be divided in visits of five (5) days maximum.

In order to further examine each other's educational policy as well as which contribution they can make in such fields as educational legislation, financing systems, etc., educational theory specialists are preferred here.

15.2.2. Specialisation scholarships

For the academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 the Estonian Party offers yearly two (2) specialisation scholarships in public universities.

For the academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 the Flemish Party will annually offer one (1) specialisation scholarship of ten (10)

months. These scholarships cannot be included in possible projects within the framework of the co-operation between Flanders and Eastern and Central Europe.

The scholarships offered by the Flemish Party will be valid for the duration of one (1) academic year. In the case of a master programme of two (2) academic years, a new application must be submitted after the first year.

Information on available master programmes at Flemish universities can be found in the brochure "Advanced university education", published by the VLIR (the Flemish Interuniversity Council).

Since some specialisations require high registration fees, the contribution for registering for a specialisation course will be limited to the amount for registering for a basic course as fixed by the VLIR/VLHORA.

This means that candidates for a specialisation, of which the registration fee is higher than the fixed amount, will commit themselves to pay the difference.

### 15.2.3. Summer\_scholarships

The Estonian Party will offer to the Flemish Party yearly two (2) scholarships for the summer-course at the Tallinn Pedagogical University or at the University of Tartu. More precise details on these courses will be communicated via diplomatic channels

The Flemish Party will offer Estonia two(2) summer scholarships annually for the summer course "Nederlandse Taal en Cultuur" (Dutch Language and Culture) at the Limburgs Universitair Centrum in Hasselt - Diepenbeek and at the Talencentrum of the University of Ghent.

These summer courses are organised in co-operation with the Nederlandse Taalunie.

Candidates must at least have a command of Dutch at the elementary knowledge level of the Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal (Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language).

The procedure for granting the summer scholarships has changed compared to last year and is as follows:

All Dutch Language and Literature lecturers in the Nederlandse Taalunie's address list will be requested to inform their Dutch Language students of the Dutch Language and Culture summer courses the Nederlandse Taalunie annually organises in Ghent and Hasselt and for which the Flemish Party grants a number of scholarships.

Candidates willing to participate in the course and to qualify for a scholarship of the Flemish Party must return their application form, initialled by the Dutch Language and Culture lecturer before 1 February at the very latest to the following address:

Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap  
Departement Onderwijs - AHOWO - Mr. Dirk Lapeirre  
Hendrik Consciencegebouw  
Koning Albert II-laan, 15 - Toren A - 7<sup>de</sup> verdieping  
1210 Brussel



The selection board, presided by the Nederlandse Taalunie, will assign the candidates that may qualify for a scholarship of the Flemish Party.

The list of candidates, selected by the Nederlandse Taalunie, will be sent to the Embassy of Belgium, which will send the list to the service that is normally in charge of nominating scholarship students. This service will assign both effective and substitute candidates for a scholarship (it is advisable to nominate more official candidates than the number of scholarships available) and it will send its selection back to the Embassy of Belgium. The Embassy of Belgium will forward the final decision to the Flemish Education department before 1 March.

In case the Flemish Education department does not receive the list of official candidates in time, the selection board itself will take the final decision as to which candidates will qualify for a scholarship granted by the Flemish Party.

## 16. TOUR1 SM

Both Parties will exchange information with regard to legislation and regulations on tourism, statistical information, tools for carrying out impact measurements of promotional actions, documentation and studies concerning the development of tourism.

Both Parties will exchange know-how and are prepared to co-operate in the field of sustainable development (Agro-tourism).

Both Parties will inform each other about the holiday behaviour of Flemish and Estonian tourists.

Both Parties will further the mutual exchange of tourism promotion material and the participation of different tourism organisations in tourist events.

Both Parties will encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and specialists in the field of tourism. In 2001 and 2002, the Flemish Party will invite two (2) or three (3) tourism journalists on the occasion of major tourist events. The Flemish Party is prepared to receive two (2) specialists for a study trip of five (5) days at most to exchange information and experiences.

Both Parties will stimulate the organisation of seminars, symposiums and working groups on tourism items, which have been presented by the Party interested, with the aim of exchanging ideas and experiences.

## 17 CAPACITY BUILDING

### 17.1 College of Europe in Natolin

The Flemish Party will offer a contribution of 403.399 BEF (10.000€) to a postgraduate scholarship for one (1) Estonian student at the College of Europe in Natolin (Warsaw) during the academic years 2001-2002, 2002-2003.

The selection of the student will be effected by the college of Natolin in concertation with the competent Estonian authorities.

17.2 **Port Training**

The Flemish Party offers to the Estonian 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 2001 and 2002.

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

17.3 **Estonian School of Diplomats**

Both Parties will study the possibility to continue the collaboration in the field of training of diplomats by means of sending professors for short time missions.

17.4 **Special event**

The Estonian Party would like to invite a member of the staff of Brugge 2002 to give a lecture about the organisational and financial matters on Brugge, cultural capital of-Europe in 2002, to the representatives of the Tallinn City Government and the Estonian Ministry of Culture.

18. **EUROPEAN UNION PRESIDENCY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 2001**

The Flemish Party informs the Estonian partner on the active role that will be played by Flanders during the Belgian EU-presidency. The Flemish ministers for Youth, Education and Tourism will preside the respective formal EU councils of ministers. The Flemish minister of Culture will host an informal council of the ministers of culture in Brugge. Furthermore, in the framework of the EU-presidency, Flanders will organise some thirty international conferences or expert meetings in such diverse fields of policy as environment, transport, energy, education, culture and science policies.

On several occasions representatives of the candidate countries will be invited to participate in these activities.

19. **AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE FUTURE COLLABORATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

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

The Flemish Party proposes to put at the disposal of the Estonian Party the expertise and experience present in Flanders in these following priority fields: SME-development, employment, structural funds, regional co-operation, agriculture, environment, ports and capacity building, administrative competence, management,...

The Estonian Party wishes to collaborate preferably in the fields of vocational training and education, regional employment,

development of the administrative competence of local authorities, environment, rural economic development and tri-lateral co-operation in order to assist the country to meet the requirements demanded of the country to make its entry in the EU.

In accordance with the new Flemish policy -towards Central and Eastern Europe, central contact points have been designated in Flanders and in Estonia in order to collect and select project proposals and to transmit them to the respective contact point. All the proposals have been evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures. Both Parties have established a ranking list on either side.

The Parties agree that members of the Flemish and Estonian contact points have regular meetings, alternately in Flanders and in Estonia, aiming to review the procedure of the handling of project proposals and to examine the execution of the projects already approved, in co-operation with the representatives of the competent Flemish Administrations and Estonian ministries.

For the year 2001, following projects have been registered :

- EST/001/OI  
"Estonian Horticultural Project (EHP)"  
HTC nv  
11.540.439 BEF (286.080 €)
- EST/002/01  
"Port of Tallinn"  
Haecon nv  
7.002.926 BEF (173.598 €)
- EST/003/01  
"Improvement of the social dialogue through trade union capacity building"  
Vlaams ABVV  
8.024.500 BEF (198.922 €)
- EST/004/01  
"Management and strategy for life-long learning"  
Lessius Hogeschool  
6.609.531 BEF (163.846 €)

Both Parties have agreed to submit the following project(s) for possible funding to the Flemish government:

- EST/004/01  
"Management and strategy for life-long learning"  
Lessius Hogeschool  
6.609.531 BEF (163.846 €)

A call for project proposals for the year 2002 will be held in October/November 2001.

## 20. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 20.1. General

Both Parties will send their proposals for the new working-programme at the latest six (6) weeks before the date foreseen for the meeting of the joint commission.

The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed:

- cultural activities and exchanges will 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 will 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;  
the governments can subsidise projects as well.

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

### 20.2. Scholarships

#### 20.2.1. Specialisation scholarships

- Candidates must be under 35.
- They must hold a university or long type higher education graduation degree or a certificate of equivalent studies and they must have excelled during their studies.
- They can be accepted only on approval of both sides and on the basis of an application that contains at least :
  - a detailed curriculum vitae;
  - an extensive plan of activities;
  - possibly a list of publications.
- Candidates are selected by the country of origin. Each candidate is subject to the approval of the receiving Party. The sending Party will present its candidates every year before March 1st. Before July 1st the receiving Party will inform the sending Party whether the candidates and/or study programmes proposed were approved.
- At least three (3) weeks in advance, the sending Party will provide precise information on the arrival of scholarship holders.

To the account of the sending Party: the return travel expenses to and from the place of study.

To the account of the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of 27,200 BEF (674.27 €);
- subscription fees to be paid to a Flemish Community institute or an institute subsidised by the Flemish Party; limited to a maximum amount that will be readjusted annually;
- a maximum of 25,000 BEF (619.73 €) as a contribution to costs involved in having a doctor's thesis or a maximum of 7,500 BEF (185.92 €) for having a final dissertation printed in order to obtain an academic degree;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Estonia:

- accommodation;
- a monthly amount equivalent to three (3) minimal salaries;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Estonian legislation;
- subscription fees to be paid to an Estonian institute.

**20.3. Allowances for summer courses**

Candidates for allowances for summer courses are selected by the sending Party and recommended to the receiving Party whose approval is required.

To the account of the receiving Party:

- registration fees;
- accommodation and meals;
- health insurance and third-Party insurance, in accordance with the local legislation.

**20.4. Exchange of persons**

The terms and conditions mentioned in this paragraph apply to all exchanges of individual persons mentioned in the work programme, unless otherwise agreed upon.

The short-term exchange of persons (for 15 days at the most) as determined in the present programme will be implemented according to the following criteria:

- The sending Party will provide the receiving Party with the curriculum vitae, plan of activities and the exact dates of the departure and arrival of the people concerned at least two (2) months in advance.
- The receiving Party will inform the sending Party, at least one (1) month in advance whether the candidates have been accepted.

- The sending Party will provide the receiving Party with the exact dates of departure and arrival at least three (3) weeks in advance.

To the account of the sending Party : the return travel expenses to and from the place of destination.

To the account of the receiving Party :

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of 2,000 BEF (49.58 €)/day;
- health insurance and third-Party insurance within the framework of the Belgian legislation;

In Estonia :

- accommodation, meals and expenses for inland travel connected to the working program and approved by the receiving authorities;
- Health insurance and third Party insurance within the framework of the Estonian legislation.

20.5. Film

- To the account of the sending Party : forwarding expenses.
- To the account of the receiving Party : organisation costs.

20.6. Exchange of exhibitions

Arrangements will be discussed and agreed upon on a case by case basis by the Parties concerned. If not, the following rules are applicable :

The sending Party takes care of

- design, preparation, production and packing of the exhibition;
- international transport to its first location in the receiving country and return transport from its last location to the country of origin or to another country;
- insurance from nail to nail;
- supply of the material for the production of the catalogue (texts, photos, slides, etc.);
- return travel expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition to supervise the mounting and/or dismantling as well as packing and /or unpacking of the works.

The receiving Party takes care of

- making available appropriate exhibition halls with the necessary security infrastructure (climatic conditions, guards, etc.);
- providing the necessary staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling of the exhibition;
- printing of the catalogue, if agreed by both Parties, and the posters and invitations;
- organising general publicity as well as the opening ceremony for the exhibition;

- accommodation expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition and supervising the mounting and/or dismantling; the duration of any such visit will be agreed upon in advance;
- providing the sending Party with ten (10) copies of all material published in connection with the exhibition (catalogue, poster, invitation, etc.).

In case of damage, the receiving Party will not proceed with the restoration of the works without the prior approval of the sending Party, but will supply all relevant documentation and assistance to enable the sending Party to pursue any claim for compensation from the relevant insurance company.

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

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission in Brussels in November 2003.

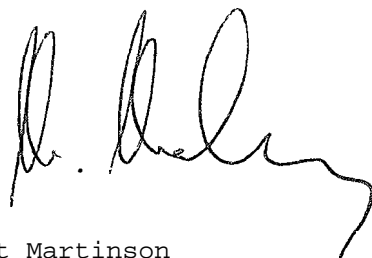
Drawn up in Tallinn on 13 June 2001, in two(2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Estonian and English language. Both texts are legally valid. In the case of dispute, the English text will prevail.

For Flanders,

For the Republic of Estonia,



Diane Verstraeten



Mait Martinson