

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE YEARS 2009-2011
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**

Brussels, 14-15 October 2008

The sixth meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2009-2011 to implement the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Republic of Estonia was held in Brussels on 14-15 October, 2008.

The chairperson of the Flemish delegation welcomed the Estonian delegation and presented the members of his delegation:

Flemish delegation:

Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs

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| - Freddy Evens | Head of Foreign Affairs division,
Head of Delegation |
| - Koen Haverbeke | Representative of the Flemish Government
in Tallinn (office in Warsaw) |
| - Ursula Van Riet | Policy advisor, Secretary |

Department of Public Governance

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| - Jan De Mulder | Policy advisor |
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Department of Education

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| - Dirk Lapeirre | Policy advisor |
| - Johan De Witte | Expert |

Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

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| - Bart Van Impe | Expert |
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Department of Mobility and Public Works

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| - Etienne De Winne | Director-Engineer |
| - Pim Bonne | Engineer |

Department of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media

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| - Anne-Marie Croes | Policy advisor |
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Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)

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| - Sabine Vincke | Policy advisor |
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The head of the Estonian delegation thanked for the kind reception and presented the members of her delegation:

Estonian delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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| - Malle Talvet-Mustonen | Director General of the
2nd Political Department,
Head of Delegation |
| - Monika Rentel | Desk Officer, Secretary |

Embassy of Estonia to Belgium

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| - Karin Jaani | Ambassador |
| - Tiina Maiberg | First Secretary |

Ministry of Culture

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| - Tamara Luuk | Cultural attaché,
Permanent Representation of Estonia
to the EU |
| - Reet Palis | International Relations Department,
Senior Specialist |

Ministry of Education

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| - Ülle Kurvits | Counsellor for Educational and Youth
Affairs, Permanent Representation of
Estonia to the EU |
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Ministry of Environment

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| - Laura Rimmelgas | International Cooperation Department,
Senior Officer |
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Both delegations, hereafter called the Parties, agreed upon the following:

1. ECONOMY

1.1. General framework for cooperation

Both Parties underline the importance of cooperating concerning regional development policies and SME development.

1.2. Specific actions

The Flemish Party, i.e. the Agency for Economy of the Flemish government, proposes the following fields of expertise as topics for which it can guarantee a highly qualitative transfer and exchange of knowledge and information.

Regarding the execution of cooperation projects by project promoters, both Parties underline the importance of relevant European programmes and also the Flemish Cooperation Programme for Central and Eastern Europe as a means of financing these projects.

1.2.1. General economic and regional policies concerning SME

Particular attention shall be given to:

- efficient instruments and means of financial support for companies;
- entrepreneurship (a.o. mentorship projects, promotion campaigns on entrepreneurship, strengthening business associations and networks,...);
- efficient institutional support network for start-ups and SME (a.o. access to finance, marketing, management, business conduct,...).

1.2.2. Regional development policy and the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF)

Attention will be paid to the system of Flemish regional and spatial economic policy.

Particular attention will also be given to the role of national (ex. given Objective 2) and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg IV) in the framework of the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). Both the management as the impact of ERDF programmes on regional development policies and projects in Flanders will be looked at.

Particular attention will be paid to innovative project results and/or project examples in view of the Lisbon Agenda/objectives and the mutual experience with SME participation in ERDF programmes and projects.

1.2.3. Sustainable infrastructure and sustainable management of business premises

Particular attention will be paid to the results and outputs of a Flemish - European Union supported "Innovative Actions" project related to this issue.

1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme: PLATO mentorship projects

Particular attention will be given to PLATO mentorship projects. PLATO projects aim at professionalizing the management of small enterprises and enhancing networking between enterprises. The strategy consists in setting up fixed groups of small enterprise managers 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.

1.3. Exchange of delegations

Both Parties are interested in the possibility of exchanging a limited group of experts and officials in the economic fields mentioned under 1.2 or other fields to be determined by common agreement.

This exchange will be aimed at transferring experiences, knowledge, documentation, work models and information on these fields as well as providing specific training.

2. FOREIGN TRADE

The Flemish Party is committed to further encourage trade relations between Estonia and Flanders. This will be realized by Flanders Investment & Trade, the official Flemish agency backing Flemish companies - especially SME – in various kinds of international enterprise, as well as helping foreign companies in setting up or expanding an investment in Flanders.

Flanders Investment & Trade will achieve this by:

- helping Estonian companies looking for Flemish goods and services, for cooperation with Flemish business partners or for investment in Flanders;
- supporting Flemish companies wanting to expand their commercial activities by helping them in their prospection efforts on the Estonian market (e.g. by means of information and advice);
- pointing out Flemish companies at concrete trade opportunities occurring on the Estonian market;
- realizing the sectoral strategy and corresponding action programme for Estonia. This implies that in the period 2009-2011, Flanders Investment & Trade will focus in a proactive way on three promising sectors in Estonia which represent interesting opportunities for Flemish companies: food and retail, construction materials (including interior decoration) and industrial subcontracting. The planned promotion actions of FIT on the Estonian market are mainly oriented towards these sectors and will be organized in close cooperation with the partners and authorities involved in Estonia.

To this end, Flanders Investment & Trade has a Flemish economic representative in Vilnius who is also responsible for Estonia and Latvia and acts as liaison officer between Flemish and Estonian companies and institutions.

The following initiatives are planned for 2009-2011:

2009

- A multisectoral trade mission to Estonia (combined with Latvia and Lithuania) with a special focus on the food sector, the sector of construction materials and industrial subcontracting in various branches of industry (November).
- An information seminar on the trade possibilities for Flemish companies in Estonia, in the framework of the "Export days Northern Europe", held in Flanders (December).

2010

- An invitation campaign towards food buyers from Estonia (combined with Latvia and Lithuania) to Brussels for B2B-contacts with Flemish suppliers.

In addition to these actions, the economic representative goes (once a year) back to Flanders for individual meetings with Flemish companies in order to give them tailor made advice concerning the business opportunities and how to approach the Estonian market.

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 and useful contacts regarding their respective markets and sectors and will exchange their experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.

3. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Both parties shall examine the possibility to co-operate to the mutual benefit of both parties in regard off 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.

The Flemish Party will consider the possibility to assist the Estonian party in specific projects (in collaboration with socio-economic umbrella organisations and research institutes in Flanders and with the Flemish economical players) to elaborate and realise their Rural Development Programme.

In the field of Rural Development, the Flemish Party will consider the possibility to assist the Estonian Party in implementing the National Rural Development Programme and using the structural funds for pillar II of CAP.

Both parties shall concentrate on facilitation of a cooperation and exchange with good practices in the following areas – safety and quality of food, ensuring of animal health, encouraging of rural entrepreneurship, promotion of the development of human resources and sustainable management of natural resources.

Both Parties shall examine the possibility to exchange experience and expertise between the competent authorities:

- measures facilitating a development of organic agriculture;
- management training to good agriculture - and environmental conditions (GAEC);

- management for agriculture to adapt to climate change (warming, heavy rainfall, dry periods,...);
- in the field of plant health – assistance to the monitoring laboratories on compiling national control plans;
- cooperation on implementing agricultural advisory system;
- cooperation on improving the quality of labour in the agricultural sector;
- other areas of mutual interest and / or know-how.

4. ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1.** The Flemish Party (Environment, Nature and Energy Department - ENE) proposes to cooperate in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

Estonia and Flanders are willing to cooperate within the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular to facilitate cooperation in the field of Emissions Trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

For this purpose a Memorandum of Understanding between the Estonian Government and the Government of Flanders can be drawn up which will detail procedures described in the Kyoto Protocol in relation to Estonian – Flemish cooperation regarding Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

- 4.2.** The ENE Department is prepared to invite, during the validity of the present programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) for a period of five (5) days within the frame of environment, nature and energy in order to exchange knowledge and to establish contacts with the Flemish actors.

4.3. Environmental education

- 4.3.1.** The Estonian party is willing to invite 5 Flemish experts in the field of environmental education in spring 2009 for a period of 4 semantic days (6 days altogether). The following topics will be on the programme:

- Environmental education management in Estonia (co-operation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education and Research, environmental education plan, target groups, priority subjects in environmental education).
- Environmental education institutions and projects, including implementing environmental education methods of the EU programme period of 2007-2013.
- Practical management of environmental education in Estonia - visiting Environmental Education Centres and nature houses.

- 4.3.2.** After the first visit of the Estonian delegation in 2006 the Nature and Environmental Education Unit (EE) is prepared to invite a second delegation to introduce them within the (N)EE-working, the educative environmental care projects and the structure on the Flemish level in a more profound and more participative way.

Taking into account the wishes/needs, the (N)EE-unit can organise a visit of 3 or 4 days for max. 3 environmental education experts with the following interests, possibly in a follow-up project (MOS, Ecocampus, ...):

- introduction of and making acquaintance with the working of the (N)EE-unit service within Flanders, with Education for Sustainable Development as the frame of reference, and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and on ESD;
- making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to higher education and, if preferred, linked with one or more school visits; getting acquainted with the educational means;
- introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus-project, a new project to introduce environmental care in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management, student life), and, if preferred, linked with a visit to a university or an institution of higher education;
- introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on ESD in the formal education and informal or/and non-formal education; making acquaintance with examples of good practices how ESD can be introduced in (N)EE site;
- visit to one or more (N)EE-centres, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, ...), and to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

5. MOBILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS

5.1. Division Mobility and Traffic Safety

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

5.1.1. Education regarding the car use

- Promotion of equal alternatives for road traffic to the use of the car.
- Reevaluation of pedestrian and cycling traffic and not making (small) travels dependant on combustion engines.

5.1.2. Evaluating, improving existing infrastructure

- Permanent adjustment of the rational use of means to transport goods.
- Rational use of modes of transport (balance between public and private transport, carpooling, car sharing, etc as well as mobility planning at different levels (by government and industry) and similar initiatives).
- Integrated approach to public transport (intermodal transfer points between private and public transport).
- State of the art managing the public space in order to have an equal and balanced used for all participants/actors in daily traffic: pedestrians, people with reduced mobility capacities, the cyclists and powered two wheel users.

5.1.3. Reduction of the accident rate and the promoting of desired (traffic) behaviour

- Promoting the desired (traffic) behaviour and choices, such as adjusted speed, avoiding driving alone in a car, fighting/advising against drinking and driving, etc.
- Specific policy regarding road safety.

5.1.4. Actual policy towards legislation/management concerning the environment

- Improving and managing of the balance between available space and (car) traffic (with a special interest for (city)areas with historical valued patrimony).
- Exchanging and consulting of know-how about toll collecting, traffic pricing and other monetary techniques to curb congestional traffic in urban areas or as a mean to achieve other goals.

5.1.5. General policy toward legislation/management

- Permanent improvement/management of access to airports, ports and economic poles.
- Freight transport measures (improvement of general safety and comfort).
- Passenger transport measures (adjustments to infrastructure or traffic rules and follow-up novelties).
- Implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation with regard to transport and mobility (Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T)...).

5.1.6. ITS/ Computer/ High Tech

- Consultation with regard to cross border communication networks and exchanging interesting sources through the growing number of media channels and technical innovations.
- Management of an internet site with public information:
 - about laws and legislation;
 - other relevant information about the authorities;
 - in combination with linking to valuable information outside the strict institutional environment.
- Information on the applications of the Geographic Information System, the organization of the studies and the measurements concerning traffic data, the road network, spatial planning.
- The development and use of mobility indicators for the policy-based and strategic research of passenger and freight transport on main roads and in metropolitan areas.
- Exchanging information on the management of available 'in house' data and expertise.

5.2. Road and Traffic Agency

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

- ### 5.2.1. Coordination centre for all road construction works: all road activities are geared to one another within a certain region in order to avoid conflicts in space and time and to minimize obstructions for road users and adjoining people.

- 5.2.2. Development of an internet site for public use e.g. about road works and regulations, travel planners and other 'pre trip' information.
- 5.2.3. Road safety: how to make priorities – how to deal with unsafe locations – handbook of road safety – road safety inspections and audits.
- 5.2.4. PPP (Public Private Partnership) - applied for the construction of motorways or strategic constructions to improve mobility and to deal with missing links in the primary road network – dealing with contracting by result and risk management.
- 5.2.5. Road Datawarehouse of the Agency: all kinds of data which can be geographically referred is stored and handled by one application and one interface. Application of the Geographic Information System for handling road and traffic related data.
- 5.2.6. Methods and materials for the control of the road condition.
- 5.2.7. The control of the overloaded lorries running on the motorways.
- 5.2.8. Traffic light and speed cameras.
- 5.2.9. Projects to improve the traffic circulation of public transport.
- 5.2.10. Telematics – network
- 5.2.11. Exchange of information about expertise en knowledge.
- 5.2.12. Maintenance (general or winter) of roads.
- 5.2.13. Incident management: ensuring first aid services, emergency planning, also the hoisting of vehicles when blocking traffic during rush hour in urban areas.

5.3. Division Traffic Centre

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

- 5.3.1. The development and exploitation of traffic models for management purposes and for the application on traffic management.
- 5.3.2. The application of measurement systems to collect traffic related information.
- 5.3.3. The use of instruments for dynamic traffic control on motorways and in metropolitan areas.
- 5.3.4. The organization of services related to traffic information.
- 5.3.5. The organization and working of traffic centers.

5.4. Division Ports and Water Management

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

5.4.1. Exchange of information and experience.

- general policy on ports and dryports;
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation;
- promotion of co-modality;
- logistics and logistic innovation.

5.4.2. Cooperation on port-related matters and shortsea shipping

Both Parties are prepared to:

- foster contacts between Estonian and Flemish ports and dryports;
- establish favourable conditions for the generation of traffic flows between Estonia and Flanders through shortsea shipping;
- exchange information about shortsea shipping;
- exchange information and experiences on Motorways of the Sea.

The Flemish and Estonian governments further investigate the possibility and feasibility to establish a Motorways of the Sea connection between the ports of Zeebrugge and Tallinn.

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

5.4.3. Cooperation on environmental issues:

- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation;
- ship waste reception;
- ballast water reception in ports under the Ballast Water Convention.

From the Flemish side this cooperation will be implemented by the Department of Environment, Nature and Energy and the Department of Mobility and Public Works (Division Ports and Water Management). From the Estonian side, the Ministry of Environment shall be the point of contact.

5.5. Maritime Services and Coast Agency

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

The Agency for Maritime Services and Coast (Coastal Division) is prepared to participate in the development for scientific cooperation on hydrometeorology (Hydro Meteo System). This implies among other things that the Estonian Party is invited to pay a work visit to the Oceanographic Meteorological Station in Zeebrugge.

5.6. Work visits

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

6. SCIENCE AND INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY

- 6.1.** The Flemish Party proposes to align their cooperation entirely with the European Framework Programme for Research and Development.
- 6.2.** For the Flemish Party the National Contact Point of IWT (the Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders) will be the one stop shop (europrogs@iwt.be).
- 6.3.** For the Estonian Party the Archimedes Foundation (Research Cooperation Centre) will be the one stop shop (<http://www.archimedes.ee/teadus/>).

7. EMPLOYMENT

- 7.1.** Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 7.2.** 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, vocational and entrepreneurial training.
- 7.3.** On request of the Estonian Party, the Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) will accept an Estonian delegation (three to five experts) to Flanders during 2009-2011. The Flemish Party expects a request of the Estonian Party concerning their fields of interest in order to organise and prepare the visit.
- 7.4.** Both Parties encourage the cooperation in the field of the European Social Fund and they shall exchange information and know-how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.
- 7.5.** The Flemish Party (Vlaams 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, vocational and entrepreneurial training within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.
- 7.6.** The Flemish Party (Vlaams Departement Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational and entrepreneurial training, labour market and employment policy.

8. CULTURE

8.1. Culture policy

- 8.1.1. Both Parties shall inform each other in an active way concerning important developments in cultural policies. That means that both Parties will keep each other informed, on a regular basis of policy matters and their international context, including the identification of the stakeholders involved and references to other sources that may be available.
E.g. since Tallinn is declared to be the European Capital of Culture 2011, then both Parties could foresee additional projects for cultural events.
- 8.1.2. When common subjects, of considerable present political importance have been detected, the Parties may decide by consensus to organise specific projects in that field, such as exchanges, training, on the job training, seminars, residences, etc.
- 8.1.3. When one of the Parties participates in an important international project, it will associate the other Party – as far as possible – as a privileged partner.

8.2. Specific thematic cooperation

8.2.1. Visual arts

During the validity of the present Programme the Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) graphic designer for a working visit of two (2) weeks a year at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. Free accommodation shall be provided as well as a per diem of € 50,00.

Both Parties are prepared to cooperate and exchange best practises between relevant museums and art institutions in Flanders (Museums of Fine Arts and Contemporary Arts in Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp, a.o.), and Estonia (Kumu Art Museum, Kadriorg Art Museum, Tallinn Art Hall, Tartu Art Museum, a.o.) in view of common exhibition projects.

Both Parties plan the following actions for the coming years:

- graphic arts exhibition (artworks by James Ensor and De Breucker) from the collections of the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts in the Kumu Art Museum in 2011. The exhibition is to be preceded by two (2) visits by Kumu's curator to Gent for the preparation of the exhibition (selection of the artworks, design of the exhibition, composing of the information materials etc.). In return, the Kumu's exhibition, that is to take place within the duration of the next program, is to be organized in the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts preceded by one (1) visit by Ghent museum's curator to the Kumu Art Museum during the time period of 2009-2011;
- international research project on the composition "Christ driving the money-lenders from the Temple" (the circle of the artist Hieronymus Bosch) between the Kadriorg Art Museum in Tallinn, the Danish National Gallery in Copenhagen, the Glasgow Art Gallery and the University of Glasgow in Scotland in 2009-2011. The international project aims to initiate scientific research and attribution of the 4 existing copies of the

composition in cooperation with the Bosch expert from Flanders. Within the project, the conserved works of art are exhibited together at an itinerant exhibition in Tallinn, Copenhagen and Glasgow in 2010-2011, thereafter also in the Antwerp Royal Museum of Fine Arts in 2011/2012;

- scientific cooperation and exchange of experts for the research and attribution of the reproduction of Marten De Vos's painting 'The Wedding at Cana' that is part of the collection of the Kadriorg Art Museum.

Both parties will support and finance these exchanges within the possibilities of the Arts Decree and Heritage Decree in Flanders and of the relevant structures in Estonia (e.g; Ministry of Culture, Cultural Endowment, a.o.).

Both parties will encourage successful finalisation of above mentioned important projects, providing the cooperating sides with a copy of this agreement and facilitating the exchanges via diplomatic channels and/or other appropriate means.

8.2.2. Cultural heritage

In the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003, both Parties will study the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding the methods of registration and preservation of the intangible heritage of Estonia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Estonian Ministry of Culture will exchange experience and know-how on making inventories of ICH and preparing nominations for inscriptions on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Both Parties are willing to exchange five (5) experts in the field of cultural heritage - tangible and intangible (e.g. museums, folk culture, restoration and conservation) to analyse the possibilities to develop joint projects (e.g. in the field of the digitising of cultural heritage). This exchange will take place within the provisions of the present agreement.

8.2.3. Literature

The Flemish Party shall receive one (1) Estonian translator a year at the Vertalershuis for a period of 1 (one) month during the validity of the present Programme. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of € 1000,00.

Estonian authors also have the possibility to enter the writers-in-residence scheme of 'het Beschrijf'. Further details regarding the eligibility requirements and the registration procedure are available from the Ministry of Culture in Flanders.

The Estonian Party is prepared to receive, during the validity of the present programme, one (1) writer and/or translator a year from Flanders at the "Writers' House" in Käsmu for a period of one (1) month at most. This exchange will take place within the possibilities of the Arts Decree in Flanders. The Estonian Party will use the conditions of the exchange of persons described in point 18.4.

Both Parties shall promote the literature and culture of the other Party as well as translations and participation in international book fairs. The Estonian Party is interested in cooperation for translating Estonian author Tõnu Õnnepalu's book "Flanders Diary" into Dutch and publishing the book in cooperation with a Flemish publishing house. The main actor on the Flemish side concerning literature is the VFL (Flemish Literature Fund), and in Estonia it is the Estonian Literature Information Centre.

To encourage further projects in the field of translation, both Parties underline the importance of promoting the study of Dutch and Estonian language (see Point 12.4).

8.2.4. Performing Arts

The present programme shall foresee the exchange of performances and choreographers in cooperation between the Kanuti Gildi SAAL and the theatres and theatre festivals in Flanders. The Estonian Party is prepared for the exchange of one (1) performance in a year for a group of maximum ten (10) persons for a period of three (3) to five (5) days and a visit for a one (1) young choreographer in a year for a performance or residency for a period of five (5) days to two (2) weeks.

This exchange will take place within the possibilities of the Arts Decree in Flanders. The Estonian Party will use the conditions of the exchange of persons described in point 18.4.

8.2.5. Music

Both Parties are interested in ongoing good cooperation between their composers, conductors and interpreters, encouraging their participation in festivals, concerts and music events in both countries. (For example: International Gregorian Festival of Watou, the Flanders Festival, Nydd Festival, Baroque Music Festival, various Jazz and Folk Music Events, a.o.).

To further enhance cooperation both parties are willing to encourage a structural collaboration between various institutions for music education (eg. Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp) in order to facilitate the exchange of experience on access to culture and music. Particular attention in the exchange of know-how shall be given to interdisciplinary projects and socio-cultural approach in educational programmes and in communication with public.

Such cooperation schemes will be financed within the available means of the Ministry of Culture and other relevant funds in Estonia. The Estonian Party is willing to generally and within timely notification support the travel costs of the Estonian musicians to Flanders. In Flanders the possibilities of the Arts Decree will be explored.

8.2.6. Film

The present programme shall foresee the exchange of students in the field of film in cooperation between the Baltic Film and Media School and the universities in Flanders. The exchange programme should foresee the exchange of one (1) student in a year for a stay maximum up to four (4) weeks with the aim to make a film together with the local students and in accordance with the conditions of exchange of scholarships (according to the articles 18.2.1. for the Flemish student to Estonia and 18.2.2. for the Estonian student in Flanders).

9. 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 Brussels before the end of 2008. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed afterwards.

10. SPORTS

During the validity of the present programme, both Parties shall provide, each year, a quota of fifteen (15) days so as to enable coaches, athletes and decision makers to participate in work placements, clinics, study tours or congresses and seminars in the field of sport in the other country.

11. WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and expertise in the field of welfare/well-being, health care and care for the disabled.

11.1. General

- the general welfare/well-being policy, in particular scientific research regarding welfare/public health, quality management, inspection and monitoring, client consultation, co-operation between the public and the private sectors at the international, national, regional and local level;
- support to services and facilities.

11.2. Public Health & (Health) Care

- 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);
- planning, monitoring and subsidising of welfare and health facilities;
- primary health care and home health care;
- elderly care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes, and service flats;
- mental health care (e.g. residential and non-residential mental health care, integrated mental health care, psychiatric home nursing, patient consultation, non-residential psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, co-operation with justice);
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control), inspection and monitoring;
- inspection, counselling and treatment of complaints about environmental licences;
- management of the care insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from a long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- preventive health care for the young child (organisation and expertise): development, hearing screening, vaccination, breastfeeding, ...

11.3. Welfare/Well-being & care

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

11.4. Care for persons with disabilities

- exchange of information, documentation and expertise concerning the different support services and other ways of supporting disabled people, as far as –from Flemish point of view- these support systems are being recognised and subsidised by the Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health and Family (PwD);
- exchange aiming at improving the quality of care;
- exchange in order to realise gradually deinstitutionalisation and to attain more personalised care and community living;
- exchange in order to agree on a commonly accepted definition on “PwD” in the European and international context;
- exchange in order to agree on a cross-border standardisation of assistive devices and special tools for disabled people;
- exchange, referring to the execution of international treaties and European directives;
- exchange in order to realise an inclusive society for all, and to realise full participation of disabled persons in all domains of social life and across borders (mainstreaming policy for disabled policy);
- exchange of statistical data and results of scientific research in the field of policy for disabled persons.

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 any desired and useful relevant information on all types and levels of education.

The Higher Education Policy Unit of the Department for Education and Training of the Flemish Party takes a particular interest in advanced academic programmes for foreign students, in the implementation of the Bologna-process and in the challenges of the Bologna-process "beyond 2010".

12.2. Exchange of professors / teachers / experts / policymakers

The Parties shall exchange annually two (2) experts/professors from a higher education institution / experts from government bodies for a stay of seven (7) days (2 x 7 days) as a maximum in order to participate in seminars, symposiums regarding current education topics: accreditation systems, mobility, doctoral study programmes and the future of higher education.

This quota may be used to make preparatory visits in order to start projects within the framework of European programmes or to build a network of contacts and exchanges between institutions of higher education.

12.3. Scholarships

The Flemish Party shall grant the Estonian Party for each of the academic years 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, 30 months of scholarship for postgraduate studies or research at Flemish universities or university colleges. This quota can be used for recognized postgraduate programs (10 months) or for research (max. 6 months - can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least).

These scholars cannot register on part-time basis.

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.

All information on study opportunities in Flanders (useful addresses of university colleges and universities, accredited non Dutch-language courses) can be found at <http://www.studyinlanders.be/>.

The Flemish Party shall provide the admitted applicants with a sum designed to cover enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Community. The maximum amount of which shall be determined annually (in the academic year 2008-2009 the maximum amount is EUR 540,00); if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he has to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish Party by herself/himself.

The Estonian Party shall provide each year the Flemish Party two postgraduate studies and research scholarships of ten months each for the academic years 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 (total of 60 months). All information on study opportunities in Estonia and on conditions of the Estonian scholarships can be found at <http://www.smartestonia.ee> Archimedes Foundation (<http://www.archimedes.ee>) being responsible for the administration of the scholarship should inform the Flemish Party about the conditions of the scholarship annually by March 1.

12.4. Scholarships for participation in summer language courses

In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in the Republic of Estonia, the Flemish Party shall offer annually the Estonian Party a number of 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 students of the Dutch language and literature enrolled in Estonian public higher education institutions. 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 and also to the Belgian Embassy in Tallinn. 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/

The Estonian Party shall provide each year one scholarship for the Estonian language and culture summer course at Estonian universities. Candidate for a scholarship for the Estonian language and culture summer course has to be selected and proposed by the Flemish Party.

13. TOURISM

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

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

13.3. Both Parties shall encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and specialists in the field of tourism.

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

14. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, HOUSING POLICY AND IMMOVABLE HERITAGE

At the request of the other Party both Parties shall exchange information and experiences on Town and Country planning, Housing Policy and Immovable Heritage.

The Flemish Party is willing to explain the Flemish policy in the field of immovable heritage. Subject to budgetary and staff constraints, follow-up and further development of this proposal can be discussed on the occasion of meetings of competent intergovernmental organisation (Council of Europe, UNESCO, etc.).

In the field of Town and Country Planning and in the field of Housing, the Flemish Party is willing to receive, at the request of Estonia, a delegation and give a brief presentation of the Town and Country Planning or Housing policy in Flanders. The Estonian Party is willing to receive a delegation to exchange experience in the field of architecture and cultural heritage monuments.

15. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Estonian Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know how and best practices between the administrations.

Contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, regulatory management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities.

The Flemish Party is particularly interested in the E-government developments in Estonia. Specific cooperation possibilities will be explored in the course of 2009. This initial exchange of information could result in a specific project as to be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

16. CAPACITY BUILDING

Port Training

The Flemish Party (Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs) shall offer 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 2009 - 2011.

The Estonian 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 or the organisation to which he or she belongs.

17. PROJECT COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties confirm their willingness to continue their co-operation by means of projects in 2009 – 2011.

Both Parties will try to build on previously built-up contacts and networks and concentrate on those sectors where cooperation provides a mutual advantage and may lead towards a win-win situation.

The Flemish Party annually launches a call for proposals. The Estonian Party shall inform the Flemish Party through diplomatic channels about its priorities and opportunities for co-operation with Flanders.

The Flemish Party is willing to fund 50% of the budget within its budgetary limits. The other 50% must be foreseen by a partnership of the Flemish promoter, the Estonian partner(s) and/or the Estonian authorities.

For the call 2008, one project for cooperation with Estonia has been presented: "Estonian-Flemish Project on Genes in HYPertension (EFHYP) from the University of Leuven".

All project proposals shall be evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures. During a bilateral meeting the projects proposed for funding shall be selected.

More information on the Flemish Cooperation Programme with Central and Eastern Europe can be found at the website: www.vlaanderen.be/centraalenoosteuropa.

18. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

18.1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 12.3. and 12.4. shall be governed by the following general provisions:

- a) The applicants should be under 35 years of age and they must have an excellent academic record. Estonian applicants must hold a Master's degree or equivalent at the time of commencement of their stay in Flanders.
- b) The candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.
- c) By 1 April of each calendar year, the sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the candidates' completed scholarship application forms and other documents as specified in the application form. All documents shall be submitted in Dutch or in English in the case of Estonian applicants, and in Estonian or in English in the case of Flemish applicants:
 - a detailed curriculum vitae mentioning the knowledge of languages;
 - a detailed study- or work programme which the applicant wants to pursue at recognized institution in the host country;
 - letters of recommendation and possibly also a letter of invitation or acceptance issued by the respective department of the receiving institution;
 - transcript of records.
- d) By 1 July of each calendar year, the receiving Party shall inform the sending Party whether the candidates have been accepted, and shall at the same time communicate to the sending Party the names of the institutions accepting them for study stays.
- e) The sending Party shall provide precise and detailed information about each scholarship holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks before the commencement of his/her stay.
- f) In Estonia, Archimedes Foundation is responsible for the administration of the scholarships.

18.2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3. shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

18.2.1. Scholarships for postgraduate programs

a) Sending Party:

- In Flanders, the sending Party shall cover the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
- In Estonia the travel expenses to and from the place of study are to be covered by the nominees.

b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 840,00;
- enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Government, the maximum amount of which shall be determined annually (in the academic year 2008-2009 the maximum amount is EUR 540,00); if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he has to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish Party herself/himself;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In the Estonian Republic:

- a monthly allowance 4500.- EEK for bachelor and master student; 6000.- EEK for doctoral student;
- health insurance in accordance with the Estonian legislation;
- additional costs associated with the study programme shall be covered by the students.

18.2.2. Scholarships for scientific research

a) Sending Party:

- In Flanders, the sending Party shall cover the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
- In Estonia the travel expenses to and from the place of study are to be covered by the nominees.

b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 800,00;
- a starting allowance of EUR 185,00 granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one month;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In the Estonian Republic:

- a monthly allowance of 6000.- EEK for university lecturers and researches;
- health insurance in accordance with the Estonian legislation;
- additional costs associated with the study programme shall be covered by the scholarship holders.

18.3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.4. (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- a) The Flemish Party shall inform the Estonian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer course about the selection by 1 April at the latest.
- b) The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Estonian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer courses are specified by the Dutch Language Union (cfr. brochure).
- c) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 12.4. as well as their board and lodging, expenses for their participation in excursions within the framework of the course programme, and their health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.
- d) The Estonian Party shall cover:
 - registration fee;
 - accommodation and meals.

18.4. Exchange of persons

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days as a maximum and at the invitation of the 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 letter of invitation and information on the goals and programme of visit as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the nominees concerned at least three (3) months in advance.
- b) The receiving Party shall confirm it is prepared to receive the nominees concerned six (6) weeks before their departure. The time of departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks beforehand.
- c) To be covered by the sending Party:
 - In Flanders: the sending party shall cover the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.
 - In Estonia: the travel expenses to and from the place of study are to be covered by the nominees.

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 the Estonian Republic:

- accommodation;
- local transport;
- a fixed allowance of EEK 300.- per day.

18.5. Generalities of artistic exchange

Both parties ask to take in consideration the importance and complex character of the preparation of artistic events. Both parties will examine the possibilities that are available within the Flemish Arts and the Flemish Heritage Decree, and encourage the appropriate use of them. Both parties will supervise the process towards a good finalisation of the projects within the framework of their usual practises.

18.6. Exchange of films and audiovisual projects

Exchange of films and audiovisual projects will be discussed and agreed on a case by case basis between the organising parties and financed within the possibilities of the Arts Decree and/or the regulations by the VAF (Flemish Audiovisual Funds) in Flanders. For Estonia, financing practices of the Ministry of Culture, Cultural Endowment, Estonian Film Foundation and other relevant funds will apply.

18.7. Specifications on cultural exchange

As for the Estonian Party the following rules of international good practises apply:

a) Exchange of films

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

b) Exchange of exhibitions

When the sending Party it shall take care of:

- design, preparation, production and packing of the exhibition;
- international transport of the exhibition 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 (except for the insurance during the display of the exhibition that shall be covered by the receiving Party);
- supply 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.

When the receiving Party it shall take care of:

- making available appropriate exhibition halls with the necessary security infrastructure (air conditioning, guards etc.);
- providing necessary staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling of the exhibition;
- insurance of the exhibition during the display;
- 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 shall be agreed upon in advance;
- providing the sending Party with ten (10) free copies of all material published in connection with the exhibition (catalogue, poster, invitation, etc.).

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

18.8. Other conditions will be agreed on through diplomatic channels.

18.9. This programme does not exclude the possibilities to organise other events or exchanges or to start new projects on which both Parties will agree. In this respect the Flemish Party would like to draw the attention on the upcoming Belgian EU-presidency in the second half of 2010, in which also Flanders will play an institutional role.

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 Tallinn in the second half of 2011.

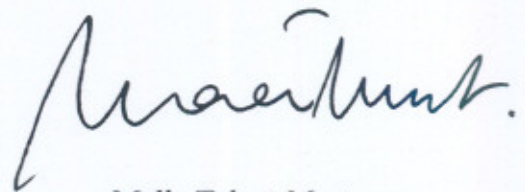
Drawn up in Brussels, on 15 October 2008, in two (2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Estonian and English languages. Both texts are legally valid. In the case of dispute, the English text shall prevail.

For Flanders,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Freddy Evens

For the Republic of Estonia,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'M' followed by several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Malle Talvet-Mustonen