

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
BETWEEN
THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND FLANDERS
FOR THE YEARS 2006-2007

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To implement the Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Flanders, signed in Prague on 12 February 2002, the two Parties have agreed on the following Programme of Co-operation for the Years 2006-2007, elaborated at the second meeting of the Flanders-Czech Republic Joint Committee, held in Prague from 20 to 21 February 2006.

**PART 1
ECONOMY**

Article 1.1

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

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

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

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

Article 1.2

Economic, industrial and regional policies

1. At the request of the other Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experience on economic, industrial, regional and regional development policies.
Particular attention shall be paid to co-operation among the regions and the co-operation with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes.
2. Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of officials of the ministries concerned (Economy, Regional Policy) in the fields of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and know how concerning the following subjects:
 - sustainable economic and industrial policy (in particular concerning PME's);
 - regional policy (sub regional economic policy aimed at sub regions);
 - aid to companies;
 - entrepreneurship (parenthood projects);
 - structural funds;
 - contacts with the European Commission and the elaboration of programmes (i.a. concerning Interreg-programmes).

3. At the request of either Party, the two Parties shall exchange information and experience concerning interregional co-operation at the turn of two programme periods. The Czech Party is particularly interested in questions concerning the orientation of the co-operation and experience with the funding of the two Parties' international projects. The two Parties may exchange experts to share practical experience gained in the process of implementing projects and preparing for negotiations on the conditions and priorities for the new programme period.

Article 1.3 Regional development policy

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

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

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

Article 1.4 Small and medium-sized enterprises

1. Both Parties stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SME's.
2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts among Czech and Flemish SME's.

Article 1.5 Enterprise coaching programme: Parenthood projects

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

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

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

Article 1.6

Housing policy

The co-operation should take the form of exchange of information and documents on the subjects listed below. It should also include a visit of several experts (delegation) on this area of co-operation.

1. With regard to the present economic and regional development, a question of high importance to the Czech Party is the energy efficiency of both new and existing residential buildings, utilisation of renewable energy sources. A high proportion of the existing residential buildings are prefabricated blocks of flats requiring complete reconstruction. In connection with the introduction of Directive 2002/91/EC on the energy performance of buildings, it is necessary to address the question of energy saving measures, the necessary certification of blocks of flats. The project should include co-operation between government authorities and, as appropriate, between academic centres at expert level in the form of exchange of expertise.

Areas of co-operation:

1. energy saving in the residential sector;
 2. renewable energy sources in residential housing construction;
 3. reconstruction of prefabricated blocks of flats (prolonging the useful life of buildings, raising the standards of comfort, energy-saving heating systems);
 4. implementation of Directive 2002/91/EC and its impacts on existing and new residential buildings.
2. With regard to the economic development and trends in energy prices, the Ministry for Regional Development is highly interested in experience and knowledge concerning the billing of the costs of heating and hot water to end users. At present, a household's energy costs account for approximately 30% of its total housing costs. The exchange of experts will help revise and compare approaches to the billing of energy costs to end users. Active co-operation should be established between expert centres.

Areas of co-operation:

1. billing of heating and hot water costs in the context of overall housing services and utilities;
 2. the existing system of legislative rules;
 3. experience with billing.
3. The body implementing the project shall annually present to the coordinating body a report enabling comparison of results and plans.

Article 1.7

Prospective areas for all forms of mutual co-operation and development of trade

The Czech Party regards the following areas as offering particularly good prospects for the development of all forms of mutual co-operation, including research and development co-operation, joint deliveries to third markets, etc.:

- information technologies;
- water management;
- biomass, its production and use;

- complete plant projects (water treatment plants, complete power units, mining and metallurgical equipment);
- pumps and compressors;
- aircraft and ultra-light aircraft;
- agricultural and forestry tractors and agricultural machinery;
- machine tools, forming and welding machines;
- graphic and printing machines;
- machines and equipment for food processing industry;
- fork-lift trucks.

FIT (Flanders Investment and Trade) stimulates trade in general, but since it works via a regional strategy, the following sectors are highlighted in Central Europe: food and agro industry, building materials, textiles, transport and logistics, furniture and environment. For the Czech Republic FIT focuses especially on food, building materials and electronics.

PART 2 MUTUAL TRADE

Article 2.1

1. The Czech Party shall make every effort to facilitate the organization of a multi-sectoral business mission to Flanders in 2006 or 2007, provided that Czech business entities express interest in such a mission. On the basis of their interest, the necessary arrangements shall be made, in co-operation with the competent Flemish partner, by the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic or another Czech institution with capacities and experience necessary for the successful organization of such a mission.
2. The two Parties shall, on suitable occasions and in mutual co-operation, organize economic seminars and specialized economic missions and reciprocally participate in trade fairs in the Czech Republic and in Flanders. The Czech Party, acting through the Czech Trade agency, is ready to participate, through catalogue presentation of Czech companies, e.g. in the following trade fairs:
 - Plastics for the Industry, Metals for the Industry, 2006, Kortrijk;
 - IFEST 2006 (environmental technologies), Ghent;
 - Subcontracting 2007 – industrial subcontracting fair (Ghent, Antwerp, Genk);
 - and some other international trade fairs in Flanders or in Brussels.

Article 2.2

1. The two Parties shall, on an ad hoc basis and at the request of either Party, exchange information on their respective markets and sectors, as well as experience and knowledge regarding support for international business activities, business opportunities and investments. The institutions dealing with these issues in the Czech Republic are namely the agencies of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, CzechTrade and Czechinvest; in Flanders the institution is Flanders Investment and Trade.

2. The Czech Party shall provide to the Flemish Party a list of fairs and international exhibitions to be held in the Czech Republic in 2006-2007. The Flemish Party shall disseminate this information among Flemish businesses.
3. The Flemish Party is ready to provide a training course (exchange of know-how) on export promotion methods and instruments for three (3) Czech experts at Flanders Investment and Trade, lasting one (1) or two (2) days. The Czech Party shall pay travel and accommodation costs.
4. Both Parties shall commit themselves to promoting trade relations between Flanders and the Czech Republic.
5. Both Parties shall organize economic seminars and economic missions, as opportunity requires.

Actions planned (with reservation) by the Flemish Party in the period 2006-2007 are:

In 2006:

- from March 7th till 10th a product sample booth on Salima, Brno.
- invitation of distributors of building materials to Brussels for B2B meetings.

In 2007:

- a visit of the exhibition on electronics, Digitex in Brno
- invitation of purchasers to PLMA in Amsterdam

In the course of 2005 Flanders Export Promotion Agency and Flanders Foreign Investment Office merged in a new institution called "FIT - Flanders Investment and Trade", which deals with various aspects of international enterprise:

- export;
- attracting foreign investors to Flanders;
- promoting Flemish investments abroad, technological exchange, joint ventures, several forms of co-operation.

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

PART 3 AGRICULTURE

Both Parties shall send each other documents and information on subjects related to the Common Agricultural Policy and allocation of support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

At the request of either Party, the two Parties shall exchange information and experience concerning the preparation and operation of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Both Parties wish to cooperate in the field of agriculture:

- projects of co-operation in the field of flax culture, taking into account the historical tradition that Flemish agriculture has in this field;
- projects of co-operation in the field of oil-bearing and albuminous crops.

Both Parties wish to cooperate in the field of horticulture:

- projects of co-operation in the field of irrigation systems in glasshouses;
- special attention will be given to the co-operation in the field of growing trees and fruit culture.

The Flemish Party will examine the possibilities to cooperate in specific projects with special focus on its rural development programme. These projects should be elaborated in close co-operation with Flemish research institutes, socio-economic umbrella organisations and the Flemish business community.

The Flemish Party is prepared, within its financial possibilities, to share knowledge and experience within the field of production, processing and the sale of fruit, vegetables and fish (in accordance with European legislation).

The Flemish Party will create the opportunity to share knowledge and experience in the field of the foundation and functioning of producers co-operations.

PART 4 ENVIRONMENT

Article 4.1

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

1. An invitation for a group of Flemish experts on nature protection, environmental education, water purification and treatment, climate changes, strategic environmental impact assessment and sustainable development, for the purpose of exchange of knowledge and establishment of contacts between Czech and Flemish partners.
2. Consideration of the possibility of establishing co-operation in preparing and implementing projects in EU pre-accession and candidate countries and in the EECCA region.
3. Establishment of contacts between the competent scientific institutions and administrative authorities in the field of the environment, especially in the field of watercourse management and flood prevention, nature protection, soil protection and environmental education.
4. The Flemish Land Agency (FLA) would like to exchange its scientific and technological knowledge on the sustainable development of the open space with partner organisations in the Czech Republic. The FLA uses different techniques for reallocation, topography and ground works (roads, water retention basins, erosion measures...), land bank, manure bank, geographical information systems (GIS), aerial photogrammetry,

nature development, rural development, agro-environmental agreements with farmers, participative and integrated approach of projects... The FLA wants to exchange her technology, as it is used in different projects and wants to broaden the knowledge and experiences, by participating in international co-operation projects in Europe, and more specific in the new member states of the EU.

5. The exchange of sustainable land development methods between FLA and the Czech partners can be organised by:
 - study visits by the Czech partners to land development projects in Flanders;
 - study visits by the FLA to land development projects in the Czech Republic;
 - exchange of information about the used methods and technology for the inventory and study of different aspects: agro-economy, landscape, ecology, water- and soil management, manure management, GIS and aerial photogrammetry, e-government, reallocation and land bank, environmental impact assessment (EIA), rural development, village renewal;
 - export of knowledge about the used management information systems, like for instance the management of land ownership rights, land use practice, hunting rights etc.;
 - development of a demonstration project in the Czech Republic.
6. The Flemish Party is prepared to invite, during the validity of this working programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) in the fields of waste management and soil decontamination, water, nature and environmental education and forest management for a period of five (5) days in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts with the Flemish actors.

Article 4.2 **Water protection**

The Czech Party is ready to provide support for a visit of Flemish experts to the Czech Republic and suggests that the experts should visit: the Ministry for the Environment to discuss EC water protection legislation, T.G. Masaryk Water Research Institute and a water treatment plant or water works in the Czech Republic.

The Czech Party would welcome a joint seminar on the management of transboundary watercourses.

Article 4.3 **Environmental education and awareness**

The Czech Party proposes the following projects in the field of environmental education and awareness:

- a) Short and medium-term secondments of foreign experts to environmental education centres in individual regions of the Czech Republic for the purpose of exchanging information on environmental education and awareness, and establishing co-operation between Czech and Flemish centres in this field.
- b) Acquainting Flemish experts with the Czech network of environmental information and counselling centres that is currently being built in the Czech Republic.

- c) Exchanging experience and new knowledge concerning the building of new systems for the evaluation of environmental education and awareness (especially the introduction of impartial efficiency evaluation tools).

Article 4.4

International protection of biodiversity

The Czech Party regards as very useful the exchange of experience in the field of care for Natura 2000 locations and implementation of international conventions concerning nature protection, including projects based on them. There is also room for co-operation in the field of revitalization of river systems.

The Czech Party supports reciprocal short and medium-term secondments to managing authorities of national parks, protected landscape areas, to the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection or to the Ministry for the Environment of the Czech Republic.

The Flemish Party (VMM - Flemish Environmental Agency) is willing in principle to organise a work visit to the Czech Republic for a maximum of seven (7) effort-man-days a year and VMM is willing to receive a Czech delegation and/or trainees in return.

For the organisation of a mutual seminar on the management of international rivers further arrangements should be made concerning the objectives, level (regional, international), scope and target groups. Such a seminar cannot be organised before the year 2007.

The Flemish Party (VMM) is equally prepared to share its know how and experience concerning the 'waterloket', 'Floepje' and environmental education for schools during work visits in the Czech Republic.

Article 4.5

Environmental impact assessment

Subject to expression of specific interest in the Flemish side, the Flemish Party can be informed about the EIA process in the Czech Republic on the basis of concrete examples.

The Flemish Party (the Public Waste Agency of Flanders, OVAM) is willing to receive experts on waste management and soil decontamination in view of exchanging know how and information concerning specific matters in this field.

**PART 5
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Article 5.1
Road traffic and transport in general**

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

(a) Traffic and Town planning:

- traffic prognoses;
- toll collection;
- the drawing up and interpretation of multimodal traffic models;
- temporary (during rush hours) overtaking prohibition for lorries on motorways;
- cycle and pedestrian track management;
- motorway service areas.

(b) Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(c) Road Traffic Safety:

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

(d) Road Maintenance and Management:

- road cleaning and maintenance, control methods and technologies for measuring the condition of roads;
- testing the surface friction of road markings using SRT and GRIP TESTER methods;
- the role of emergency repair services in dealing with the consequences of emergencies and the principles of organization of their work;
- control of overloaded lorries on motorways.

(e) Mitigating the environmental impact of traffic:

- noise reduction barriers on motorways;
- noise reduction measures, including "silent" road surfaces and tyres.

(f) Public Transport:

- facilities for the disabled people;

- models of integrated transport systems: traffic plans with loops and small buses, one way traffic, mobility plans and mobility agreements.

(g) Development of Telematics:

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

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

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

Article 5.2

Waterways and Maritime Transport Affairs

Exchange of information and experiences

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

- (a) Waterway infrastructure, including inland port management and policy**
- design and construction of inland port infrastructure;
 - renovation of inland port infrastructure (design and execution);
 - regulations for inland navigation;
 - waterway maintenance.
- (b) Telematics on waterways:**
- Development of River Information Services – RIS.

(c) Mitigation of environmental impact:

- processing and storing of polluted dredged materials;
- regulations for the handling of hazardous goods in port areas;
- re-use of building materials for structural waterworks.

Scientific co-operation

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

- water management and hydrological studies using physical and mathematical models;
- port engineering and planning, dredging works;
- environmental studies concerning environmentally friendly engineering structures along waterways;
- training by means of navigation simulator and towing tank.

**PART 6
SOCIAL WELFARE**

The two Parties shall exchange information, documentation and expertise (through expert meetings, seminars, exchange of legislation, websites, etc.) in the following fields:

- social welfare policy in general, especially co-operation between public and private providers of social welfare services at regional and local levels;
- social cohesion, prevention of social exclusion, fight against poverty and social exclusion and the rights of the child, in particular in the area of social welfare services;
- family care and home care;
- care for the elderly, in particular rest homes, nursing homes and serviced flats;
- special childcare, in particular non-residential, semi-residential and residential care, co-operation between the Ministry of Justice and mediators, care for disabled children.

**PART 7
PUBLIC HEALTH**

The two Parties shall support co-operation and exchange experiences in the field of public health with a view to improving the health of the population, in particular by:

- promoting a healthy lifestyle;
- reducing the occurrence of the most common diseases as well as the risk factors contributing to their occurrence (prevention of cardiovascular diseases, obesity, injuries, prevention and screening of breast and cervical cancer, prevention of colorectal cancer
- supporting preventive activities regarding HIV/AIDS;
- improving basic health indicators;
- monitoring the health of the population in the context of environmental and working conditions;
- creating data registers for control and monitoring of public health, e.g. in the area of infectious diseases, drinking water safety, etc. This will be done within the framework of

the development of a uniform reporting system in the area of Public Health within the European Union and the implementation of the European Community Health Indicators.

The two Parties shall consider the possibility of establishing new co-operation regarding:

- exchange of specific information and experience in the field of health care;
- exchange of students and experts in the field of health care.

PART 8 EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Article 8.1

Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of labour market, employment policy, vocational training and the fight against unemployment, and encourage contacts between the competent authorities and social partners in this field.

Article 8.2

1. Both Parties shall continue to exchange information and experience in the fields of employment policy, vocational training and social dialogue.
2. Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy and vocational training.
3. On request of the Czech Party the Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) will accept a Czech delegation (three to five experts) to Flanders during 2006-2007. The Flemish Party expects a request of the Czech Party concerning their fields of interest in order to organise and prepare the visit.
4. Both Parties encourage the co-operation 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.
5. The Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment and vocational training within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.
6. The Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible co-operation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational training, labour market and employment policy.

Article 8.3

Both Parties shall examine the possibility of joint action with third countries within the framework of international organizations.

PART 9
CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Article 9.1

1. The Czech Party shall support exchange of experience within the framework of supranational and interregional co-operation.
2. The two Parties shall support co-operation in the field of home affairs, with emphasis on local government, town and municipality administration and intermunicipal co-operation. They shall support mutual contacts between such local governments.

Article 9.2

1. The Czech Party shall facilitate contacts through the Ministry for Regional Development.
2. The Flemish Party shall support contacts through the Administration of Home Affairs of Flanders, which will, if necessary, request the co-operation of the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities.

PART 10
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The Parties shall intensify their co-operation, both at the level of research groups and policy-making level, with regard to the challenges arising within the European Research Area (ERA).

PART 11
YOUTH

Article 11.1

During the validity of the present Programme of Co-operation, the Parties shall exchange delegations comprising up to four (4) members (senior civil servants and youth workers) for a seven-day (7-day) visit with a view to developing the youth policy at all levels – local, regional and national – and creating a complementary relationship between these levels as well as thoroughly examining the attainment of general objectives ensuing from the priorities set out in the White Paper of the European Commission on Youth.

This goal is to be achieved through the exchange of information on good practice concerning, on the one hand, horizontal youth-related matters, such as non-formal learning, employment, social integration, combating racism, autonomy etc., and, on the other hand, youth-specific issues, such as volunteer work and a better understanding of young people, information and participation.

Article 11.2

Both Parties agreed to send or receive youth workers for participation in selected international (youth) events.

PART 12 SPORTS

Article 12.1

1. The Parties shall promote the establishment of contacts in the field of sport as well as the exchange of trainers, athletes and policy-makers in the field of physical education and sport.
2. The thematic focus of these exchanges and specific terms and conditions thereof shall be in all cases agreed upon directly by the competent bodies.

Article 12.2

The Parties shall annually make a quota of fifteen (15) days available to enable athletes, trainers and policy-makers to take part in training, meetings, study visits, congresses and seminars in the field of sport held in the other country.

PART 13 EDUCATION

Article 13.1

1. During the validity of the present Programme, the Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information on all types and levels of education.
2. The Parties shall exchange information on the structure and organisation of their education systems, professional recognition on the basis of the respective Community Directives and the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, on the development of accreditation system, and other topical education-related issues.

Article 13.2

1. The Parties shall encourage the development of direct co-operation of universities and other institutions of higher education in the countries of the two Parties.
2. The Parties shall encourage the development of direct co-operation of secondary schools, conservatories and tertiary technical schools in the countries of the two Parties.

Article 13.3

The Parties may annually exchange two (2) members of academic staff for study/research visits to institutions of higher education in the other country. The length of any of these visits, which may be utilised for participation in short-term seminars, conferences, congresses or symposia, shall not exceed seven (7) days.

Article 13.4

1. The Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party two (2) scholarships for Flemish students who have finished the second cycle of higher education studies to cover study stays in the length of ten (10) months each at public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic.

2. The Flemish Party shall offer annually to the Czech Party two (2) scholarships for students enrolled in the final year of accredited master study programmes implemented by the Czech public institutions of higher education and students enrolled in the accredited doctoral study programmes implemented by the Czech public institutions of higher education to cover study stays in the length of ten (10) months each at Flemish institutions of higher education.

Article 13.5

1. The Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party one (1) scholarship for students of Flemish institutions of higher education to cover a study stay in the length of six (6) months at a public institution of higher education in the Czech Republic. The aforementioned scholarship can be divided to cover two (2) study stays, each in the length of three (3) months. Nominees for the award of these scholarships must be graduates from a two-cycle programme at a recognised 'hogeschool' or hold a final university degree.
2. The Flemish Party shall offer annually to the Czech Party one (1) scholarship for students enrolled in the accredited doctoral study programmes implemented by the Czech public institutions of higher education to cover a research stay in the length of six (6) months at a Flemish institution of higher education. The aforementioned scholarship can be divided to cover two (2) research stays, each in the length of three (3) months.

Article 13.6

1. In order to promote the study of the Czech language and culture in Flanders, the Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party two (2) scholarships for language courses at the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies organized by public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic.
2. In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in the Czech Republic, the Flemish Party shall offer annually to the Czech Party at least two (2) scholarships for the "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course held either at the Hasselt University or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University. These three-week courses are intended particularly for students of the Dutch language and literature enrolled in the Czech public institutions of higher education. The applicants are expected to have an appropriate command of Dutch at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

Article 13.7

1. The Czech Party shall support the activity of the Czech language and literature lectureship established at the University of Ghent in 1990.
2. Furthermore, the Czech Party shall support the teaching of the Czech language at Hogeschool Gent.

PART 14 CULTURE

Article 14.1

1. The two Parties shall exchange, on request, information and publications regarding literature, tangible and intangible heritage, translations, performing arts, visual arts, artists' working stays, architecture, design, audiovisual and cinematographic works, festivals and competitions with international participation, as well as cultural co-operation in general.
2. The two Parties shall consider the possibility of exchanging experts and experience in the field of the cultural administration.

Article 14.2 Literature

1. The two Parties consider an exchange of three (3) experts for a study stay lasting seven (7) days.
2. The two Parties shall support translations of works of national literature, with emphasis on contemporary literature, on the Czech side through the programme of the Ministry of Culture supporting translations of Czech literature into foreign languages, and on the Flemish side through the "Vlaams Fonds voor de Letteren", which offers Czech publishers translation grants and in some cases also production grants.
3. The Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) translator from the Czech Republic at the Vertalershuis in Leuven for a period of one (1) month during the validity of the present programme. Contrary to the usual financial arrangement when receiving individuals, this translator shall be offered free accommodation as well as a subsidy amounting to EUR 1,000.00.
4. The Flemish Party wishes to draw the attention of the Czech Party to the possibility for foreign writers to apply for a residence in one of the two writers' residences in Flanders (Brussels and Vollezele) coordinated by the literature organisation 'Het Beschrijf' (www.residencesinlanders.be).

Art. 14.3 Public libraries

Within the framework of mutual consultations, the two Parties shall consider the possibility of creating a training programme for experts in the field of public libraries, in order to foster such expertise in the Czech Republic.

Article 14.4 Performing arts

A project for working stays of artists in various fields, run by the Theatre Institute and a selected or recommended partner on the Flemish side, is an option for 2007 - under reservation.

Article 14.5 Music

The Czech Party considers:

1. to support the **Concentus Moraviae 2006** music festival, organized by the **International Centre for Slavonic Music**, a public benefit organization, with emphasis on co-operation between Czech and Flemish ensembles and soloists;
2. to support the **Czech Dreams** music festival, organized by the **International Centre for Slavonic Music**, a public benefit organization, in a number of European partner towns, including cultural centres of the **Flemish Community in Belgium** (e.g. in the **West Vlaanderen** province) in 2007.

The Flemish Party considers:

1. to support **Flemish Echo** within **Concentus Moraviae** and is prepared to pay for international travel and accommodation costs;
2. to examine the requests of Flemish folk groups to support international travel, transport and accommodation costs for performances in Czech folk festivals.

Article 14.6 Visual Arts

The two Parties shall exchange an expert in the field of visual arts for a period of eight (8) days.

Article 14.7 Cultural Heritage

1. Each Party shall invite, for a period of eight (8) days, an expert on any of these fields specializing in care for the intangible heritage, the movable and, especially conservation and restoration.

In Flanders, initiatives concerning the immovable heritage (monuments and sites) fall under the competence of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, Housing and Immovable Heritage, whereas the Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media is responsible for movable and intangible, inmaterial heritage."

2. The two Parties shall exchange information regarding:
 - the existing legislation regulating the movable and immovable heritage/cultural heritage (intangible and movable heritage);
 - educational activities;
 - digitalization programmes.
3. The Flemish Party considers to promote the contacts between the 'Letterenhuis' and similar institutes in the Czech Republic so as to find out whether a travelling exhibition about literature in Flanders could be set up in the Czech Republic.

4. The National Gallery in Prague considers the idea of potential co-operation with the Flemish Party, on exhibition projects presenting Flemish art created in the territory of today's Belgium.
5. The National Museum of Agriculture is interested in future co-operation e.g. in preparing a permanent exhibition in Prague, on projects concerning the history of the food industry.
6. The Museum of Czech Literature offers for potential future co-operation the following travelling exhibitions: Karel Hlaváček, Josef Váchal – books, graphic works (and paintings, depending on the size of the exhibition hall), Ex Libris Triennial (X, XI). Exhibitions of Czech Art Nouveau graphic art or 20th century Czech illustrations can be prepared in the coming years.
7. The Moravian Gallery in Brno has been cooperating with the Flemish Party since 2004. It will take part in cultural events within its capacities.
The project "Art and Civilization in Moravia in the Baroque Period" (in 2007), is suggested as an interesting event to the Flemish Party, since many Flemish artists have contributed to the development of the Baroque culture in Moravia. The idea of presenting a series of lectures on "Flemish Paintings in the Moravian Gallery Exhibitions", accompanied by music performances may be discussed as well.
8. The Flemish Party examines the possibility of supporting the proposed project "17th-18th Century Netherlands Paintings from the Collections of the Moravian Gallery in Brno" (to be implemented in 2008-2009). Exhibition curator and catalogue editor: Zora Wörgötter. Purpose of the project: to show the most important 17th-18th century Netherlands paintings from the collections of the Moravian Gallery at an exhibition in the Governor's Palace. Most exhibits will be on display for the first time (paintings, faience, furniture, textiles – about 110 exhibits).
9. The two Parties shall, on request, exchange information and publications concerning the traditions of folk culture and their uses in contemporary cultural and political life of their respective countries.
10. The two Parties shall exchange, for a period of four (4) days, two (2) researchers in the field of folk culture who will get acquainted with the structure, special fields and functioning of ethnologic research institutions and consider the possibility of joint projects.

Article 14.8

Audiovisual and cinematographic areas

Both Parties shall encourage:

- direct co-operation between audiovisual and cinematographic institutions and organizations;
- direct co-operation between production companies in the field of co-production, provision of technical services and distribution (theatrical and broadcasting);
- direct co-operation between national and regional film and audiovisual archives;
- exchange of film and audiovisual programmes;

- participation in international audiovisual festivals (e.g. Europees Jeugdfilmfestival Vlaanderen, Zlfn International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Internationaal Filmfestival Vlaanderen-Gent, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, etc.);
- exchange information and experience in the field of audiovisual policies, legal environment, new technologies and coordination on international and European levels.

Article 14.9
Amateur arts

1. The two Parties shall encourage mutual exchanges and participation of folk ensembles in major international folk festivals.
2. The two Parties shall, in mutual consultation, develop projects in the field of amateur arts, in particular mentorship projects, exchange of knowledge and experience, training programmes, exchange of art groups at festivals in both countries, exchange of publications, documentation and information.
3. The co-ordinator on the Czech side shall be the National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture.

PART 15
TOURISM

Article 15.1

The two Parties shall encourage mutual exchange of information about laws and regulations concerning tourism, statistical data, documentation and studies on the development of tourism.

Article 15.2

1. The two Parties shall encourage mutual exchange of promotion materials and the participation of various tourism organizations in tourism-related events in the Czech Republic and in Flanders.
2. The two Parties shall encourage organization of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and experts in the field of tourism.
3. The two Parties shall encourage organization of seminars, colloquia and task forces to discuss tourism issues proposed by the interested Party, with a view to exchanging experience and ideas.

PART 16
CO-OPERATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH
CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties confirm their willingness to continue their co-operation by means of projects in 2006 – 2008.

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 priorities of the Czech Party are the following:

- Support for education and exchange of experience between regional and local governments in towns and municipalities, interest groups and associations, focused on the strengthening of public administration and local government,
- Exchange of experience in the field of support of small and medium-sized enterprises with emphasis on the introduction of new technologies, exchange of experience between professional unions, chambers and organizations,
- Support for partnership between towns and municipalities focused on the development of cultural activities,
- Support for exchange of experience and information in the healthcare sector, especially in the field of recognition of qualifications,
- Support for education programmes in all fields of the environment at all levels of government and public administration as well as local government.

The Flemish Party annually launches a call for proposals. Every two years the Czech Republic will be a priority partner. For 2006 a call has been launched and project proposals can be filed until 24 March 2006.

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 Czech partner(s) and/or the Czech authorities.

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.

PART 17 GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 17.1 General provisions

1. The Parties shall send each other their drafts of a new Co-operation Programme at least six (6) weeks prior to the scheduled date of the Joint Commission meeting.
2. Within the framework of the present Co-operation Programme, the Parties shall exchange individuals who speak English, French, German or the language of the host country.

Article 17.2 Scholarships

1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 13.4 and 13.5 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.
 - b) The nominees shall be selected by the sending Party.

- c) The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the nominees' filled out application forms and other documents required in the application forms before 1 April of each calendar year. All documents must be submitted in Dutch or in English, French or German in the case of Czech applicants and in Czech or in English, French or German in the case of Flemish applicants.
- d) The receiving Party shall inform the sending Party, before 1 July of each calendar year, whether the nominees have been admitted and shall simultaneously communicate to the sending Party the names of institutions accepting them for study stays.
- e) The sending Party shall provide precise and detailed information on each scholarship-holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of his/her stay.

2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.4 shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

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

In Flanders :

- a monthly allowance of EUR 770.00;
- 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 2005-2006 the maximum amount is EUR 505);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;
- domestic travel costs, insofar as the journeys are part of the approved programme.

In the Czech Republic:

- scholarship in compliance with the applicable Czech regulations, the amount of which shall be communicated through diplomatic channels;
- exemption from tuition fees;
- expenses for travels within the state territory provided that they are part of the respective study programme.

(c) The Czech Party shall offer to the Flemish scholarship-holders the possibility of lodging in students' dormitories and taking meals in students' catering facilities under the same conditions that are granted to the citizens of the Czech Republic.

(d) The provision of necessary and urgent care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by the accepted individuals during their stay in the Czech Republic is governed by the Council (EEC) Regulation No. 1408/71 and the Council (EEC) implementing Regulation No. 574/72.

3. Exchange of scholarships under Article 13.5 shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- (a) The sending Party shall cover the expenses for international travel to the predetermined destination in the receiving country and back.

(b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders :

- a monthly allowance of EUR 740.00;
- an initial allowance of EUR 125.00, payable upon first arrival in Flanders, provided that the stay is to last at least one (1) month;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;
- domestic travel costs, insofar as the journeys are part of the approved programme.

In the Czech Republic:

- scholarship in compliance with the applicable Czech regulations, the amount of which shall be communicated through diplomatic channels;
- exemption from tuition fees;
- expenses for travels within the state territory provided that they are part of the respective study programme.

(c) The Czech Party shall offer to the Flemish scholarship-holders the possibility of lodging in students' dormitories and taking meals in students' catering facilities under the same conditions that are granted to the citizens of the Czech Republic.

(d) The provision of necessary and urgent care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by the accepted individuals during their stay in the Czech Republic is governed by the Council (EEC) Regulation No. 1408/71 and the Council (EEC) implementing Regulation No. 574/72.

2. Exchange of scholarships under Article 13.6 shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

(a) When nominating candidates for participation in the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies courses, the Flemish Party shall submit to the Czech Party the respective documents containing the data required in the appropriate scholarship application form by 31 March of each calendar year at the latest.

(b) The Czech Party shall inform the Flemish Party, by 1 June of each calendar year, whether the nominees have been admitted and shall simultaneously communicate to the Flemish Party the names of institutions admitting them.

(c) The Flemish Party shall notify the Czech Party of the exact date of each scholarship-holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of his/her stay.

(d) The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Czech candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer courses are specified by the Dutch Language Union.

(e) The Czech Party shall defray the enrolment fee incurred by individuals accepted under Article 13.6, par. 1, and shall cover their board and lodging and expenses for participation in excursions organized within the summer language courses. The provision of necessary and urgent care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by the accepted individuals during their stay in the Czech Republic is governed by the Council (EEC) Regulation No. 1408/71 and the Council (EEC) implementing Regulation No. 574/72.

(f) In respect of persons accepted under Article 13.6, paragraph 2, the Flemish Party shall cover enrolment fees, board and lodging and costs of trips organized within the

framework of the course, as well as health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

Article 17.3

Exchange of persons under Article 13.3 (academic staff)

1. The candidates to be exchanged under Article 13.3 of the present Programme of Co-operation shall be nominated by the sending Party at least 3 (three) months prior to each nominee's proposed arrival date. The sending Party shall simultaneously submit the nominees' dossiers to the receiving Party. Each dossier shall comprise the nominee's curriculum vitae, proposed programme of his/her visit specifying its length and date of commencement and an invitation letter issued by the respective institution of higher education in the receiving country.
2. The receiving Party shall notify the sending Party of its decision as to the acceptance of nominees at least 1 (one) month prior to the proposed commencement of each candidate's visit.
3. Upon receipt of the consent of the receiving Party, the sending Party shall communicate, at least 15 (fifteen) days in advance, the exact date of each nominee's arrival.
4. The sending Party shall cover the expenses for travel to the predetermined destination in the receiving country and back.
5. The Czech Party shall provide the accepted Flemish nominees with per-diem allowance in compliance with the valid financial regulations of its state and shall cover their accommodation at a hotel or similar accommodation and the expenses for their travels within the territory of the Czech Republic, provided that such travels are related to the agreed programme of their visit.
6. The Flemish Party shall provide to accepted Czech candidates with:
 - 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.

Article 17.4

Exchange of persons under Articles 11.1 and 12.2 (youth and sport)

1. The candidates to be exchanged under Article 11.1 and 12.2 of the present Programme of Co-operation shall be nominated by the sending Party at least 3 (three) months prior to each nominee's proposed arrival date. The sending Party shall simultaneously submit to the receiving Party the nominee's curricula vitae and a proposed programme of their visit specifying its length and date of commencement.
2. The receiving Party shall notify the sending Party of its decision as to the acceptance of nominees at least 1 (one) month prior to the proposed commencement of each candidate's visit.
3. Upon receipt of the consent of the receiving Party, the sending Party shall communicate, at least 15 (fifteen) days in advance, the exact date of each nominee's arrival.
4. The sending Party shall cover the expenses for travel to the predetermined destination in the receiving country and back and shall provide its nominees with per-diem allowance in compliance with the valid financial regulations of its state.
5. The receiving Party shall cover the accepted nominees' accommodation at a hotel or similar accommodation and the expenses for their travels within its state territory provided that such travels are related to the agreed programme of visit.

Article 17.5
Exchange of persons in general

Short-term exchanges of persons (for a maximum of 30 days, except for exchanges under Articles 11.1, 11.2, 12.2, 13.3 and 13.6) referred to in this Programme of Co-operation shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the curricula vitae of the respective individuals as well as information on the objectives of their visits, programmes of their visits and information on the dates of their arrival and departure at least three (3) months in advance.
- (b) The receiving Party shall confirm that it is prepared to receive the individuals concerned at least six (6) weeks prior to their departure. The date of their departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks in advance.
- (c) To be covered by the sending Party:
 - return international travel expenses.
- (d) To be covered by the receiving Party:

In the Czech Republic :

- the precise conditions will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of EUR 50.00/day;
- health insurance and third-Party insurance within the framework of the Belgian legislation.

Article 17.6
Film

To be covered by the sending Party:

- forwarding expenses and the insurance of the films.

To be covered by the receiving Party:

- costs related to the display of the films.

Article 17.7
Exhibitions

To be covered by the sending Party:

- concept, elaboration, packing and centralisation of the exhibition;
- transport of the exhibition to its first location and from the last exhibition location back to the country of origin or another country;
- 'nail-to-nail' insurance;
- delivery of the material destined for the production of the catalogue;
- international return travel expenses of one (1) expert, monitoring the exhibition and supervising the mounting and dismantling, as well as the packing and unpacking of the works.

To be covered by the receiving Party:

- providing suitable exhibition room, in accordance with the security standards;
- providing the necessary support staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling the works;
- printing catalogues (if agreed between both Parties), posters and invitations;
- organising publicity campaigns, as well as the opening ceremony and the good accommodation of the exhibition;
- accommodation expenses of one (1) expert, monitoring the exhibition and supervising the packing and unpacking of the works;
- providing the sending Party with 25 free copies of all materials (such as catalogues, posters, invitations and press releases), published on the occasion of the exhibition;
- in case of damage the receiving Party shall not proceed with the restoration of the works without the prior approval of the sending Party.

PART 18
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 18.1

1. The provisions of the present Co-operation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that will be agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.
2. Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of the present Co-operation Programme shall be solved by negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

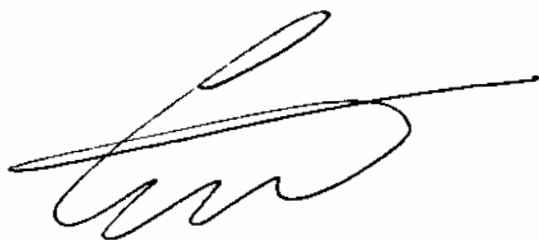
Article 18.2

1. The Co-operation Programme is subject to approval in compliance with the domestic legislation of each of the Parties of which the Parties shall notify each other.
2. The Co-operation Programme shall enter into force on the day of signature. It shall remain in force until 31 December 2007.
3. The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Brussels in the last quarter of the year 2007.

Done in Prague on 21 February 2006 in two original copies, each in the Czech, Dutch and English languages, all three versions being equally authentic. Should any differences in the interpretation of the Co-operation Programme occur, the English version shall prevail.

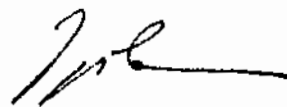
For Flanders

For the Czech Republic



Freddy Evens

Administration of Foreign Affairs
of Flanders



Petr Janyška

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic