

MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMISSION

FLANDERS - CZECH REPUBLIC

HELD IN BRUSSELS

FROM 22nd TILL 23rd MAY 2008

The third meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2008-2010 to implement the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Czech Republic was held in Brussels from 22nd till 23rd May 2008.

The chairman of the Flemish delegation welcomed the Czech delegation and presented the members of his delegation:

Flemish delegation:

**Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs Division**

- Freddy Evens head of division Europe, head of the delegation
- Walter Moens representative of the Flemish Government in the Czech Republic
- Etienne Schollaert policy advisor, secretary

Tourism Flanders Brussels

- Jos Vercruyse head of division
- Jan Van Praet policy advisor

Department of Public Governance

- Jan De Mulder policy advisor

Department of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media

- Hilde Billiet policy advisor

Agency for Arts and Heritage

- Arlette Thys policy advisor
- Anne-Marie Croes policy advisor

Agency Youth Policy

- Jan Vanhee policy advisor

Department of Work and Social Economy

- Marc Willems policy advisor
- Farah Nolens policy advisor

Department of Economy, Science and Innovation

- David Grzegorzewski policy advisor

Department of Mobility and Public Works

- Etienne De Winne director-engineer
- Robert Peeters policy advisor
- Pim Bonne policy advisor

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

- Isabelle Magnus policy advisor

Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

- Bart Van Impe expert

Department of Country Planning, Housing and Immovable Heritage

- Nele Haegemans policy advisor

Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)

- Evelien Staelens policy advisor

The chairman of the Czech delegation thanked for the kind reception and presented the members of his delegation :

Czech delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Tomáš Szunyog director of the Department South and South-eastern Europe
head of the delegation

Ministry of Culture

- Zdeněk Novák general director

Ministry of Local Development

- Hana Čížková European Department
- Renata Králová European Department

Ministry of Environment

- Veronika Veverková European Department

Ministry of Agriculture

- Jan Gallas European Department

Ministry of Transport

- Petr Hron International relations department

Embassy of the Czech Republic

- Vladimír Müller ambassador
- Jozef Buzalka minister counsellor
- Pavel Hořák commercial counsellor
- Petr Polivka director of the Czech Centre Brussels
- Lenka Pokorná first secretary, consul

The negotiations were held in a constructive atmosphere, and resulted in a draft text of the Co-operation Programme for the years 2008-2010 which was initialled by the heads of the delegation.

Both Parties will undertake the necessary steps, according to their respective internal legislations to approve this Co-operation Programme.

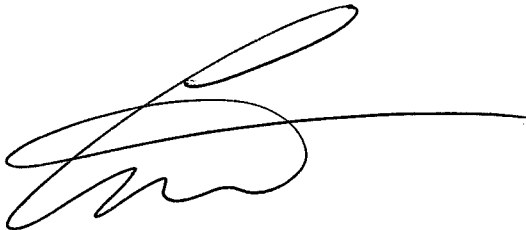
Both Parties also agreed to refer to each other's websites - which will contain updated information about their mutual co-operation. The Flemish Party will, in view of this, have a special link on its website www.flanders.be/prague, referring to its activities in the Czech Republic, which includes a cultural programme, in the Czech, Dutch and English languages. The Czech Party will be providing information on this co-operation on the website of the embassy of the Czech Republic www.mzv.cz/brussels.

Both Parties (the foreign affairs representatives) shall monitor on a half-yearly basis, both in Brussels and in Prague, the execution of the work programme. They shall provide each other with the contact addresses (mail, telephone number) of the contact persons within each line ministry concerned.

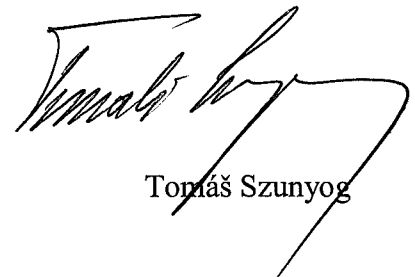
For all information and follow-up of this Co-operation Programme in both countries, the diplomatic channels will be used. The Flemish Party will consider the Representative of the Flemish Government in the Czech Republic, as its contact point, except for investment and trade. For those matters the Flemish Economic Representative in Prague will be responsible.

For Flanders

For the Czech Republic



Freddy Evens



Tomáš Szunyog

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
BETWEEN
FLANDERS AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC
FOR THE YEARS 2008 - 2010**

The Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Flanders (hereinafter referred to as the „Parties“), with a view to implementing the Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Flanders, signed in Prague on 12 February 2002, and pursuant to the outcome of the Czech Republic-Flanders Joint Committee meeting held in Brussels from 22 till 23 May 2008, have agreed as follows:

**PART 1
ECONOMY**

1.1. General framework for cooperation.

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

Both Parties also underline the importance of increasing the awareness of SME's in respect to accessing and utilizing EU funding possibilities.

1.2 Specific actions

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.

Apart from this, 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.

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 -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.

PART 2 MUTUAL TRADE

Flanders Investment & Trade is committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and the Czech Republic. For that purpose it organizes seminars, visits to trade fairs and economic missions, as opportunities arise.

Both Parties exchange information on an ad hoc basis and at the request of the other Party, on their respective markets and sectors, as well as experience and knowledge regarding support for international business activities, business opportunities and investments.

FIT determines its action program by means of a regional strategy. This strategy is the result of the consultations between FIT’s domestic and foreign network and the main Flemish economic players. The regional strategy focuses on the most promising sectors in a foreign market. The Czech Republic is part of the regional strategy for Central and

Eastern Europe. Target sectors for the Czech Republic are the ICT sector and the building sector.

In the years 2008-2010 FIT plans actions around the building fair IBF and the ICT fair Invex, both in Brno.

PART 3 AGRICULTURE

In the field of horticulture the Flemish Party proposes cooperation projects aiming at the installation of greenhouses and modernising existing greenhouses; cooperation projects regarding irrigation farming; visits to experts in farms specialised in vegetable and fruit tree growing. Particular interest will be attached to cooperation in the field of planting fruit trees and bushes.

The Flemish Party will consider the possibility to assist de Czech Party in specific projects (in collaboration with socio-economic umbrella organisations and research institutes in Flanders and with the Flemish economical field) to elaborate and realise their Rural Development Programme (in the framework of the European Union - SAPARD programme).

The Flemish Party is willing to put at the disposal of the Czech Party, within the budgetary limits, its knowledge and experience in the field of production, transformation and marketing of fruits, vegetables and fish, in compliance with European legislation. Within this framework the Flemish Party is also willing to exchange its expertise in the foundation and functioning of producers groups.

Field of Rural Development

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

Both Parties are willing to organise meetings regarding exchange of sector experience in different agricultural fields.

The Flemish Party offers, in cooperation with the training centres, the possibility for professionals in agriculture, teachers, instructors in agricultural colleges to attend trainings in the following areas:

- the management of an agricultural enterprise.
- sustainable agriculture, biological techniques for agriculture.
- cultivation of the soil, labour, fertilization, supply of feeds for livestock ...etc.
- other areas of common interest and expertise.

PART 4 ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1.** The Flemish Party (Nature and Environment Education Unit - EE) is prepared to invite a Czech delegation to introduce them within the (N) EE functioning and structure at the Flemish level in an active and interactive way. Taking into account the wishes and needs, the (N) EE-unit can organise one or more days with the following topics:
- introduction of and getting acquainted with the functioning of the (N)EE-unit service within the Flemish policy and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and education for sustainable development;
 - introduction of and getting acquainted with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and Environmental care project from kindergarten to higher education and, if preferred, linked with a school visit; getting acquainted with the educational means;
 - introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development;
 - site visit to one or more (N) EE-centres, getting acquainted with the common educational means.
- 4.2.** Co-operation in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol
- The Czech Republic and Flanders are willing to co-operate within the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular to facilitate co-operation in the field of Joint Implementation under Article 6 and in the field of Emissions Trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.
 - For this purpose a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Flemish Region can be drawn up which will detail procedures described in the Kyoto Protocol in relation to Czech – Flemish co-operation regarding Articles 6 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.
- 4.3.** The Flemish Party 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 establish contacts with the Flemish actors.
- 4.4.** The Nature and Forest Agency wishes to cooperate in preparing the Conference of the Parties 10 of the Convention on Biodiversity, which will be launched in 2009. The following themes on the agenda of the COP 10 can be taken into account:
1. In-depth review of ongoing work under the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues:
 - inland waters;
 - sustainable use;
 - protected areas;
 - climate change;
 - business and biodiversity.
 2. Follow-up on the progress towards the 2010 target for biodiversity.

- 4.5** The Flemish Party is willing to cooperate in the preparation of necessary internal structures and management arrangements for Water framework directive implementation (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy). The cooperation shall support the development of the proper national geographical data and enforcement of the international harmonisation of the Water framework directive.

PART 5

MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

5.1. Road Traffic and Transport.

5.1.1. Education and sensitising regarding a better car use

- Promotion of alternatives for road traffic to curb the redundant use of the car.(e.g. car sharing).
- Increasing the revaluation of pedestrian and cycling traffic and making (small) travels independent 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, e.g. Park and Ride).
- Qualitative organisation of public space and improvement of traffic viability and the balance between all the road users.
- Spatial planning.

5.1.3. Decreasing the accident rates/promoting desired behaviour

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

5.1.4. Policy toward legislation/management

- The control of the overloaded lorries running on the motorways.
- The drafting and implementation at operational level of business models with regard to the provision of services regarding the acquisition and dissemination of traffic information.
- 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).
- Implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation with regard to transport and mobility.
- Road pricing

5.1.5. ITS/ computer/ High Tech/data flow

- Consultation with regard to cross border communication networks and exchanging interesting sources through the growing number of media channels and technical innovations.
- Development of an internet site for public use e.g. about road works and regulations, travel planners and other 'pre trip' information.
- Application of the Geographic Information System, e.g. traffic related material, spatial planning.
- Variable signalization (static and mobile), 'on trip' information as a mean for redirecting traffic and direct information provision.
- The development and use of traffic models and mobility indicators for the policy-based and strategic research of passenger and freight transport on main roads and in metropolitan areas.
- The organisation of dynamic traffic management.
- Exchanging information on the management of available 'in house' data and expertise.
- Consolidating and extending information between traffic centres and their applications.

5.1.6. Pavement and road technology/management

- Maintenance (general or winter) of roads.
- Methods and materials for the control of the road condition.(e.g. bridge management, pavement monitoring system [PMS]).

5.1.7. Contemporary approach based management

- The public private partnership (PPP) applied for the construction of motorways or strategic constructions to improve mobility.
- Management of the available space and the use for traffic (especially in urban areas which often have a valuable/vulnerable heritage).

5.1.8. Incident management

- Ensuring first aid services, emergency planning, also the hoisting of vehicles when blocking traffic during rush hour in urban areas.

5.2. Waterways and Maritime Affairs

5.2.1. Exchange of information and experience

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

- general policy on ports and waterways;
- the relation between inland navigation and environment;
- integrated water policy and the implementation of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC on navigable waterways;
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation;
- exchanging information and experiences regarding the development of different applications and implementation of River Information Services (RIS – Directive 2005/44/EC) for example:

- notices of skippers according to the European standard, including the planning of maintenance / repair of infrastructure;
- a pilot implementation of AIS base stations, including data exchange with vessels equipped with AIS transponders;
- the conversion of land survey data to S-57 for use within Inland ECDIS;
- electronic reporting between waterway authorities, ports and skippers;
- supporting software for calamity abatement, incl. exchange of information via AIS, sms, mail, phone, fax and web;
- policy in terms of regulation, operation, commercialisation and promotion of inland waterways;
- modal shift promotion.

5.2.2. Scientific collaboration

The Flanders Hydraulic Research Laboratory of the Flemish Government is prepared to establish new contacts with administrations and scientific institutions in Czech Republic (which are in the competency of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic) in order to set up co-operation programmes in one or more of the following areas of study:

- flood protection and hydro meteorological activities;
- hydraulic and hydrological studies through physical and mathematical models;
- environmental studies in terms of environmentally friendly engineering structures along waterways.

5.3. Work visits

Both Parties shall cooperate for the participation of specialists in workshop courses, master courses in the field of road transports.

The Flemish/Czech Party is prepared to receive two, maximum three, delegations of five (5) Czech/Flemish experts for a period of maximum five (5) days at the most in Flanders/ the Czech Republic 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.

The Flemish Party (Department of Mobility and Public Works) will aim to cooperate with the vzw FITA (Flanders International Technical Agency npo) for the work visits in which the transfer of knowledge occupies a central position. The vzw FITA will try to involve the private sector in the programme as much as possible.

PART 6 SOCIAL POLICY, WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and experience in the fields of welfare and social services.

6.1. Social welfare and health care policy

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

6.2. Health care

- mental health care (e.g. integrated mental health care, psychiatric home health care, ambulant psychiatry);
- preventive health care policy (i.a. cancer prevention and screening programmes; suicide prevention; prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);
- co-ordination and monitoring of vaccination programmes and prophylactic of infectious diseases (i.a. fighting sexually transmittable diseases (e.g. HIV));
- primary health care and home health care;
- inspection, counselling and treatment of complaints about environmental licences.

6.3. Social Services

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional social work units, crisis intervention and crisis relief, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim support, telephone counselling services;
- family help and home care;
- child protection and special youth assistance, particularly residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care;
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care
- child and family: child care, preventive child care, help in case of child abuse, adoption etc.;
- care for the disabled people;
- mediation: family mediation (divorce mediation, child custody mediation and access mediation), mediation in the context of criminal law (restorative justice, reparation of harm, settlement of conflict, restorative justice) and debt mediation.

PART 7 YOUTH CARE POLICY

The Parties shall cooperate and exchange information, documentation and expertise in the field of:

- special youth care, i.e. ambulant, semi-residential and residential youth care;
- integrated youth care, i.e. youth care and general prevention regarding youth welfare.

PART 8 EMPLOYMENT

- 8.1.** Both Parties shall continue their cooperation in the field of employment policy and vocational training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and social partners in this field.
- 8.2.** Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, legislation, statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy and vocational training.
- 8.3.** Upon request of the Czech Party, the Flemish Party (Flemish Work and Social policy area) will accept a Czech delegation (three to five experts) to visit Flanders during 2008-2009. The Flemish Party expects a request of the Czech Party concerning its fields of interest in order to organise and prepare the visit.
- 8.4.** Both Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of the European Social Fund and exchange information and know-how concerning the management and monitoring of the ESF.
- 8.5.** The Flemish Party (Flemish Work and Social policy area) 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'.
- 8.6.** The Flemish Party (Flemish Work and Social policy area) shall act as a mediator for possible cooperation with any entity or network active in the field of vocational training, labour market and employment policy.

PART 9 PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Czech Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know how and best practices between the administrations. In particular 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. Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

PART 10 SPORTS

The Parties shall encourage the development of direct co-operation of Czech and Flemish sports organisations. The arrangements of specific activities of co-operation, and their financial coverage, fall within the terms of reference of the sports organisations concerned.

PART 11 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The Parties shall examine the ways in which they can optimize their further cooperation within the framework of the European Research Area, both in the field research groups and science and innovation policies.

Cooperation in the field of research and development may be agreed upon through a special arrangement if the Parties decide to sign one.

As far as bilateral cooperation is concerned, the Parties shall stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and cooperation in the fields of science and technological innovation. They will facilitate contacts among scientific institutions, research centres, companies, universities and administrations that are responsible for policies concerning science and technological innovation.

As for multilateral cooperation, the Parties shall strive for joint participation of Czech and Flemish researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development.

PART 12 EDUCATION

12.1. Exchange of information and documentation

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

The Flemish Party takes a particular interest in advanced academic programmes for foreign students, exchange of experience regarding the implementation of the Bologna Declaration and in the challenge the Bologna process “beyond 2010” entails.

The Parties look forward to a positive cooperation during the ministerial Bologna conference, organised on 28-29 April 2009 in Louvain and Louvain-la-Neuve under the Czech chairmanship of the Council of the European Union.

12.2. Exchange of professors / teachers / experts / policy makers

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 and colloquia regarding accreditation systems, education of students enrolled in doctoral study programmes and doctoral schools providing such education, and to discuss the educational reforms following the implementation of the Bologna Declaration.

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 or to encourage co-operation of secondary schools.

12.3. Long-term scholarships (for advanced master)

- 12.3.1. The Flemish Party shall offer to the Czech Party, for each of the academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, two (2) scholarships for graduates from accredited master study programmes implemented by the Czech public institutions of higher education to cover study stays in the length of ten (10) months in recognized postgraduate programs of Flemish higher education institutions.

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

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 2007-2008 the maximum amount is 533,10 euros). 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.

- 12.3.2. The Czech Party shall offer to the Flemish Party, for each of the academic years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, two (2) scholarships to cover study or research stays in the length of ten (10) months at public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic. The applicants for scholarship awards should have finished at least three years of study in an accredited study programme at a higher education institution at the time of commencement of stay covered by the scholarship.

12.4. Short-term Scholarships (Research)

- 12.4.1. The Flemish Party shall offer to the Czech Party, for each of the academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, six (6) scholarship months for students of accredited doctoral

study programmes implemented by the Czech public institutions of higher education to cover a research stay. Upon request of the sending Party, this scholarship can be divided in two periods in the length of three (3) months each.

- 12.4.2. The Czech Party shall offer to the Flemish Party, for each of the academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, six (6) scholarship months for students of or graduates from the Flemish institutions of higher education to cover study or research stays at public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic. This scholarship can be divided to cover several stays in the minimum length of two (2) months.

12.5. Scholarships for participation in summer language courses

- 12.5.1. 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 a number of [at least four (4)] 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 Czech 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 Prague. 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/

- 12.5.2. In order to promote the study of the Czech language and culture in Flanders, the Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party four (4) scholarships for participation in the language courses at the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies organised by public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic.

12.6. Language lecturers

The Parties express their satisfaction with the lectureship of the Czech language and literature at the Faculty of Eastern European Languages and Cultures at the Ghent University and with the lecturer’s activities at the Faculty of Translation Studies of the Hogeschool Gent (University College Ghent). Both Faculties appreciate the fact that the lecturer continues to be involved in the teaching of the Czech language and culture.

PART 13 CULTURE

(Cooperation in the fields of Culture Policy, Monuments, Landscapes & Archaeology)

13.1. Culture policy

- 13.1.1. 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.

13.1.2. 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.

13.1.3. 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 at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. Free accommodation shall be provided as well as a per diem of 50.00 euros.

13.1.4. The Flemish Party shall receive one (1) Czech translator at the Vertalershuis in Louvain 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 euros. Czech 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.

13.1.5. Both Parties are willing to exchange four (4) experts in the field of cultural heritage - tangible movable and intangible (e.g. museums, folk culture) to analyse the possibilities to develop joint projects (e.g. in the field of the digitising of cultural heritage).

Both Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between museums and galleries. Exchanges of exhibitions will be organised on the basis of the organisational and financial conditions upon the agreement directly between the respective organisers.

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 the Czech Republic and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Czech Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

13.1.6. Both Parties shall encourage the organisation of bilateral film festivals.

13.2. Monuments, Landscapes & Archaeology

Both Parties are prepared to present their policies on non-movable heritage. Conditional on possibilities with budget and staff further follow-up and extension of this proposal can be examined on the occasion of meetings of the competent intergovernmental organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, UNESCO).

As for urban and spatial planning both Parties are willing to receive a delegation and to give a brief explanation on planning of land use.

PART 14 YOUTH POLICY

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall consider sending four (4) experts (senior civil servants and experts) for a study visit of seven (7) days, to elaborate a youth strategy at all levels (local, regional and national) and to establish better co-operation between these levels.

During the validity of this action Programme, both Parties shall consider exchanging delegations of up to four (4) members (responsible civil servants and youth workers) for a period of seven (7) days at most with the aim of elaborating the ideas of the White Paper of the European Commission "A New Impetus for European Youth" by exchanging good practices regarding the themes discussed in the White Paper and the European Youth Pact.

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

PART 15 TOURISM

- 15.1. Both Parties promote the exchange of information on legislation and regulations concerning tourism, statistical data, documentation and studies on the development of tourism.
- 15.2. Both Parties encourage the exchange of tourism promotion material and they promote the participation of tourism organisations in tourism events in the Czech Republic and in Flanders.
- 15.3. Both Parties encourage the organisation of study visits for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and specialists in the field of tourism.
- 15.4. Both Parties encourage the organisation of seminars, colloquia and workshop on tourism themes that are proposed by one of the Parties, to exchange experience and ideas.

PART 16 PROJECT COOPERATION 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 2008-2010.

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 and 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.
- support of mutual bilateral film festivals

The Flemish Party annually launches a call for proposals. For 2009 a call will be launched and project proposals can be filed until 31 March 2009.

The Flemish Party is willing to fund 50% of the budget within its budgetary limits. The other 50% must be borne 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 ranked and selected.

PART 17 GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

17.1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 12.3. and 12.4. will 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. Czech 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, French or German in the case of Czech applicants, and in Czech or in English, French or German 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 a 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.

17.2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3. (long-term scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions.

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

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of 770.00 euros;
- 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 2007-2008 the maximum amount is 533.10 euros; 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;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

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;
- defrayment of expenses for travels on the territory of the Czech Republic provided that such travels are part of the approved programme of study or research.

17.3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.4. (short-term scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions.

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

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of 740.00 euros;
- a starting allowance of 125.00 euros 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 Czech Republic:

- scholarship in compliance with the applicable Czech regulations, the amount of which shall be communicated through diplomatic channels;
- exemption from tuition fees;
- defrayment of expenses for travels on the territory of the Czech Republic provided that such travels are part of the approved programme of study or research.

- c) The Czech Party shall offer to the Flemish scholarship-holders the possibility of lodging and taking meals at university dormitories and catering facilities under the same conditions as are granted to citizens of the Czech Republic.

17.4. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.5. (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) 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 documents containing the data required in the appropriate scholarship application form by 31 March of each calendar year at the latest.
- b) The Flemish Party shall inform the Czech candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer course about the selection by 1 April at the latest.
- c) 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.
- 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 (cf. brochure).
- e) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 12.5.1. 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.
- f) The Czech Party shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 12.5.2. as well as their board and lodging and expenses for participation in excursions organized within the framework of summer language courses. The provision of necessary and urgent medical 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.

17.5. Language lecturer

- a) The Czech Party shall present, at the request of the Flemish Party, the nomination of its candidate language lecturers. The Czech Party shall submit to the Flemish Party a comprehensive dossier of each candidate containing a detailed curriculum vitae, copies of degrees, certificates of working experience and letters of recommendation.
- b) The candidates must hold a university degree. Candidates having proof of their teaching competence shall be preferred. They must in each case have sound skills in teaching the Czech language and they must have a thorough knowledge of the Czech culture.
- c) The final selection of candidates shall be carried out by the Flemish Party on the basis of the advice of the host university, which may lay down additional conditions in respect of the lecturer's specific job description at the respective department.
- d) The Flemish Party shall communicate its decision as to the acceptance of lecturer as well as the precise dates of the reception period at the latest two months after having received the applications.

- e) The Czech Party shall communicate to the Flemish Party, through diplomatic channels, the precise date of the lecturer's arrival, at least three weeks before the date of his/her departure.
- f) The Czech Party shall provide the lecturer with a monthly allowance and shall cover the return expenses for his/her international transport to and from the predetermined destination in Flanders, in compliance with the respective decrees of the Government of the Czech Republic concerning the programme of promotion of the Czech cultural heritage abroad over the years 2006-2010. The Czech Party shall also keep supplying the lectureship with study materials.
- g) The Flemish Party shall provide the lecturer with 1,100.00 euros per month as a contribution to the expenses brought about by the lectureship (accommodation, meals, relocation, purchase of instructional materials) and shall cover his/her health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

17.6. 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 with the exception of Articles 10.4. and 12.5. 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:
 - return international travel expenses incurred by its nominees.
- d) To be covered by the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

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

In the Czech Republic:

- accommodation at a hotel or facility of the same standard;
- per-diem allowance in compliance with the applicable legal regulations of the Czech Republic;
- expenses for travels on the territory of the Czech Republic provided that such travels ensue from the programme of visit approved by the Czech Party.

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

- 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.
- 18.1.2. 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

- 18.2.1. The Co-operation Programme is subject to approval in compliance with the domestic legislation of each of the Parties and the European legislation of which the Parties shall notify each other.
- 18.2.2. The Co-operation Programme shall enter into force on the day of delivery of the later notification to the other Party. It shall remain in force until 31 December 2010.
- 18.2.3. The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Prague in the last quarter of the year 2010.

Article 18.3

Within the range of their respective competences, the Parties will seek to ensure the protection of copyright and neighbouring rights to copyright in accordance with the national legal regulations and international conventions, to which both the Czech Republic and the Region of Flanders are parties.

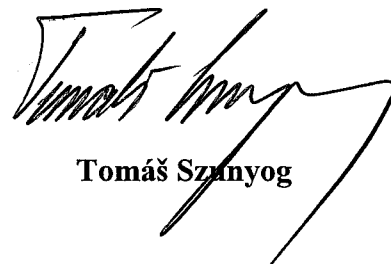
Done in Brussels on 23 May 2008, in two original copies in the English language. The Dutch and the Czech versions will be exchanged through diplomatic channels. Should any differences in the interpretation of the Co-operation Programme occur, the English version shall prevail.

For Flanders

For the Czech Republic



Freddy Evens



Tomáš Szanyog