



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FLEMISH MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY AND BASQUE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE

THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY OF THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT, represented in this act by the Minister MR. KRIS PEETERS and THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY, represented by the Minister, MRS. ESTHER LARRAÑAGA GALDOS,

WHEREAS:

This memorandum of understanding is drawn up within the framework of the **Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)** created in Johannesburg on the 31st August 2002, during the World Summit for Sustainable Development. On that occasion, representatives of Regional Governments and various Regional Government Associations adopted the document known as the "Gauteng Declaration", with a view to promoting sustainable development through mutual collaboration and cooperation at the regional level.

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg stresses the importance of local initiatives and experiences for the promotion of sustainable development.

The Santiago de Compostela Declaration of Constitutional Regions (CALRE) of 31 October 2000 concludes that the environment is especially important from the perspective of the European Regions given that in most cases, either as concurrent legislation or through legislation enacted by the State, it is their duty to apply and transpose environmental policies, which in many cases are directly determined by EU institutions.

The regional policy level is also a key element in the efficacy of efforts in favour of sustainable development.

Synergies are generated by multilateral co-operation agreements or programs along with a multiplier effect that benefits more and different regions.

THEREFORE:

In order to promote the development of activities of mutual interest affording an increase in exchanges between the two jurisdictions and allowing government, social and cultural undertakings to complement each other in preserving and protecting the environment, both Parties agree the following clauses.

ONE. - The Parties shall foster co-operation for the preservation and protection of the environment with a view to enhancing public policies for sustainable development, through the promotion of joint projects and activities.

TWO.- The Parties may undertake joint projects and activities primarily addressing the following issues:

- I.- Climate Change policy
- II.- Contaminated land policy
- III.- Sustainable Development Indicators
- IV.- Cleaner technologies

THREE - The parties shall prioritise co-operation in the field of the strengthening of capabilities with a view to enhancing the management capabilities of regional and local governments and the population, raising the standards of their technical personnel in the fields of environment and sustainable development matters.

FOUR.- The Parties further undertake to draw up, within a period of two months following the signature of this Memorandum, the first Action Plan 2006-2007 as an appendix to this document, wherein they shall specify the nature of the initial cooperation activities to be undertaken and the possible resources that could be provided.

FIVE.- Flanders and the Basque Autonomous Community shall work on environmental matters in a coordinated manner in the Council of the European Union with the goal of emphasising the role of constitutional regions in EU-decision making.


SIX.- An annual meeting shall be held as a technical follow-up to this document, at which the action and progress achieved by each party shall be described and assessed.

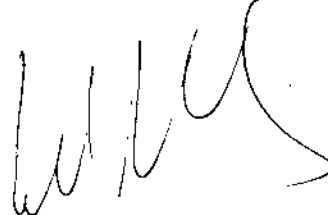
SEVEN.- The commitments made in this Memorandum shall be set forth appropriately in proper, adequate legal documents in accordance with applicable legislation.

EIGHT.- This Memorandum shall be valid for a term of three (3) years, and shall be automatically renewable for equal periods unless otherwise expressly decided by the Parties.

NINE.- This Memorandum may be revised wholly or in part by the parties by common accord

In witness whereof, the Parties now sign this document in triplicate, with one of the three (3) equally valid copies being in Dutch, one in Basque and one in English, in the City of Brussels, on this first of June, two thousand and six.


MR. KRIS PEETERS
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE
AND ENERGY OF THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT


MRS. ESTHER LARRAÑAGA GALDOS
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE
OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY