

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AND

THE BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

Washington, D.C., represented by the Mayor of Washington, D.C., and the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia,

and

The Brussels Capital Region, represented by the Minister of External Relations and the Minister of Foreign Trade,

Referring to the economic agreement between the Brussels Region and Washington, D.C., signed by David A. Clarke, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, and Paul Hatry, President of the Brussels Government and Cecile Goor-Eyben, Secretary of State of the Brussels Region on July 24th, 1985.

Referring to the above agreement that was signed on May 12th, 1986 by François-Xavier de Donnea, President of the Brussels Government and on June 30th, 1986 by Jean-Louis Thijs, Secretary of State of the Brussels Region.

have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Both Parties agree to closely cooperate in the following fields:

1.1 *Business Relations and Opportunities*

- Both Parties shall develop and maintain a list of resources that would provide information about access to trade and trade contacts regionally, nationally and continentally in both the Brussels Capital Region and Washington, D.C.
- Both Parties shall provide comprehensive market information, including regional economic data, location opportunities, labor resources, detailed business support listings and comparative local tax analysis.
- Both Parties shall generate opportunities to interact with local economic development officials and business associates about doing business in the Brussels Capital Region and Washington, D.C.
- Both Parties shall maintain contacts with regional, national and international Chambers of Commerce, business groups and companies in order to accomplish a coordination and facilitation role for promoting and encouraging new business and market opportunities in the Brussels Capital Region and Washington, D.C.
- Both Parties shall develop cooperative agreements and cultivate relationships between businesses, trade organizations, and specific government entities operating in each Party.
- Both Parties shall agree to plan, coordinate and implement trade missions and trade show agreements.

1.2 *Public Safety*

- Both Parties agree to exchange ideas and joint strategies on public safety issues. Joint discussions will include, but are not limited to, community oriented policing strategies and practices. These include: how to use police or other resources to reduce and to prevent urban crime; how to share best practices that enhance the quality of policing services and prevention measures in local communities; and how to facilitate public-private partnerships with emphasis placed on citizens' participation.
- Both Parties will provide a forum for substantive discussions between key public safety officials of the Brussels Capital Region and the District of Columbia. For the District of Columbia, this would include the Office of the Chief of Police and the Office of Quality Assurance for the Metropolitan Police Department. This would also include the fire and emergency medical service personnel of both the Brussels Capital Region and the District of Columbia.

- Washington, D.C. agrees to share information regarding the use of the District's new Public Safety Communications Center, which coordinates the emergency and non-emergency calls for service and the dispatch of responding units. The Brussels Capital Region agrees to do likewise on similar existing communications operations.
- Both Parties agree to explore the possibilities of allowing both police jurisdictions to come together, share information and jointly plan, when feasible, during major events or crises that affect both Parties.
- Both Parties shall exchange information and develop strategies on how to secure major national and international buildings, landmarks and monuments, while being consistent with the architectural characteristics.

1.3 Affordable housing design and development

- Both Parties shall facilitate an exchange of ideas on affordable housing developers, financiers, prominent planning and design research organizations and maintain in each city a repository of case studies about innovative affordable housing production and tenant or owner management of such housing.
- Both Parties shall support seminars to discuss how each partner city has innovatively assisted in the finance, design and development of affordable urban density housing and to examine different models of tenant or owner management of this housing.
- Both Parties shall work to jointly publish papers that describe the "best practices" in the finance, design and development of affordable urban density housing, mixed use development projects and historical preservation efforts of each city and alternative strategies used in other national cities.
- Both Parties shall support efforts to discuss case studies about housing design, development, and ongoing management of affordable housing.

1.4 Tourism

- Both Parties shall exchange ideas and promote joint strategies for increasing tourism between the Brussels Capital Region and the District of Columbia. Promotion strategies might include, but are not limited to, meeting with key convention and tourism officials and travel industry analysts, and business representatives that monitor and promote general tourism and cultural exchanges between both Parties.

- Both Parties shall exchange information and promotional materials between private and public organizations on tourism in the Brussels Capital Region and Washington, D.C., for the purpose of increasing overall tourism, business opportunities, and other travel related activities by citizens of both capitals.
- Both Parties shall explore the possibilities for student and intern exchange.

1.5 Beneficial Exchanges

- Both Parties shall actively consider exchanges to enhance the quality of life in each respective city and to promote a general understanding between both cities' citizens. These exchanges may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Information exchanges on government operations;
 - Public servant exchanges;
 - Cultural exchanges;
 - Student and university level exchanges;
 - Scientific exchanges;
 - Sports exchanges.
- Both Parties shall promote and conduct a week of activities in the other ("Brussels Week in D.C." and a "D.C. Week in Brussels") during which services and products from both national capitals will be displayed.

ARTICLE 2

Both Parties shall periodically review the progress of the implementation of this Agreement in the following way:

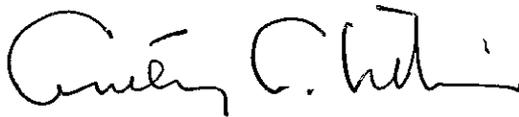
- 2.1.** Both Parties agree to establish a joint Steering Committee to promote and monitor the exchanges of ideas and strategies and to help facilitate all planned and anticipated actions between both Parties. This Steering Committee will comprise of the following: (1) the Brussels Capital Region's Minister of External Relations [or his/her representative(s)] and the Minister of Foreign Trade [or his/her representative(s)]; (2) the Mayor of Washington D.C. [or his/her representative(s)] and the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia [or his/her representative(s)].
- 2.2.** For the oversight responsibility of this Agreement, the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia is designated for Washington, D.C. The Office will be the point of contact for all issues and/or concerns surrounding this Agreement and will report to the Mayor or his/her designee, as appropriate. Likewise, the oversight responsibility for this Agreement for the Brussels Capital Region is designated to the Brussels Trade Office in New York, which will report to both the Ministers of External Relations and Foreign Trade, as appropriate. Key individuals and/or offices to contact regarding this Agreement are attached.

2.3. To the extent feasible, representatives from both Parties will meet, alternately in one of the cities, at least once within 12 months after the signature of this Agreement, and every 12 months thereafter, to review the progress under this Agreement. When both parties are unable to exchange visits, tele-video conferences between the parties will be encouraged semi-annually for assessing progress and for setting new timetables and goals for the coming year.

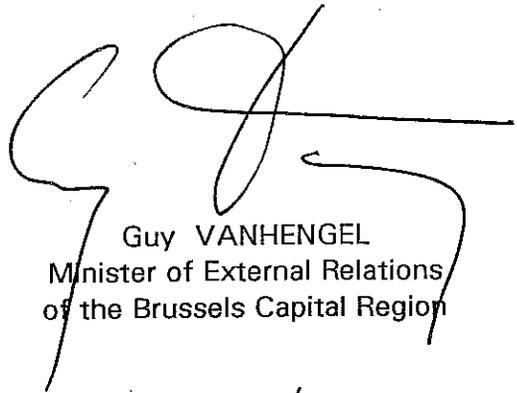
ARTICLE 3

This Agreement will be implemented for a period not to exceed five years, and will take effect on the date of its signature. This Agreement will be drawn up in four original copies in English, French and Dutch, each one having equal validity.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on June 10th, 2002, for Washington, D.C., by the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Anthony A. Williams, and the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, Linda W. Cropp; and for the Brussels Capital Region, by the Minister of External Relations, Guy Vanhengel, and the Minister of Foreign Trade, Didier Gosuin.



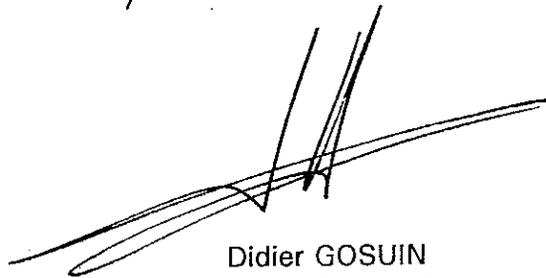
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Mayor of the District of Columbia



Guy VANHENGEL
Minister of External Relations
of the Brussels Capital Region



Linda W. CROPP
Chairman of the Council
of the District of Columbia



Didier GOSUIN
Minister of Foreign Trade
of the Brussels Capital Region

**KEY INDIVIDUALS AND/OR OFFICES TO CONTACT REGARDING
THIS COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

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