



Cooperation agreement
between
the District of Columbia
and
the Brussels-Capital Region

The Brussels-Capital Region

And

The District of Columbia

Hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Guided by the traditional links of friendship between Belgium and the United States of America and their respective capitals, Brussels-Capital Region and the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.),

Desiring to develop collaboration between the two capital cities in the spheres of economics and city governance and operation,

Referring to the common values of freedom, democracy, justice and solidarity,

Aware that both capitals today constitute a vital factor in the sphere of international relations,

Referring to the Cooperation agreement between the District of Columbia and the Brussels-Capital Region that was signed in Washington on June 10th 2002,

Referring to the letter of Alliance between Destination D.C. and VisitBrussels that was signed in Brussels on March 15th 2011,

Agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties shall promote mutual co-operation in the following areas:

- Urban development,
- Mobility,
- Housing,
- Economy,
- Environment and energy efficiency,
- Security,
- Government operations.

and in all other areas that fall within the competencies of the Parties.

ARTICLE 2

To this end the Parties shall promote:

- the exchange of information and technical, technological and administrative know-how in the areas set out in Article 1;

- contacts and co-operation between public and private institutions as well as between companies and associations that operate in the areas set out in Article 1.

ARTICLE 3

Both Parties shall strengthen the links of friendship between the citizens of Washington DC and of the Brussels-Capital Region and shall contribute to create favorable conditions for the establishment of direct contacts between government and economic organizations in the spirit of this agreement.

ARTICLE 4

Both Parties shall periodically review the progress of the implementation of this agreement in the following ways:

The Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia shall have the oversight responsibility of this agreement on behalf of the District of Columbia. The Office shall be the point of contact for all issues and/or concerns surrounding this agreement and shall report to the Mayor or his designee, as appropriate.

Likewise, the External Relations Department shall have the oversight responsibility for this agreement on behalf of the Brussels-Capital Region. The Department shall be the point of contact for all issues and/or concerns surrounding this agreement and shall report to the Minister in charge of External Relations.

With four months after the signature of this agreement both Parties shall discuss and develop avenues of cooperation in the areas mentioned in article 1, with, to the extent feasible, a particular focus on

- e-government and other government operations
- employment growth
- affordable housing policy
- pedestrian policy
- sustainable development
- urban economy

Representatives from both Parties shall have monthly discussions to develop specific activities and once developed, shall have periodic discussions to review the progress thereof.

ARTICLE 5

This agreement is entered into for a period of five years and shall come into force on the day of signature. It can thereafter be tacitly renewed once for a period of five years unless one of the Parties denounces it in writing, by giving a six months' notice before the date of expiry of the current period of validity.

Done at Washington on June 27th 2011, in two original copies each in Dutch, English and French, the three versions of which being equally valid.

<p>On behalf of Brussels-Capital Region</p>  <p>Jean-Luc Vanraes Minister in charge of External Relations of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region</p>	<p>On behalf of the District of Columbia</p>  <p>Vincent C. Gray Mayor of the District of Columbia</p>
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