

# TREATY ON GOOD-NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND FRIENDLY CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY AND THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Republic of Hungary and the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties"),

Being convinced that the historical change that took place in Europe and in their respective countries offer unprecedented opportunities for resolving the common tasks that derive from the development of their bilateral relations in a spirit of good neighbourliness and friendly co-operation,

Making efforts to contribute to building Europe, in the framework of current integration processes, as a continent of peace, security and prosperity,

Confirming that respect for, and implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of democracy, the rule of law and humanism constitute the basis of freedom, justice and peace,

Recognising that persons belonging to national minorities constitute an integral part of the society and of the State of the Contracting Party on whose territory they live and they concurrently contribute to the enrichment of the life of their societies and to building confidence, friendship and co-operation between their countries, and declaring that they feel responsibility for granting protection to, and promoting preservation and deepening of, national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of the minorities living within their respective territories,

Confirming they are guided by the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation on Europe, the Paris Charter for a New Europe of the Conference on Security and Co-operation on Europe and other documents adopted by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Being convinced that the further development of friendly relations and co-operation based on new foundations meet the vital interests of their countries and peoples,

Have agreed as follows:

## ***Article 1***

The Contracting Parties shall develop their relations in the spirit of good neighbourliness, confidence and friendly co-operation and shall maintain a dialogue in all the areas of mutual interest.

## ***Article 2***

The Contracting Parties, in their mutual relations as well as in their relations with other States, shall respect the generally accepted principles and norms of international law, in particular the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a New Europe and other documents adopted within the framework of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

### **Article 3**

(1) The Contracting Parties, in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, confirm, that they shall respect the inviolability of their common state border and each other's territorial integrity. They confirm that they have no territorial claims on each other and will not raise any such claims in the future.

(2) The Contracting Parties declare that, in their mutual relations, they shall refrain from the use of force or the threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence, or from other acts or support for any such actions against the other Party that would be contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or to the international law, and that they shall not allow a third Party to use their territory for conducting similar actions against the other Party. They shall settle any disputes arising between them exclusively by peaceful means.

### **Article 4**

(1) If, in the opinion of either of the Contracting Parties, a situation has emerged in the international relations that may present a threat to international peace and security or to its own security interests, this Party may request a consultation with the other Party in order to examine what they might do towards easing or eliminating the tension, in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

(2) The Contracting Parties shall conduct regular consultations at various levels on questions of mutual interest concerning security and defence. Upon the request of either Party, they shall provide information on the fulfilment of their international undertakings concerning security and disarmament. Their bilateral relations in the defence area shall be governed by a separate agreement.

### **Article 5**

(1) The Contracting Parties shall, with a view to implement this Treaty, establish an appropriate frame for co-operation in every field of mutual interest.

(2) The Contracting Parties attach special significance to co-operation and the development of relations between their legislative and executive bodies.

(3) The Contracting Parties shall hold regular consultations at various levels with the view to further development and deepening of their bilateral relations and of mutual acquaintance with their positions on international issues. The Prime Ministers shall, within this framework, have at least once a year a meeting and the ministers for foreign affairs shall also meet or least once a year to access the implementation of this Treaty.

(4) Co-operation among other sectors of administration, including regular meeting of their leaders, shall be governed by agreements concluded between the sectors concerned.

### **Article 6**

The Contracting Parties confirm that their interests and endeavours are identical in relation to their integration into the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Western European Union and in relation to the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and they declare they resolve to extend each other support in this respect.

### **Article 7**

(1) The Contracting Parties shall, in the framework of developing their bilateral relations and in the process of their integration into the European Union, promote a mutually advantageous co-operation in the field of economy, particularly in industry, agriculture, trade, transport and expedition, telecommunications and services.

(2) The Contracting Parties shall create conditions for developing various forms of economic co-operation in the border region at regional and local levels, including co-operation between legal entities and natural persons.

(3) The Contracting Parties shall attach importance to co-operation between higher-level self-governing units, towns and villages, in conformity with their competence and with the principle of subsidiarity.

### **Article 8**

The Contracting Parties shall support co-operation in the field of science and technology. They shall promote the creation of conditions for effective co-operation in basic and applied researches with special emphasis on modern technology and support direct contacts between, and common initiatives of the scientists and fellows of scientific and research institutes of the two countries.

### **Article 9**

(1) The Contracting Parties, motivated by their interest concerning care for the natural environment and preservation of acceptable living conditions for future generations, shall co-operate in environmental and nature protection aiming at preventing and reducing environmental pollution, especially as regards trans-frontier pollution.

(2) The Contracting Parties, in accordance with relevant agreements and, above all, by co-operating with the European Union and its member States, shall develop their co-operation in the field of environmental protection and take part in the development and implementation of the Union's co-ordinated international strategy concept.

(3) The Contracting Parties, in furthering the adoption of specific measures aimed at enhancing the protection of the environment, shall conclude a separate intergovernmental agreement regulating co-operation in accident risk reduction, the system of early warning on accidents occurred and that of the elimination of their consequences.

### **Article 10**

(1) The Contracting Parties shall by using the latest technology, expand their co-operation in the development of the infrastructure of air, railway, road, waterway, maritime, pipeline and combined transport and in postal and telecommunication services.

(2) The Contracting Parties confirm that land-locked States have the right of access to the sea and to the freedom of transit related to this right and that they are ready to co-operate with other States in this respect.

### **Article 11**

The Contracting Parties, in accordance with the manifold development of their co-operation, are ready to increase the permeability of their borders, including the opening of new border crossing points, in accordance with the possibilities and needs of the two Contracting Parties.

### **Article 12**

- (1) The Contracting Parties shall promote their co-operation in the field of culture, science and education.
- (2) The Contracting Parties consider as the basic form of cultural, scientific and educational co-operation between their countries such co-operation as is based upon the mutual demands and interests of groups founded on the initiative of institutions, organisations, associations, federations, communities, local-government authorities or citizens, or, upon those of the individuals themselves. They shall support, on the basis of respective agreements and programmes, initiatives designed to promote mutual acquaintance and closer ties between state, social and private institutions, organisations, associations and natural persons.
- (3) The Contracting Parties shall promote co-operation between schools and other educational establishments and scientific research institutes, and exchange of pupils of elementary and secondary schools, students of higher education institutions, teachers and scientists.
- (4) The Contracting Parties shall facilitate scientific research activities in the archives, libraries, museums and other institutions of similar nature on their territories, including the granting of access to materials kept by those institutions.
- (5) The Contracting Parties shall, on the basis of the respective agreements, recognize certificates on school and professional education as well as on academic and research degrees of the other Contracting Party, issued in accordance with the respective domestic legislation.
- (6) The Contracting Parties shall support the teaching of the language of the other Contracting Party in schools and other educational institutes alike. To this effect they shall assist one another in linguistic training and further education of teachers.
- (7) The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to expand the opportunities in their institutions of higher education for gaining acquaintance with the culture, literature and language of the other Contracting Party and for promoting the Hungarian and Slovak language studies in such institutions.
- (8) Each Contracting Party shall ensure within its country, on the basis of mutual agreement, conditions necessary for functioning of cultural centres of the other Contracting Party.

### **Article 13**

- (1) Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to preserve the historical and cultural monuments and the memorial sites of the other Contracting Party located within its territory.
- (2) The Contracting Parties shall proceed to exchange of cultural values and archive materials on the basis of agreements between the ministries concerned.

#### **Article 14**

The Contracting Parties shall strengthen the climate of tolerance and understanding among their citizens of different ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic origin. The Contracting Parties, in accordance with their obligations under international law, shall ensure equal and effective protection of rights of every person on their territories irrespective of race, skin colour, sex, language and religious, political or other conviction or national or social origin.

#### **Article 15**

(1) The Contracting Parties confirm that protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation and, in this sense, it is therefore not an exclusively domestic affair of the States concerned but constitute a legitimate concern of the international community. The Contracting Parties recognize that their co-operation in this field contributes to the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations, mutual understanding, friendship and confidence between their countries and, at the same time, to the consolidation of international security, stability and European integration.

(2) The Contracting Parties, in protecting the national minorities and the rights of persons belonging to those minorities, are guided by the following principles:

(a) membership of a national minority shall be a matter of free personal choice and no disadvantage shall result from the choice of such membership,

(b) all persons belonging to a national minority shall be equal before the law and have equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited,

(c) persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right, individually or in community with other members of their group, to freely express, maintain and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity and to maintain and develop their culture in all its aspects,

(d) reaffirming the aims of their general integration policy, the Contracting Parties shall refrain from policies and practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to minorities against their will, and shall protect these persons from any actions aimed at such assimilation. The Contracting Parties shall refrain from measures that would alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and which aim at restricting the rights and freedoms of those persons that would be to the detriment of the national minorities,

(e) persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right to establish and operate, in conformity with their respective legislation and with the objective of maintaining, development and transfer of their identity, their own organisations and associations, including political parties and educational, cultural and religious organisations. Both Governments shall create legal conditions to this effect,

(f) persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right to take part effectively at the national, and where appropriate, at the regional level, in the decisions affecting the

minorities or the regions inhabited by the minorities, in the manner which is not incompatible with domestic legislation,

(g) persons belonging to the Hungarian minority in the Slovak Republic and those belonging to the Slovak minority in the Republic of Hungary shall have the right to use freely, individually or in community with other members of their group, orally or in writing, their mother tongue in public or private life. They shall also have the right, in conformity with the domestic law and with the international commitments undertaken by the two Contracting Parties, to use their mother tongue in contacts with official authorities, including public administration, and in judicial proceedings, to display in their mother tongue the names of municipalities in which they live, street names and names of other public areas, topographical indications, inscriptions and information in public areas, to register and use their first names and surnames in this language, to have - without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language - adequate opportunities in the framework of the State educational system for being taught their mother tongue or for receiving instruction in their mother tongue and the right of access to public mass media without discrimination and the right to their own media. The Contracting Parties, in accordance with their international commitments, shall take all the necessary legal, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the aforementioned rights unless their respective domestic law already contains such provisions,

(h) in accordance with point (c) of this paragraph they shall create the necessary conditions enabling the persons belonging to national minorities to preserve their material and architectural memorials and memorial sites constituting their cultural heritage, history and traditions.

(3) The Contracting Parties agree that the same rights and duties flowing from their citizenship shall be applied to the persons belonging to national minorities shall as to any other citizens of the State concerned.

(4) The Contracting States declare

(a) that as regards the regulation of the rights and obligations of persons belonging to national minorities living within their respective territories they shall apply the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities adopted and signed by the Contracting Parties on 1 February, 1995, as from the date of ratification of the present Treaty and of the above Framework Convention by both Contracting Parties, unless their respective domestic legal systems provide a broader protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities than the Framework Convention,

(b) that without prejudice to the content of the previous paragraph (a), they shall apply, in defending the rights of persons belonging to the Hungarian minority in the Slovak Republic and the Slovak minority in the Republic of Hungary, the norms and political commitments laid down in the following documents as legal obligations:

- Document of June 29, 1990 of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference of Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;

- Declaration 47/135 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

- Recommendation 1201 (1993) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, respecting individual human and civil rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

(5) Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any act contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and in particular of the sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

(6) The Contracting Parties shall co-operate to assist one another in following the implementation of the content of this Article. They shall therefore consider the manner by which they can, in the framework of their mutual co-operation, and on the basis paragraph (1) of Article 5 of the present Treaty and in the spirit of mutual understanding and confidence, exchange information about, and experience with, questions relating to the application of the present Article. To this end, they shall set up an intergovernmental joint commission, entitled to make recommendations, consisting of section whose composition will be determined as they deem necessary. In monitoring the implementation of their commitments in the field of protection of national minorities, the Contracting Parties shall apply the rules of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe that are binding upon both Contracting Parties.

#### ***Article 16***

(1) The Contracting Parties shall support manifold co-operation on the field of health care, sanitary hygiene and pharmaceutical research, in particular in preventing and combating civilisation and infectious diseases.

(2) The Contracting Parties shall develop their co-operation in the area of social security and social welfare and their competent bodies will conclude appropriate agreements for this purpose.

#### ***Article 17***

(1) The Contracting Parties shall, on the basis of appropriate agreements, co-operate in the field of legal and consular relations and in police activities.

(2) The Contracting Parties shall develop their co-operation in combating organised crime, with special focus on terrorism, drug abuse, air piracy and illegal export of cultural, historical and museum objects and articles of value.

#### ***Article 18***

Recognizing the importance of co-operation between the means of mass media, the Contracting Parties shall support free exchange of information and all effort aimed at providing objective information that promote better knowledge and understanding of each other.

#### ***Article 19***

The Contracting Parties shall support the expansion of relations between the political and social organisations, trade unions, churches, religious and other organisations and between the youth , sports and other federations.

### **Article 20**

The present Treaty is not aimed against any third country. It does not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties flowing from their bilateral and multilateral treaties.

### **Article 21**

(1) The Contracting Parties, in the event of a difference of view in connection with the interpretation or application of the present Treaty, shall consult with each other pursuant to the provisions of Article 5 of this Treaty.

(2) If such consultations fail to eliminate, within reasonable time, the difference of view, the Contracting Parties shall consider by what other methods in accordance with the principles and norms of international law this can be achieved.

### **Article 22**

(1) The present Treaty is concluded for a period of ten years. Its validity shall be extended, always for another five-year period, unless one of the Contracting Parties denounces it in writing at least one year before the given validity period expires.

(2) The present Treaty is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

(3) The Contracting Parties shall register the present Treaty accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Done at Paris, this 19th day of March, 1995, in duplicate each in Hungarian and Slovak languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Gyula Horn  
for the Republic of Hungary

Vladimir Meciar  
for the Slovak Republic

[Quelle: [www.meh.hu/nek/Magyar/7/asz-sk-e.htm](http://www.meh.hu/nek/Magyar/7/asz-sk-e.htm)]