

KOŠICE-MISKOLC EUROREGION. DEED OF FOUNDATION (Miskolc, 1 st December 2000)

ARTICLE 1

Founding Members of the Euroregion (hereafter: „Founders“)

A. On the Slovak side:

1. The City of Košice, represented by:

JUDr. Zdenko Trebula, Mayor of the City of Košice, Seat: Trieda SNP 48/A, Košice, Slovak Republic

2. Regional Office in Košice, represented by:

Ing. Štefan Vranovský, Head of the Regional Office Seat: Komenského 52, Košice, Slovak Republic

B. On the Hungarian side:

1. The City of Miskolc, represented by:

Tamás Kobold, Mayor of the City of Miskolc,
Seat: 8 Városház tér, Miskolc, H-3525, Republic of Hungary

2. The Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government, represented by:

Dr. Ferenc Ódor, President of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government, Seat: 1 Városház tér, Miskolc, H-3525, Republic of Hungary

ARTICLE 2

Preamble

(1) The Founders, representing their regions and cities of the Republic of Hungary and the Slovak Republic, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the „European Framework Agreement on Cross-border Cooperation“ and the „Agreement concluded between the Republic of Hungary and the Slovak Republic on Good-neighborly Relations and Friendly Cooperation“ from 1995, based on mutuality and mutual advantages hereby establish the

KOŠICE-MISKOLC EUROREGION (hereafter: „Euroregion“)

(2) Founders may use the name of the Euroregion in their own languages.

(3) The logo of the Euroregion is a graphic symbol which is attached to this Deed of Foundation. Unauthorized use of the name and logo of the Euroregion will be penalized by the Council of the Euroregion.

ARTICLE 3

Boundaries of the Euroregion

(1) The Euroregion consists of the following administration units:

On the Slovak side: Region of Košice

City of Košice

On the Hungarian side: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County

City of Miskolc

(2) In the event of regional or administrative changes within the aforementioned administration units that would affect the official boundaries of the Euroregion set in the subparagraph 1, these changes would be amended to the Annex of the present document.

ARTICLE 4

Objectives and Tasks of the Euroregion

(1) The Contracting Parties agree on the following common objectives and areas of cooperation:

- a) tourist and business promotion of the region on the Slovak and on the Hungarian side,
- b) development of mutual relations in education and science,
- c) environmental co-operation with special focus on prevention and mitigation of consequences of natural disasters,
- d) co-operation in addressing humanitarian issues and social problems,
- e) preservation and development of cultural heritage by safeguarding our national cultural assets,
- f) creating conditions for a better flow and exchange of information,
- g) enhancing co-operation between regional development programs and transport infrastructure planning.

(2) In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals the Euroregion intends to

- a) draw up joint programs and project proposals in the framework of European funding programs,
- b) maintain good neighborly relations and support local initiatives aiming at cross-border co-operation,
- c) co-operate with local and international consultants, non-governmental organizations and other institutions,
- d) give further thought to the idea of setting up a joint inter-regional development bank.

ARTICLE 5

Organization of the Euroregion

(1) The decision-makers of the Euroregion are:

- a) The Council of the Euroregion
- b) The President of the Euroregion
- c) The Secretariat of the Euroregion
- d) The Committees of the Euroregion

(2) In fulfilling their common tasks, the Founders may call on the assistance of third-party legal entities and natural persons.

(3) Until the Secretariat is set up, the seat of the Euroregion will be Miskolc and Košice.

ARTICLE 6 **Council of the Euroregion**

(1) [fehlt]

(2) Council of the Euroregion (hereafter: „Council“) is the supreme decision-making body of the Euroregion.

(3) The council consists of 16 members [as amended 15 February 2001]. Each of the four Founders can nominate three members into the Council. The members of the Council are appointed by the supervisory organizations of the Founders.

(4) The Council will hold a regular meeting at least twice a year. The meeting will be convened and chaired by the President of the Euroregion. Invitations to the meetings of the Council will be sent to the members by the President 15 days before the date of the meeting.

(5) The President will convene a council meeting within 30 days of notice if at least one fourth of the members require this in writing.

(6) The decisions of the Council are valid if at least half of the members are present. Decisions are made in unanimity by the present members.

(7) In general, the meetings of the Council are open to the public. With majority voting, however, the members may decide to hold a meeting behind closed doors.

(8) It is an exclusive activity of the Council

a) to approve of common programs and projects of the Euroregion,

b) to arrange for funds to realize the approved projects and programs,

c) to make decisions about joining of the Associated Members,

d) to approve of the alterations and amendments to this document,

e) to set up standing and select committees and to define tasks and composition of these committees,

f) to adopt the annual budget of the Euroregion,

g) to define an institutional structure and tasks of the Secretariat, to appoint its Head and adopt its budget,

h) to organize inter-regional conferences,

i) to decide on participation of the Euroregion in the work of international organizations committed to regional policy,

j) to adopt resolutions on other most important matters with an impact on the Euroregion.

(9) Any member of the Council and Head of the Secretariat may propose projects and programs in Council meetings.

(10) The detailed rules of the Council procedures are laid down in the document called „Rules of Procedures of the Council of the Miskolc-Košice Euroregion.“

ARTICLE 7

President of the Euroregion

(1) The Plenipotentiary of the Euroregion is the President of the Euroregion (hereafter: President)

(2) Members of the Council appoint one member as President for a period of one year. The two signatory nations represented in the Council take turns in nominating the President of the Council

(3) Primary tasks of the President are:

(a) to represent the Euroregion towards third parties,

(b) to convene and chair the meetings of the Council,

(c) to pass and sign the minutes and resolutions of Council meetings,

(d) to act as lawful employer of the Secretariat staff.

ARTICLE 8

Secretariat of the Euroregion

(1) The administrative and organizational matters of the Euroregion lie with the Secretariat of the Euroregion (hereafter: Secretariat). The actual tasks and composition of the Secretariat are defined by the Council.

(2) The appointment and dismissal of the Head of the Secretariat lie with the Council. The Head of the Secretariat is accountable to the Council.

ARTICLE 9

Committees of the Euroregion

(1) The Council may set up auxiliary bodies of the Euroregion such as a Standing Committee and a Select Committee (hereafter: Committees).

(2) Tasks and composition of these committees are defined by the Council. The Committees select their chairperson from among their own members.

(3) In order to keep track of the money flow of the Euroregion budget, the Council sets up a permanent Financial Supervisory Board, in which each Founder is represented equally.

(4) The Committees table their reports with the Council via the Head of the Secretariat. The Supervisory Board reports directly to the Council.

ARTICLE 10

Other Members of the Euroregion

(1) The Euroregion is an association open to welcome new Associated Members such as public bodies, governmental organizations, legal entities and natural persons. New Associated Members are admitted by the Council.

(2) Upon accession to the Euroregion new Associated Members accept the conditions laid down in this Deed of Foundation and other resolutions of the Euroregion's decision-making bodies.

(3) In the meetings of the Council, Associated Members have a negotiating power; the conditions of their participation in other activities of the Euroregion will be defined by the Council.

ARTICLE 11

Financial Provisions of the Euroregion

(1) Contracting Parties will make a genuine effort to raise funds and create provisions necessary to achieve the goals and fulfil the tasks of the Euroregion.

(2) Costs associated with the running of the Euroregion's organizations will be shared among the Founders equally.

(3) Joint programs and projects adopted by the Council will be funded by the Founders in direct proportion to their stake in the given program or project.

(4) The financial contributions to be paid by the Associate Members will be laid out in the resolutions of the Council.

(5) Should any member of the Euroregion fall into arrears with their contributions as laid down in the subparagraphs (2) to (4) of this Article, the Council may penalise it accordingly.

ARTICLE 12

Terminating Membership in the Euroregion

(1) The Founding Members may terminate their membership at the end of the calendar year by sending a written notice to the Council until June 30th of the calendar year at the latest.

(2) Should both Founding members of a given nation require the termination of their membership, the Euroregion will cease to operate on the last day of the calendar year in question. The written notification requiring the termination of membership and consequent dissolving of the Euroregion must be tabled with the Council until June 30th of the calendar year.

(3) Associated Members may require the termination of their membership by sending a written notification to the Council one month prior to the Council's subsequent meeting. Membership of Associated members is terminated by the Council.

(4) Upon termination of membership as laid down in the subparagraphs (1) to (3) of this Article, members are liable to pay their arrears and any incurring damages up to the amount defined by the Council on the basis of member's stakes in the Euroregion's common assets.

ARTICLE 13
Final Provisions

(1) Plenipotentiaries of the Government and the Government's Foreign Office are entitled to attend the meetings of the Euroregion's organizations and to receive relevant information about the Euroregion's activities.

(2) The first meeting of the Council will be convened by the Co-Presidents of the Euroregion's Preparatory Committee.

(3) Any amendment to this Deed of Foundation requires each Founding Member's prior consent and needs to be made in writing.

(4) Should conflicts arise among Founding Members of the Euroregion, they are entitled to appeal to the International Court in the Hague.

(5) This Deed of Foundation was drawn up in Hungarian, Slovak, and English languages.

ARTICLE 14

This Deed of Foundation shall enter into force on the day of signature by the plenipotentiaries of the governmental organizations in both countries.

In Miskolc, 1st December 2000

On behalf of the Slovak side:

For the City of Košice
JUDr. Zdenko Trebula
Lord Mayor

For the Regional Office in Košice
Ing. Štefan Vranovský
Head of the Office

On behalf of the Hungarian side:

For the City of Miskolc
Tamás Kobold
Mayor

For Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County
Dr. Ferenc Ódor
President

[Attila, Gergely: The Košice-Miskolc Euroregion. An Introduction, (= Teleki László Intézet. Külpolitikai Tanulmányok, No. 24/2001), Budapest 2001, S. 20-25.]

