

PROTOCOL
ON COOPERATION BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Parties”,

Willing to strengthen friendly relations and understanding traditionally existing between the two countries,

Willing to contribute to the development of the bilateral relations based on common interests, mutual understanding and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other Party,

Recognizing the potential derived from the common membership to the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for the promotion of security on the continent and its socio-economic development,

Being aware of the importance of regular consultations on bilateral relations and international issues of common interest,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall hold regular consultations to explore all aspects of bilateral relations and to exchange opinions on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the opportunity for undertaking joint initiatives.

Article 2

The consultations set forth in Article 1 of the present Protocol shall be held in an alternating manner in the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Bulgaria, whereby the Contracting Parties shall determine the agenda, the level of representation and the places of holding them through diplomatic channels.

Article 3

The bilateral consultations, upon the consent of both Contracting Parties, shall cover issues of political, economic, scientific, technological, cultural and other cooperation in the context of the membership in the EU and NATO.

The consultations shall focus on:

- (a) exploration of the opportunities for further expansion and deepening of the mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres of bilateral relations in accordance with the agreements signed between the two states;
- (b) review of the implementation of the bilateral treaties and agreements and the further expansion of the legal framework of bilateral relations through updating of the existing treaties and agreements in various spheres, as well as through the signing of new ones;
- (c) exchange of experience and recommendations on positions and issues related to:
 - the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP);
 - adoption, implementation and drafting of positions on the Community policies based on the *acquis communautaire*;
 - coordination at the national level on issues of the organizational and operational aspects of the activities and interactions of the EU institutions;
- (d) cooperation issues within the framework of the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international and regional organizations and fora on topical issues of common interest, including mutual support for nominations to international organizations;
- (e) the examination of other issues and problems of mutual interest to the Contracting Parties.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties shall exchange opinions on the international situation, including that in the regions of Eastern and South Eastern Europe, regional conflicts, peace and security issues, the fight against international terrorism, other global issues and international issues of mutual interest.

Article 5

The diplomatic representations of the Contracting Parties in third countries, at the UN, EU, NATO, OSCE, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organizations, as well as the delegations of both Contracting Parties to international fora and conferences shall communicate and consult, if necessary, on issues of mutual interest.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties hereby agree also to create favourable conditions for the maintenance of direct contacts and to make arrangements for the exchange of officials, experts and trainees from their respective administrations. This exchange shall be carried out on a short-term basis and it shall be oriented to the spheres identified in this Protocol. It shall be carried out once a year or at the request of either Contracting Party in a manner determined jointly through diplomatic channels.

Article 7

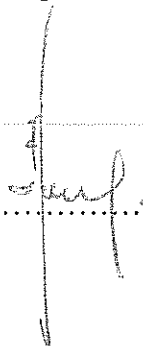
This Protocol may be amended and supplemented upon the mutual consent of the Contracting Parties.

Article 8

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall expire after three months upon receiving by the one of the Parties the notification of the other Party, informing about its termination.

Done at *Vilnius*..... on *16 March*..... 2009 in two original copies in the English language.

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania



For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Bulgaria

