

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
AND
THE SECRETARIAT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
ON
THE ACCELERATION OF THE INTEGRATION PROCESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA INTO THE EUROPEAN
UNION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and the Secretariat for European Affairs of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter referred as the “Parties”);

Building upon the Final Agreement for the Settlement of the Differences as Described in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993), the Termination of the Interim Accord of 1995, and the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership Between the Parties, done at Prespes, on 17 June 2018,

Reaffirming the Parties’ commitment to reinforcing good neighborly relations;

Recalling that good neighborly relations constitute an essential element of the accession process;

Taking into consideration that the Republic of North Macedonia has the strategic objective to become a member of the European Union;

Considering North Macedonia’s firm orientation towards the EU and renewed reform efforts aiming at further accelerating its European course;

Based on Greece’s commitment to further strengthening the European perspective of Western Balkans;

Taking into consideration the significant experience of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic regarding the functioning of EU institutions and the implementation of EU Policies;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Parties shall further enhance and encourage mutual cooperation and shall encourage such cooperation among state bodies and institutions, with a view to assisting North Macedonia in its European course, through the exchange of experience and expertise and know-how in the implementation of the EU policies.

Article II

The aforementioned cooperation will focus inter alia on political, economic, technological and cultural aspects of North Macedonia's European integration process and regional cooperation including by:

- a) Further promoting the political support of Greece to North Macedonia's EU integration process,
- b) Focusing on issues relating to EU enlargement and the Accession Process of North Macedonia (before opening the negotiations) and in the areas covered in the accession negotiation process (when the negotiation starts),
- c) Supporting North Macedonia's reform efforts in the context of its accession process,
- d) Sharing Greece's experience and know-how on the accession process,
- e) Promoting the development of institutional infrastructure in the public sector and
- f) Promoting capacity-building in the civil service, which could be achieved through the exchange and assistance of experts, training programs and seminars for civil servants and joint studies and research.

Article III

For the development and implementation of this Memorandum the Parties are willing to set up a Joint Committee through the exchange of Verbal Notes, with a view to exchanging ideas and proposals, as well as drawing up relevant Action Plans, during the second semester of every year.

The Joint Committee, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and the Secretariat for European Affairs of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, will hold regular meetings, at an appropriate level and composition to be decided by the two Parties, in order to:

- a) Prepare the activities mentioned above;
- b) Monitor the implementation of the cooperation programs, and;

- c) Resolve any issues which may arise regarding the implementation of the cooperation programs.

Communication between the Parties shall take place through diplomatic channels.

Article IV

The Parties shall examine the possibility of funding the Cooperation Programs and the action plans by using the mechanisms of institutional cooperation and funding which function in the framework of the EU or by respective national budgets according to their availability.

Article V

The present Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of the last verbal note by which the Parties inform each other that they have finalized their respective internal procedures required for its entry into force.

It shall remain in force for an indefinite period, unless either Party desires to denounce it by written notification through diplomatic channels.

This Memorandum shall expire six months after either Party receives the aforesaid written notification.

Done in, on, in two (2) original copies in the Macedonian, Greek and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in the interpretation of the Memorandum, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

For the Secretariat for European
Affairs of the Government of the
Republic of North Macedonia

Athanasia Anagnostopoulou
Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs

Bujar Osmani
Deputy Prime Minister
in charge of European Affairs

