



PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALTA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONTENEGRO

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

Desirous to further develop and strengthen bilateral ties, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation,

Working towards the preservation and promotion of international peace and cooperation in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and general principles of international law,

Aiming at contributing to economic growth and a sustainable, socially equitable development in Montenegro and to the political, economic and social reforms necessary for Montenegro to progressively adapt to the EU structures,

Reaffirming their commitment to promote European values and standards through mutual cooperation, as referred to in the criteria for EU membership described by the 1993 Copenhagen European Council - democracy, the rule of law, protection of human rights and respect for minorities, a functioning market economy and the ability to take on the *acquis communautaire* and

Highly appreciating the role of a political dialogue and consultations at different levels between the Parties on matters of mutual interest,

Have agreed as follows,

ARTICLE I

1. Ministers of Foreign Affairs and high-ranking officials of both Parties shall periodically hold consultations regarding promotion of bilateral relations, European integration, regional and other international matters of common interest.

If Parties deem necessary, consultations at official or expert levels shall also be organized.

2. The agenda of the consultations, meetings and exchanges of views shall, inter alia, include the following:

- a) issues related to the enhancement and deepening of bilateral political, economic, scientific, educational, environmental, cultural, humanitarian, judicial and police cooperation;
- b) assisting Montenegro in the process of integration to the European Union;
- c) strengthening of institutional mechanisms and administrative capacity on issues related to the development process of European integration and enlargement to new members;
- d) promoting the implementation of the foreign policy priorities of the EU;
- e) issues related to security, stability and cooperation in Europe, issues of global and regional security;
- f) cooperation in setting, presentation and implementation of projects of mutual interest performed in cooperation with the European Union or within the existing regional organizations and initiatives;
- g) cooperation in international institutions, including mutually supporting each other's candidatures;
- h) examining the possibility of encouraging line ministries to initiate proceedings of concluding bilateral agreements that would regulate the relations between the two countries in various areas of common interest;
- i) monitoring the implementation of bilateral agreements concluded between Montenegro and Malta;
- j) current issues in international relations and
- k) other issues of common interest agreed on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE II

The Parties shall in particular promote mutual cooperation in order to strengthen national institutional mechanisms related to issues of European integration.

For the implementation of commitments under paragraph 1 of this Article the Parties shall coordinate the annual program of specific activities.

ARTICLE III

The level of representation, dates, agenda and place of consultation shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The Parties shall promote the activities of already established joint working and expert groups and shall propose the establishment of others on the basis of mutual consent if necessary.

ARTICLE IV

The Parties' representatives in third countries, to international organizations and at international conferences and meetings, shall be encouraged to consult each other whenever necessary on issues of mutual interest.

ARTICLE V

This Protocol may be amended in writing upon mutual agreement between the Parties.

ARTICLE VI

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of its signature and remains in force for three (3) years, unless either Party gives a notice of termination through the diplomatic channels. In this case, termination shall enter into force three (3) months after the receipt of a notice in writing.

Done at *Podgorica* on *22nd July* 2010 in two originals in the Montenegrin and English, each version being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Malta

Laura Buge

For the Ministry of Foreign
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Veljko Ristić