

No. 14947

**SPAIN
and
VENEZUELA**

**Agreement on cultural co-operation. Signed at Madrid on
28 June 1973**

Authentic text: Spanish.

Registered by Spain on 28 July 1976.

**ESPAGNE
et
VENEZUELA**

**Accord de coopération culturelle. Signé à Madrid le 28 juin
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Texte authentique : espagnol.

Enregistré par l'Espagne le 28 juillet 1976.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Article 1. The High Contracting Parties, mindful of the ties that have traditionally united their peoples, shall encourage, by mutual agreement and to the utmost of their ability, all efforts to promote a better understanding of their culture and history and to develop activities in the fields of education, science, literature and the arts.

Article 2. The High Contracting Parties shall seek to safeguard the purity and integrity of the Spanish language and to foster its harmonious development. To this end, they shall support the activities of national and international cultural institutions dedicated to this objective, especially those of their respective Language Academies, and shall promote and facilitate relations and exchanges between them.

The High Contracting Parties shall grant special facilities to full members of the Spanish Royal Academy and the Venezuelan Language Academy for any travel they may undertake between the two countries in order to carry out work related to the aims and objectives of this Agreement.

Article 3. The Government of Venezuela shall establish an Institute in the city of Caracas for the purpose of conducting studies and research on the state and evolution of the Spanish language on the American continent. The Government of Spain shall provide the Institute with its co-operation and support. To this end, the High Parties shall conclude agreements specifying the form such co-operation will take.

Article 4. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to maintain close co-operation with a view to preventing and suppressing, in accordance with the laws of each country, illegal traffic in works of art, documents, books and other objects of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Without prejudice to such co-operation, the Governments of the High Contracting Parties shall examine and agree on the reciprocal system best suited to achieving these aims and facilitating the return to the country of origin of all such property which has been exported illegally and is in their territory.

Article 5. The High Contracting Parties shall facilitate travel and visits by teachers, scientists, writers, journalists, artists and other persons for the purpose of giving courses or lectures, writing or preparing works, literary articles, journalistic compositions and exhibitions or carrying out other similar activities on artistic, scientific, historical or literary subjects of interest to either of the two countries. Moreover, the High Contracting Parties shall promote visits and performances by national orchestras and national music, folklore and theatre groups and companies. To this end, they shall agree on special facilities, on a

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1976, the date of the last of the notifications (effected on 17 February and 1 July 1976) by which the Parties informed each other of the completion of their respective constitutional formalities.

reciprocal basis, for the granting of visas and for compliance with customs, taxation and other administrative procedures.

Article 6. The High Contracting Parties shall encourage the study, research and teaching of their common history. Accordingly, they shall take all possible and necessary steps to ensure that official or authorized texts to be used in the teaching of history and geography conform to the historical facts and evince mutual respect.

Furthermore, in view of the particular importance of archives, libraries and museums for the understanding and study of the history and geography of the two countries, the High Contracting Parties shall agree on special terms and conditions for access to such centres by their nationals.

Article 7. The High Contracting Parties shall promote and facilitate the holding of meetings, seminars, courses, colloquia and other activities for the study and research of historical events of interest to both countries. In addition, they shall promote exchanges between their cultural institutions engaged in historical studies, especially between their respective Academies of History. For such purposes, the High Contracting Parties shall grant, as appropriate and on a reciprocal basis, the same facilities that are provided for in article 2 of this Agreement.

Article 8. Artistic, literary, scientific, musical, theatrical, poetic and folkloric works, films, radio and television programmes and other similar works protected by the laws of one of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the territory under the jurisdiction of the other Party the same protection as the latter provides to such works in its own territory, without prejudice to the provisions of international agreements or conventions which are binding upon both Parties.

Article 9. The High Contracting Parties shall augment, in so far as possible, the exchange, distribution and sale of books, pamphlets, magazines and periodicals in such conditions as to make them available to the greatest numbers of readers. The High Contracting Parties shall endeavour to encourage the establishment and functioning of Spanish-Venezuelan publishing enterprises for the publication of educational texts or of those on culture in general, suitable for use in the respective official curricula.

Article 10. Through agreements concluded for the purpose, the High Contracting Parties shall determine which of their respective official publications and which of those issued by enterprises under State control are to be the subject of ongoing exchanges and shall specify those establishments, libraries or administrative offices for which such publications shall be intended. Without prejudice to the above provisions, the National Libraries of the two High Contracting Parties shall maintain special sections, within their respective organizations, to house works on the various aspects of life, history, geography, science, the arts, literature and all else of relevance to an understanding of the other country.

Article 11. The High Contracting Parties shall grant, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by their administrative rules, the necessary facilities for a strengthening of relations between their respective official radio and television stations, primarily through cultural, artistic, educational and folkloric programmes.

Article 12. The High Contracting Parties shall draw up special agreements to determine the ways in which their libraries, museums, educational centres and other public or private institutions may exchange original works of art or reproductions, photographs, slides, films, microfilms, documents, furniture, costumes, folkloric objects and any other items that recall or relate to the historical, artistic or archaeological heritage of either country.

Article 13. In view of the growing number of Spanish nationals attending courses in Venezuela and of Venezuelan students pursuing their studies in Spain, the High Contracting Parties expressly declare their willingness to protect and assist nationals of the other country and to encourage them to obtain the utmost benefit from their work.

Article 14. Nationals of either High Contracting Party who wish to enter and remain in the territory of the other for the sole purpose of pursuing specific studies may obtain free of charge the appropriate visa and a residence permit. The residence permit shall be granted for the full duration of the respective studies and may be extended if the person concerned so requests for a valid reason; the permit shall entitle the person concerned to sign leases for the rental of accommodation on behalf of himself and his family but shall not authorize him to engage in any gainful activity whatsoever. The same facilities shall be granted to persons who can attest that the purpose of their visit is to carry out missions related to the aims and purposes of this Agreement.

Article 15. The High Contracting Parties shall draw up tables of equivalence, by level, with a view to the pursuit of studies at the respective educational centres of all types and levels, taking into account existing legislation governing subjects of study which are not the same in both countries.

Article 16. Without prejudice to the rules governing the autonomy of universities in both countries, the High Contracting Parties shall ensure that the competent bodies examine and decide, in a spirit of equity and understanding, whether or not to grant requests for recognition of the equivalence and validity of university studies carried out by their nationals in the territory of the other Party and whether or not to accept applications for registration in courses leading to a doctorate.

Article 17. The High Contracting Parties agree to study the possibility of establishing, in accordance with their respective laws, educational centres whose courses shall be recognized as valid in both countries and, accordingly, to enter into a special agreement to this effect, if necessary. Furthermore, they shall consider the possibility of establishing cultural centres in both countries.

Article 18. The High Contracting Parties agree to establish, in Madrid, a college (*Colegio Mayor*) which shall be governed by administrative rules agreed upon by the Parties for this purpose and which shall provide accommodation and care for students from Venezuela and from other countries, in the proportion set by the relevant regulations.

Article 19. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement, the High Contracting Parties shall establish simultaneously a Co-ordinating Commission in Madrid and a Co-ordinating Commission in Caracas, composed of representatives of their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Relations, Ministries of Education and diplomatic missions. Either Government may, after so notifying the other Party, appoint to the Commissions any person or institution it deems

appropriate. The Co-ordinating Commissions shall meet whenever they are convened by their chairmen and, in any event, shall meet once a year in Madrid and Caracas, preferably in January, for the purpose of reviewing the state of application of this Agreement and of formulating relevant recommendations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement in two identical copies, both being equally valid and authentic, and have thereto affixed their seals, at Madrid, on twenty-eight June nineteen hundred and seventy-three.

For the Government
of the Spanish State:

[Signed]

LAUREANO LÓPEZ RODÓ
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government
of the Republic of Venezuela:

[Signed]

TOMÁS POLANCO ALCÁNTARA
Venezuelan Ambassador to Spain