

**No. 21854**

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**BELGIUM  
and  
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**Agreement on cultural co-operation. Signed at Brussels  
on 15 July 1980**

*Authentic texts: French, Dutch and Arabic.*

*Registered by Belgium on 13 April 1983.*

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**BELGIQUE  
et  
RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**

**Accord de coopération culturelle. Signé à Bruxelles le  
15 juillet 1980**

*Textes authentiques : français, néerlandais et arabe.*

*Enregistré par la Belgique le 13 avril 1983.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic,

Desiring to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries,

In the firm belief that cultural, educational and scientific co-operation will contribute to better mutual understanding and deeper friendship between the peoples of the two countries,

Having resolved to develop such co-operation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Have decided to conclude this Agreement and have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* The Contracting Parties shall take steps to promote and develop cultural, educational and scientific relations between the two countries through friendly co-operation.

They shall promote exchanges of knowledge in these fields to the greatest extent possible under their respective laws and regulations.

*Article 2.* The Contracting Parties shall promote cultural co-operation.

To that end:

1. They shall encourage action for promoting wider knowledge of their respective cultural values and achievements by organizing conferences, exhibitions and artistic events, the exchange of publications, documents and films and the translation of literary works;
2. They shall encourage co-operation and exchanges between youth organizations, sports associations and adult organizations and, in particular, promote training activities in these fields;
3. They shall encourage direct co-operation between their radio and television services;
4. They shall encourage direct contacts between associations, institutions and individuals active in the plastic arts, literature, the theatre, music, the cinema and public libraries;
5. They shall encourage co-operation between art colleges, science libraries, museums, theatres and other cultural institutions;
6. Each Party shall encourage the participation of its nationals in seminars, symposia, exhibitions, festivals and competitions, and in meetings of cultural experts organized by the other Contracting Party.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 14 January 1983, i.e., one month after the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Damascus on 14 December 1982, in accordance with article 8.

*Article 3.* The Contracting Parties shall promote educational co-operation.

To that end:

1. They shall encourage, by agreement with the institutions concerned, exchanges of teachers and scientific collaborators from institutions of higher education, museums and scientific establishments, facilitate their research work and accord them access to libraries and archives;
2. They shall encourage direct co-operation between their universities and other institutions of higher education;
3. Each Party shall award specialization fellowships to the other in order to enable its graduates to pursue post-graduate or arts studies in the institutions of the other Party. Each Party shall also award summer fellowships to the other Party;
4. They shall promote exchanges of educational experience at all levels. To this end, they shall arrange for exchanging experts and exchange information on their structures and methods;
5. They shall explore the possibilities of reaching agreement on the equivalence of diplomas and certificates;
6. Each Party shall promote the teaching of the languages and literatures of the other country in its institutions of higher education;
7. They shall both endeavour to promote study and knowledge of their respective cultural heritages in schools and universities. Each Party shall ensure that the history and way of life of the people of the other Party are presented, in all branches of the education system, with the utmost objectivity;
8. They shall encourage co-operation in archaeology and Arab and Islamic studies.

*Article 4.* The Contracting Parties shall promote scientific co-operation between their countries.

To that end:

1. They shall encourage co-operation between their scientific institutions, and between research institutes and centres;
2. Each Party shall award fellowships to the other in order to enable its researchers to conduct research in the scientific institutions of the other Party and shall, to that end, offer all facilities to the holders of such fellowships as are consistent with its laws and regulations;
3. They shall encourage the joint organization of scientific conferences, symposia and seminars;
4. They shall encourage the exchange of scientific and specialized publications.

*Article 5.* Each Contracting Party shall facilitate the establishment in its territory of centres for promoting the cultural activities of the communities of the other Party subject to their respective laws and regulations.

*Article 6.* The Contracting Parties shall facilitate, so far as possible and to the full extent of their respective laws and regulations, the circulation between the Parties of materials and objects required for fulfilling the objectives specified in this Agreement.

*Article 7.* For the purposes of the implementation of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall establish a Permanent Joint Commission of no more than five members from each Party.

The Commission shall comprise two sections, a Belgian section and a Syrian section, which shall meet in plenary session at least once every three years, alternately in Belgium and in the Syrian Arab Republic, to draw up work programmes.

The Commission may call upon the services of experts.

It shall hold its first session three months after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

*Article 8.* This Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Damascus.

It shall enter into force one month after the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

*Article 9.* This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. It may be denounced at any time on one month's notice by either Contracting Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Brussels on 15 July 1980, in duplicate, in the French, Dutch and Arabic languages, the three texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Belgium:  
CH.-F. NOTHOMB

For the Government  
of the Syrian Arab Republic:  
FARID EL-LAHHAM

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