

No. 23976

**SPAIN
and
PORTUGAL**

**Agreement on health co-operation. Signed at Lisbon on
12 November 1983**

Authentic texts: Spanish and Portuguese.

Registered by Spain on 25 February 1986.

**ESPAGNE
et
PORTUGAL**

**Accord de coopération sanitaire. Signé à Lisbonne le
12 novembre 1983**

Textes authentiques : espagnol et portugais.

Enregistré par l'Espagne le 25 février 1986.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ ON HEALTH CO-OPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

With a view to intensifying and strengthening their co-operation, as provided for in the Treaty of friendship and co-operation between Spain and Portugal signed at Madrid on 22 November 1977,²

Convinced that health co-operation will strengthen the traditional ties of friendship and good-neighbourliness between the two States,

The Government of Spain and the Government of the Portuguese Republic have agreed as follows:

Article 1. For the purposes of this Agreement, “Contracting Parties” means the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic.

Similarly, “competent authorities” means, in the case of the Kingdom of Spain, the Ministry of Health and Social Security and, in the case of the Portuguese Republic, the Ministry of Health.

Article 2. Health co-operation between the Contracting Parties shall be implemented through the establishment of a regular exchange of information and documentation covering the following areas:

- (a) Health legislation;
- (b) Organization of health services;
- (c) Study of health systems;
- (d) Health planning and evaluation;
- (e) Health administration studies;
- (f) Epidemiological data.

The competent authorities shall, through the Spanish-Portuguese Standing Commission on Health Questions (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”), as established in article 12 of this Agreement, communicate information directly to the competent services through normal channels, or, in the event of a health emergency, may establish direct contact between those services.

Article 3. The area of co-operation covered by this Agreement shall include the study of the possibilities of balanced use of health services, specifically:

- (a) Services providing first aid, hospital and emergency treatment in frontier areas;
- (b) Services providing highly specialized care, such as that intended for chronic kidney complaints, specific ophthalmological conditions and operable cardi-ological disorders, where joint planning and use is warranted because of the massive investment required.

¹ Came into force on 7 February 1986, i.e., 60 days after the Contracting Parties had notified each other (on 5 November and 9 December 1985) of the completion of the internal legal requirements, in accordance with article 14.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1090, p. 23.

Article 4. The Commission shall propose to the competent authorities the conditions for co-operation in medical emergencies, with a view to developing:

- (a) Standardized training of first-aid staff, staff of pre-hospital (emergency and transport) medical services and specialized personnel for intensive care units;
- (b) Co-operation in information and the provision of assistance on the highway to migrants and tourists;
- (c) Planning of mutual health assistance in the event of accidents or natural disasters, particularly in frontier areas.

Article 5. The competent authorities of the two countries shall co-operate in the area of epidemiology, and specifically in:

- (a) Conducting simultaneous and comparable epidemiological studies;
- (b) Prevention and control of diseases affecting specific population groups, such as seamen, migrants, tourists, etc.;
- (c) Control of quarantinable and other diseases considered of special importance for the purposes of international surveillance under WHO resolutions, WHA 22/47 and 22/48;
- (d) Mutual support in the use of prophylactic equipment and facilities.

Article 6. Aspects of public health directly or indirectly related to animal health and hygiene, specifically in the areas of prevention and control of animal diseases, inspection of foodstuffs of animal origin for human consumption and monitoring of livestock health, shall be governed by the Agreement on animal health between Spain and Portugal, signed at Lisbon on 28 February 1956.

Article 7. In the field of health education and, in particular, with regard to food and nutrition, the Contracting Parties shall take measures to:

- (a) Jointly create and prepare the material necessary for the development of health education programmes;
- (b) Establish permanent dynamic evaluation systems so that the necessary steps can be taken to deal effectively with specific situations in either country;
- (c) Standardize, as far as possible, legislation relating to health education, both in its positive aspects and in those relating to the control of commercial advertising and the role of the mass media.

Article 8. Co-operation in the area of the environment shall include the joint study of the following questions:

- (a) Drinking water supply;
- (b) Sewage treatment;
- (c) Control of rainwater pollution.

Article 9. The competent authorities shall promote the continuous exchange of information on medicines and, in particular, on:

- (a) Consumption of the various therapeutic groups;
- (b) Approval of new drugs;
- (c) Toxic and addictive effects of these drugs;
- (d) Provision of information to the public regarding use and abuse of these drugs.

Article 10. The purpose of co-operation between the Contracting Parties in training technical personnel in the health sector shall be to:

- (a) Promote the standardization of training programmes for physicians, health technicians, health auxiliaries and other health workers, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Council of Europe and with due regard to the fact that both countries have applied for membership of the European Economic Community;
- (b) Identify what types of specialists are needed in each country, the qualifications needed and the conditions for admission and selection criteria for entry into training courses.

In preparing health study plans and programmes, the competent authorities shall pay due regard to co-ordination between education services, health services and the health workers directly responsible, with a view to ensuring that academic training is tailored to actual professional requirements in both countries.

Article 11. The competent authorities of both Contracting Parties may negotiate and conclude the administrative agreements and development standards necessary for the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 12. A joint commission, to be known as the “Spanish-Portuguese Standing Commission on Health Questions”, shall be established for the implementation of this Agreement. It shall comprise an equal number of members appointed by the competent authorities of the two countries and shall include persons concerned with animal health and hygiene. The Commission shall have the powers vested in it under this Agreement, in addition to those assigned to it by the competent authorities.

Article 13. For the purposes of implementation, Working Groups shall be set up by the Commission to study how best to implement the Agreement.

In addition to the meetings of the Working Groups, the Commission shall hold annual plenary meetings, except in emergency situations when more frequent meetings may be required, to analyze on-going efforts, formulate guidelines and evaluate results achieved in the various areas of co-operation.

Article 14. The present Agreement shall remain in force for five years and shall be deemed to be automatically renewed for periods of five years unless one of the Contracting Parties denounces it in writing through the diplomatic channel, one year prior to the expiration of the current period.

This Agreement shall enter into force 60 days following the exchange of notes in which the Contracting Parties notify each other that they have completed the necessary internal legislative procedures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the representatives of both Contracting Parties sign the present Agreement.

DONE at Lisbon on 12 November 1983, in duplicate, in the official languages of the two States, both texts equally authentic.

For the Kingdom of Spain:

[Signed]

FERNANDO MORÁN
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Portuguese Republic
and for the Minister of Health:

[Signed]

JAIME JOSÉ MATOS DA GAMA