

No. 29544

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**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
and  
POLAND**

**Treaty on good neighbourly relations and friendly cooperation (with related letters). Signed at Bonn on 17 June 1991**

*Authentic texts: German and Polish.*

*Registered by Germany on 28 January 1993.*

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**RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE  
et  
POLOGNE**

**Traité de bon voisinage et de coopération amicale (avec lettres connexes). Signé à Bonn le 17 juin 1991**

*Textes authentiques : allemand et polonais.*

*Enregistré par l'Allemagne le 28 janvier 1993.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TREATY<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND ON GOOD NEIGHBOURLY  
RELATIONS AND FRIENDLY COOPERATION

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The Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland,

In the endeavour to close the painful chapters of the past, and determined to pick up the thread of the good traditions and friendly coexistence over the centuries-long history of Germany and Poland,

In view of the historic changes in Europe, in particular the establishment of German unity, and the profound political, economic and social change in Poland,

Convinced of the need to overcome the division of Europe once and for all and to establish a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe,

Aware of their common interests and their common responsibility for the building of a new, free Europe, unified by human rights, democracy and constitutionality,

Firmly convinced that, by realizing the long-standing wish of both their peoples for understanding and reconciliation, they are making a weighty contribution to the maintenance of peace in Europe,

Recognizing that economic cooperation is a necessary element in the development of comprehensive mutual relations on a stable and firm foundation, in the mitigation of the disparity in development and in the strengthening of trust between the two countries and their peoples, and also wishing to expand and intensify this cooperation substantially in the future,

Aware of the importance that the membership of the Federal Republic of Germany in the European Community and the political and economic drawing of the Republic of Poland into the ambit of the European Community have for the future relations of the two States,

Having in mind the unmistakable contribution of the German and Polish peoples to the common cultural heritage of Europe and the centuries-long mutual enrichment of both peoples' cultures and the importance of cultural exchange for mutual understanding and reconciliation of peoples,

Convinced that the younger generation has a special role to play in placing the relations between the two countries and peoples on a new footing and building trust between them,

In appreciation of the Treaty of 14 November 1990 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland concerning the demarcation of the established and existing Polish-German state frontier,<sup>2</sup>

Have agreed as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 January 1992 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Warsaw, in accordance with article 38 (1) and (2).

<sup>2</sup> See p. 377 of this volume.

### Article 1

1. The Contracting Parties shall shape their relations in a spirit of good neighbourliness and friendship. They shall strive for close, peaceful cooperation, based on principles of partnership, in all spheres. In a spirit of European responsibility, they shall endeavour to realize the wish of both their peoples for lasting understanding and reconciliation.

2. The Contracting Parties shall strive for the creation of a Europe in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and borders lose their dividing nature, *inter alia*, through the bridging of economic and social disparities.

### Article 2

The Contracting Parties profess their commitment, in shaping their relations and in matters relating to peace, security and cooperation in Europe and in the world, in particular to the following principles:

- The primary goal of their policy shall be to keep and strengthen the peace and reliably to prevent any type of war.
- They shall act in consonance with international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and with the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, of 1 August 1975,<sup>1</sup> the Charter of Paris for a New Europe of 21 November 1990<sup>2</sup> and the documents of the CSCE follow-up meetings.
- They shall mutually respect their sovereign equality, their territorial integrity, the inviolability of their borders, their political independence and the principle of the prohibition of the threat or the use of violence.
- They shall confirm the right of all peoples and States to determine their fate freely and without external interference, and to shape their political, economic, social and cultural development as they see fit.
- They shall place the human person with his dignity and rights, and concern for the survival of humanity and preservation of the natural environment at the centre of their policy.
- They shall clearly and unequivocally condemn totalitarianism, racism, hatred between groups of people, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and discrimination against any individual, as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds.
- They shall look upon minorities and analogous groups as natural bridges between the German and Polish peoples and are confident that these minorities and groups will make a valuable contribution to the life of their societies.
- They shall confirm the direct applicability of the general rules of international law in domestic law and in international relations and shall be determined to fulfill their treaty obligations conscientiously. They shall implement the Final Act of Helsinki, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the other CSCE documents in all spheres.

<sup>1</sup> *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth session*, document No. A/45/859, p. 3.

### *Article 3*

1. The Contracting Parties shall hold regular consultations in order to ensure further development and intensification of bilateral relations and to harmonize their positions on international matters.

2. Consultations at the head-of-Government level shall take place as often as required, but at least once a year.

3. The foreign ministers shall be responsible for seeing that this treaty is implemented as a whole. They shall meet at least once a year for consultations. Senior officials of the two foreign ministries responsible for political, economic and cultural affairs shall meet regularly, at least once a year, for consultations.

4. Other ministers, including the defence ministers, shall have regular contact. The same shall be true for senior officials of the other ministries concerned.

5. The already existing joint commissions shall where possible intensify their work. New mixed commissions shall where needed be established, after mutual agreement.

### *Article 4*

The Contracting Parties shall support contacts and exchange of experience between the parliaments to promote bilateral relations and with a view to international parliamentary cooperation.

### *Article 5*

1. The Contracting Parties affirm that they will refrain from the threat or use of force which is directed against the territorial integrity or the political independence of the other party or which is in any other way incompatible with the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the Final Act of Helsinki.

2. The Contracting Parties shall settle their conflicts exclusively by peaceful means and never use any of their weapons, except for individual or collective self-defence. They shall never under any circumstances be the first to deploy armed forces against each other.

3. The Contracting Parties shall strengthen peace for Europe as a whole by building up cooperative security structures. Accordingly, they shall do everything in their power, in full implementation of the Final Act of Helsinki, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the other CSCE documents, to support the process of security and cooperation in Europe, and in cooperation with all the CSCE participating States, to further strengthen and develop it.

### *Article 6*

1. The Contracting Parties shall have the common goal, in a changing political and military environment in Europe, to work towards strengthening stability and increasing security. They shall cooperate in particular to take advantage of the new possibilities arising for common efforts in the sphere of security.

2. The Contracting Parties shall advocate reduction of armed forces and armaments, through binding and effectively verifiable agreements, to the lowest possible level adequate to ensure defence but not to permit attack.

3. The Contracting Parties shall, also jointly, strive for multilateral and bilateral development of confidence-building and stabilizing measures, as well as other

weapons-control policy measures which strengthen stability and confidence and lead to greater transparency.

#### *Article 7*

Should a situation arise which, in the view of one Contracting Party, represents a threat to peace or a breach of it, or may give rise to dangerous international complications, both Contracting Parties shall immediately establish contact with each other and endeavour to harmonize their positions and achieve agreement on appropriate measures for improving the situation or coping with it.

#### *Article 8*

1. The Contracting Parties attach the greatest importance to the goal of European unity based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and shall strive towards achievement of this unity.

2. By concluding an agreement of association between the European Communities and the Republic of Poland, the European Communities, their member States and the Republic of Poland shall lay the foundations for a political and economic approach of the Republic of Poland to the European Community. The Federal Republic of Germany shall further this approach to the extent possible.

3. The Federal Republic of Germany favourably views the prospect of accession of the Republic of Poland to the European Community as soon as the prerequisites for accession have been realized.

#### *Article 9*

1. The Contracting Parties shall strive towards an expansion and diversification of their economic relations in all spheres. In the context of their domestic laws and their commitments arising from international treaties, including commitments of the Federal Republic of Germany arising out of membership in the European Community, they shall create the most favourable framework conditions, particularly in the economic, legal and organizational spheres, for natural and juridical persons to carry out economic, including entrepreneurial, activities.

2. The Contracting Parties are in agreement that the economic reform process that has been introduced in the Republic of Poland should be promoted through international cooperation. The Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to work both bilaterally and multilaterally towards support for Poland's economic development in the context of a fully developed social market economy. In addition, the conditions for a substantial closing of the development gap should thereby be realized.

3. The Contracting Parties shall in particular support the development of cooperation in the areas of investment and capital placement, as well as industrial cooperation between German and Polish enterprises, taking full advantage of all available promotion instruments. In this connection, particular attention will be paid to cooperation between small and medium-sized firms and businesses.

4. The Contracting Parties attach importance in the development of bilateral relations to cooperation in the training and further training of technical personnel and managers for the economy, and are prepared to build it up and reinforce it considerably.

*Article 10*

1. The Contracting Parties recognize the importance of normal finance and credit relations as a factor in the process of economic reform of the Republic of Poland, and also for the strengthening and stimulation of their general relations. In the context of their commitments arising out of international agreements and in that of their domestic rules, they shall pursue their efforts to create favourable preconditions for the further development of their financial cooperation. In this connection, they are aware of the importance of export credit guarantees for strengthening their economic relations.

2. The Contracting Parties confirm their readiness, bearing in mind mutual interests and the existing cooperation on both sides with other countries, to work together in the context of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as other multilateral financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

3. The Contracting Parties are of the view that solving the problem of the Polish debt is an important prerequisite for the success of the economic reforms that have been introduced in the Republic of Poland. Therefore, they shall continue to cooperate in this area.

*Article 11*

The Contracting Parties are in agreement concerning the special importance of their cooperation in the production of agricultural produce, its processing, transport and storage, and the establishment and promotion of modern high-capacity agricultural enterprises which maintain cooperative relations with the food and food-processing industry and trade.

*Article 12*

1. The Contracting Parties attach great importance to cooperative partnership between regions, cities, communities and other regional authorities, especially those near the borders.

2. The Contracting Parties shall facilitate and promote this cooperation in all areas, and especially the work of the Government Commission for Regional and Border Cooperation.

3. The Contracting Parties shall be guided in regional and border cooperation especially by the relevant conventions of the Council of Europe. They shall seek inclusion of this cooperation in the work of the relevant European bodies.

*Article 13*

The Contracting Parties are in agreement that, in a Europe that is growing together, harmonization of the area planning policies of individual States, in particular in the case of immediately neighbouring States, is necessary. They shall therefore cooperate in area planning policy matters across their borders at all levels.

*Article 14*

1. The Contracting Parties shall develop and reinforce their relations, on the basis of their agreements in the area of social security and labour and social policy cooperation.

2. The Federal Republic of Germany shall extend assistance in the form of consultation to the Republic of Poland in the reorganization of the social security system, job promotion and labour relations.

#### *Article 15*

1. The Contracting Parties shall develop and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation between the two States in accordance with the principles of equality of rights and mutual advantage, taking into account the possibilities of modern science and technology, for the benefit of the people, for peaceful purposes and for the enhancement of prosperity.

2. The Contracting Parties shall, on the basis of existing agreements, enlarge cooperation in these areas and shall convert its results into joint plans.

3. The Contracting Parties shall support the initiatives of scientists and research institutions which are focusing on a dynamic, harmonious and comprehensive development of this cooperation.

4. The Contracting Parties shall support an intensive exchange of information and scientific and technical documentation, and facilitate access to scientific research institutes, archives, libraries and similar facilities.

#### *Article 16*

1. The Contracting Parties attach great importance to averting threats to the environment and to preserving natural conditions for life, in the interests of current and future generations. They affirm their determination to continue their cooperation in environmental protection on the basis of existing agreements, and also to develop it further by treaty.

2. Surveying and eliminating environmental burdens in the border region, especially in the catchment basin of the Oder, shall be foremost concerns of cooperation.

3. The Contracting Parties shall, in addition, strive for the development of harmonized strategies for a regional and international environmental policy, with the aim of a lasting and environmentally sustainable development in Europe.

#### *Article 17*

The Contracting Parties shall work together to help each other in the event of catastrophes and serious accidents.

#### *Article 18*

1. The Contracting Parties aspire to an extension of air, rail, road and sea and inland waterway transport links, using the most advanced technologies.

2. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to establish favourable framework conditions for the use of their transport links in the case both of movements between their territories and of transit movements.

3. The Contracting Parties shall strive to extend, improve and harmonize communication links, taking into account European and international developments in standardization and technology. This holds in particular for telephone, telex and data links.

### Article 19

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate steps to promote and facilitate travel and tourism.

2. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to improve and speed up customs and border control formalities on a mutual basis and to develop cooperation between the relevant administrative offices further.

3. The Contracting Parties intend to develop and modernize existing border crossings in line with the volume of traffic and to establish new border crossings as required.

### Article 20

1. Members of the German minority in the Republic of Poland, i.e., persons having Polish nationality who are of German origin or who affirm that they belong to the community of German language, culture or tradition, as well as persons having German nationality in the Federal Republic of Germany who are of Polish origin or affirm that they belong to the community of Polish language, culture or tradition, shall have the right, individually or in community with other members of their group, freely to express, to preserve and further to develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, free from any attempts to assimilate them against their will. They shall have the right to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully and effectively, without any discrimination whatsoever and in complete equality before the law.

2. The Contracting Parties shall implement the rights and obligations of the international standard for minorities, in particular in accordance with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,<sup>1</sup> the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 4 November 1950,<sup>2</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 7 March 1966,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966,<sup>4</sup> the Helsinki Final Act of 1 August 1975, the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting on the Human Dimension of CSCE of 29 June 1990, and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe of 21 November 1990.

3. The Contracting Parties declare that the persons referred to in paragraph 1 shall in particular have the right, individually or in community with other members of their group:

- To use their mother tongue freely, both privately and in public, to disseminate and exchange information in it and to have access to such information;
- To found and to maintain their own educational, cultural and religious facilities, organizations or associations, which may seek voluntary financial or other contributions and public support, in line with national laws, and which shall have access to the media in their region on an equal footing;

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session*, part. I, p. 71.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Treaty Series*, vol. 213, p. 221.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, p. 195.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 999, p. 171; vol. 1057, p. 407 (rectification of the Spanish authentic text); vol. 1059, p. 451 (corrigendum to vol. 999).



- To confess themselves to their religion and to exercise it, including the acquisition, ownership and the use of religious materials, and to hold religious education in their mother tongue;
- To establish and maintain unhampered contacts among themselves within the country, and also contacts across boundaries with citizens of other countries with whom they share a common ethnic or national origin, a common cultural heritage or religious faith;
- To express their given and family names in the mother tongue form;
- To establish and maintain organizations or associations in their country and to collaborate in international non-governmental organizations;
- To have the same recourse as everyone to effective legal remedies to realize their rights, in accordance with national laws.

4. The Contracting Parties confirm that membership in the groups referred to in paragraph 1 is a matter for an individual's personal decision, and may not place him at any disadvantage.

#### *Article 21*

1. The Contracting Parties shall protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1, in their territories and shall create conditions for the promotion of this identity. They recognize the special importance of a strengthened constructive cooperation in this area. The latter shall strengthen the living together in peace and the good neighbourliness of the German and Polish peoples and contribute towards understanding and reconciliation between them.

2. The Contracting Parties shall in particular:

In the context of laws in force, make possible and facilitate for each other measures of promotion in favour of the members of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1, or their organizations;

- Endeavour to guarantee to members of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1, notwithstanding the necessity to learn the official language of the country in question, and in line with the applicable national laws, appropriate opportunities for teaching of their mother tongue or in their mother tongue in institutions of public education and also, wherever possible and necessary, for use of the mother tongue for official purposes;
- In connection with the teaching of history and culture in educational institutions, take account of the history and culture of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1;
- Respect the right of members of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1, to take part effectively in public affairs, including collaboration in affairs relating to the protection and promotion of their identity;
- Take in this connection the necessary measures, after appropriate consultations in accordance with the decision-making processes of the country in question, which consultations shall include contacts with organizations or associations of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1.

3. The Contracting Parties shall, with reference to the matters addressed in this Article and in Articles 20 and 22, apply the provisions of Article 3.

### *Article 22*

1. None of the obligations arising out of Articles 20 and 21 may be interpreted in such a way that they establish the right to engage in an activity or carry out an act that is in contradiction to the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, other obligations under international law or the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, including the principle of the territorial integrity of States.

2. Every member of the groups referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1, in the Republic of Poland or in the Federal Republic of Germany, shall be bound, in accordance with the above provisions, to be loyal, like any citizen, to the country in question, in that he respects the obligations that arise out of that country's laws.

### *Article 23*

1. The Contracting Parties shall intensify and develop cultural exchanges in all areas and at all levels, on the basis of the agreements and programmes existing between them, thereby contributing to the European cultural identity. They shall in particular support cooperation between associations of artists, and cultural institutions and organizations, and shall also promote direct contacts between German and Polish artists.

2. The existing Joint Commission shall meet at least once a year to examine the status of the cultural exchange in all areas and to reach agreements on the next undertakings.

### *Article 24*

The Contracting Parties shall breathe life into and fully implement the agreement on the establishment and the activities of culture institutes.

### *Article 25*

1. Each of the Contracting Parties affirms its willingness to provide comprehensive access for all interested persons to the language and culture of the other country, and shall support appropriate State and private initiatives and institutions.

2. Each of the Contracting Parties shall intensify its promotion of the dissemination of classical and contemporary literature of the other country in the original language and in translation.

3. Each of the Contracting Parties strongly advocates development of the opportunities to learn the language of the other country in schools, institutions of higher education and other educational institutions. In this connection, efforts shall be made to establish schools in which instruction is imparted in both languages. In addition, each shall endeavour to enlarge the opportunities for pursuing German and Polish studies at the institutions of advanced education of the other country.

4. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the assignment of teachers, the training and further training of instructors and the development and provision of teaching materials, including the use of television and radio, and audio, video and computer technology.

5. The work of the independent German-Polish school book commission shall continue to be promoted.

*Article 26*

1. The Contracting Parties stress the need for considerable expansion of scientific and educational cooperation. They shall in particular promote and further develop direct cooperation and exchanges between schools, institutions of higher education and scientific research institutes, both through exchanges of pupils, students, teachers and scientific instructors and also through joint undertakings.

2. The Contracting Parties affirm their intention to consider possibilities for mutual recognition of study periods and diplomas from institutions of higher education.

*Article 27*

The Contracting Parties attach great importance to cooperation in vocational training and shall expand and intensify such cooperation by means of appropriate agreements.

*Article 28*

1. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the preservation and nurture of the European cultural heritage. They shall support the preservation of monuments.

2. The Contracting Parties shall take special care of the places and cultural assets in their respective territories that bear witness to historical events and cultural and scientific achievements of the other side, and shall provide free and unhindered access to them, or endeavour to see that such access is provided, where the State does not have authority to guarantee it. Such places and cultural assets shall be placed under the protection of the laws of the respective Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties shall take joint initiatives in this area, in a spirit of understanding and reconciliation.

3. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour, in the same spirit, to solve problems relating to cultural assets and archives, beginning with individual cases.

*Article 29*

1. The Contracting Parties shall promote comprehensive personal encounters between their citizens, in the conviction that the development of interpersonal contacts is an essential precondition for understanding and reconciliation between the two peoples.

2. The Contracting Parties support a closer cooperation between parties, trade unions, churches and religious communities, sports organizations, foundations and other social organizations and associations.

3. The Contracting Parties support the activity of the German-Polish Forum. They welcome its efforts, involving all representative political and social forces in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland, to evolve concepts for the further development of German-Polish relations and to take the relevant initiatives.

*Article 30*

1. The Contracting Parties are convinced that it is of fundamental importance for the younger generation to become acquainted with each other and to come to understand each other in order to give permanent character to the understanding and reconciliation between the German and Polish peoples. They therefore place par-

ticularly great emphasis on the most comprehensive possible contacts and close cooperation between German and Polish youth. The Contracting Parties shall therefore promote encounters and exchanges of young people in every manner, to the extent of their financial possibilities. All young people and youth organizations in both countries shall be entitled to participate in encounters and joint undertakings.

2. The Contracting Parties shall establish a German-Polish youth welfare organization. The legal form, objectives and financing shall be the subject of a separate treaty.

#### *Article 31*

1. The Contracting Parties advocate cooperation by the media, especially television, radio and the print media. This cooperation shall above all serve the goal of understanding and reconciliation between the German and the Polish peoples.

2. Each of the Contracting Parties agrees that publications and supplements to daily and weekly newspapers may be freely produced, distributed and read in the language of the other country. Publications from the other country may, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, be imported and distributed without restriction. This shall also hold for gift subscriptions and publications distributed through the Parties' representations abroad.

#### *Article 32*

1. The Federal Republic of Germany declares that Polish graves in the Federal Republic of Germany will be respected and their tending will be made possible. The graves of Polish victims of wars and tyranny located in the Federal Republic of Germany shall be under the protection of the German laws and shall be preserved and tended.

2. The Republic of Poland declares that German graves in the Republic of Poland will be respected and their tending will be made possible. The graves of German victims of wars and tyranny located in the Republic of Poland shall be under the protection of the Polish laws and shall be preserved and tended.

3. The Contracting Parties shall support cooperation between the organizations and institutions that are responsible on both sides for the graves of victims of wars and tyranny. They shall in particular enable these organizations and institutions to record, maintain and tend such graves.

#### *Article 33*

1. The Contracting Parties shall further develop and intensify consular and judicial relations, including judicial assistance in civil cases, criminal cases and social and administrative matters, taking into account their legal systems and existing multilateral and bilateral agreements, in particular the Conventions of the Council of Europe, and shall simplify these relations to the advantage of their citizens.

2. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in combating organized crime, terrorism, economic criminality, drugs criminality, illegal trade in works of art, illegal disruption of civil aviation and marine shipping, and the production and circulation of counterfeit money. Procedures and conditions for this cooperation shall be agreed separately.

*Article 34*

1. The Contracting Parties shall promote a comprehensive cooperation in specific areas of preventive medicine and in joint action to combat epidemics and diseases such as heart and circulatory diseases, cancer and AIDS.

2. The Federal Republic of Germany shall provide assistance to the Republic of Poland in converting the State health system into a medical insurance system.

*Article 35*

The Contracting Parties shall endow a joint prize for outstanding service to the development of German-Polish relations. The prize shall be awarded each year by a committee whose terms of reference shall be the subject of a separate agreement.

*Article 36*

The Contracting Parties shall strengthen their cooperation in the context of international organizations, especially European organizations. They shall assist each other in developing cooperation with international, in particular European, organizations and institutions of which one Contracting Party is a member, if the other Contracting Party indicates an interest to that effect.

*Article 37*

This treaty is not directed against anyone. It shall not affect the rights and obligations arising out of bilateral and multilateral agreements in force that have been concluded by the Contracting Parties with other States.

*Article 38*

1. This treaty shall require ratification; the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Warsaw as soon as possible.

2. This treaty shall enter into force on the day on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

3. This treaty shall remain in force for a period of ten years. Thereafter it shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of five years unless one of the Contracting Parties denounces the treaty in writing, one year before the expiry of the current term of validity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of the Contracting Parties have signed the present treaty and affixed their seals.

DONE at Bonn on 17 June 1991, in two originals, each being in the German and Polish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Federal Republic of Germany:

Dr. HELMUT KOHL

HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER

For the Republic of Poland:

JAN KRZYSZTOF BIELECKI

KRZYSZTOF SKUBISZEWSKI

## RELATED LETTERS

## I

THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Bonn, 17 June 1991

Dear Sir,

In connection with the signature today of the treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland on good neighbourly relations and friendly cooperation, I wish to recall that, during the negotiations, the following declarations were made:

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declares that it is making every effort to make it possible for persons living in the Federal Republic of Germany who are of Polish origin or who affirm that they belong to the community of Polish language, culture or tradition and who are not covered by the provisions of Article 20, paragraph 1, to enjoy to a large extent the rights referred to in Article 20 and the opportunities referred to in Article 21.

2. The Government of the Republic of Poland declares that the prospect of accession by the Republic of Poland to the European Community mentioned in Article 8, paragraph 3, will increasingly create opportunities for facilitating settlement of German citizens in the Republic of Poland.

3. The head of the Polish delegation declares:

The Ministerial Council of the Republic of Poland, through Decision No. 142 of 7 September 1990, established a Commission for National Minorities, with a view to realizing the rights of Polish citizens who are members of national minorities, including the German minority. The Commission appoints an advisory board consisting of representatives of the national minorities.

The following are among the main tasks of the Commission:

- The development of positions and proposals for realizing the rights and meeting the needs of members of minorities;
- Measures of protection against violation of these rights;
- Education of the Polish public concerning the problems of the national minorities;
- Development of a government programme for measures in this area.

In the voivodships with national minorities, the position of Commissioner for Minorities has been established.

Matters relating to minorities are also a subject of permanent interest of the Sejm Commission for Matters relating to National and Ethnic Minorities.

4. The Government of the Republic of Poland declares that, for the time being, it sees no possibility of recognizing official topographical names also in the German language in traditional settlement areas of the German minority in the Republic of Poland.

Bearing in mind the interest of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in the question of these topographical names, the Government of the Republic of Poland is willing to examine the matter in due course.

5. Both sides declare jointly:

The present treaty is not concerned with matters of nationality nor with matters of assets.

Accept, Sir, etc.

HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Poland  
Dr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski

## II

REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Warsaw, 17 June 1991

Dear Sir,

In connection with the signature today of the treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on good neighbourly relations and friendly cooperation, I wish to recall that, during the negotiations, the following declarations were made:

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declares that it is making every effort to make it possible for persons living in the Federal Republic of Germany who are of Polish origin or who affirm that they belong to the community of Polish language, culture or tradition and who are not covered by the provisions of Article 20, paragraph 1, to enjoy to a large extent the rights referred to in Article 20 and the opportunities referred to in Article 21.

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Accept, Sir, etc.

KRZYSZTOF SKUBISZEWSKI

His Excellency the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher  
Bonn

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