

No. 30626

**FRANCE
and
BULGARIA**

**Treaty of understanding, friendship and cooperation. Signed
at Paris on 18 February 1992**

Authentic texts: French and Bulgarian.

Registered by France on 11 January 1994.

**FRANCE
et
BULGARIE**

**Traité d'entente, d'amitié et de coopération. Signé à Paris le
18 février 1992**

Textes authentiques : français et bulgare.

Enregistré par la France le 11 janvier 1994.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TREATY¹ OF UNDERSTANDING, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria,

Considering the close bonds of friendship and the manifold relations that have been forged throughout history between their peoples,

Wishing to strengthen them by developing cooperation in all fields with a view to establishing a true partnership between them,

Convinced of the need to strengthen European solidarity on the basis of the universal values of freedom, democracy and justice,

Reaffirming their faithfulness to the obligations arising from international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the importance of the commitments they have entered into under the Helsinki Final Act² and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,³ and earnestly appealing for the establishment of mechanisms for security and cooperation throughout the continent of Europe,

Encouraged by the progress made in overcoming the former divisions in Europe and concerned to prevent the emergence of new divisions and to work for the stabilization and development of South-Eastern Europe,

Stressing the prime importance of economic cooperation for the development of their bilateral relations,

Taking account of the prospect of a European Union and hoping that it will make a decisive contribution to the building of a united and mutually supportive Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria agree to cooperate actively in all fields in a spirit of mutual respect and trust and, basing themselves on the principles of democracy that they share, undertake to promote closer relations between their peoples in a united Europe.

2. The Parties shall conclude such other agreements and arrangements as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Treaty.

Article 2

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall work to bring about a peaceful and interdependent Europe.

¹ Came into force on 14 October 1993, i.e., 30 days after the date of receipt of the last instrument of ratification, in accordance with article 16 (1).

² *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

³ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session (A/45/859)*, p. 3.

To that end, they shall develop political, economic and cultural cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally; they shall take steps to ensure that Europe as a whole becomes a community based on the rule of law and democratic principles and that ensures its own security.

2. The French Republic undertakes to promote the development and expansion of relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Communities.

It shall support the speedy conclusion of an association agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Communities.

It shall support the efforts of the Republic of Bulgaria to establish the preconditions for its full integration into the European Communities.

3. The French Republic shall regard the admission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe as an important factor to be taken into account with a view to its integration into a united Europe that could assume the form of a confederation.

4. The commitments entered into by the French Republic under bilateral agreements with the Republic of Bulgaria shall respect the areas of competence of the European Communities and the provisions laid down by their institutions.

Article 3

The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall cooperate in the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of security in Europe with a view to establishing a European zone of peace, security and cooperation.

Within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, they shall work to strengthen stability and confidence in the continent of Europe, bearing in mind each Party's specific security interests. They shall also actively pursue a balanced process of conventional disarmament and of confidence-building and enhanced transparency based on the effective implementation of the principle of sufficiency by all States and on observance of all conditions for security in Europe.

They shall contribute to the establishment and efficient operation of structures and machinery conducive to the strengthening of the process being conducted through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the creation of the conditions for genuine security for all European States.

Article 4

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall hold regular meetings, at the appropriate levels, in order to exchange views on their bilateral relations and on international problems of common interest, especially on basic questions relating to security and cooperation in Europe.

2. Consultations at the highest level shall be held at intervals decided by common accord.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries shall meet at least once a year.

Working meetings between representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs shall be held regularly.

Article 5

Taking into account the fundamental changes that have taken place in Europe with regard to security and, in particular, the end of confrontation, the French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall develop and expand their relations in the military area and engage in regular exchanges of views on their approaches to political and military affairs.

To that end, they shall promote contacts and cooperation involving the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Defence, as well as the army staff of their two States.

Article 6

Should a situation arise, particularly in Europe, which, in the opinion of one of the Parties, would create a threat to peace or a breach of the peace or would threaten its major security interests, that Party may submit a request to the other Party that consultations should be held between them on that matter without delay. They shall endeavour to adopt a joint position on ways of addressing the situation. The two Parties shall cooperate within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and of the United Nations.

Article 7

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall develop their economic cooperation and create a favourable environment for that purpose.

The Parties recognize the importance of such cooperation for the success of the economic reform measures implemented by the Republic of Bulgaria and for its gradual integration into a European community.

2. Each Party shall endeavour to improve the conditions for the activities of enterprises of the other Party in its territory. The Parties shall encourage direct investment, the establishment of joint ventures, exchanges of know-how and the training of economic and social actors, company management staff and civil servants.

3. Regular meetings shall be held to strengthen economic, scientific and technological cooperation. They shall take place in the Joint Economic Cooperation Committee or in other bodies which already exist or which may be established.

4. The Parties shall endeavour to cooperate bilaterally and in the European context in the following areas:

- Macroeconomic problems;
- Privatization of public enterprises;
- Exchanges of economic data;
- Public finance and statistics;
- Management of public enterprises;
- Management of public utilities.

5. The Parties shall cooperate, having regard to their mutual interests and in conjunction with other States, within the framework of multilateral economic and financial institutions, in particular the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Article 8

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria undertake to extend their cooperation in the following key areas:

- Agriculture;
- The agri-foodstuffs sector;
- Energy;
- Infrastructure and construction;
- Transport;
- Modernization of industry (especially the mechanical and chemical industries);
- Telecommunications;
- Urban services;
- Tourism;
- Modernization of the health system.

2. In their cooperation, the two Parties shall give special attention to:

- Environmental protection;
- Safeguarding of the ecological balance of the Black Sea;
- Prevention of natural disasters and technological risks and treatment of their consequences;
- Modernization of Bulgarian nuclear power stations.

3. With that end in view, the Parties shall endeavour to facilitate contacts between their administrations and to engage in exchanges of experts and scientific and technological data.

4. The French Republic shall promote the access of the Republic of Bulgaria to multilateral scientific and technological cooperation programmes.

Article 9

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, wishing to develop relations between the French and Bulgarian peoples and to further the creation of a common European cultural area open to all the peoples of the continent, shall strengthen their cooperation in the fields of science, technology, education and culture, attaching special importance to training, particularly in economic management.

2. The French Republic shall support the efforts of the Republic of Bulgaria to be admitted to the group of countries that have in common the use of the French language.

The Republic of Bulgaria shall give special support to the teaching and use of the French language.

The French Republic shall encourage the study of the Bulgarian language in France.

The two Parties shall attach special importance to language training, which is a prerequisite for lasting cooperation.

3. The Parties shall contribute to the development of relations between research bodies and higher educational establishments by encouraging the preparation of joint scientific projects consistent with corresponding European programmes.

4. The Parties shall attach major importance to the activities of their cultural centres.

5. To ensure better mutual acquaintance between the French and Bulgarian peoples, the Parties shall support the development of cultural and artistic exchanges. They shall promote cooperation in the media and the dissemination of books and the press of the partner country.

Article 10

The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall encourage contacts between nationals of the two States, in particular exchanges between French and Bulgarian youth.

To that end, they shall, in particular, promote direct cooperation between schools, grammar schools, higher educational establishments and scientific institutes through exchanges of pupils, students, teachers and researchers and exchanges between associations.

Article 11

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall promote cooperation between the Parliaments and parliamentarians of the two States.

2. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall intensify their legal and administrative cooperation.

Article 12

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall encourage decentralized cooperation, especially twinning arrangements between local communities, in accordance with the objectives specified in this Treaty.

2. In the same spirit, the Parties shall promote cooperation between political, social and trade union organization in the two countries.

Article 13

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall extend their cooperation in consular matters.

2. The Parties shall create appropriate conditions for greater mobility of their nationals between the two States.

Article 14

The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall cooperate in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, the illegal export of cultural property and, in general, against organized crime.

Article 15

The provisions of this Treaty shall in no way affect the commitments of the Parties vis-à-vis third States and are not directed against any of them.

Article 16

1. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force thirty days after the date on which the last instrument of ratification is received.

2. This Treaty is concluded for a period of ten years. It shall be automatically renewed for successive five-year periods, unless one of the Parties gives the other Party written notice of its decision to denounce the Treaty one year prior to the expiry of the current period of validity.

DONE at Paris, on 18 February 1992, in duplicate, in the French and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the French republic:

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND
President of the French Republic

EDITH CRESSON
Prime Minister

ROLAND DUMAS
Minister of State,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Republic
of Bulgaria:

JELIOU JELEV
President of the Republic of Bulgaria

STOIAN GANEV
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
