

No. 32704

**FRANCE
and
ESTONIA**

**Treaty of understanding, friendship and cooperation. Signed
at Paris on 26 January 1993**

Authentic texts: French and Estonian.

Registered by France on 11 March 1996.

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et
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**Traité d'entente, d'amitié et de coopération. Signé à Paris le
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Enregistré par la France le 11 mars 1996.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

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

The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia,

Considering the close ties established between their peoples throughout history, particularly since the establishment of the Republic of Estonia,

Desiring to work to strengthen those ties in the spirit of friendship which governed their relations from 1918 to 1940 and to develop their cooperation in all spheres,

Reaffirming their adherence to the obligations deriving from international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the importance of the commitments which they made under the Final Act of Helsinki² and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,³ and prompted by a desire to establish security and cooperation mechanisms throughout the continent of Europe,

Desiring to make a contribution to the stability and development of a Europe freed from its divisions,

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

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia agree to cooperate actively in all spheres in a spirit of friendship and trust, and, on the basis of the principles of freedom and democracy which they share, they undertake to help to bring their peoples closer together in a united Europe.

2. The Parties shall conclude other agreements and arrangements, as necessary, for the implementation of this Treaty.

Article 2

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall help to build a peaceful and interdependent Europe.

They shall accordingly develop cooperation on both the bilateral and multilateral levels; they shall endeavour to ensure that Europe as a whole develops into a democratic community governed by the rule of law.

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

¹ Came into force on 27 April 1995, i.e., 30 days after the date of receipt of the last instrument of ratification (30 January and 28 March 1995), in accordance with article 15 (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*, document A/45/859, p. 3.

3. The French Republic shall promote the admission of the Republic of Estonia to the Council of Europe, which it regards as an important step in view of its integration into a united Europe.

4. The commitments entered into by the French Republic in bilateral agreements between France and Estonia shall respect the treaties establishing the European Communities and the provisions adopted for the implementation thereof.

Article 3

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall hold regular meetings at appropriate levels in order to exchange views on their bilateral relations and on international issues of common interest, in particular on fundamental matters relating to security and cooperation in Europe.

2. Consultations at the highest level shall take place at intervals to be mutually agreed upon.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries shall meet regularly.

Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs shall hold regular working meetings.

Article 4

The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall work together for the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of security in Europe in order to establish a zone of peace, security and cooperation in that continent.

Within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, they shall cooperate in the establishment, at the conclusion of the Helsinki meeting, of a balanced process of disarmament, cooperation in matters of security and conflict prevention which shall bring together all participants.

They shall contribute to the creation and efficient operation of the structures and mechanisms needed to strengthen the process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to ensure that all European States enjoy conditions of true security.

Article 5

Taking into account the fundamental changes which have occurred in Europe with regard to security and, in particular, the ending of an era of confrontation, the French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall develop and deepen their relations in the military sphere and shall hold regular exchanges of views on political and military matters.

To this end, they shall promote contacts and cooperation between their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Defence and between the General Staffs of the armies of the two States.

Article 6

In the event of a situation, 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 affect its major security interests, that Party may request that consultations should be held between the two Parties on the matter without delay. They shall endeavour to adopt a common position on means of remedying the situation. The two Parties shall

cooperate within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and that of the United Nations.

Article 7

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall develop their economic cooperation and shall create conditions favourable to that end.

The Parties recognize the importance of such cooperation for the success of the economic reforms undertaken by the Republic of Estonia and for its gradual integration into a European entity.

2. Each Party shall endeavour to improve the conditions in its territory for the activities of companies of the other Party. The Parties shall encourage direct investment, the establishment of joint ventures, exchanges of expertise and the training of participants in economic and social life, business managers and administrators.

3. The Parties shall develop close cooperation in spheres which are of particular importance to their future, including the following:

- The restructuring of the economy and management
- Telecommunications
- Transport and infrastructure
- Energy
- Agriculture and the agri-foodstuffs sector
- Health
- The environment
- Tourism.

4. Taking into account their mutual interests and in liaison with other States and the European Communities, the Parties shall cooperate within the framework of international economic and financial institutions, particularly 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 Estonia, desiring to develop relations between the French and Estonian peoples and to contribute to the creation of a European cultural area accessible to all the peoples of the continent, shall strengthen their cooperation in the spheres of science, technology, education and culture, attaching particular importance to training, especially in economic and administrative management.

2. The Republic of Estonia shall provide special support for the teaching and use of the French language. The French Republic shall encourage the study of the Estonian language in France.

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

3. The Parties shall contribute to the development of relations between research bodies and higher educational establishments and shall encourage the

drawing up of joint scientific projects consistent with the corresponding European programmes.

4. In order to ensure greater mutual knowledge of the French and Estonian peoples, the Parties shall support the development of cultural and artistic exchanges. They shall promote cooperation between the media as well as in the distribution of the books and publications of the partner country. The Parties shall support the creation of cultural centres. They particularly welcome the opening in Tallinn of a French cultural centre accessible to the general public and the university community.

Article 9

The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall encourage contacts between nationals of the two States, particularly between French and Estonian youth. To this end, they shall, in particular, promote direct cooperation between schools and secondary schools.

They shall also promote cooperation between higher educational establishments and scientific and technical institutes through the exchange of students, teachers and researchers.

Article 10

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

2. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall promote legal and administrative cooperation.

Article 11

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall encourage decentralized cooperation, particularly the twinning of local communities, in accordance with the objectives established in this Treaty.

2. In the same spirit, the Parties shall facilitate cooperation between the political, social and trade union organizations and the associations of the two countries.

Article 12

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Estonia shall expand their cooperation in the consular field.

2. The Parties shall create appropriate conditions for the improvement of travel by their nationals between the two States.

Article 13

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

Article 14

The provisions of this Treaty shall in no way affect the obligations of the Parties towards third States and are not directed against any third State.

Article 15

1. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force 30 days after the date of receipt of the last instrument of ratification.

2. This Treaty has been concluded for a period of 10 years. It shall be automatically extended for successive five-year periods until such time as one Party gives written notice to the other Party, one year prior to the expiration of the current period, of its decision to denounce the Treaty.

DONE at Paris on 26 January 1993 in two copies, each in the French and Estonian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND
President of the French Republic

LENNART MERI
President of the Republic of Estonia

PIERRE BÉRÉGOVOY
Prime Minister of the French Republic

ROLAND DUMAS
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

TRIVIMI VELLISTE
Minister for Foreign Affairs
