

PROTOCOL

**of the 1st Meeting of the Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between
the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia
and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria
Ljubljana, November 14, 2008**

On the basis of the Agreement between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Sofia on March 20, 2007, held its first session in Ljubljana on November 14, 2008 in order to implement the above mentioned agreement.

The delegation of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Slovenia was headed by Ms. Alenka Kocjan, Head of the Bilateral Co-operation Department, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

The delegation of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria was headed by Ms. Guenoveva Jecheva, Head of Unit of Transnational Research Initiatives.

The list of the two delegations is given in Annex 1.

The Joint Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information on current issues in Science and Technology
2. Selection and approval of the project proposals
3. Financial support for the approved projects
4. Preparation of the next Working Program
5. Closing provisions

Ad 1. Exchange of information on Science and Technology

The two delegations exchanged information on the latest developments in the R&D sector in their respective countries. The experience stemming from bilateral and international cooperation (including participation in international R&D programs) of the two countries was exchanged. Both delegations expressed their confidence that the implementation of the Working Program for the years 2009-2010 will contribute significantly to the development of beneficial links between S&T institutions, universities and scientists of both countries. The delegations agreed to encourage their researchers to jointly participate in EU projects.

Ad 2. Selection and approval of project proposals

The Joint Commission established that 22 (twenty-two) project proposals had been submitted to both sides.

The project proposals were peer-reviewed by both Parties. Based on their scientific merit the Joint Commission selected 14 projects listed in Annex 2 for financing in the years 2009-2010, the starting date being January 1, 2009.

Ad 3. Financial support for the approved projects

The implementing institutions responsible for the overall management of the cooperation in science and technology between the two countries will cover the costs of the exchange of scientists, i.e. travel and accommodation costs in accordance with the following mutually agreed provisions:

3.1. The travel costs to and from the receiving country shall be covered by the sending Party.

3.2. The receiving Party shall cover the costs of accommodation and the costs of living as follows:

In Slovenia

In case of short (up to 14 days) and long term visits (up to 3 months) paid accommodation at the House of Postgraduates (exceptionally *** category hotel up to 100€ per day in case of short term visits) and daily allowance in accordance with the Slovenian regulations on reimbursement of travel expenses (currently 21, 39 €). In case the House of Postgraduates is not available, Slovenian side covers for long term visits 1252€ per month for accommodation. Preference will be given to use the university/academic accommodation facilities.

In Bulgaria

In case of short (up to 14 days) 60€ for accommodation and 21€ allowance per day will be provided. For the long term visits (up to 3 months) maximum 1250€ per months will be paid for accommodation and daily allowance.

3.3. The amounts of daily allowances may be adjusted by the receiving Party according to the regulations in force.

3.4. The researchers, who perform exchange visits on the basis of this Protocol should acquire the European health insurance document, prior to their departure.

3.5. Both countries will consider internal transportation as an eligible cost.

Ad 4. Preparation of the Working Program for the Period 2010-2011.

a. The Joint Commission agreed that the next call for proposals will be decided via diplomatic channels.

b. The parties agreed to encourage the cooperation of young scientists especially at the postdoctoral level.

Ad 5. Closing provisions

The implementing institutions in charge of the cooperation in science and technology between the two countries are as follows:

In Slovenia: Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology

Kotnikova 38, SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: 386-1- 478 46 00
Fax: 386-1- 478 47 19
Email: slavi.krusic@gov.si
Internet: www.mvzt.gov.si

and

Slovenian Research Agency
Tivolska 30, SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: 386-1- 400 5976
Fax: 386-1- 400 5975
E-mail: aleksandra.panic@arrs.si
Internet: www.arrs.gov.si

In Bulgaria:

Ministry of Education and Science
Blvd. Knjaz Dondukov 2A
Sofia 1000
Tel: + 359 2 9217 545
Fax: + 359 2 981 14 04
E-mail: a.vutsova@mon.bg
Internet: www.mon.bg and www.nsfb.net

The Parties agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission in Bulgaria. The exact date of the meeting shall be fixed via correspondence.

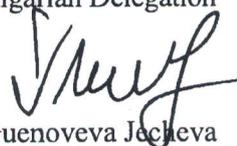
The stipulations of this document shall come into force upon its signing and shall remain in force until the next Joint Commission Meeting.

Signed in Ljubljana, on November 14, 2008, in two copies in English.

On behalf of the
Slovenian Delegation


Alenka Kocjan

On behalf of the
Bulgarian Delegation


Guenoveva Jecheva

ANNEX 1

List of participants

Slovenian Delegation:

- Ms. Alenka KOCJAN Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Bilateral Co-operation Department, Service of International Cooperation and European Affairs,
Head of the delegation;
- Mr. Bojan JENKO Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology,
Directorate of Science and Higher Education;
- Mr. Miloš KURET Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology,
Directorate for the Information Society;
- Ms. Aleksandra PANIČ Department of International Cooperation,
Slovenian Research Agency;
- Ms. Slavi KRUŠIČ Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Service of International Cooperation and European Affairs,
Secretary of the Delegation.

Bulgarian Delegation:

- Ms. Guenoveva JECHEVA Ministry of Education and Science, Unit of Transnational Research Initiatives,
Head of the delegation;
- Ms. Lora PAVLOVA Ministry of Education and Science,
Secretary of the Delegation.