

No. 32712

**FRANCE
and
BULGARIA**

Agreement on cooperation in the fields of labour, employment and vocational training. Signed at Paris on 23 November 1994

Authentic texts: French and Bulgarian.

Registered by France on 11 March 1996.

**FRANCE
et
BULGARIE**

Accord sur la coopération dans les domaines du travail, de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle. Signé à Paris le 23 novembre 1994

Textes authentiques : français et bulgare.

Enregistré par la France le 11 mars 1996.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter called the “Contracting Parties”,

Desirous of strengthening social development in the two countries and enhancing their mutual relations,

Resolved to pursue the existing forms of cooperation,

Recognizing the need to intensify the exchange of information on institutions and policies relating to labour, employment and vocational training,

Have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall develop their cooperation in the following areas:

- Policies to promote employment, alleviate the consequences of unemployment, particularly those arising out of industrial restructuring, and provide assistance to vulnerable sectors of the population,
- Prevention and alleviation of long-term unemployment,
- Occupational rehabilitation and placement of persons with disabilities,
- Functioning of employment offices as regards internal organization, staff training, determination of benefits and consultation of the social partners and local institutions,
- Development of continuing adult training,
- Labour legislation,
- Collective labour relations, particularly through the development of social dialogue and collective bargaining, and
- The improvement of working conditions, particularly in respect of health and safety at work.

Article 2

The activities carried out by the Contracting Parties in the areas specified in article 1 shall take the following forms:

- Exchanges of information and documentation on the principal aspects of policies implemented,
- The organization for the benefit of experts and senior officials of meetings, study visits and seminars,

¹ Came into force on 9 May 1995, the date of the last of the notifications by which the Contracting Parties informed each other of the completion of the required internal legal procedures, in accordance with article 5.

- Advisory services for senior officials in connection with the development and refinement of policies,
- Other activities, including those aimed at facilitating the establishment of experimental schemes.

The Parties may encourage initiatives launched in either country within the scope of this Agreement by associations and public or private institutions.

Article 3

The implementation of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Vocational Training of the French Republic and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Committee to draw up the annual programme of cooperation, including follow-up and evaluation of the activities carried out under this Agreement. The Joint Committee shall meet at least once a year at the request of either Contracting Party, alternately in each country.

Article 4

Unless the Contracting Parties provide otherwise, the sending State shall defray the travel costs of its nationals and the receiving State shall defray the living expenses and the costs of the relevant visits, training and contacts.

The financial resources required for the implementation of this Agreement shall be provided by the Contracting Parties from their existing budgetary appropriations and in conformity with the procedures current in each country.

Article 5

This Agreement shall be subject to the procedures laid down by the domestic legislation of each Party. The Contracting Parties shall notify each other through the diplomatic channel of the completion of their procedures. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last notification.

This Agreement is concluded for a period of three years. It shall be extended automatically for an indefinite period unless one of the Parties gives notice of denunciation. In that case, the Agreement shall cease six months after the day of its denunciation.

DONE at Paris on 23 November 1994, in duplicate, in the French and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

MICHEL GIRAUD
Minister of Labour, Employment
and Vocational Training

For the Government
of the Republic of Bulgaria:

NIKOLA VASSILEV
Vice-Chairman
of the Council of Ministers