



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, hereinafter referred to as “the Signatories”,

Desiring to consolidate the friendly relations and understanding that have traditionally existed between the two countries,

Desiring to develop and strengthen their bilateral relations based on common interests and mutual understanding,

Mindful of the relevance of regular consultations on bilateral relations and issues of common concern,

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

The Signatories will hold regular consultations to examine all aspects of bilateral relations and to exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the possibility of taking joint initiatives.

Article 2

The consultations referred to in Article 1 will take place alternatively in Malta and in the Slovak Republic, with the Signatories determining through diplomatic channels the agenda, the venue and the level of their representatives.

Article 3

The bilateral consultations, with the agreement of both Signatories, will cover political, security, economic, scientific, technological, cultural and other issues, particularly European Union issues and cooperation in the Mediterranean and in the region of Eastern Europe.

The consultations will focus on:

- (a) examination of opportunities for further expansion and deepening of mutually advantageous cooperation in various spheres of bilateral relations, in accordance with the agreements concluded between the two countries;
- (b) monitoring of the implementation of bilateral agreements and of the possibilities for the further strengthening of the bilateral legal framework;
- (c) exchange of experience and advice on positions and issues concerning the :
 - Common Foreign and Security Policy {CFSP} and the Common Security and Defence Policy {CSDP};
 - introduction, application and development of positions on Community policies based on the *acquis communautaire*;
 - coordination, at national level, of matters of organisation and operational aspects of the work and interrelations in the EU institutions;
 - education, training and motivation schemes as regards human resources involved in the implementation of the EU policy;
 - preparation of the common Presidency Trio programme and coordination in view of the upcoming Presidencies of the Council of the European Union in 2016-2017;
- (d) cooperation within the framework of the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the NATO/EAPC and other international and regional organisations on topical issues of mutual interest, including reciprocal support for candidatures to international organisations;
- (e) exchange of views on international situation, including the situation in the regions of the Mediterranean and of the Eastern Europe, regional conflicts questions of peace and security, fight against international terrorism, other global issues and international issues of mutual interest;
- (f) other matters and problems of mutual interest to the Signatories.

Article 4

The diplomatic missions of the Signatories in third countries, to the UN, to the European Union, to the OSCE, and to other international organizations, as well as the delegations of the Signatories to international fora and conferences, will maintain contacts and consult one another, where necessary, on issues of mutual interest.

Article 5

The Signatories also agree to create favourable conditions to pursue direct contacts and to organise short-term exchange of public officials, experts and interns from their respective administrations. Such exchanges will be made once yearly or at a request of either Signatory and will proceed in a manner mutually established through diplomatic channels. The exchanges will focus on areas identified in this Memorandum.

Article 6

The Signatories will facilitate a sustained cooperation between diplomatic services covering training and education area.

Article 7

This Memorandum may be amended and supplemented upon mutual agreement of the Signatories.

This Memorandum does not establish rights and obligations under international law.

This Memorandum becomes effective on the date of its signing and remains in force for a period of three years. It may be automatically extended for further successive periods of two years, unless either Signatory notifies the other in writing, three months prior to an extension of a given period, of its intention to terminate the Memorandum.

Signed in Batistava on the 23rd day of January..... 2014 in two originals, each in English language.

For the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Malta

For the Ministry of Foreign and
European Affairs of the Slovak
Republic