

CHAPTER III

Approximation of laws

Article 69

The Contracting Parties recognize that the major precondition for the Slovak Republic's economic integration into the Community is the approximation of the Slovak Republic's existing and future legislation to that of the Community. The Slovak Republic shall endeavour to ensure that its legislation will be gradually made compatible with that of the Community.

Article 70

The approximation of laws shall extend to the following areas in particular: customs law, company law, banking law, company accounts and taxes, intellectual property, protection of workers at the workplace, financial services, rules on competition, protection of health and life of humans, animals and plants, consumer protection, indirect taxation, technical rules and standards, nuclear law and regulation, transport and the environment.

Article 71

The Community shall provide the Slovak Republic with technical assistance for the implementation of these measures, which may include *inter alia*:

- the exchange of experts,
- the provision of early information especially on relevant legislation,
- organization of seminars,
- training activities,
- aid for the translation of Community legislation in the relevant sectors.

TITLE VI

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Article 72

1. The Community and the Slovak Republic shall establish economic cooperation aimed at contributing to the Slovak Republic's development and growth potential. Such cooperation shall strengthen existing economic links on the widest possible foundation, to the benefit of both Parties.

2. Policies and other measures will be designed to bring about economic and social development of the Slovak Republic and will be guided by the principle of sustainable development. These policies should ensure that environmental considerations are also fully incorporated from the outset and that they are linked to the requirements of harmonious social development.

3. To this end the cooperation should focus in particular on policies and measures related to industry including the mining sector, investment, agriculture, energy, transport, regional development and tourism.

4. Special attention must be devoted to measures capable of fostering cooperation between the countries of central and eastern Europe with a view to a harmonious development of the region.

Article 73

Industrial cooperation

1. Cooperation shall aim at promoting the modernization and restructuring of Slovak Republic industry in both public and private sectors as well as industrial cooperation between economic operators of both sides, with the particular objective of strengthening the private sector.

2. Particular attention shall be paid to:

- the restructuring of individual sectors; in this context, the Association Council will examine in particular the problems affecting the sectors of coal and steel and the conversion of the defence industry,
- the establishment of new undertakings in areas offering potential for growth.

3. Industrial cooperation initiatives take into account priorities determined by the Slovak Republic. The initiatives should seek in particular to establish a suitable framework for undertakings, to improve management know-how and to promote transparency as regards markets and conditions for undertakings, and will include technical assistance where appropriate.

Article 74

Investment promotion and protection

1. Cooperation shall aim to establish a favourable climate for private investment, both domestic and foreign, which is essential to economic and industrial reconstruction in the Slovak Republic.

2. The particular aims of cooperation shall be:

- to improve the institutional framework for investments in the Slovak Republic,
- the extension by the Member States and the Slovak Republic of agreements for the promotion and protection of investment,
- to implement suitable arrangements for the transfer of capital,
- to proceed with deregulation and to improve economic infrastructure,
- to exchange information on investment opportunities in the form of trade fairs, exhibitions, trade weeks and other events.

Article 75

Industrial standards and conformity assessment

1. The Parties shall cooperate with the aim to achieve the Slovak Republic's full conformity with Community technical regulations and European standardization and conformity assessment procedures.

2. To this end, the cooperation shall seek:

- to promote the use of Community technical regulations and European standards and conformity assessment procedures,
- where appropriate, to achieve the conclusion of agreements on mutual recognition in these fields,
- to encourage the Slovak Republic's participation in the work of specialized organizations (CEN, Cenelec, ETSI, EOTC).

3. The Community will provide the Slovak Republic with technical assistance where appropriate.

Article 76

Cooperation in science and technology

1. The Parties shall promote cooperation in research and technological development. They shall devote special attention to the following:

- the exchange of information on each other's science and technology policies,
- the organization of joint scientific meetings (seminars and workshops),

- joint R&D activities aimed at encouraging scientific progress and the transfer of technology and know-how,
- training activities and mobility programmes for researchers and specialists from both sides,
- the development of an environment conducive to research and the application of new technologies and adequate protection of the intellectual property of the results of research,
- participation of the Slovak Republic in the Community programmes in accordance with paragraph 3.

Technical assistance shall be provided where appropriate.

2. The Association Council shall determine the appropriate procedures for developing cooperation.

3. Cooperation under the Community's framework programme in the field of research and technological development shall be implemented according to specific arrangements to be negotiated and concluded in accordance with the legal procedures of each Party.

Article 77

Education and training

1. The Parties shall cooperate with the aim of raising the level of general education and professional qualifications in the Slovak Republic, taking into consideration the priorities of the Slovak Republic. Institutional frameworks and plans of cooperation will be established building on the European Training Foundation and the Tempus programme. Participation of the Slovak Republic in other Community programmes could also be considered in this context.

2. The cooperation shall focus in particular on the following areas and according to modalities to be determined jointly by the Parties:

- reform of the education and training system in the Slovak Republic,
- initial training, in-service training and retraining, including the training of public and private sector executives and senior civil servants, particularly in priority areas to be determined,
- cooperation between universities, cooperation between universities and firms, and mobility for teachers, students, administrators and young people,

- promoting teaching in the field of European studies within the appropriate institutions,
- mutual recognition of periods of studies and diplomas.

3. In the field of translation, cooperation will focus on training of translators and interpreters and promotion of Community linguistic norms and terminology.

Article 78

Agriculture and the agro-industrial sector

1. Cooperation in this area shall have as its aim the modernization of agriculture and the agro_industrial sector. It shall endeavour in particular to:

- develop private farms and distribution channels, methods of storage, marketing, etc.,
- modernize the rural infrastructure (transport, water supply, telecommunications),
- land_use planning, including construction and urban planning,
- improve productivity and quality by using appropriate methods and products; provide training and monitoring in the use of anti_pollution methods connected with inputs,
- develop and modernize processing firms and their marketing techniques,
- promote complementarity in agriculture,
- promote industrial cooperation in agriculture and the exchange of know_how, particularly between the private sectors in the Community and the Slovak Republic,
- develop cooperation on animal health and plant health with the aim of bringing about gradual harmonization with Community standards through assistance for training and the organization of checks.

2. To these ends, technical assistance shall be provided by the Community as appropriate.

Article 79

Energy

1. Within the principles of the market economy, the Parties shall cooperate to develop the progressive integration of the energy markets of the Slovak Republic and the Community. They shall pay particular attention to the Community's proposals for a European energy charter and the parallel integration of such markets with the other countries of central and eastern Europe.

2. The cooperation shall include among others technical assistance when appropriate in the following areas:

- formulation and planning of energy policy both at national and regional level,
- opening up the energy market to a greater degree, including facilitating transit of gas and electricity,
- study of the modernization of energy infrastructures,
- improvement of distribution as well as improvements and diversification of supply,
- management and training for the energy sector,
- the development of energy resources,
- the promotion of energy saving and energy efficiency,
- the environmental impact of energy production and consumption,
- the nuclear energy sector,
- the electricity and gas sectors, including the consideration of the possibility of the interconnection of the supply networks,
- the formulation of framework conditions for cooperation between undertakings in this sector, which could include the encouragement of joint ventures,
- the transfer of technology and know-how, which may include if appropriate the promotion and commercialization of efficient energy technologies.

Article 80

Nuclear safety

1. The aim of cooperation is to provide for a safer use of nuclear energy.
2. Cooperation shall mainly cover the following topics:
 - nuclear safety, nuclear emergency preparedness and management,
 - radiation protection, including environmental radiation monitoring,
 - fuel cycle problems, safeguarding of nuclear materials,
 - radioactive waste management,
 - decommissioning and dismantling of nuclear installations,
 - decontamination.
3. Cooperation will include exchange of information and experience and R&D activities in accordance with Article 76.

Article 81

1. The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on environment and human health, which they have judged to be a priority.
2. Cooperation shall concern:
 - effective monitoring of pollution levels; systems of information on the state of the environment,
 - combating regional and transboundary air pollution,
 - sustainable, efficient and environmentally effective use and production of energy; safety of industrial plants; development of relevant technologies and production processes,
 - classification and safe handling of chemicals,
 - effective prevention and reduction of water pollution, especially of sources of drinking water and transboundary watercourses,
 - waste reduction, recycling and safe disposal (including radioactive wastes),

- the environmental impact of agriculture; soil erosion; the protection of forests and flora and fauna; restoring ecological stability of the countryside,
- land_use planning, including construction and urban planning,
- use of economic and fiscal instruments,
- global climate change and its prevention,
- environmental education and awareness,
- international conventions in the area of environment.

3. Cooperation shall take place through:

- exchange of information and experts, including information and experts dealing with the transfer of clean technologies; development of information systems on environment,
- training programmes,
- joint research activities,
- approximation of laws (Community standards),
- cooperation at regional level (including cooperation within the framework of the European Environment Agency, when established by the Community) and at international level,
- development of strategies, particularly with regard to global and climatic issues.

Article 82

Transport

1. The Parties shall develop and step up cooperation in order to enable the Slovak Republic to:

- restructure and modernize transport,
- improve circulation of passengers and goods and the access to the transport market by removing administrative, technical and other obstacles,
- facilitate Community transit in the Slovak Republic by road, rail, river and combined transport,

- achieve operating standards comparable to those in the Community.
2. The cooperation shall include the following in particular:
- economic, legal and technical training programmes,
 - the provision of technical assistance and advice, and the exchange of information,
 - the provision of means to develop infrastructure in the Slovak Republic.
3. The cooperation shall include the following priority areas:
- the construction and modernization of road transport, including the gradual easing of transit conditions,
 - the management of railways and airports, including cooperation between the appropriate national authorities,
 - the modernization, on major routes of common interest and trans-European links, of road, inland waterway, railway, port and airport infrastructure,
 - land-use planning including construction and urban planning,
 - the promotion of road-rail transport containerization, transshipment and the construction of terminals,
 - the replacement of transport technical equipment in order to meet Community standards,
 - the promotion of joint technological and research programmes in accordance with Article 76,
 - the development of legislative measures and the implementation of policies in all areas of transportation, compatible with the transport policies applicable in the Community.

Article 83

Telecommunications

1. The Parties shall expand and strengthen cooperation in this area, and shall to this end initiate in particular the following actions:

- exchange information on telecommunications policies,
- exchange technical and other information and organize seminars, workshops and conferences for experts of both sides,
- conduct training and advisory operations,
- carry out transfers of technology,
- have the appropriate bodies from both sides carry out joint projects,
- promote European standards, systems of certification and regulatory approaches,
- promote new communications, services and facilities, particularly those with commercial applications.

2. These activities shall focus on the following priority areas:

- the modernization of the Slovak Republic's telecommunications network and its integration into European and world networks,
- cooperation within the structures of European standardization,
- the integration of trans-European systems; the legal and regulatory aspects of telecommunications,
- the management of telecommunications in the new economic environment: organizational structures, strategy and planning, purchasing principles,
- land_use planning, construction and urban planning.

Article 84

Banking, insurance, other financial services and audit cooperation

1. The Parties shall cooperate with the aim of establishing and developing a suitable framework for the encouragement of banking, insurance and financial services sector in the Slovak Republic.

(a) The cooperation shall focus on:

- the adoption of a common accounting system compatible with European standards,
- the strengthening and restructuring of the banking and financial sectors,
- the improvement of supervision and regulation of banking and financial services,
- the preparation of translations of Community and Slovak Republic legislation,
- the preparation of glossaries of terminology,
- the exchange of information in particular in respect of proposed legislation.

(b) To this end, the cooperation shall include the provision of technical assistance and training.

2. The Parties shall cooperate with the aim of developing efficient audit systems in the Slovak Republic following standard Community methods and proceedings.

(a) Cooperation shall focus on:

- the establishment in the Slovak Republic of an independent Supreme Audit Office,
- the establishment of internal audit units in government agencies,
- the exchange of relevant audit information,
- the uniformization of audit documentation,
- training and advisory operations.

(b) To this end, technical assistance shall be provided by the Community as appropriate.

Article 85

Monetary policy

At the request of the Slovak Republic authorities, the Community shall provide technical assistance designed to support the efforts of the Slovak Republic towards the introduction of full convertibility of the crown and the gradual approximation of its policies

to those of the European Monetary System. This will include informal exchange of information concerning the principles and the functioning of the European Monetary System.

Article 86

Money laundering

1. The Parties agree on the necessity of making every effort and cooperating in order to prevent the use of their financial systems for laundering of proceeds from criminal activities in general and drug offences in particular.
2. Cooperation in this area shall include administrative and technical assistance with the purpose of establishing suitable standards against money laundering equivalent to those adopted by the community and international fora in this field, in particular the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Article 87

Regional development

1. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation between them on regional development and land_use.
2. To this end, any of the following measures may be undertaken:
 - the exchange of information by national, regional or local authorities on regional and land_use planning policy,
 - the provision of assistance to the Slovak Republic for the formulation on such policy,
 - joint action by regional and local authorities in the area of economic development,
 - the study of coordinated approaches for the development of border areas between the Community and the Slovak Republic and other Slovak Republic areas with severe regional disparities,
 - exchange visits to explore the opportunities for cooperation and assistance,
 - the exchange of civil servants or experts,
 - the provision of technical assistance,
 - the establishment of programmes for the exchange of information and experience, by methods including seminars.

Article 88

Social cooperation

1. With regard to health and safety, the Parties shall develop cooperation between them with the aim of improving the level of protection of the health and safety workers, taking as a reference the level of protection existing in the Community. Cooperation shall comprise the following in particular:

- the provision of technical assistance,
- the exchange of experts,
- cooperation between firms,
- the exchange of information and administrative and other relevant assistance to firms, training operations.

2. With regard to employment, cooperation between the Parties shall focus notably on upgrading job_finding and careers_advice services, providing back_up measures and promoting local development to assist industrial restructuring.

It shall also include measures such as the performance of studies, provision of the services of experts and information and training.

3. With regard to social security, cooperation between the Parties shall seek to adapt the social security systems to the new economic and social situation, primarily by providing the services of experts and information and training.

Article 89

Tourism

The Parties shall increase and develop cooperation between them, which shall include:

- facilitating the tourist trade,
- increasing the flow of information through international networks, data banks, etc.,
- transferring know_how through training, exchanges, seminars,
- executing regional tourist projects such as cross_frontier projects, town_twinning, etc.,

- exchanging views and providing for appropriate exchanges of information on major issues of mutual interest affecting the tourism sector,
- encouraging the development of infrastructure conducive to investment in the tourism sector.

Article 90

Small and medium-sized enterprises

1. The Parties shall aim to develop and strengthen private sector small and medium_sized enterprises and cooperation between SMEs in the Community and the Slovak Republic.

2. They shall encourage the exchange of information and know_how in the following areas:

- bringing about the legal, administrative, technical, tax and financial conditions necessary for the establishment and expansion of SMEs and for cross_border cooperation,
- the provision of the specialized services required by SMEs (management training, accounting, marketing, quality control, etc.) and the strengthening of agencies providing such services,
- the establishment of appropriate links with Community operators with the aim of improving the flow of information to SMEs and promoting cross-border cooperation (e.g. the Business Cooperation Network (BC_NET), Euro_Info Centres, conferences, etc.).

3. The cooperation will include the provision of technical assistance in particular for the establishment of appropriate institutional support for SMEs, at national and regional level, in respect of financial, training, advisory, technological and commercial services.

Article 91

Information and communication

With regard to information and communication, the Community and the Slovak Republic shall take appropriate steps to stimulate effective mutual exchange of information. Priority shall be given to programmes aimed at providing the general public with basic information about the Community and specific circles in the Slovak Republic with more specialized information, including, where possible, access to Community databases.

Article 92

Consumer protection

1. The Parties shall cooperate with the aim of achieving full compatibility of the Slovak Republic with the Community consumer protection system.
2. To this end, the cooperation shall comprise, within existing possibilities:
 - exchange of information and experts,
 - access to Community databases,
 - training operations and technical assistance.

Article 93

Customs

1. The aim of cooperation shall be to guarantee compliance with all the provisions scheduled for adoption in connection with trade and to achieve the approximation of the Slovak Republic's customs system to that of the Community, thus helping to ease the steps towards liberalization planned under this Agreement.
2. Cooperation shall include the following in particular:
 - the exchange of information,
 - the development of cross_frontier infrastructure between the Parties,
 - the interconnection between the transit systems of the Community and the Slovak Republic,
 - the simplification of inspections and formalities in respect of the carriage of goods,
 - the organization of seminars and placements.

Technical assistance shall be provided where appropriate.

3. Without prejudice to further cooperation provided for in this Agreement, and in particular Article 96, the mutual assistance between administrative authorities in customs matters of the Contracting Parties shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Protocol 6.

Article 94

Statistical cooperation

1. Cooperation in this area shall have as its aim the development of an efficient statistical system to provide, in a rapid and timely fashion, the reliable statistics needed to plan and monitor the process of reform and to contribute to the development of private enterprise in the Slovak Republic.
2. The Parties shall cooperate in particular:
 - to strengthen the service of statistics of the Slovak Republic,
 - to bring about harmonization with international (and particularly Community) methods, standards and classifications,
 - to provide the data needed to maintain and monitor economic reform,
 - to provide private_sector economic operators with the appropriate macro_economic and micro_economic data,
 - to guarantee the confidentiality of data,
 - to exchange statistical information.
3. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Community as appropriate.

Article 95

Economics

1. The Community and the Slovak Republic will facilitate the process of economic reforms and integration by cooperating to improve understanding of the fundamentals of their respective economies and of implementing economic policy in market economies.
2. To these ends the Community and the Slovak Republic will:
 - exchange information on macro_economic performance and prospects and on strategies for development where appropriate,
 - analyse jointly economic issues of mutual interest, including the framing of economic policy and the instruments for implementing it,
 - through the programme of Action for Cooperation in Economics in particular, encourage extensive cooperation among economists and managers in the Community and the Slovak Republic, in order to speed the transfer of know_how for the drafting of economic policies, and provide for wide dissemination of the results of policy_relevant research.

Article 96

Drugs

1. The cooperation is in particular aimed at increasing the efficiency of policies and measures to counter the supply and illicit traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the reduction of abuse of these products.
2. The Contracting Parties shall agree on the necessary methods of cooperation to attain these objectives, including the modalities of the implementation of common actions. Their actions will be based on consultation on a close coordination of the objectives and the policy measures in the fields targeted in paragraph 1.
3. The cooperation between the Contracting Parties will comprise technical and administrative assistance which could deal in particular with the following areas: the creation of institutions and information centres and of social and health centres; the training of personnel and research; the prevention of diversion of precursors used for the purpose of illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

The Parties may agree to include other areas.

TITLE VII

CULTURAL COOPERATION

Article 97

1. The Parties undertake to promote cultural cooperation. Where appropriate, Community's cultural cooperation programmes, or those of one or more Member States may be extended to the Slovak Republic and further activities of interest to both sides developed.

This cooperation may notably cover:

- literary translation,
- conservation and restoration of monuments and sites (architectural and cultural heritage),
- training for those dealing with cultural affairs,
- the organization of European_oriented cultural events.

2. The Parties shall cooperate in the promotion of the audiovisual industry in Europe. The audiovisual sector in the Slovak Republic could in particular participate in activities set out by the Community in the MEDIA programme for 1991 to 1995 in accordance with the procedures laid down by the bodies responsible for managing each activity and in