

AGREEMENT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION

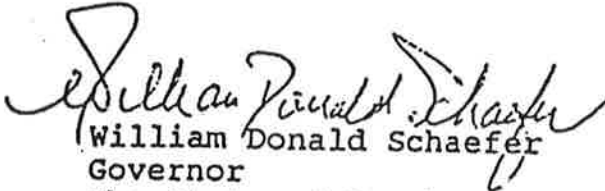
In order to lay a foundation for the promotion of friendly relations and long lasting ties, the State of Maryland of the United States of America and the Walloon Region of the Kingdom of Belgium hereby enter into a mutual cooperation agreement.

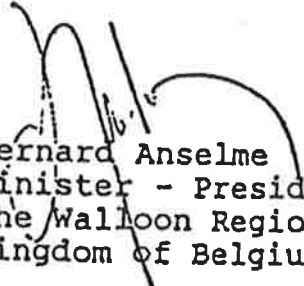
With mutual prosperity as their shared objective, both states will endeavor to bring about better understanding and close cooperation through the implementation of exchange programs in various fields.

It is their firm belief that this agreement between the State of Maryland and the Walloon Region will not only provide ever-present opportunities to bring their people closer in every conceivable area of cooperation, but also help promote understanding among the peoples of the United States of America and emerging United States of Europe.

In witness whereof the Governor of the State of Maryland and the President of the Walloon Region have signed this agreement of mutual cooperation.

Done at the City of Namur in the Walloon Region of the Kingdom of Belgium, the 16th day of June in the year one thousand nine hundred eighty nine.


William Donald Schaefer
Governor
The State of Maryland
United States of America


Bernard Anselme
Minister - President
The Walloon Region
Kingdom of Belgium



MARYLAND/WALLONIA AGREEMENT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION

The Walloon Region of Belgium, directly south of Brussels, enjoys a privileged location at the core of industrialized Europe. It is flanked by the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxemburg, and France. Wallonia boasts a history rich in industry and craftsmanship which is carried over today in its dedication to the development of emerging industries and technologies.

In June of 1989, the Governor of Maryland and the President of the Walloon Region signed the attached "Agreement of Mutual Cooperation" in an effort to promote cooperation and exchange between the two state which have similar goals and direction particularly in promoting the development of biotechnology and other emerging high-tech industries. In a broad sense this Agreement serves as an initial step in the overall effort to build a strong bond between the United States of America and the emerging United States of Europe.

This Agreement specifically identified the following areas of common interest and committed the parties to progressive action:

I. APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

- biotechnology, specifically, protein engineering, downstream processing, and bioreactors
- microelectronics, specifically, signal processing and signal automation
- new materials, specifically, new ceramics and composite materials
- telecommunications, specifically, satellite data transmission and the use of optical fiber
- urban renewal, architecture, and other fields of common interest.

RECOMMENDED PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- support conferences and symposiums on subjects of common interest to both academic and business communities to take place in Maryland and Wallonia.

- encourage exchanges between scientists from universities, research centers, or business enterprises to conduct complimentary research and development activities conducive to joint business projects.
- support and encourage scientific or business missions in order to translate business projects identified by these scientists in to patents, licensing, joint venture, or direct investment operations.
- exchange, publish, and distribute, on an ongoing basis, relevant information regarding opportunities for technological transfers, joint scientific research and development projects, as well as joint venture opportunities.
- provide each other access to various information resources to facilitate the identification of academic, professional, or business partners

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In terms of economic growth the following similarities in the areas were noted:

- strategic location
- economic diversity, specifically in the high value and high technology sectors of their economies
- shared interests in international trade, research, investment, and other fields.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- keep each other informed of business requests regarding transportation, trade, and investment opportunities.
- assist, when appropriate, trade, investment, and other activities territories

- encourage agreements between business and scientific incubator facilities with a view to facilitating start-up operations of viable projects.
- explore the practicality of graduate and post-graduate student exchange programs, as well as of motivated young executives wishing to complement their international trade studies and experiences.

III. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

It was noted that considering the Walloon Region's excellent relations with other states and regions in Europe and the many relationships the State of Maryland maintains with other regions of the U.S. that the parties will:

- inform each other of opportunities arising from these relationships which can further support the interests of both parties.