



ASSOCIATION OF ESTONIAN CITIES



**Memorandum of Cooperation
Between
State of Maryland, USA and Estonian local government associations**

In order to strengthen the cordial relations forged by the Maryland National Guard with Estonia through the State Partnership Program and in recognition of the special ties and cooperation established by existing ten city and two county partnerships as well as the regional initiatives of The Council for Maryland / Estonia Education and Commerce (MEEC); the State of Maryland in the USA, the Association of Municipalities of Estonia, and the Association of Estonian Cities (*hereinafter the signatories*) hereby agree to this memorandum of cooperation.

The signatories will explore continuing opportunities to cultivate a greater understanding of each other, raise cross-cultural awareness between Maryland and Estonia, and generally advance their friendship.

The signatories will work together towards sharing information and expertise through educational, cultural, and health care exchanges between Maryland and Estonia, investigate the possibilities of joint research programs in the academic, industrial, and public sectors areas, and sponsor reciprocal visits and events.

The signatories will endeavor to develop a climate, which fosters mutual prosperity through interaction among entrepreneurs and business enterprises, promotes investment, and expands commerce and fair trade between Maryland and Estonia.

The signatories will seek to further facilitate direct links between local authorities in Maryland and Estonia, and will examine ways to encourage and enhance relationships between communities in both countries.


The signatories will initiate and expand cooperative efforts by seeking to identify appropriate areas for collaboration, and in all spheres of mutual interest, work for the benefit and well being of their respective citizenry.

In the course of next year, the signatories will develop a specific agenda of events and activities to implement the MOC for the upcoming years.

This memorandum has English and Estonian versions, both being authentic. Each copy is signed by the representatives of all parties, and kept by all concerned organizations and institutions.

Remembering that in the 13th Century, Estonia was also known as "Terra Mariana" or Mary's Land," it is especially fitting that today in the 21st Century that the State of Maryland and the local government associations of Estonia should agree to this memorandum.

Signed in the spirit of friendship and cooperation in Tallinn on April 17, 2006.


Mary D. Kane, Secretary of State
for Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor, State of Maryland


Uno Silberg, Executive Director
Association of
Municipalities of Estonia


Jüri Võigemast, Managing Director
Association of Estonian Cities