

AGREEMENT

Between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for Cooperation in the Fields of Posts and Telecommunications

The Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Guided by the desire to encourage the future cooperation in the fields of posts and telecommunications based on advantageous and equitable conditions, and in the spirit of the friendly traditions between the two nations,

Recognizing that communications are an important means to promote this cooperation,

Have decided to sign this Agreement.

Article 1

The postal and telecommunications connections between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria shall be established according to the acts and recommendations of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the European Conference of Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT), according to their respective national legislations, and on the basis of the present Agreement.

Article 2

The Parties shall take all the measures within their competence to continuously develop and improve the quality of the postal and telecommunication connections between the two countries and to ensure their efficiency and reliability.

Article 3

The Parties shall encourage the transit, on their territory, of the postal and telecommunication services and of the radio and television programmes designated to or coming from third parties, under the most favourable conditions for both Parties.

Article 4

During natural disasters and force-majeur each of the Parties shall give the highest priority to the other Party for the transmission of communications via its National networks and telecommunications media.

Article 5

1. The Parties shall carry out the cooperation by:

- information and documentation;
- bilateral consultations;
- missions of experts and working groups;
- exchange of specialists;
- other forms of cooperation.

2. As a result of the activities provided for under this Agreement, proposals can be made on closer cooperation on definite issues, as an expression of further coordinated actions between the two Parties.

3. For this purpose, when appropriate and upon mutual consent, contracts may be signed between the postal and telecommunication entities stipulating the respective time schedules, the departments and persons responsible for carrying out and successful completion of the contract.

Article 6

The Parties agree to cooperate in the preparation of the viewpoints and mutual support connected to the participation in conferences and fora of specialized international organizations in the fields of postal services and telecommunications.

Article 7

Regarding the areas of competence of the National postal and telecommunications services regulatory bodies, the two Parties shall carry out direct cooperation on the following issues:

- ? development and application of national legislative acts, establishing of a licensing regime and liberalization of services;
- ? determination of economic and financial market principles in the telecommunications and postal sectors;
- ? optimum usage of the radio frequency spectrum and application of tariff principles in this area;
- ? type approval of terminal telecommunication equipment and mutual recognition of the approvals;
- ? standardization;
- ? structure, organization and functions of the two National regulatory bodies;
- ? other issues as mutually agreed.

Article 8

In the fields of postal and telecommunications operation the Parties shall support the direct collaboration and reciprocal accountings between the service providers.

Article 9

In the fields of research and design of postal and telecommunications facilities and of training of personnel, the Parties shall recommend and support direct collaboration and cooperation between the respective specialized entities in these fields.

Article 10

The present Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties resulting from other bilateral or multilateral international agreements to which they are parties.

Article 11

1. The following competent bodies shall be authorised to implement the present Agreement:

?? on the part of the Republic of Armenia: the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications;

?? on the part of the Republic of Bulgaria: the Committee of Posts and Telecommunications.

2. In case of any change relating to these competent bodies the Parties shall notify each other in due course.

Article 12

The information exchanged under this Agreement shall not be disclosed to third parties without the consent of the Party from which it has originated.

Article 13

The Parties shall resolve all disputes arising from the interpretation and application of the present Agreement through direct negotiations and consultations.

Article 14

1. Any Party may propose written amendments or additions to the present Agreement, which shall be agreed through negotiations.

2. The amendments and additions under the preceding paragraph shall enter into force as provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the present Agreement.

Article 15

1. The Present Agreement shall become effective on the date of receiving the second of the two notifications in which the Parties shall mutually notify each other on the completion of the required formalities for entering into force provided for in their National legislation.

2. The present Agreement shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date it becomes effective and shall be automatically renewed for further periods of 1 year each, unless either Party notifies the other Party of its intention to terminate it 6 months before the expiring of each period.

Article 16

The correspondence between the two Parties relating to the implementation of the present Agreement shall be carried out in English. The language of correspondence between the other organizations and entities shall be decided by mutual agreement.

Done in Yerevan, on 1st December 1999, in two originals, each of them in Armenian, Bulgarian and English, all texts being equally authentic and having the same value. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

The Agreement has entered into force on July 3, 2000.