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Agreement on the Regulation of Relations and Promotion of Cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia ("the Parties"),

Aware of their responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of peace and security in the region,

Guided by the principles contained in the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter,

Desiring to promote good relations between their citizens and nations,

Desiring to contribute thereby to the regulation of mutual relations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall respect each other as independent States within their international borders.

Article 2

Each Party shall respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the other Party. The Parties affirm that they shall settle disputes in a peaceful manner and shall refrain from threats or use of force, in conformity with the United Nations Charter. The Parties shall endeavour to strengthen mutual confidence, good will and tolerance and shall cooperate on the promotion of peace, good-neighbourliness and stability in the region.

The two Parties shall establish a joint diplomatic-expert commission within 30 days of the day of signing of the Agreement. The said Commission shall prepare a draft international agreement that shall describe in the form of text the alignment of the joint state border, to which geographic maps of the joint state border shall be attached as an integral part.

Afterwards the two Parties shall conclude the proposed international agreement.

Article 3

With the signing of the present Agreement, the Parties shall establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors.

Article 4

In the light of the fact that Serbia and Montenegro had existed as independent States before the creation of Yugoslavia, and in view of the fact that Yugoslavia continued the international legal personality of these States, the Republic of Macedonia respects the state continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In the light of the fact that during the National Liberation War and at the session of the Anti-Fascist Assembly of the National Liberation of Macedonia, the Macedonian people decided to organize the Republic of Macedonia as a State and to join the Yugoslav Federation, and in view of the fact that in the 1991 referendum the Macedonian people decided to organize the Republic of Macedonia as a sovereign and independent State and appreciating the fact that this has been carried out in a peaceful manner, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia respects the state continuity of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Parties agree to resolve their mutual claims on grounds of succession to the former Yugoslavia by agreement.

Article 5

The Parties shall fully protect rights of persons belonging to national minorities within their borders, in accordance with the highest international standards.

Article 6

The Parties shall work on the improvement of road, railway and air traffic, as well as postal telephone, telex and other telecommunications. The Parties shall refrain from imposing any kind of restrictions with regard to the movement of people and goods to each other's territory or over the territory of either of the Parties to the territory of the other Party. The Parties shall cooperate in order to facilitate such movement, in accordance with international law and customs.

Article 7

In order to strengthen and intensify economic and commercial ties in all fields, including in the field of industrial cooperation, the Parties shall immediately start negotiations on the conclusion of an Agreement on Economic Cooperation and Trade, with the aim of developing mutually beneficial economic and trade relations. The Parties shall also resolve the issue of property of natural and legal persons, on the basis of reciprocity and by an agreement.

Article 8

The Parties shall cooperate on the preservation and protection of the environment, especially on the elimination of all types of cross-border pollution. The Parties shall endeavour to develop and coordinate strategies and programmes for regional and international cooperation in the field of

environmental protection. Reaffirming the importance of these aims, the Parties shall immediately start negotiations with the purpose of reaching, as soon as possible, agreements on cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

The Parties shall develop and promote cooperation in the field of health, as well as cooperation relating to prevention of infectious diseases of flora and fauna.

Article 9

The Parties shall cooperate on the protection and maintenance of buildings and monuments which are part of the cultural heritage, on the basis of provisions of international law. The Parties shall promote cultural relations, and shall stimulate and facilitate all types of cultural exchange. The Parties shall immediately start negotiations on these issues in order to reach an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation.

The Parties shall develop and promote cooperation in the field of sport.

Article 10

The Parties shall develop and promote scientific and technical cooperation. They shall facilitate exchange of information on scientific and technical documentation and shall endeavour to promote mutual access to research institutions, archives, libraries and similar institutions. In this regard the Parties shall immediately start negotiations in order to sign an Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Article 11

This Agreement is done in two original copies, in the Macedonian and Serbian languages, both copies being equally authentic.

This Agreement shall apply as from the day of its signing, and shall enter into force as soon as both Parties have informed each other, through diplomatic channels, of its approval by their respective responsible organs.

Done at Belgrade on 8 April 1996.

For the Republic of Macedonia
(Signed) Ljubomir FRCKOSKI

For the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(Signed) Milan MILUTINOVIC