

No. 29507

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**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
and  
AUSTRIA**

**Agreement concerning cooperation in vocational education  
and concerning the reciprocal recognition of the equivalence  
of vocational test certificates (with annex). Signed  
at Bonn on 27 November 1989**

*Authentic text: German.*

*Registered by Germany on 28 January 1993.*

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**RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE  
et  
AUTRICHE**

**Accord relatif à la formation dans le domaine professionnel et  
à la reconnaissance réciproque de l'équivalence de certificats  
d'aptitude professionnelle (avec annexe). Signé à  
Bonn le 27 novembre 1989**

*Texte authentique : allemand.*

*Enregistré par l'Allemagne le 28 janvier 1993.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA CONCERNING COOPERATION IN  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND CONCERNING THE RECIP-  
ROCAL RECOGNITION OF THE EQUIVALENCE OF VOCA-  
TIONAL TEST CERTIFICATES

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of Austria,

Having regard to their friendly relations,

With a view to making it easier for those who have completed vocational education courses in either State to exercise their profession and advance professionally in the other State, and

Aware of the existing similarities in the area of vocational education,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

## DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement:

(a) The term “test certificate” means the proof that a course of vocational education has been completed by successfully passing an examination the requirements for which are laid down in legal or administrative provisions of the Federation or the Länder of both Parties;

(b) The expression “equivalence” means the existence of equivalent examination requirements;

(c) The expression “treating/regarding as equivalent” means the recognition within a State of the equivalence of test certificates.

*Article 2*

## GENERAL COOPERATION

(1) The Contracting Parties shall devote particular attention to the development and expansion of their cooperation in the area of vocational education and shall endeavour to promote it.

(2) To that end they shall also lend their support to cooperation between institutions, organizations and institutes, in particular of employers and employees, of

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 July 1990, i.e., the first day of the third month following the month in which the Parties had notified each other (on 20 March and 11 April 1990) of the completion of the respective domestic conditions, in accordance with article 10.

both Parties that deal with questions of vocational education, whether on a country-wide or regional basis.

### *Article 3*

#### PREREQUISITES FOR RECOGNITION, MUTUAL NOTIFICATION

(1) The Contracting Parties shall treat/regard test certificates as equivalent, provided that:

- (a) The equivalence has been established by both Parties, and
- (b) The examination certificates are listed in the annex to article 5.

(2) The Contracting Parties shall:

(a) Exchange all the information and documentation necessary for assessing the equivalence, and

(b) Notify each other at the earliest possible date of any changes in examination requirements.

(3) Examination certificates acquired in civil service employment or through vocational training whose express and sole objective is the subsequent use of the certification in the civil service, shall be excluded from treatment/consideration as equivalent.

### *Article 4*

#### EFFECT OF RECOGNITION

A test certificate treated/regarded as equivalent shall confer on the person named therein, on the territory of the other Party, the rights that are connected with the test certificate of that other Party treated/regarded as equivalent.

### *Article 5*

#### LIST OF TEST CERTIFICATES RECOGNIZED AS EQUIVALENT

(1) Test certificates to be treated/regarded as equivalent shall be included in a list attached to this Agreement as an annex.

(2) The list may be amended or supplemented through an exchange of notes.

### *Article 6*

#### COMMISSION OF EXPERTS

(1) For the purpose of advising on all questions arising out of this Agreement, the two Contracting Parties shall establish a Commission of Experts. Representatives of employer and employee organizations from both Parties shall participate in the Expert Commission. In addition, representatives of the Länder of both Parties may participate.

(2) The Commission of Experts shall meet at least every second year or at the request of either of the two Contracting Parties.

(3) The Commission of Experts shall review the implementation of this Agreement and shall recommend by consensus amendments or additions to the list of recognized test certificates.

### Article 7

#### AGREEMENTS UNAFFECTED

The following shall not be affected by this Agreement:

(a) The European Convention of 11 December 1953 on the Equivalence of Diplomas Leading to Admission to Universities,<sup>1</sup> together with the Additional Protocol of 3 June 1964,<sup>2</sup> and

(b) The Agreement of 19 January 1983 between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of Austria concerning the Recognition of Equivalences in the Field of Higher Education, together with the relevant Supplementary Agreement concluded through an exchange of notes on the same day.<sup>3</sup>

### Article 8

#### BERLIN CLAUSE

This Agreement shall also apply to *Land Berlin* unless the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany makes a declaration to the contrary to the Government of the Republic of Austria within three months after the entry into force of this Agreement.

### Article 9

#### PERIOD OF VALIDITY, AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

(1) This Agreement shall remain in force until it is denounced in writing through the diplomatic channel by either of the two Contracting Parties. A denunciation shall become effective six months after it has been received by the other Contracting Party.

(2) Except for the provision set down in article 5, paragraph 2, this Agreement may be amended or supplemented only through an agreement to be concluded between the Contracting Parties.

### Article 10

#### ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month after the month in which the two Contracting Parties have notified each other that the respective domestic conditions for its entry into force have been fulfilled.

<sup>1</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 218, p. 125.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 514, p. 270.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 1387, p. 317.