

No. 29515

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection (with annexes). Signed at Moscow on 25 October 1988

Authentic texts: German and Russian.

Registered by Germany on 28 January 1993.

**RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES**

Accord relatif à la coopération dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement (avec annexes). Signé à Moscou le 25 octobre 1988

Textes authentiques : allemand et russe.

Enregistré par l'Allemagne le 28 janvier 1993.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, hereinafter referred to as “the Contracting Parties”,

Attaching great importance to protection of the environment and to the rational use of natural resources and desiring to contribute, through the establishment of cooperation, to the achievement of practical results in that sphere,

Proceeding from the view that the proper and supervised use of scientific and technological achievements can prevent adverse effects of their application and can promote the improvement of the interaction between mankind and nature,

Understanding that economic and social development with due regard for the interests of future generations requires protection and improvement of the environment as early as the present time,

Convinced that the development of cooperation between them on environmental problems, with due regard to the cumulative experience of States having different social and economic systems, serves to strengthen inter-State and international relations,

Endeavouring to improve and expand existing cooperation, in accordance with the desire expressed in the Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 12 August 1970,

Desiring, in accordance with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed at Helsinki in 1975,² and with the results of the High-level Meeting within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the Protection of the Environment, held at Geneva in 1979,³ of the third Session of the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, held at Helsinki in 1985,⁴ and of the Multilateral Conference on Environmental Conservation, held at Munich in 1984, to contribute effectively to environmental protection within the framework of close and long-term cooperation between the two countries,

Pursuant to the goals of the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on scientific and technical cooperation of 22 July 1986,⁵

¹ Came into force on 25 October 1988 by signature, in accordance with article 14.

² *International Legal Materials*, vol. 14 (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

³ See “Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution” in the United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1302, p. 217.

⁴ See “Protocol to the 1979 Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution on the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent”, *ibid.*, vol. 1480, No. I-25247.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1554, No. I-27007.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the field of environmental protection on the basis of equal rights, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Article 2

The said cooperation shall be aimed at the solution of important problems relating to environmental protection and to the rational use of natural resources and shall be directed towards the study of harmful effects on the environment and towards the development of measures for preventing them.

It shall be carried out, in particular, in the following spheres:

- Maintenance of clean air;
- Protecting the pollution of waters;
- Prevention of accidents which have severe effects on the environment;
- Urban environmental protection;
- Avoiding the creation of waste, using waste and disposing of waste harmlessly;
- Combating noise pollution;
- Biological and genetic effects of environmental pollution on humans;
- Protection of ecosystems, including soils, creation of nature preserves and protection of rare and endangered animal and plant species;
- Forest conservation;
- The effects of environmental changes on climate;
- Monitoring the status of the environment;
- The setting of standards with a view to preserving environmental quality;
- Legal and administrative practice.

In the course of such cooperation, the Contracting Parties shall intensively promote the development and application of technological processes and methods which do not harm the environment and shall devote due attention to the economic and international aspects of environmental measures.

Article 3

The goals of the cooperation between Contracting Parties shall also include measures to reduce transboundary atmospheric transport of pollutants and to reduce or prevent their emission into the atmosphere.

Article 4

Cooperation between the Contracting Parties in the sphere of environmental protection shall be implemented, in particular, according to the programming chart referred to in article 8 and according to work plans developed and agreed upon on that basis, mainly in the following forms:

- The exchange of experience;
- The exchange of scientific and technical information, documents and research findings;
- The exchange of experts;
- The joint organizing and jointly holding conferences, symposiums, and meetings of experts;
- The joint development and implementation of programmes and projects and the organization and implementation of joint operations such as experiments and expeditions;
- The exploitation, and in particular the publication, of the results of the most important joint projects and programmes;
- The participation of specialists from the two Contracting Parties in international conferences, symposiums and exhibitions relating to environmental protection which are held in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Details relating to the practical implementation of cooperation shall be governed by annex 1, which is an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 5

Proceeding from the objectives of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall promote and support the creation and development of direct contacts and cooperation between institutions, organizations and enterprises.

Article 6

In order to promote the implementation of this Agreement, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation in the sphere of Environmental Protection (hereinafter referred to as “the Joint Commission”).

The Joint Commission shall determine the work plans for cooperation, each of which shall have a duration of three years. The work plans shall identify the specific subject areas and projects for cooperation, the entities and individuals responsible for implementation and further modalities for cooperation.

The Joint Commission shall discuss the results of the cooperation and shall decide upon specific measures on the basis of those results.

Within three months after the entry into force of this Agreement each Contracting Party shall notify to the other the name of its Chairman for the Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission shall meet at least once a year, alternatively in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Joint Commission may establish working groups in particular areas and on particular problems of cooperation.

Article 7

The authorities responsible for the coordination and organization of cooperation within the framework of this Agreement shall be: for the Federal Republic of

Germany the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety, and for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the USSR State Committee for Environmental Protection. The said authorities shall maintain direct contacts with each other.

Article 8

A programming chart for cooperation in the field of environmental protection, identifying the high-priority subject areas and projects, is contained in annex 2 of this Agreement. The programming chart may be reviewed and additions to it may be made by agreement between the Parties.

Article 9

Within the framework of cooperation under this Agreement, each Contracting Party shall pay its own expenses for the fulfilment of obligations arising from the programme of cooperation. Fees for participation in congresses and specialized scientific events shall be paid by the host Party in each case. Financing for exchanges of experts shall be regulated by the Joint Commission.

Specialists participating in cooperation within the framework of this Agreement shall receive free medical care (not including services relating to dental prosthetic devices) in connection with accidents or any illness that requires emergency medical care; in the Federal Republic of Germany medical care shall be provided under an insurance scheme, and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics medical care shall be provided in accordance with the law and regulations in force.

Article 10

Obligations of the Contracting Parties under any international treaties and agreements to which they are party shall not be affected by this Agreement.

Article 11

The Contracting Parties and the organizations, institutions and enterprises participating in cooperation shall, when exchanging information, comply with the laws, other regulations and international obligations in effect in each case.

The Parties may, by agreement, communicate the results of their cooperation to third Parties.

Article 12

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by means of consultations between the Contracting Parties.

Article 13

Pursuant to the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971,¹ this Agreement shall be extended to Berlin (West) in accordance with the established procedures.

Article 14

This Agreement and the first agreed work plan shall enter into force on the date on which the Agreement is signed.

¹United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 880, p. 115.