

No. 30626

**FRANCE
and
BULGARIA**

**Treaty of understanding, friendship and cooperation. Signed
at Paris on 18 February 1992**

Authentic texts: French and Bulgarian.

Registered by France on 11 January 1994.

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Enregistré par la France le 11 janvier 1994.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TREATY¹ OF UNDERSTANDING, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria,

Considering the close bonds of friendship and the manifold relations that have been forged throughout history between their peoples,

Wishing to strengthen them by developing cooperation in all fields with a view to establishing a true partnership between them,

Convinced of the need to strengthen European solidarity on the basis of the universal values of freedom, democracy and justice,

Reaffirming their faithfulness to the obligations arising from international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the importance of the commitments they have entered into under the Helsinki Final Act² and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,³ and earnestly appealing for the establishment of mechanisms for security and cooperation throughout the continent of Europe,

Encouraged by the progress made in overcoming the former divisions in Europe and concerned to prevent the emergence of new divisions and to work for the stabilization and development of South-Eastern Europe,

Stressing the prime importance of economic cooperation for the development of their bilateral relations,

Taking account of the prospect of a European Union and hoping that it will make a decisive contribution to the building of a united and mutually supportive Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria agree to cooperate actively in all fields in a spirit of mutual respect and trust and, basing themselves on the principles of democracy that they share, undertake to promote closer relations between their peoples in a united Europe.

2. The Parties shall conclude such other agreements and arrangements as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Treaty.

Article 2

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall work to bring about a peaceful and interdependent Europe.

¹ Came into force on 14 October 1993, i.e., 30 days after the date of receipt of the last instrument of ratification, in accordance with article 16 (1).

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

³ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session (A/45/859)*, p. 3.

To that end, they shall develop political, economic and cultural cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally; they shall take steps to ensure that Europe as a whole becomes a community based on the rule of law and democratic principles and that ensures its own security.

2. The French Republic undertakes to promote the development and expansion of relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Communities.

It shall support the speedy conclusion of an association agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Communities.

It shall support the efforts of the Republic of Bulgaria to establish the preconditions for its full integration into the European Communities.

3. The French Republic shall regard the admission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe as an important factor to be taken into account with a view to its integration into a united Europe that could assume the form of a confederation.

4. The commitments entered into by the French Republic under bilateral agreements with the Republic of Bulgaria shall respect the areas of competence of the European Communities and the provisions laid down by their institutions.

Article 3

The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall cooperate in the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of security in Europe with a view to establishing a European zone of peace, security and cooperation.

Within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, they shall work to strengthen stability and confidence in the continent of Europe, bearing in mind each Party's specific security interests. They shall also actively pursue a balanced process of conventional disarmament and of confidence-building and enhanced transparency based on the effective implementation of the principle of sufficiency by all States and on observance of all conditions for security in Europe.

They shall contribute to the establishment and efficient operation of structures and machinery conducive to the strengthening of the process being conducted through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the creation of the conditions for genuine security for all European States.

Article 4

1. The French Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria shall hold regular meetings, at the appropriate levels, in order to exchange views on their bilateral relations and on international problems of common interest, especially on basic questions relating to security and cooperation in Europe.

2. Consultations at the highest level shall be held at intervals decided by common accord.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries shall meet at least once a year.

Working meetings between representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs shall be held regularly.