

Treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic on the Basis for Relations Between States

The Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, hereinafter called “the High Contracting Parties”,

Assigning to the past events and actions that hindered each High Contracting Party from fully and freely realizing their state sovereignty,

And being convinced that once the Union of Soviet Socialist republics annuls the consequences of the 1940 annexation violating Lithuania’s sovereignty, created will be additional conditions for mutual trust between the High Contracting Parties and their peoples,

Having decided, for the good of the peoples of both countries, to base relations between their states on the principles of friendship, good neighborliness, equal rights, and mutual benefit according to universally recognized norms of international law,

Affirming their adherence to the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations Organization and documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Stating their resolve to abide by international standards of human rights,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The High Contracting Parties recognize one another as full-fledged subjects of international law and as sovereign states according to their state status as established by the fundamental acts adopted by the Republic of Lithuania on 11 March 1990 and by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic on 12 June 1990.

Each High Contracting Party recognizes the inalienable right of the other High Contracting Party to state independence, to the full sovereignty of the other High Contracting Party’s legislative, executive and judicial power on its territory.

The High Contracting Parties pledge to refrain from the use of force and the threat of the use of force in their mutual relations, to refrain from interference in internal affairs, to respect sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders in accordance with the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The High Contracting Parties pledge to conscientiously adhere in their mutual relations to universally recognized principles and standards of international law, and to refrain from contributing to actions of third parties which violate these principles and standards with respect to the other High Contracting Party.

Article 2

The High Contracting Parties recognize each other's right to independently realize their sovereignty in the area of defense and security in ways they find acceptable, contributing to the process of disarmament and reduction of tension in Europe, as well as through systems of collective security, whereas the manner of interaction in this domain shall be defined by separate agreement.

Article 3

The High Contracting Parties shall prohibit by law and preclude the formation and functioning on their respective territories of organizations and groups, as well as the activity of individuals, seeking to abolish by force the independence and sovereign statehood of the other High Contracting Party, to destroy its territorial integrity, or to seize power by force.

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in combating organized and international crime.

Article 4

The High Contracting Parties shall secure for their citizens equal rights and freedoms regardless of nationality or other differences.

The Republic of Lithuania shall secure for persons who have the right to citizenship of the RSFSR and who as of 3 November 1989 permanently resided and still reside on the territory of Lithuania, and have a permanent place of employment or other lawful means of support, the right to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania of their own free will and according to the laws of the Republic of Lithuania, exempting them from residential qualification, command of the Lithuanian language or any other conditions for the acquisition of citizenship except those prescribed for all other persons.

The Republic of Lithuania shall secure the right to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania for persons who have the right to citizenship of the RSFSR, and who have come to Lithuania after 3 November 1989, up to and including the date of signature of this Treaty, who have since been permanent residents on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, and have a permanent place of employment in enterprises, institutions, or organizations in the Republic of Lithuania, or other means of support. These persons shall have the right to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania of their free will and according to the procedure established by laws of the Republic of Lithuania. The requirements of residential qualification and command of the Lithuanian language shall not be applied to such persons.

The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic shall secure for persons who have citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania or the right to such citizenship, and who at the time of signing of this Treaty were permanent residents on the territory of the RSFSR, and had a permanent place of employment or any other lawful means of support in the RSFSR, the right to acquire of their own free will and according to the procedure established by the laws on RSFSR citizenship of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, without applying to them conditions for the acquisition of citizenship other than those prescribed for all other persons.

Persons indicated in paragraphs 3 and 4 hereof may freely exercise their will concerning the acquisition of citizenship of the other High Contracting Party up to the date specified by separate agreement between the Parties.

In the event persons indicated in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 hereof do not, of their own free will and according to the laws of their country of residence and provisions hereof, acquire citizenship of their country of residence, they have the right to retain or acquire citizenship of the other High Contracting Party pursuant to laws of the other High Contracting Party.

Article 5

Each High Contracting Party, according to universally recognized principles and standards of international law, shall determine by its laws the rights and obligations related to the acquisition of citizenship of this Party.

Each High Contracting Party shall secure, regardless of nationality, for all persons indicated in Article 4 of this Treaty and living on its territory, civil and political, social, economic and cultural right, and fundamental human freedoms in accordance with universally recognized principles and standards of international law and the laws of their country of residence, and also secures the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, together with other members of such groups or members of an officially registered community, to make use of their culture, profess their religion and perform religious observances, and to use their native language.

Each High Contracting Party shall secure for citizens of the other High Contracting Party and for persons having the right to this citizenship, who are temporarily on its territory, all human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized to such persons according to universally recognized principles and standards of international law and the laws of the country in which they are.

The High Contracting Parties, according to universally recognized principles and standards of international law, shall secure for citizens of one High Contracting Party who are on the territory of the other High Contracting Party the right to appeal for legal, humanitarian or other assistance to the plenipotentiary missions of the state whereof they are citizens.

Article 6

Recognizing the right of each High Contracting Party to adopt its own laws on immigration and to implement independent immigration policy, regulation by the High Contracting Parties of issues arising in this domain shall be by separate agreement and shall take into consideration universally recognized principles and standards of international law.

Issues of migration related to employment shall also be regulated by separate agreement between governments.

The High Contracting Parties shall establish by separate agreement the procedure and conditions for the change of residence of citizens who of their own free will are changing residence from the territory of one Party to the territory of the other Party, as well as mutual obligations for rendering them material and other assistance.

Article 7

The High Contracting Parties recognize the necessity of cooperation and exchange in the areas of culture, art, health care, education, science, information, technology, and other areas.

Article 8

The High Contracting Parties deem it expedient to effect all-around cooperation on an equal basis in the domain of international relations.

Article 9

The High Contracting Parties recognize the necessity of coordinating attempts in seeking to participate in the common international system of environmental protection.

Article 10

Economic cooperation between the High Contracting Parties shall be regulated by treaties and agreements providing for most favored nation status.

The High Contracting Parties shall support the development of mutual economic Relations at the levels of economic management, and the establishment of Russian - Lithuanian and Lithuanian - Russian joint ventures and their operation, as well as the development of relations between owners of individual enterprises.

The High Contracting Parties shall inform each other in advance of economic decisions that might affect the other High Contracting Party's rights and legitimate interests mutually agreed upon in the domain of bilateral relations.

Article 11

The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic expresses a special interest, while the Republic of Lithuania assumes the obligation to contribute to the preservation of favorable conditions for the economic and national-cultural development of the Kaliningrad Oblast. These conditions shall be regulated by special agreement between the High Contracting Parties.

Article 12

The High Contracting Parties shall conclude special intergovernmental agreements concerning financial currency relations, banks, trade exchange, circulation of securities, rates of payment, prices, duties and transportation rates. This list is not comprehensive. The procedure and schedule for conversion to settlement of accounts at world prices shall be established by agreement.

Article 13

The High Contracting Parties shall independently regulate property relations on their respective territories.

The legal management of state property, and property belonging to legal and natural persons of one of the High Contracting Parties, located on the territory of the other High Contracting Party, shall be regulated by the laws of the High Contracting Party on whose territory the property is located, unless separate agreements of the High Contracting Parties provide otherwise.

Unresolved issues concerning property relations on the territories of the High Contracting Parties shall be resolved by the High Contracting Parties according to legal procedure, as necessary, with third parties participating.

All other issues concerning property relations, related to the interests of the High Contracting Parties, must be settled by separate agreement.

Article 14

The High Contracting Parties, securing transit passenger and cargo traffic through their sea and river and airports, by railway and motorway, as well as pipe-line, shall conclude a special agreement concerning the regulation, without discrimination of transit passenger and cargo traffic.

Article 15

The High Contracting Parties shall implement such economic policy which would encourage the development of the Parties' various economic relations and integration into the international economic area.

Article 16

This Treaty is bilateral and does not concern the relations of the High Contracting Parties with third parties.

In concluding additional agreements, the High Contracting Parties shall follow the principles expressed in this Treaty.

Article 17

The High Contracting Parties shall organize bilateral consultations concerning implementation of this Treaty when necessary, but no less than once a year.

All issues in dispute which may arise in interpretation or implementation of this Treaty must be resolved through bilateral consultation at an appropriate level.

Each High Contracting Party shall retain the right, through consultation, to initiate negotiation concerning the suitability of extending the term of validity of this Treaty or any of its individual articles.

By agreement of both High Contracting Parties, the provisions of this Treaty may be appended or revised in accordance with procedure established by the High Contracting Parties.

Article 18

Seeking to implement the provisions of this Treaty, including those of Articles 4 and 5, the High Contracting Parties intend, if necessary and by bilateral agreement, to mutually appoint appropriate commissions.

The procedure for the formation and functioning of commissions appointed in accordance hereof, and also their authority, shall be determined by the High Contracting Parties by special agreement.

Article 19

The High Contracting Parties deem it expedient to exchange plenipotentiary missions.

Article 20

This Treaty must be ratified. The exchange of instruments of ratification shall take place in Vilnius.

This Treaty shall come into force on the day of exchange of instruments of ratification.

This Treaty shall be valid for ten years, with the exception of Article 1 of this Treaty, which shall be valid indefinitely.

The validity of this Treaty shall at the time be automatically renewed for the same term, if neither of the High Contracting Parties, no later than six months before its expiration, informs in writing of desire to not renew the Treaty or to introduce revisions.

Drawn up and executed in Moscow on the twenty-ninth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-one, in duplicate, consisting of Russian and Lithuanian copies, both being of equal validity.

For the Republic
of Lithuania

Vytautas Landsbergis

For the Russian Soviet
Federated Socialist Republic

Boris Yeltsin