

JOINT STATEMENT

ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BETWEEN THE ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

1. The Estonian Minister of Education, Mr Tõnis Lukas and the UK Minister of State for Education and Employment, Baroness Blackstone, acknowledge a mutual interest in developing constructive relations and co-operation in the fields of education and training, particularly in the context of EU enlargement and the anticipated future accession of Estonia.
2. This co-operation would include exchange of experience and information in order to facilitate links and promote co-operation between the two Governments and their associated agencies and institutions in the field of education and training. This should include information on education and training policies and their implementation, infrastructure and services at the national, regional and local level in the respective countries.
3. Examples of areas for the exchange of experience and information will include:
 - a) school reform, including school organisation, management and quality assurance;
 - b) further education, including funding systems and quality assurance;
 - c) the development and delivery of vocational education and training;
 - d) training for teachers;
 - e) higher education, including funding systems and quality assurance.

4. Co-operation will include exchange of information in the form of:

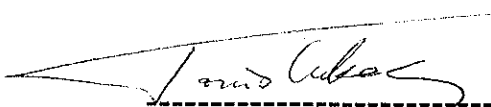
- written documentation, including use of the Internet and other electronic media;
- seminars/workshops;
- reciprocal experts' consultations;
- participation in relevant conferences.

5. The host country would be responsible for setting up the programme for each specific activity and each side would meet its own travel and accommodation expenses.

6. For the United Kingdom, the agreement will be taken forward in collaboration with the British Council in Estonia and the United Kingdom, which will be the main agency of implementation.

7. Representatives of each Minister and of the British Council will meet every two years at the appropriate level, in the UK and/or Estonia to consider relevant policy issues; review activities carried out under the terms of the agreement during the preceding two years and to agree activities to be pursued for the following two years.

8. The Ministers look forward with pleasure to a mutually beneficial and rewarding relationship between their respective Ministries both bi-laterally and within the framework of international bodies.



TÕNIS LUKAS

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION



BARONESS BLACKSTONE

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT

Tallinn

Date : 15. 08. 2000

London

Date :