

Joint Statement
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and
the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
on regional cooperation and assistance in the field of European and
Euro-Atlantic integration

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Antanas Valionis, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Vartan Oskanian, hereinafter referred to as “Ministers”,

Aiming to enhance the development of relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Armenia,

Stressing the necessity of deepening the existing political dialogue between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs on the basis of the Protocol on Co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia signed on March 13, 2000;

Aiming to promote further development of Armenia’s cooperation with the European Union and NATO;

Stressing the importance of regional cooperation between South Caucasus and Baltic Sea regions as well as in the wider context of the Black Sea area;

Agreed on following:

1. Ministers highly valued the inclusion of the Republic of Armenia and other South Caucasus states into the European Neighbourhood Policy and expressed their interest in finalizing Action Plan for Armenia as soon as possible.
2. Ministers agreed to cooperate in facilitating the activities aimed at full utilization of the possibilities available to Armenia within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.
3. With the aim to assist the Republic of Armenia in the field of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, Ministers will hold regular consultations and will promote cooperation, first of all in following areas:

- strengthening of the institutional structure in Armenia through administrative capacity building, sharing of experience and expertise in reform process and training of state officials on European integration issues;

- informing the general public about the processes within the European Union and the European integration;

- conducting joint consultations, conferences and other activities on the issues of the European integration;

- sharing experience in the field of harmonization of legislation with that of EU;

- supporting the implementation of the Individual Partnership Action Plan between NATO and the Republic of Armenia;

- encouraging the exchange of experience in the field of military reform by organizing joint meetings, consultations, training;

- encouraging cooperation among relevant non-governmental organizations.

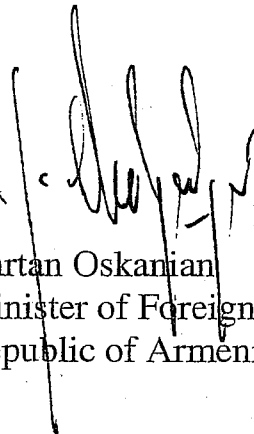
4. Ministers will promote regional cooperation between the Baltic States and the countries of the South Caucasus.

5. Ministers stress the importance of developing regional cooperation in the South Caucasus with the support of the European Union. Such cooperation will contribute to establishing atmosphere of mutual confidence and to the economic development of the entire region.

Done in Vilnius, 18 October 2005



Antanas Valionis
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Lithuania



Vartan Oskanian
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Armenia