

**Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council, the Government of the
Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the French Republic
on Cross-border Co-operation in the Upper Rhine Region, dated 21st
September 2000**

The Swiss Federal Council, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the French Republic, hereinafter called the contracting parties,

- Considering the long tradition of cross-border activities in the Upper Rhine Region and the high standards of cross-border co-operation thus achieved;
- Desirous of further fostering and strengthening the cross-border co-operation in the Upper Rhine Region by fully using the respective domestic laws and thus contributing to the realisation of a Europe close to the citizen;
- Having regard to the spirit of the Agreement between the Governments of the Swiss Federation, the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic on the establishment of a Commission designed to examine and resolve neighbourhood issues, signed in Bonn on 22nd October 1975;
- Being resolved to put the aims of the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid Convention) in concrete terms and to facilitate, for territorial communities and local authorities, the implementation of the Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council, acting on behalf of the Cantons of Solothurn, Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Aargau and Jura, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg on Cross-border Cooperation between Regional Authorities and Local Public Bodies (Karlsruhe Agreement) signed in Karlsruhe on 23rd January 1996;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

- (1) In order to promote cross-border co-operation, the Parties establish a joint Governmental Commission for the Upper Rhine (hereinafter referred to as „the Commission“).

- (2) This Agreement shall not prejudice the activity of other bodies, either those already established on the basis of an international agreement or those to be established in the future.
- (3) The scope and nature of the powers of regional authorities regarding cross-border co-operation, as conferred on them under the domestic law of the parties, shall not be altered by this Agreement.

Article 2

The frontier areas covered by this Agreement on cross-border co-operation are:

- the Cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Aargau, Jura and Solothurn;
- the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg: with its regions Mittlerer Oberrhein, Südlicher Oberrhein and the districts of Lörrach and Waldshut;
- the Federal State of Rheinland-Pfalz: the area Südpfalz of the region Rheinpfalz with its districts Südliche Weinstraße and Germersheim as well as the district-independent town of Landau in the Palatinate and the association of local authorities Dahner Felsenland in the Region Westpfalz;
- the Region of Alsace.

Article 3

- (1) In order to fulfil its tasks, the Commission relies on a regional commission, named the „Franco-German-Swiss Conference on the Upper Rhine “.
- (2) The Upper Rhine Conference shall draw up rules of procedure.

Article 4

- (1) The Commission shall in particular be responsible for dealing with those matters of cross-border co-operation, which cannot be dealt with by the Upper Rhine Conference.
- (2) The Commission draws up recommendations addressed to the parties and prepares draft agreements where appropriate.
- (3) In application of the Karlsruhe Agreement, the Commission may recommend to the Governments of the Contracting Parties solutions or, if appropriate, the revision of the text of the Agreement.

Article 5

- (1) The Commission shall be composed of three delegations, whose members shall be appointed by the governments of each of the parties.

(2) Each delegation shall be composed of no more than eight members, some of which shall also be members of the Upper Rhine Conference.

(3) Each delegation may avail itself of the services of experts.

Article 6

(1) The Commission shall meet once per year on the territory of one of the three parties. The Commission shall endeavour to co-ordinate its meetings with those of the Upper Rhine Conference.

(2) The Commission may establish working parties.

(3) The Commission's official languages are German and French.

(4) The Commission shall draw up rules of procedure.

Article 7

(1) The Commission shall be informed regularly about the work and decisions of the Upper Rhine Conference.

(2) The Commission may empower the Upper Rhine Conference to submit proposals or to refer draft agreements.

Article 8

(1) Each party shall notify the other parties of the completion of the procedures required under its domestic law for the implementation of this agreement.

(2) This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the last party has notified the other parties of the completion of the procedures required under its domestic law for the implementation of this agreement.

Article 9

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. Any party may terminate this Agreement at the end of a calendar year by means of written notification addressed to the other parties, and giving at least six month's notice.

Article 10

This Agreement replaces the Agreement between the Governments of the Swiss Federation, the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic on the establishment of a

Commission designed to examine and resolve neighbourhood issues, signed in Bonn on 22nd of October 1975.

Done at Basel, the 21st day of September 2000 in a triple copy in German and in French, both texts being equally authentic.

For

the Swiss Federal Council

Secretary of State Franz von Däniken

the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Ambassador Klaus Bald

the Government of the French Republic

Ambassador Régis de Bélenet