

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

AND

THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF TUSCANY

WHEREAS both Scotland and Tuscany wish to promote sustainable economic growth and job creation;

WHEREAS many of the same sectors are important in both economies;

WHEREAS both Scotland and Tuscany have their own legislative parliaments;

WHEREAS they both enjoy a rich artistic and cultural heritage and consider that inter-regional co-operation can enrich their arts and culture;

WHEREAS both seek to maximise the contribution of culture in education practice and to foster creativity in their young people;

WHEREAS both consider that inter-regional co-operation can contribute to a better mutual knowledge and understanding between the parties;

WHEREAS both parties recognise the wider contribution that inter-regional co-operation makes to the success of the European Union;

NOW, THEREFORE

On one hand, First Minister Jack McConnell, on behalf of the Scottish Executive

On the other hand, President Claudio Martini, on behalf of the Regional Government of Tuscany

AGREE to collaborate under the following headings:

(1) Economic Development - in areas such as:

- research, technological development and innovation;*
- rural development;*
- development of the small and medium size enterprise sector; and sectors of common interest such as the agri-food sector, the textile and fashion industries, the creative industries and tourism.*

The parties agree to take forward this co-operation through such means as the exchange of good practice, joint projects and joint international initiatives.

In relation to cultural tourism in particular, the parties will, for example:

- encourage their agencies to exchange information about relevant events, festivals, exhibitions, conferences and symposia in fields covered by this agreement taking place in Scotland and Tuscany;*
- promote, through their cultural agencies, opportunities for exchanging exhibitions and other cultural events; and*
- share information and good practice about the promotion of cultural and business tourism*



- (2) Arts and Culture - through such means as:
- the promotion of contacts and bilateral exchanges between the Scottish Executive and the Regional Government of Tuscany and their respective cultural institutions, organisations and bodies; and
 - identification of opportunities for the exchange of skills, knowledge and expertise between cultural organisations and practitioners in the fields of literature, the visual arts, architecture, museums and galleries, the performing arts, film, libraries and archives, and the creative industries (and in specific areas such as conservation of the national heritage, development of business sponsorship of the arts, marketing to develop new audiences and advancing the role of culture in promoting social justice)
- (3) Cultural Education and Creativity - through such means as:
- the promotion of links in the fields of culture and creativity between their educationalists and academic institutions at all levels, to assist the exchange of information and good practice in areas such as teaching and research;
 - fostering links between their agencies and cultural institutions such as museums, art galleries, theatres, libraries etc in relation to their promotional and educational activities; and
 - encouraging contacts between young people and direct co-operation between youth organisations and educational institutions of Scotland and Tuscany
- (4) EU and international policies of common interest - including:
- Future of Europe;
 - EU Cultural Policies and Projects. The parties agree to consult each other on relevant EU initiatives and policies in the cultural field and to consider joint projects taking advantage, where appropriate, of EU funding opportunities; and
 - World Heritage Status
- (5) Other areas of mutual interest that may emerge over time.

AND FURTHER AGREE

That, in taking forward this collaboration, they will:

- focus on projects with clear objectives, outputs and timescales;
- seek to develop projects which are clearly of mutual interest and benefit; and
- avoid building up complex administrative structures and procedures.

This co-operation agreement will take effect on its signature day.

Both parties have signed the present co-operation agreement in English and Italian.



Jack McConnell, First Minister for Scotland

President Claudio Martini, President of the Regional Government of Tuscany
Florence, 15th November 2002

