

No. 25793

**FRANCE AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
and
BENIN**

**Agreement on the assignment of European volunteers for
development. Signed at Cotonou on 29 April 1986**

Authentic texts: French and German.

Registered by France on 16 March 1988.

**FRANCE
ET RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE
et
BÉNIN**

**Accord sur l'envoi de volontaires européens du développe-
ment. Signé à Cotonou le 29 avril 1986**

Textes authentiques : français et allemand.

Enregistré par la France le 16 mars 1988.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN
ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS FOR DE-
VELOPMENT

The Governments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany
and

The Government of the People's Republic of Benin,

Desiring to consolidate the friendly relations existing between the Contracting
States and their peoples,

Determined to promote cooperation between the countries of Europe and
Africa,

Wishing to foster the friendship and solidarity of European and African youth,

Intent on contributing to their common economic and social development,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The Governments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic
of Germany shall undertake, through the assignment of European volunteers for de-
velopment, to participate in economic and social development operations which meet
the priority requirements of the people of the People's Republic of Benin and form
part of national development policy. Any participation by European volunteers for
development shall be undertaken at the express request of the Beninese Government.

For the purposes of this Agreement, volunteers shall be understood to be spe-
cialists who have completed their vocational training and wish to work in the terri-
tory of the People's Republic of Benin without remuneration in order to promote
specific projects.

Article 2. Each operation under this Agreement shall be the subject of a
specific arrangement between its signatories.

The Contracting Parties may entrust specialized agencies or bodies with the exe-
cution of this Agreement. These agencies or bodies shall, *inter alia*, if need be, be en-
titled to make the arrangements referred to in the first paragraph of this article. If
one Party wishes to apply this provision, it shall notify the other Parties concerned
accordingly.

Article 3. European volunteers for development shall be integrated into a
development project under the authority of the Government of Benin. The Govern-
ments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, or the bodies re-
ferred to in article 2, second paragraph, shall assign European volunteers for devel-
opment to the Beninese Government.

¹ Came into force on 29 April 1986 by signature, in accordance with article 15.

Article 4. The Governments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, or the bodies referred to in article 2, second paragraph, shall seek European volunteers for development whose particular areas of competence correspond to the job descriptions of the development projects. They shall also, if need be, give them additional training.

Article 5. The Government of Benin shall provide European volunteers for development with the assistance necessary for the performance of their duties. It shall afford them aid and protection.

It shall, *inter alia*, grant immunity from prosecution for any acts committed or words spoken or written in connection with the performance of a duty assigned to them under this Agreement.

It shall assume responsibility for compensating damage attributable to them in connection with the performance of any duty assigned to them under this Agreement, and shall undertake not to institute legal proceedings against them except for fraud or serious professional misconduct jointly acknowledged by the Parties concerned.

The Governments concerned shall supply the Government of Benin with whatever information or other assistance it may require to deal with a case in accordance with this article.

Article 6. The allowances paid to European volunteers for development by the Governments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, or by the competent bodies, shall not constitute a salary. The Government of Benin shall exempt European volunteers for development from all taxes and dues relating to such allowances.

Article 7. European volunteers for development shall enjoy full social security coverage.

The Government of Benin shall give European volunteers for development assigned to it the same entitlement to medical, dental and hospital care as its own civil servants of equivalent level, and under the same conditions. In addition, during their stay and on the conclusion of their assignment European volunteers for development shall be covered by the legislation applicable to them in their countries of origin.

Article 8. The Government of Benin shall issue to volunteers, free of charge, entry, residence, free movement and exit permits to leave the country at any time, including facilities for repatriation in the event of national disasters or national or international crises, and the identity documents necessary for the performance of their duties.

Article 9. The European Government or agency financing the project shall provide European volunteers with furnished accommodation, fully equipped.

The Government of Benin shall authorize temporary entry, free of duties and taxes, of the material, equipment and vehicles necessary for implementing the project, and of the personal effects and property belonging to volunteers, including one private vehicle per family but excluding food and beverages.

Article 10. The Government of Benin may return a European volunteer for development to his country of origin if it considers that his personal or professional

behaviour justifies such a measure. In such case, the Government or agency of origin must be notified accordingly, with a statement of reasons, and must be given one month's notice.

The Government or agency of origin may also recall a European volunteer for development after consultation with the authorities utilizing the volunteer's services.

Article 11. Volunteers shall be bound by the obligation to exercise professional discretion in all matters relating to facts or information to which they become privy in the performance of their duties.

They shall refrain from any act that may be detrimental to the Government or agency utilizing their services.

Volunteers shall not be required to take part in any manifestation alien to their assignment nor be assigned to any such activities.

They shall not engage in gainful activity of any kind.

Article 12. The procedures for implementing this Agreement may, where necessary, be the subject of additional protocols.

Article 13. This Agreement shall be open to accession by other States members of the European Communities.

Article 14. This Agreement shall also apply to *Land Berlin*, provided that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has not made a contrary declaration to the Government of the People's Republic of Benin within the three months following the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 15. This Agreement shall be concluded for a period of three years and shall be automatically renewed unless denounced by one of the Parties, which shall notify the other Party at least six months before the effective date of such denunciation.

It shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

DONE at Cotonou, on 29 April 1986, in triplicate, in the French and German languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the French Republic

[Signed]

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER GENDREAU
Ambassador of France
to the People's Republic
of Benin

For the Government
of the Federal Republic
of Germany:

[Signed]

HORST UHRIG
Ambassador of the
Federal Republic of
Germany to the Peo-
ple's Republic of Benin

For the Government
of the People's Republic
of Benin:

[Signed]

FRÉDÉRIC AFFO
Minister for Foreign
Affairs and
Co-operation