

**No. 2674**

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**DENMARK, FINLAND,  
NORWAY and SWEDEN**

**Agreement (with Protocol) concerning a common labour  
market. Signed at Copenhagen, on 22 May 1954**

*Official texts: Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish.*

*Registered by Denmark on 15 September 1954.*

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**DANEMARK, FINLANDE,  
NORVÈGE et SUÈDE**

**Accord (avec Protocole) relatif à un marché commun du  
travail. Signé à Copenhague, le 22 mai 1954**

*Textes officiels: danois, finnois, norvégien et suédois.*

*Enregistré par le Danemark le 15 septembre 1954.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 2674. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN CONCERNING A COMMON LABOUR MARKET. SIGNED AT COPENHAGEN, ON 22 MAY 1954

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The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden,

Desiring to maintain full employment in their respective countries ;

Considering that the possibility of a free movement of labour between the Scandinavian countries will promote the economic and social development of those countries ; and

Wishing to make regulations concerning co-operation between the countries in matters relating to the common Scandinavian labour market,

Have agreed as follows :

*Article 1*

None of the contracting States shall require a work permit in respect of the nationals of any other contracting State.

*Article 2*

The central employment services of the contracting States shall work together so as to ensure that workers will so far as possible be recruited through the official placement services and in such a way as to benefit each country.

*Article 3*

Each contracting State shall regularly provide the other contracting States with statistics on employment and unemployment, forecasts of probable trends in the labour market and information on proposed measures to counteract conditions likely to endanger the maintenance of full employment. They shall, if necessary, confer with each other on measures of common interest for maintaining full employment.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 2 July 1954, in accordance with article 9.

*Article 4*

Each contracting State shall prepare and communicate to the other States data on current employment opportunities and on other matters of interest to nationals of the other countries who are seeking employment.

*Article 5*

There shall be established a committee consisting of two representatives of the Government of each contracting State. The representatives of each State may call in experts in so far as they consider it necessary to do so.

*Article 6*

The principal functions of the committee shall be as follows :

(a) to observe the trends in the labour market of each contracting State and the movement of workers between the States ;

(b) to formulate a policy for co-operation between the placement services of the contracting States ;

(c) to discuss and submit proposals on measures of common interest to the labour market in the contracting States ;

(d) to make regulations concerning the information to be exchanged under this Agreement ;

(e) to submit proposals concerning a basis for comparing the employment and unemployment statistics of the various contracting States.

*Article 7*

If a national of one State is employed in one of the other States on terms less favourable than those customary for the latter State's own nationals, the Government of that State may, after the matter has been discussed by the committee mentioned in article 5, provide that nationals of the first-mentioned State may be employed in the trade in question only if special permission is granted.

*Article 8*

This Agreement shall not prevent each State from having regulations concerning :

(a) the labour market, on condition that the regulations do not place the nationals of the other contracting States in a less favourable position than the State's own nationals ;

(b) the obligation for workers from other Scandinavian countries to register.

*Article 9*

This Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification deposited in the archives of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Agreement shall come into force when all the instruments of ratification have been deposited, but not before 1 July 1954.

Each contracting State may denounce the Agreement by giving six months notice, and the denunciation shall become effective on 1 July or 1 January following the period of such notice.

Each contracting State may without previous notice abrogate the Agreement in respect of one or more of the other States in the event of war or a threat of war or other extraordinary circumstances of an international or national character. The Governments of the States concerned shall forthwith be notified of the action taken.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the respective States have signed the present Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

DONE at Copenhagen on 22 May 1954 in a single original in the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish languages, certified copies of which shall be transmitted to the Governments of the other contracting States by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For Denmark :

(Signed) H. C. HANSEN  
[L.S.]

For Norway :

(Signed) Jens BULL  
[L.S.]

For Finland :

(Signed) P. K. TARJANNE  
[L.S.]

For Sweden :

(Signed) H. BECK-FRIIS  
[L.S.]

## PROTOCOL

On signing this day the Agreement concerning a Common Labour Market, we, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have agreed as follows :

(1) the exemption from working permits shall apply only to employees and not to persons working for their own account.

(2) The Agreement shall not prevent :

(a) A state from making regulations concerning the employment of aliens in undertakings or activities for which a licence is required or in occupations requiring a permit ;

(b) public-assisted work projects for the maintenance of employment from being reserved to nationals of the State in question ;

(c) special regulations from being made concerning employment in an area or an undertaking where special security or defence requirements make such a step necessary.

(3) The committee mentioned in article 5 of the Agreement shall consider what steps should be taken to prevent employers from privately recruiting labour in one of the other contracting States.

(4) The Agreement shall not apply to Greenland or the Faroe Islands.

(5) The Danish and the Swedish Governments agree that the Convention between the two States concerning the transfer of labour etc., concluded on 18 November 1946<sup>1</sup>, shall remain in force in so far as it does not conflict with the Agreement signed this day.

(6) The Government of Iceland, by an exchange of notes and subject to reciprocity may accede to the Agreement signed this day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Protocol and have thereto affixed our seals.

DONE at Copenhagen on 22 May 1954 in a single original in the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish languages, certified copies of which shall be transmitted to the Governments of the other contracting States by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For Denmark :

(Signed) H. C. HANSEN  
[L.S.]

For Norway :

(Signed) Jens BULL  
[L.S.]

For Finland :

(Signed) P. K. TARJANNE  
[L.S.]

For Sweden :

(Signed) H. BECK-FRIIS  
[L.S.]

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 7, p. 251.