

No. 9609

FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

**Agreement concerning international road transport. Signed
at Helsinki on 18 October 1968**

Authentic texts : Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 6 June 1969.

FINLANDE

et

UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES

**Accord relatif aux transports routiers internationaux. Signé
à Helsinki le 18 octobre 1968**

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 6 juin 1969.

[TRADUCTION — TRANSLATION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Considering the successful development of Finnish-Soviet relations, based on the 1948 Finnish-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance,²

Guided by a desire to develop further the transport of passengers and goods by road between the two countries and in transit through their territories to third countries,

Have decided to conclude the present Agreement and have for this purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Government of the Republic of Finland : Paavo Aitio, Minister of Transport and Public Works of Finland;

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics : Evgeny Georgievich Trubitsyn, Minister of Road Transport and Highways of the RSFSR,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The regular and occasional transport of passengers by bus and of goods by motor vehicle (a truck with or without a trailer or semi-trailer) between the two countries and in transit through their territories, on roads open to international road traffic, shall be effected in accordance with this Agreement.

I. TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS

Article 2

1. The regular transport of passengers by bus shall be organized by agreement between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

¹ Came into force on 13 February 1969, the date of the exchange of notes communicating its approval, in accordance with article 25.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 48, p. 149.

2. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall submit to each other, in advance, proposals for the organization of such transport services. These proposals must contain information concerning : the name of the carrier (firm), the route, the timetable, the tariffs, the stopping places at which the carrier will pick up and set down passengers, and the expected period of operation of the services.

Article 3

1. The occasional transport of passengers by bus shall be effected on the basis of authorizations issued by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

2. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall issue an authorization for the section of the route which passes through their territory.

3. A separate authorization must be issued for each occasional bus journey, and shall be valid for one round-trip journey unless otherwise specified in the authorization.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall transmit to each other every year a mutually agreed number of blank forms for the authorization of occasional passenger transport. These forms must bear the stamp and signature of the competent authority issuing the authorization.

5. The procedure for the exchange of the blank authorization forms shall be agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Article 4

1. No authorizations shall be required for the occasional transport of passengers by bus :

- (a) When the same persons are carried by the same bus for the whole of a journey which starts and ends in the territory of the Contracting Party in which the bus is registered;
- (b) When the same persons are carried by the same bus in one direction for the whole of a journey which starts in the territory of the Contracting Party in which the vehicle is registered and ends in the territory of the other Contracting Party, on condition that the bus returns empty to the country in which it is registered.

2. No authorization shall be required, either, when a defective bus is replaced by another bus.

3. During the operation of the services mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, the driver of the bus shall be in possession of a list of the passengers.

II. GOODS TRANSPORT

Article 5

1. The transport of goods between the two countries or in transit through their territory to third countries, with the exception of the transport operations mentioned in article 6 of this Agreement, shall be carried out by trucks with or without a trailer or semi-trailer on the basis of authorizations issued by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

2. A separate authorization must be issued for each goods transport operation effected by truck with or without a trailer or semi-trailer, and shall be valid for one round-trip journey, unless otherwise specified in the authorization.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall transmit to each other every year a mutually agreed number of blank forms for the authorization of goods transport operations. These forms must bear the stamp and signature of the competent authority issuing the authorizations.

4. The procedure for the exchange of the blank authorization forms shall be agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Article 6

1. No authorizations shall be required for the transport of the following :

(a) Household effects upon removal;

(b) Exhibits, equipment and material intended for fairs and exhibitions;

(c) Vehicles, animals, and sundry requisites and material intended for sporting events;

(d) Stage scenery and properties, musical instruments, and equipment for making motion pictures and radio and television broadcasts;

(e) Human remains or ashes.

2. The exceptions provided for in paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d), of this article shall apply only in cases where the goods carried are to be returned to the country in which the motor vehicle is registered or are to be carried to the territory of a third country.

Article 7

1. In cases where the weight or dimensions of the motor vehicle, loaded or unloaded, exceed the standards prescribed in the territory of the other Contracting Party, or where dangerous goods are carried, the carrier must obtain a special authorization from the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party.

2. If the authorization referred to in paragraph 1 restricts the movement of the motor vehicle to a specified route, transport must be effected by that route.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 8

1. Transport operations specified in the present Agreement may be effected only by carriers authorized under the domestic legislation of their country to engage in international transport operations.

2. Motor vehicles engaged in international transport operations must bear their national registration plate and the distinguishing sign of their country.

Article 9

1. A carrier shall not be permitted to operate passenger or goods transport services between two points in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. A carrier may operate transport services from the territory of the other Contracting Party to the territory of a third country, if he has received special authorization therefor from the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party.

Article 10

The goods transport operations provided for in this Agreement shall be effected on the basis of waybills.

Article 11

1. The driver of the bus or goods vehicle must be in possession of a national or international driving permit and the national registration documents for the motor vehicle.

2. The national or international driving permit must conform to the model established by the International Convention on Road Traffic.¹

Article 12

Practical questions connected with the passenger and goods transport operations provided for in this Agreement may be settled between the organizations and enterprises of the two Contracting Parties.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 125, p. 3.

Article 13

Payments and other settlements arising from the application of this Agreement shall be effected in accordance with the payments agreements in force between the Contracting Parties on the date of settlement.

Article 14

Passenger and goods transport operations effected in the territory of the other Contracting Party on the basis of this Agreement, and the motor vehicles used for such operations, shall be exempt, on the basis of reciprocity, from taxes and charges for the authorizations referred to in this Agreement and for the use of the roads, and also from taxes and charges which may be levied for individual transport operations.

Article 15

Compulsory civil liability insurance shall be required for passenger and goods transport operations effected on the basis of this Agreement. The carrier shall take out insurance in advance in respect of each motor vehicle engaged in such operations.

Article 16

Frontier, customs and health control measures shall be subject to the provisions of the international agreements to which both Contracting Parties are parties, and the settlement of questions which are not regulated by such agreements shall be subject to the domestic legislation of each Contracting Party.

Article 17

Frontier, customs and health control measures shall be carried out on a priority basis in the case of the transport of persons who are seriously ill, regular passenger bus services, and the transport of animals and perishable goods.

Article 18

1. In transport operations effected on the basis of this Agreement, the following may be imported into the territory of the other Contracting Party exempt, on a basis of reciprocity, from customs duties and authorizations :

- (a) Fuel in the receptacles specified for each type of motor vehicle, and technically and structurally connected with the fuel system of the motor;

- (b) Lubricants;
- (c) Spare parts.

2. Unused spare parts shall be re-exported; spare parts which have been replaced must be re-exported, destroyed or surrendered in accordance with regulations in force in the territory of the Contracting Party concerned.

Article 19

Carriers of the Contracting Parties must observe the traffic regulations and other laws of the country in whose territory the motor vehicle is.

Article 20

In the event of a violation of the provisions of this Agreement, the competent authorities of the country in which the motor vehicle is registered must, at the request of the competent authorities of the country in which the violation has occurred, and irrespective of the laws in force in their own country, take one of the following measures :

- (a) Caution the carrier responsible for the violation;
- (b) Caution the carrier responsible for the violation, stating that, in the event of a further violation, authorization to operate transport services will be either withdrawn for a specific period or cancelled, in accordance with sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph;
- (c) Withdraw for a specific period or cancel the authorization issued on the basis of this Agreement.

The competent authorities of the other Contracting Party must be notified of the measures taken.

Article 21

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall maintain contact with each other to discuss questions relating to the application of this Agreement and to exchange experience.

Article 22

Questions not settled by this Agreement or by international agreements to which both Contracting Parties are parties shall be settled in accordance with the domestic legislation of each Contracting Party.

Article 23

The Contracting Parties shall settle, by means of negotiation and consultation, any disputes which may arise in connexion with the interpretation or application of this Agreement.

Article 24

This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties arising out of other international treaties and agreements concluded by them.

Article 25

This Agreement shall be subject to approval in accordance with the legislation in force in the territory of each of the Contracting Parties. It shall enter into force on the day of the exchange of notes announcing its approval.

This Agreement has been concluded for an indefinite period and shall remain valid until ninety days after the day on which one Contracting Party informs the other Contracting Party of its wish to terminate the Agreement.

DONE at Helsinki on 18 October 1968, in duplicate, in the Finnish and Russian languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the Republic of Finland :

Paavo AITIO

For the Government
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics :

E. G. TRUBITSYN
