

No. 9673

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**FINLAND  
and  
BELGIUM**

**Agreement concerning international road transport (with  
protocol). Signed at Helsinki on 15 November 1968**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by Finland on 1 July 1969.*

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**FINLANDE  
et  
BELGIQUE**

**Accord concernant les transports routiers internationaux  
(avec protocole). Signé à Helsinki le 15 novembre 1968**

*Texte authentique: français.*

*Enregistré par la Finlande le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1969.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM CONCERNING INTERNA-  
TIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

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The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, desiring to develop the road transport of passengers and goods by commercial vehicles between the two States and transit through their territory, have agreed as follows:

I. TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS BY MOTOR BUS  
AND MOTOR COACH

TRANSPORT REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION

*Article 1*

All passenger transport by motor bus or motor coach between the two countries or in transit through their territory shall require authorization, with the exception of the transport operations specified in article 5.

REGULAR SERVICES

*Article 2*

1. Regular services between the two countries or in transit through their territory shall be arranged on the basis of reciprocity by agreement between the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

2. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall issue the authorization for the section of the route situated in their territory.

*Article 3*

1. An application for an authorization shall be submitted to the competent authorities of the country in which the vehicle is registered, not later than two months before the expected date of opening of service.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 9 February 1969, i.e., the thirtieth day after the Governments of the Contracting Parties had notified each other of the fulfilment of the required constitutional formalities, in accordance with article 21 (1).

2. It shall be accompanied by the necessary documentation (the name or company name of the carrier, the proposed time-table, tariff and route, the stops, information on the period of service and on the expected date of opening of service, arrangements concluded between carriers operating a joint service). In addition, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may request such other information as they deem necessary.

3. The competent authorities of each Contracting Party shall transmit to the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party the applications which they intend to approve, together with all prescribed documents.

All authorizations shall be subject to the prior approval of the countries traversed in transit.

#### OTHER TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

##### *Article 4*

1. Authorizations for the occasional transport of passengers, with the exception of the transport operations referred to in article 5, shall be issued on the basis of the applications submitted to the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the vehicle is registered. The said authority shall forward the applications to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party with a view to the issue of the authorization.

2. Unless the said authorization provides otherwise, a separate round-trip authorization shall be issued for each journey or each series of specified journeys and for each vehicle.

3. Each vehicle must carry the authorization issued by the competent authority of the Contracting Party concerned. The authorization must be produced at the request of the control authorities.

#### TRANSPORT NOT REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION

##### *Article 5*

1. Carriers having their head offices in one of the two countries and authorized to engage in occasional transport operations there may, without further authorization, carry out transport operations in, or in transit through, the territory of the other Contracting Party:

(a) Where the vehicle carries the same passengers throughout a single journey, from the boarding point until the return to that point;

- (b) On journeys for which the starting point is situated in the territory of the country in which the vehicle is registered and the terminus is in the territory of the other Contracting Party, provided that the vehicle returns empty to the country in which it is registered;
- (c) Where the vehicle enters empty to provide break-down service.

2. In the transport operations referred to in this article, the vehicle must carry a passengers list. The list must be produced at the request of the control authorities.

## II. GOODS TRANSPORT

### Article 6

1. This Agreement shall apply to international goods traffic, that is to say, to the transport of goods from Belgium to Finland or vice versa by means of motor vehicles registered in one of the two contracting countries, and to traffic in transit through the territory of one of the contracting countries by a motor vehicle registered in the other contracting country.

In no case shall it apply to the performance in the territory of one of the two countries, by a carrier of the other country, of a purely internal transport operation, which is and shall remain subject to the provisions of the national regulations.

2. The transport operations referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall require prior authorization.

3. The following shall, however, be exempt from authorization:

- (a) Transport operations on own account;
- (b) The occasional transport of goods to and from airports in the event of diversion of air services;
- (c) The transport of baggage by trailers attached to vehicles intended for the transport of passengers and the transport of baggage by vehicles of all kinds to and from airports;
- (d) Postal transport operations;
- (e) The entry of break-down and towing vehicles and the transport of damaged vehicles;
- (f) The transport of animal carcasses for knackery;
- (g) The transport of bees and of fry for fishery stocking;
- (h) Funeral consignments.

In addition, the following shall be exempt from authorization:

- The transport of goods by vehicles constructed for the transport of persons;
- The transport of goods by vehicles with a carrying capacity of less than 500 kg.

#### Article 7

Authorization shall be required, but outside the quota system, for:

- (a) The transport of goods by motor vehicles whose total weight when loaded (including trailers) does not exceed six tons;
- (b) The transport of *objets d'art* and works of art intended for exhibitions or for commercial purposes;
- (c) The occasional transport of articles and material intended exclusively for publicity or information purposes;
- (d) The removal of household effects by means of special equipment;
- (e) The transport of equipment, properties and animals to or from theatrical, musical and cinematographic presentations, sports events, circuses and fairs and the transport of equipment, properties and animals intended for radio recordings or for cinematographic or television productions;
- (f) The transport of products at a controlled temperature by special vehicles;
- (g) Transport operations in transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party.

#### Article 8

1. Authorizations shall be of two types:

- (a) Time authorizations:

These shall be valid for an unspecified number of journeys and for a period not exceeding one year;

- (b) Journey authorizations:

These shall be valid for one or more journeys and for a maximum period of three months.

2. The holder of an authorization shall be required to fill in the transport record annexed thereto before each transport operation.

#### Article 9

Transport authorizations shall be issued to carriers by the competent authorities of the country of registration of the vehicles used to perform

the transport operations and, where appropriate, within the limits of the quotas agreed upon annually between the Contracting Parties.

#### *Article 10*

1. The competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall determine by agreement the models for the authorization.

2. The said authorities shall exchange the number of blank authorization forms necessary for carrying out the transport operations subject to this Agreement.

3. Authorizations shall be accompanied by a transport record, which shall be stamped by the customs service upon entry into and exit from the territory of the State for which the authorizations are valid.

#### *Article 11*

Carriers of one Contracting Party may conduct transport operations between the territory of the other Contracting Party and a third State if they have obtained a special authorization from the said other Contracting Party.

#### *Article 12*

1. Authorizations shall be personal and non-transferable.

2. Upon the expiry of their period of validity, they shall be returned to the authority which issued them.

### III. FISCAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 13*

Motor vehicles of all kinds duly registered in Belgium, and the trailers of such vehicles, which are temporarily present in the territory of the Republic of Finland shall be exempt from the taxes referred to in article 9, paragraph 4, of the decree of execution and application of the Act of 30 December 1966 concerning taxes on motor vehicles, with the exception of the additional taxes provided for in the said decree.

#### *Article 14*

Motor vehicles of all kinds duly registered in Finland, and the trailers of such vehicles, which are temporarily present in Belgian territory shall be exempt from the motor-vehicle operation tax the terms of which were codified by the royal decree of 23 November 1965.

## IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Article 15*

1. Transport authorizations must be carried in the vehicles and be produced at the request of the control authorities.

2. The said authorizations shall be issued free of charge by the competent authorities of each Contracting Party; they shall accordingly be exempt from stamp duties or any other charges.

*Article 16*

Save as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the national legislation of the Contracting Parties shall be applicable.

*Article 17*

The competent authorities shall ensure that the holders of authorizations comply with the provisions of the Agreement and shall transmit to each other the records of any investigations made and the penalties proposed.

*Article 18*

The authorities competent to perform the actions referred to in this Agreement shall be:

For the Republic of Finland:

The Ministry of Communications and Public Works

and for the Kingdom of Belgium:

The Ministry of Communications, Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones.

*Article 19*

1. Representatives of the Contracting Parties shall meet, when required, as a Joint Commission for the purpose of ensuring the proper application of this Agreement, and in order particularly:

To resolve any difficulties which may arise out of the operation of the Agreement;

To determine the quota;

To determine the practical arrangements for the issue of authorizations;

To agree to exchange statistical information concerning traffic.

2. The findings of the Joint Commission shall, if necessary, be submitted to the Government of each Contracting Party for approval.

*Article 20*

The Contracting Parties shall prescribe the modalities for the operation of this Agreement in a protocol signed at the same time as the Agreement.

*Article 21*

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the Governments of the Contracting Parties shall have notified each other that the required constitutional formalities have been completed.

2. The Agreement is concluded for a period of one year; it shall be extended from year to year by tacit agreement, unless denounced by one of the Contracting Parties three months before the expiry of the current period.

DONE at Helsinki on 15 November 1968, in two originals, each in the French language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

Paul GUSTAFSSON

For the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium:

Ch. KERREMANS

## PROTOCOL

DRAWN UP PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 20 OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

For the purposes of the application of the Agreement, the following has been agreed:

*With regard to article 4*

1. Applications for passenger transport authorizations must be sent to the competent authorities fifteen days before the expected date of the journey.

2. They must be accompanied by the following information:

- The name and address of the organizer of the journey;
- The name and address of the carrier;



- The registration number of the vehicle or vehicles used, possibly to be chosen from a list of specified vehicles;
- The number of passengers;
- The proposed time-table;
- The proposed route (including specification of the place at which the frontier is crossed);
- The expected date of the journey.

*With regard to article 9*

1. The Ministry of Communications and Public Works of Finland shall issue authorizations for international road transport to Finnish carriers for Belgium, and the Ministry of Communications and Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones shall issue authorizations to Belgian carriers for Finland.

2. For the year 1968 the number of journeys is fixed at 250.

3. Each time authorization shall be deemed to cover a total of twenty journeys.

*With regard to article 10*

1. Time authorizations shall bear the Roman numerals I, II, III, etc. and journey authorizations shall bear the Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, etc. Authorizations issued outside the quota system (*hors contingent*) shall be numbered HC<sub>1</sub>, HC<sub>2</sub>, etc. and transit authorizations shall be numbered T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, etc.

2. The competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall transmit to each other immediately after the entry into force of the Agreement 100 blank forms for time authorizations and 100 for journey authorizations. The Finnish blank forms shall be signed and sealed.

3. The holder of an authorization shall, before carrying out each transport operation, fill in a transport record corresponding to the model agreed upon between the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties. The authorization and the transport record shall be returned fifteen days after the expiry of the period of validity of the authorization to the competent authorities which issued them.

*With regard to article 11*

In respect of transport operations carried out between the territory of one of the two contracting countries and a third country by a carrier of the other contracting country, the special authorizations shall be liberally issued in cases where the transport operations normally occur in transit through the country in which the vehicle is registered.

*Exchange of statements*

The Ministries shall transmit to each other, one month after the end of each calendar year, a statement of the goods transport authorizations which they issued during the year. The statement shall indicate the number appearing on each authorization issued, the name of the holder, the period of validity of the authorization and the number of journeys authorized, the number of operations involving the carriage of goods effected in each direction and the total tonnage carried in each direction.

*Weight and size of vehicles*

The Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other the provisions of regulations concerning the weight and size of vehicles authorized in their respective countries.

Applications for exemptions from such provisions shall be submitted:

(a) In the case of Belgian carriers, to:

Tie- ja vesirakennushallitus  
Etelä-Esplanadikatu 4  
Helsinki 13

(b) In the case of Finnish carriers, to:

The Governor of the first Belgian province through which the vehicle is to pass.

DONE at Helsinki on 15 November 1968, in duplicate, in the French language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Finnish Government:

Mauno SADULI

For the Belgian Government:

Ch. KERREMANS