

No. 13695

**SWEDEN, DENMARK, FINLAND,
ICELAND and NORWAY**

Agreement concerning co-operation in the field of transport and communications. Signed at Stockholm on 6 November 1972

*Authentic texts: Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish.
Registered by Sweden on 17 December 1974.*

**SUÈDE, DANEMARK, FINLANDE,
ISLANDE et NORVÈGE**

Accord de coopération dans le domaine des transports et des communications. Signé à Stockholm le 6 novembre 1972

*Textes authentiques : danois, finnois, islandais, norvégien et suédois.
Enregistré par la Suède le 17 décembre 1974.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND,
NORWAY AND SWEDEN CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN
THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden,

Recognizing the importance of efficiently organized and effective transport
to the economic life of the Nordic countries and to Nordic co-operation in pro-
duction and trade,

Recalling the long-standing co-operation between the Nordic countries in
the field of transport and communications implemented, *inter alia*, through the
Nordic Council,

Recognizing the importance of expanding and intensifying co-operation in
the field of transport and communications with a view to achieving optimum
utilization of the combined resources of the Nordic countries,

Realizing that expanded co-operation must be carried out with due regard
to the economic interests of each of the Nordic countries,

At the same time agreeing that the expansion of co-operation must take
place in a manner consistent with the Nordic countries' participation in or co-
operation with an expanded European economic market and with the Nordic
countries' economic relations with countries outside that market,

Regarding it as important that any Nordic country taking part in interna-
tional co-operation in the field of transport and communications under circum-
stances where all the Nordic countries are not represented should take account of
the other countries' interests,

Taking note of the 1962 Co-operation Agreement² between Denmark, Fin-
land, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, as amended in 1971,³

Have agreed as follows:

SPHERE OF APPLICATION

Article 1. This Agreement shall apply, in the field of transport and
communications, to land, sea and air transport as well as postal service and
telecommunications. The Agreement shall not, however, apply to matters relat-

¹Came into force on 1 March 1973, i.e. on the first day of the month following the day on which the
instruments of ratification of all the countries had been deposited with the Government of Sweden, in accord-
ance with article 14.

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>
Sweden	15 December 1972
Denmark	29 December 1972
Finland	15 January 1973
Iceland	15 January 1973
Norway	16 February 1973

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 434, p. 145.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 795, p. 370.

ing to road traffic safety which are regarded as falling within the competence of the Nordic Traffic Safety Council. It shall also not apply to matters relating to the Nordic countries' international policies with regard to maritime and air transport.

PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 2. The purpose of this Agreement is:

- to strengthen and expand co-operation with a view to ensuring efficient, organized and effective systems of transport and communications;
- to ensure better utilization and greater combined effectiveness in transport and communications operations through co-ordination, co-operation and distribution of labour.

The Agreement is not intended to replace existing co-operation between various Nordic authorities, organizations and enterprises or to introduce new procedures for dealing with any matters arising in the future which are suitable for direct co-operation of that kind. The purpose is, rather, to promote and support co-operation thus established and to institute such complementary, co-ordinating or long-term measures as may be required in addition.

NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

Article 3. The Council of Ministers established under the 1962 Cooperation Agreement and the Official Committee referred to in article 4 shall operate within the sphere of application of the Agreement,

1. Promote and conduct studies and research relating to organizational matters and to the development of technology and traffic in one or more sectors with a view to creating a basis for decisions by the affected countries and creating suitable conditions for joint projects and systematic solutions;
2. Provide such assistance as may be advisable in making arrangements for co-operation with a view to implementing such projects and systematic solutions;
3. Work together to effect an accommodation in transport policy, to the extent deemed advisable, in suitable fields and subject to the conditions, *inter alia* in an international context, indicated in the introduction;
4. Seek to bring about uniform legal provisions and the like, within the sphere of application of the Agreement, to the extent deemed advisable and only within the context of efforts to create more uniform terms and conditions;
5. Promote on-going work in connexion with technological standardization and, to the extent that it is not within the competence of some other organ of authority, take the initiative in undertaking such standardization and deal in conformity with matters relating thereto;
6. In research matters, promote:
 - the exchange of information on current research and research resources;
 - the establishment of joint research institutions;

- the co-ordination, in so far as relates to matters of common interest, of the research programmes of various Nordic institutions;
- the joint use of especially expensive and more specialized equipment;
- the holding of conferences and symposia;
- activities relating to scientific publications and documentation of common interest;

7. Seek to ensure that the Nordic countries take a joint position at the international level on transport and communications matters where that is advisable in view of their concurring interests or for other reasons.

ORGANS AND FORMS OF CO-OPERATION

Article 4. An official committee (the Nordic Official Committee for Transport Matters) shall be set up under the Council of Ministers to carry out the tasks arising from this Agreement. The Committee shall consist of one representative of each country, to be appointed by the Government.

Article 5. The Official Committee shall, in particular:

- review developments within the sphere of application of the Agreement;
- draw attention to tasks which, in the course of a continuing process of review, are found to be suitable for co-operation between two or more Nordic countries;
- submit for approval by the Council of Ministers an annual programme of work for the Committee, indicating its tasks and the procedures for dealing with them and for financing the Committee's work;
- submit an annual report to the Council of Ministers on activities during the past year, describing the results achieved within the Committee's sphere of competence and the measures of common interest which the countries have taken in the field of transport and communications;
- deal with such other tasks as the Council of Ministers may entrust to the Committee.

Article 6. The Official Committee shall be assisted in its work by the Nordic Committee for Research in Transport Economics (NKTF) and by such other permanent organs of co-operation as may be established by the Council of Ministers under article 10.

The Official Committee may set up temporary working groups to deal with special tasks and may establish terms of reference for such groups.

The organs of co-operation and working groups shall submit reports and proposals to the Official Committee.

Article 7. The Official Committee may, where necessary, call upon experts to assist in dealing with particular matters.

The Official Committee may obtain opinions from public and private bodies.

Article 8. The Official Committee shall select a Chairman from among its members for a term which shall normally be two years. The country whose rep-

representative is Chairman shall be responsible for secretarial functions in the Committee. The Chairmanship shall, in principle, rotate among the various countries.

Article 9. A quorum shall exist in the Official Committee when all the countries are represented. However, in matters affecting exclusively certain countries, it shall be necessary for only those countries to be represented.

Each country shall have one vote in the Committee.

Decisions of the Committee shall be adopted by unanimous vote. In procedural matters, however, decisions may be adopted by a simple majority of those voting; in case of a tie, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Abstentions in a vote shall not prevent the adoption of a decision.

Article 10. The Council of Ministers shall adopt such decisions as are required in order to achieve the purposes of the Agreement.

The Council shall, in particular:

- establish a programme of work for the Official Committee;
- set up permanent working organs;
- establish, where necessary, rules of procedure for the Committee.

Article 11. Before the Council of Ministers establishes a programme of work, the affected organs of the Nordic Council shall be afforded an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Article 12. Each country shall consult with the other countries in the Council of Ministers or the Official Committee before adopting a decision of major importance in fields falling within the framework of co-operation under this Agreement.

FINANCING

Article 13. Each country shall assume the costs of its participation in the work of the Official Committee.

In connexion with tasks dealt with under this Agreement, each country shall assume the costs arising from its share of the work, save as otherwise provided in individual cases.

Where necessary, the various countries may, on the proposal of the Council of Ministers, make funds available to the Official Committee for one or more of the tasks included in the programme of work.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 14. This Agreement shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Agreement shall be held by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and certified copies shall be transmitted by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to each of the countries.

The Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the day on which the instruments of ratification of all the countries have been deposited.

A proposal for the first programme of work of the Official Committee shall be submitted as soon as this Agreement enters into force and shall cover the period up to the end of 1972.

Article 15. Where one of the countries wishes to denounce the Agreement, written notice to that effect shall be given to the Government of Sweden, which shall immediately notify the other countries, indicating the date on which the notice was received.

The Agreement shall cease to have effect at the end of the calendar year in which it is denounced by one of the countries, provided that the denunciation is received by the Government of Sweden not later than 30 June; otherwise, the Agreement shall cease to have effect at the end of the following calendar year.

Article 16. Upon denunciation, consultations shall be held among all the countries concerning the liquidation of their rights and obligations under the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Stockholm on 6 November 1972, in one copy in the Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

E. SCHRAM-NIELSEN
MAX JAKOBSON
SVEINN BJÖRNSSON
HENR. A. BROCH
KRISTER WICKMAN