

No. 14483

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

**Agreement concerning mutual legal assistance. Signed at
Copenhagen on 26 April 1974**

*Authentic texts: Danish, Finnish, Swedish (for Finland), Icelandic,
Norwegian and Swedish (for Sweden).*

Registered by Denmark on 23 December 1975.

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

**Accord concernant l'entraide judiciaire. Signé à Copen-
hague le 26 avril 1974**

*Textes authentiques : danois, finnois, suédois (pour la Finlande), islandais,
norvégien et suédois (pour la Suède).*

Enregistré par le Danemark le 23 décembre 1975.

[TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND,
NORWAY AND SWEDEN CONCERNING MUTUAL LEGAL
ASSISTANCE

The following Agreement concerning mutual legal assistance has been concluded between the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden:

Article 1. Requests for the service of documents and for the taking of evidence (to assist legal proceedings) shall be made by direct exchange of letters between the competent Government authorities of the Contracting States.

The reference in the first paragraph of this article to Government authorities shall, in the case of Finland, also apply to a city court (*raastuvanoikeus*), a city administrative court (*maistraatti*), a city court public prosecutor (*kaupunginvisk-aali*) and a bailiff (*kaupunginvouti*).

Article 2. Requests for assistance in legal proceedings and documents attached to such requests shall be drawn up in Danish, Norwegian or Swedish or accompanied by a certified translation into one of those languages.

In the case of a request for the service of documents, a translation of the document to be served shall not be required if the person on whom the document is to be served voluntarily accepts the document. Also, in other cases where there is no objection on security grounds, the competent authorities may comply with a request for the service of documents without an accompanying translation.

The first paragraph of this article shall also apply in respect of the proof of service and other documents arising from the request for the service of documents.

Article 3. Records and other documents concerning the taking of evidence shall be drawn up in the language of the State in which the legal measure is undertaken.

If the documents referred to in the first paragraph of this article are drawn up in a language other than Danish, Norwegian or Swedish, a translation shall be made into any of those languages at the request of the State sending the letters rogatory.

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1975 in respect of the States indicated hereafter, i.e., two months after the date (1 May 1975) when three of the Contracting States had signed it definitively or had deposited their instrument of ratification with the Government of Denmark, in accordance with article 5:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of definitive signature (s) or deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Denmark	1 May 1975
Finland	1 May 1975
Norway	26 April 1974 ^s
Sweden	1 May 1975

Subsequently, the Agreement came into force for the following State two months after the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification with the Government of Denmark, in accordance with article 5:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Iceland (With effect from 22 July 1975.)	22 May 1975

Article 4. Costs of assistance in legal proceedings shall, subject to the exceptions specified in the second and third paragraphs of this article, be borne by the State in which the measure is undertaken.

If a request for assistance in legal proceedings or a request of the kind referred to in the second paragraph of article 3 entails substantial costs for translation into or from a language other than those specified in article 2, the costs may be recovered from the State making the request for assistance in legal proceedings or making a request of the kind referred to in the second paragraph of article 3.

The cost of certificates from experts other than certificates concerning blood tests may be recovered from the State making the request.

Article 5. The Contracting States may accede to this Agreement

(a) by signing it without the necessity of ratification or

(b) by signing it subject to ratification and subsequently ratifying it.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Agreement shall enter into force two months after the date on which three of the Contracting States accede to it. With respect to a Contracting State which accedes to the Agreement at a later date, it shall enter into force two months after that State accedes to the Agreement.

As from the date on which the Agreement enters into force between Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the Protocol of 26 June 1957¹ between those States concerning mutual assistance in the conduct of legal proceedings shall cease to have effect.

Each of the States may terminate the Agreement in respect of any other State by giving six months' notice to that effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Copenhagen on 26 April 1974, in the Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish languages, there being two Swedish texts, one for Finland and one for Sweden.

Subject to ratification:

POUL HARTLING

Subject to ratification:

PERTTI KAUKONEN

Subject to ratification:

PERTTI KAUKONEN

Signature subject to ratification:

SIGURÐUR BJARNASON

THOR HJORTH-JOHANSEN

Subject to ratification:

HUBERT DE BESCHE

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 324, p. 97.