

No. 15028

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement concerning co-operation in customs matters.
Signed at Moscow on 24 April 1975**

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 28 September 1976.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord relatif à la coopération en matière douanière. Signé
à Moscou le 24 avril 1975**

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 28 septembre 1976.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

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

Taking into account the successful development of Finnish-Soviet relations on the basis of the Treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 6 April 1948,² the Treaty of Commerce between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 1 December 1947,³ the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning Customs Matters of 24 November 1960 and the Treaty on the Development of economic, technical and industrial co-operation between the Republic of Finland the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 20 April 1971,⁴

Guided by the desire for the further development and strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries also through co-operation between their customs organs,

Convinced that such co-operation will help the central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties to realize their aims of simplifying and accelerating goods and passenger traffic between the two countries and increasing the effectiveness of measures for the prevention of smuggling,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. For the purposes of this Agreement:

(a) The term “customs legislation” shall mean the totality of the legal provisions in force which regulate the procedures for the import, export and transit of goods, passengers, luggage, postal parcels, currency and other means of payment and currency equivalents and the imposition of customs duties and taxes, and also other regulations relating to customs matters;

(b) The term “central customs authorities” shall mean, in the case of the Republic of Finland, the Bureau of Customs and, in the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Central Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Article 2. The central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall cooperate in ensuring compliance with the customs legislation of the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

¹ Came into force on 18 July 1976, i.e., 30 days after the date of the exchange of notifications confirming that the constitutional requirements had been complied with, in accordance with article 11.

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

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 217, p. 3.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 814, p. 237.

Article 3. The central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall, on request, provide each other with information on customs legislation.

Article 4. The passage of vehicles, goods, passengers' luggage, postal parcels, currency, other means of payment and currency equivalents shall take place at frontier crossings established by agreement.

The central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall agree upon the working hours of the frontier customs control posts, taking account of existing agreements concerning international communications to which the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are parties.

Article 5. The central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall ensure customs control of goods and passenger traffic and of exchanges of postal parcels in conformity with their customs legislation and taking into account the interests of both countries.

Article 6. The central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall, in conformity with the legal provisions of both countries, jointly elaborate measures to simplify customs formalities for goods and passenger traffic and exchanges of postal parcels and also to prevent the unlawful import, export and transit of vehicles, goods, luggage, postal parcels, currency and other means of payment and currency equivalents, so as to avoid possible detriment to the economic and other interests of the Contracting Parties.

Article 7. The central customs authority of either Contracting Party shall, at the request of the central customs authority of the other Contracting Party, exercise particularly careful surveillance over:

- (a) the arrival in its territory, or the departure from its territory for the territory of the other Contracting Party, of persons suspected of committing repeatedly, or in connexion with their profession, acts which contravene the customs legislation of the other Contracting Party;
- (b) vehicles suspected of being used for the movement or concealment of contraband articles.

Article 8. The central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall cooperate in preventing contravention of customs legislation. To this end they shall:

- (a) provide interested juridical and physical persons in their countries with information concerning the basic provisions of the customs legislation of the other country which apply to them, and also concerning the consequences of failure to comply with those provisions;
- (b) within the limits of their competence, refuse to permit the export from their territory to the territory of the other Contracting Party of articles whose import thereto is prohibited and also take steps to restrict the export from their territory to the territory of the other Contracting Party of articles which are there subject to special regulation;
- (c) on their own initiative or on request, inform each other of contraventions of customs legislation committed in the territory of one Contracting Party by persons residing in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 9. In order to facilitate the application of this Agreement, representatives of the central customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall hold joint consultations.

For this purpose, at the request of the central customs authority of either of the Contracting Parties, they shall meet at agreed places and on agreed dates.

Article 10. This Agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under other international agreements concluded by them.

Article 11. This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the Contracting Parties exchange notifications confirming that the constitutional requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement have been complied with.

Article 12. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period.

Either of the Contracting Parties may terminate the Agreement by notifying the other Contracting Party to that effect. The Agreement shall remain in force for a further six months from the date of receipt of such notification.

DONE at Moscow on 24 April 1975, in duplicate, in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

JORMA UITTO

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

J. PRIMEROV
