

No. 15928

**FINLAND
and
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Agreement concerning co-operation in the fields of health care, social security and medicine. Signed at Helsinki on 20 October 1976

Authentic texts: Finnish and German.

Registered by Finland on 8 September 1977.

**FINLANDE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE**

Accord concernant la coopération dans les domaines des soins de santé, de la sécurité sociale et de la médecine. Signé à Helsinki le 20 octobre 1976

Textes authentiques : finnois et allemand.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 8 septembre 1977

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICINE

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the German Democratic Republic,

Desiring to contribute to further development of the friendly relations between the two countries and peoples,

Being resolved to develop co-operation in the field of health care, social security and medicine on the basis of the principles of international law as set forth, *inter alia*, in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

Considering that both States are members of the World Health Organization (WHO),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The Contracting Parties shall expand and develop co-operation in the fields of health care, medicine, including industrial medicine and occupational hygiene, and social security, taking into account the interests of both Contracting Parties. In so doing, they shall proceed on the basis of the experience gained from previous visits and exchanges.

Article 2. Co-operation between the Contracting Parties shall be carried out primarily in the following forms:

- 1) studies on the basis of the programmes agreed between the Contracting Parties;
- 2) exchange of information on legislation relating to health and social security;
- 3) organization of lectures, joint symposia and seminars on the basis of the agreed programmes;
- 4) exchange of experience by delegations and specialists;
- 5) participation of specialists from both countries in conferences held in the Contracting States with international participation as agreed between the Contracting Parties;
- 6) exchange of information on problems of medical practice and hospital construction and equipment.

Article 3. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to bring about and encourage co-operation and contacts between non-governmental institutions and organizations of the two States in the fields specified in this Agreement.

¹ Came into force on 9 January 1977, i.e., 30 days after the exchange of the notifications (which took place on 10 December 1976), confirming that the constitutional requirements had been complied with, in accordance with article 10.

Article 4. With a view to the prevention and control of communicable diseases, the Contracting Parties shall exchange information on selected areas of public health, with particular reference to the incidence of infection.

Article 5. Within the framework of the laws and regulations in force, the Contracting Parties shall assure that the necessary measures are taken for the reciprocal provision of medical assistance in cases of acute illness or accident to nationals of one State visiting or in transit through the other State.

Article 6. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland and the Ministry of Health of the German Democratic Republic may communicate directly with each other on matters connected with the execution of this Agreement which are within their sphere of activity.

Article 7. For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall establish a joint commission which shall draw up, in accordance with domestic legislation, fixed-term (normally two-year) co-operation programmes specifying the areas, forms, methods and economic conditions of co-operation.

The joint commission shall normally meet, every two years, by prior agreement, alternately in the two countries.

Article 8. The Contracting Parties shall, so far as possible, provide nationals of the other State to whom they serve as host in the course of execution of this Agreement with the requisite conditions for the performance of their tasks.

Such conditions shall include the right to attend lectures at, make study visits to and use the libraries of health and social institutions, in accordance with the specification agreed upon in the work programmes.

Article 9. Co-operation shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations of the two Contracting Parties. This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties arising from other international agreements concluded by them.

Article 10. This Agreement shall be subject to approval in accordance with constitutional provisions of each State. It shall enter into force 30 days after the exchange of notifications of approval.

Article 11. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely. It may be denounced by either Contracting Party, on six months' notice in writing to the other Contracting Party through the diplomatic channel.

DONE and signed at Helsinki on 20 October 1976 in two original copies, each in the Finnish and German languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

IRMA TOIVANEN

For the Government of the German
Democratic Republic:

OSKAR FISCHER