

No. 17538

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**DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY and SWEDEN**

**Agreement concerning co-operation at the local government level across Nordic national frontiers. Signed at Torshavn on 26 May 1977**

*Authentic texts: Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish.*

*Registered by Norway on 12 February 1979.*

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**DANEMARK, FINLANDE, NORVÈGE et SUÈDE**

**Accord relatif à la coopération transfrontière entre les pays nordiques au niveau des collectivités locales. Signé à Torshavn le 26 mai 1977**

*Textes authentiques : danois, finnois, norvégien et suédois.*

*Enregistré par la Norvège le 12 février 1979.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN CONCERNING CO-OPERATION AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL ACROSS NORDIC NATIONAL FRONTIERS

The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, considering it desirable that the local government authorities should, within their sphere of competence, co-operate to develop the community spirit existing between the Nordic countries,

Wishing, with particular reference to the needs of frontier regions, to facilitate access for local governments to the advantages that can be achieved for local government activities through co-operation with local government authorities in another Nordic country,

Finding that the need for co-operation between local government authorities across Nordic national frontiers often arises in matters concerning cultural life, environmental protection, public health, communications and tourism,

Believing that co-operation between local government authorities in Nordic countries could be devoted in particular to promoting regional policy efforts in less developed frontier regions,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* For the purposes of this Agreement the term “local government authorities” shall mean: in the case of Denmark, municipalities and counties; in the case of Finland, municipalities and local government federations; in the case of Norway, municipalities and counties, and in the case of Sweden, municipalities, county council areas and local government federations.

*Article 2.* Each Contracting State recognizes that local government authorities in its own country have the right to co-operate with local government authorities in another Contracting State in the management of their affairs in so far as there is nothing to prevent such co-operation in that country’s laws and other regulations concerning the competence, organization and activities of local government authorities.

The first paragraph of this article shall not empower a local government body to transfer authority to local government bodies in another Nordic country.

A local government authority shall be liable for any commitment made by it to a local government authority in another Nordic country.

*Article 3.* As the need arises, the Contracting States shall arrange for such clarifications, amendments and additions to their laws and other regulations as they deem necessary to eliminate obstacles or difficulties hindering the requisite co-operation at local government levels across national frontiers. A particular

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 26 January 1979, i.e., 30 days after the date on which the instruments of ratification for all the Contracting States had been deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, in accordance with article 7. Instruments of ratification were deposited as follows:

State	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification	State	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification
Norway	7 June 1977	Sweden	20 April 1978
Denmark	15 February 1978	Finland	27 December 1978

effort shall be made to devise rules which meet the need for local government co-operation in frontier areas.

*Article 4.* In matters pertaining to regional and local community planning in frontier areas, national and local government authorities of the Contracting States shall, where appropriate, take account of the need for co-operation between local government authorities on both sides of the frontier.

*Article 5.* The national authorities of the Contracting States shall, where necessary, assist local government authorities in their own country with advice and information on legal and other questions that may arise in connection with projects for local government co-operation across national frontiers.

*Article 6.* Articles 1 to 5 shall not prevent a Contracting State from maintaining or instituting supervision over its local government authorities or otherwise maintaining or issuing such regulations and instructions for its local government authorities as may be required in the national interest.

*Article 7.* This Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. Certified copies shall be transmitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway to the Governments of the other Contracting States.

The Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which the instruments of ratification of all the Contracting States are deposited.

*Article 8.* Any Contracting State wishing to denounce the Agreement shall give written notice to that effect to the Norwegian Government, which shall immediately notify the other Contracting States thereof and of the date of receipt of the notification.

The denunciation shall apply only to the State giving notice thereof and shall take effect six months after the end of the month in which the Norwegian Government received notice of denunciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement, done in one copy in the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish languages, all the texts being equally authentic, at Torshavn on 26 May 1977.

For the Government of Denmark:

[Signed]

LISE ØSTERGAARD

For the Government of Finland:

[Signed]

PIRKKO TYÖLÄJÄRVI

For the Government of Norway:

[Signed]

BJARTMAR GJERDE

For the Government of Sweden:

[Signed]

JOHANNES ANTONSSON