

**No. 19596**

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**FINLAND  
and  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Protocol on the reciprocal recognition of the equivalence of university degrees and diplomas and of certificates qualifying for application to universities. Signed at Moscow on 7 December 1979**

*Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.*

*Registered by Finland on 24 February 1981.*

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**FINLANDE  
et  
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Protocole sur la reconnaissance réciproque de l'équivalence des grades et diplômes universitaires et des certificats d'aptitude universitaire. Signé à Moscou le 7 décembre 1979**

*Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.*

*Enregistré par la Finlande le 24 février 1981.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

PROTOCOL<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF THE EQUIVALENCE OF UNIVERSITY DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS AND OF CERTIFICATES QUALIFYING FOR APPLICATION TO UNIVERSITIES

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

Desiring to promote the further development of friendly relations between Finland and the Soviet Union on the basis of the Treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Finland of 6 April 1948;<sup>2</sup>

Endeavouring to extend co-operation and to increase exchanges in the field of higher education in accordance with the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning cultural co-operation, concluded on 27 August 1960,<sup>3</sup> and the Protocol on co-operation in the field of higher education during the period 1975-1979, signed on 15 November 1974;<sup>4</sup>

And having regard, in particular, to article 14 of that Protocol;

With a view to establishing criteria and norms for the reciprocal recognition of university degrees and diplomas;

Reaffirming its concern, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,<sup>5</sup> for the further development of co-operation and exchanges in the field of education;

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* The two Contracting Parties shall recognize those certificates, the receipt of which constitutes a prerequisite for the entry of their holders to higher educational establishments in the territory of the Contracting Party in which they are awarded as according a right of entry to universities and other higher educational establishments of university level equivalent to that accorded by national certificates. If such certificates provide the right, in one of the countries, to enter a higher educational establishment only in connection with the type of study indicated in those certificates, they shall also provide the right, in the other country, to enter only higher educational establishments offering the corresponding type of study.

In the event that there are, in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, any non-State higher educational establishments or higher educational establishments in

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 12 April 1980, i.e., 30 days after the date on which the Contracting Parties had notified each other (on 13 March 1980) of the completion of the necessary constitutional procedures for its entry into force, in accordance with article 7.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 48, p. 149.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 379, p. 381.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 965, p. 59.

<sup>5</sup> *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV, 1975, p. 1292.

which the enrolment of applicants is not controlled by the State, that Contracting Party shall endeavour to ensure that the said higher educational establishments observe in full the principles set forth in the first paragraph of this article.

*Article 2.* The two Contracting Parties shall recognize on a reciprocal basis the equivalence of the following diplomas and degrees of the universities or other higher educational establishments of university level of the two countries:

1. Diplomas which are awarded by universities and philology faculties of pedagogical institutes of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics following the defence of a diploma thesis or the passing of State examinations and which qualify their holders as philology instructors/teachers at a higher educational establishment or school providing general education, and the diplomas of candidate of philosophy which attest to the passing of a final examination as part of a programme of study in philology at higher educational establishments of the Republic of Finland;
2. Diplomas which are awarded by universities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics following the defence of a diploma thesis in mathematics, mechanics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, zoology, botany, physiology, biophysics, biochemistry, genetics or microbiology, and the diplomas of candidate of philosophy which attest to the passing of a final examination as part of a programme of study in the natural sciences at higher educational establishments of the Republic of Finland;
3. Diplomas relating to the completion of medical studies at higher medical educational establishments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (medical institutes or medical faculties of universities), and the diplomas of bachelor of medicine awarded by higher educational establishments of the Republic of Finland;
4. Diplomas which are awarded by higher engineering and technical educational establishments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics following the completion of a full course of study and the defence of a diploma thesis and which qualify their holders as engineers, and the diplomas of engineering awarded by higher educational establishments of the Republic of Finland.

The diplomas referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4 provide their holders with the right to continue their studies with a view to competing for a higher degree at universities and other higher educational establishments of university level of the Contracting Parties on the same conditions as apply to holders of corresponding national diplomas. In such cases, a candidate competing for a degree may be required to pass an examination in the language of the receiving Contracting Party if his previous studies were conducted in another language.

*Article 3.* The Contracting Parties shall continue to examine the criteria and conditions for reciprocal recognition and definition of the equivalence of degrees and diplomas in subjects and branches of knowledge not included in article 2 of this Protocol, with a view to expanding the scope of its application. Accordingly, the Contracting Parties shall transmit to each other their plans and programmes of education both in the subjects set forth in article 2 of this Protocol and, at the request of either Party, those not included in article 2, and shall also inform each other of all amendments made thereto.

In the light of the consideration of the plans and programmes of education, the Contracting Parties may, by mutual agreement, introduce amendments or additions to the list of subjects, degrees and diplomas set forth in article 2 of this Protocol.

*Article 4.* Matters relating to practical arrangements for the exchange of information provided for in this Protocol shall be dealt with, in the Republic of Finland by the Ministry of Education, and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education of the USSR.

*Article 5.* The two Contracting Parties shall apply this Protocol while taking into account the requirements of their own national laws.

The provisions of this Protocol shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties which arise from other international treaties and agreements concluded by them.

*Article 6.* The provisions of this Protocol may be amended by mutual agreement between the Contracting Parties.

*Article 7.* This Protocol shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which the Contracting Parties notify each other that they have complied with the constitutional procedures necessary for such entry into force.

*Article 8.* This Protocol is concluded for an indefinite period. Either of the Contracting Parties may denounce this Protocol by notifying the other Contracting Party to that effect. The denunciation shall enter into force one year after the other Contracting Party receives notification of such denunciation.

DONE at Moscow on 7 December 1979, in two copies, each in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

PÄR STENBÄCK

For the Government of the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics:

V. ELYUTIN

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