

No. 19595

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Agreement concerning the exemption from customs duties of provisions and personal objects imported for the use of personnel on certain construction projects in Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Signed at Moscow on 16 November 1978

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 24 February 1981.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

Accord concernant l'importation, en franchise de droits de douane, des vivres et objets personnels destinés au personnel de certains projets de construction en Finlande et en Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques. Signé à Moscou le 16 novembre 1978

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 24 février 1981.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES OF PROVISIONS AND PERSONAL OBJECTS IMPORTED FOR THE USE OF PERSONNEL ON CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

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

Referring to the Long-term Programme for the development and strengthening of commercial, economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics until 1990, of 18 May 1977, the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning customs matters, of 24 November 1960, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning co-operation in customs matters, of 24 April 1975,² and the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on taxation, of 15 April 1977,³

Bearing in mind the friendly relations which exist between the two countries,

Taking into account the fact that the two States are neighbouring countries,

Taking into account the desire to avoid double taxation on provisions and personal objects for Finnish and Soviet personnel employed on industrial and other construction projects in Finland and the USSR,

With a view to mutually exempting the provisions and personal objects referred to in the previous paragraph from customs duties and any charges imposed at the time of import,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. For the purposes of this Agreement:

(a) The term "construction projects" means the atomic power stations Loviza-1 and Loviza-2, being constructed in the territory of Finland, the Kostomukshsky integrated mining and enrichment works and the Svetogorsky integrated pulp and paper works, being constructed in the territory of the USSR, and projects similar to those referred to above which are to be undertaken with the participation of Soviet personnel in the territory of Finland and with the participation of Finnish personnel in the territory of the USSR;

¹ Came into force on 6 April 1979, i.e., 30 days after the Contracting Parties had informed each other through the diplomatic channel (on 15 February and 6 March 1979) of the completion of the required constitutional procedures for its entry into force, in accordance with article 9.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, p. 161.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1218, No. 1-19665.

(b) The term “personnel” means nationals of Finland employed on construction projects in the territory of the USSR and nationals of the USSR employed on construction projects in the territory of Finland;

(c) The term “provisions” means food items produced in the country of export which are intended for personnel and exported from Finland or the USSR, and also food items of other countries of origin in respect of which an agreement is reached between the customs authorities of the two countries under the procedure envisaged in article 8 of this Agreement, with the exception in all cases of alcoholic beverages;

(d) The term “personal objects” means new or used items exported from Finland or the USSR, intended for the personal use of personnel;

(e) The term “limits of personal requirements” means the quantity of provisions and number of personal objects which are reasonably required to meet the personal needs of personnel;

(f) The term “duty free” means exempt from customs duties and other charges imposed at the time of import.

Questions of the taxation of provisions and personal objects in the country of export shall be regulated exclusively by the legislation of that country.

Article 2. The customs institutions of the two countries shall allow the duty-free passage, within the limits of personal requirements, of provisions and personal objects for personnel employed on construction projects.

Article 3. The customs institutions of the two countries and the management personnel of the projects referred to in article 1, paragraph (a), shall maintain surveillance so as to ensure that provisions and personal objects imported under this Agreement are not transferred to persons other than the personnel referred to in article 1, paragraph (b).

Article 4. Upon completion of the construction projects, unused provisions and personal objects of personnel must be returned to the country of export.

Article 5. The customs institutions of the two countries shall allow the passage of alcoholic beverages across the border, subject to compliance with the legislation in force in their own countries.

Article 6. The customs institutions of the two countries shall allow the passage of currency, currency equivalents and other valuables across the border between Finland and the USSR in accordance with the legislation of their own countries. By mutual agreement between the competent bodies of the two countries, however, a special procedure for allowing the passage of currency across the border may be established, taking into account the characteristics of specific projects.

Article 7. The customs authorities of the two countries shall determine in separate protocols which of the ongoing projects in Finland and the USSR shall be included among the projects falling within the purview of article 1, paragraph (a), of this Agreement, in addition to those directly referred to in that paragraph.

Article 8. In order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement, representatives of the customs authorities of the two countries shall hold joint consultations and, where necessary, reach agreement on questions relating to the procedure for implementing this Agreement.

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

Article 9. This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after each Contracting Party has informed the other through the diplomatic channel that it has completed the constitutional procedures required for the entry into force of the Agreement.

Article 10. This Agreement shall remain in force until the completion of the construction projects contracted for under contracts concluded before 1990 in accordance with the Long-term Programme for the development and strengthening of commercial, economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics until 1990, of 18 May 1977.

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 16 November 1978, in two original copies, each in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

JAAKKO HALLAMA

For the Government of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics:

YURI PRIMEROV
