

No. 21230

**FINLAND
and
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**Agreement on international road transport of passengers
and goods. Signed at Helsinki on 18 September 1979**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by Finland on 27 August 1982.

**FINLANDE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**

**Accord relatif aux transports internationaux de personnes et
de marchandises par route. Signé à Helsinki le 18 sep-
tembre 1979**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 27 août 1982.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS AND GOODS

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, desiring to facilitate international road transport of passengers and goods between the two countries and in transit across their territories, have agreed as follows:

SCOPE

Article 1. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to the road transport of passengers and goods by vehicles as defined in article 2.

DEFINITIONS

Article 2. 1. The term “carrier” shall mean any Finnish or Syrian physical or juridical person authorized to transport passengers or goods by road in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations in force in that person’s country.

2. The term “vehicle” shall mean:

(A) A mechanically-propelled road vehicle which is:

- (a) Constructed or adapted for the road transport of passengers or goods, and used for that purpose;
- (b) Registered in the territory of one Contracting Party; and
- (c) Temporarily imported into the territory of the other Contracting Party for the purpose of the international transport of passengers or goods to or from any point in that territory or in transit through that territory;

(B) A trailer or semi-trailer capable of being coupled with a towing vehicle, as the term “vehicle” is defined in subparagraph (a) above, so that that vehicle and the trailer or semi-trailer meet the conditions set forth in subparagraphs (a) to (c).

TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS

Article 3. 1. Except for occasional tourist transport, the organization of passenger transport operations between the two countries, or in transit across their territories, in vehicles with eight seats or more, not including the driver’s, shall be governed by a protocol drawn up by the Joint Commission provided for in article 20 of this Agreement.

2. The term “occasional tourist transport” refers to the carriage of a single group of passengers in the same vehicle:

¹ Came into force on 22 June 1982, i.e., the thirtieth day after the Contracting Parties had notified each other (on 23 May 1982) of the completion of the required constitutional formalities, in accordance with article 21.

- (a) During a round trip beginning and scheduled to end in the country in which the vehicle is registered; or
- (b) During a trip beginning in the country in which the vehicle is registered and ending at an arrival point in the territory of the other Contracting Party, provided that, unless otherwise authorized, the vehicle returns without passengers to the country in which it is registered.

3. In addition to the documents referred to in article 13, the driver of the vehicle must be in possession of a list indicating the names of the passengers, their nationalities and the country of destination.

TRANSPORT OF GOODS

Article 4. With the exception of the items referred to in article 5 below, the transport of goods between the two countries, or in transit across their territories, shall be subject to the permit system.

Article 5. The following shall not be subject to the permit system:

- (a) The carriage of articles intended for fairs and exhibitions;
- (b) The carriage of theatre sets and properties;
- (c) The carriage of musical instruments, sound-recording equipment for radio, and equipment for cinematographic or television filming;
- (d) The carriage of racehorses, racing cars and other sports equipment intended for sports events;
- (e) The movement of damaged vehicles and vehicles transporting parts for the repair of other vehicles;
- (f) The carriage of supplies for disaster relief;
- (g) The carriage of human remains;
- (h) The removal of household effects.

Article 6. 1. A permit shall be issued for each journey (round trip) and for each vehicle. The permit shall authorize a journey for the purpose of transport between the two countries or in transit across the territory of one of the Contracting Parties.

2. Permits shall be issued in the name of the carrier: they shall be used only by the carrier and shall not be transferable.

3. The permit shall confer on the carrier the right to load goods on the return journey, provided that the regulations in force in the country of loading are observed, and that such goods are bound exclusively for the carrier's country of origin.

Article 7. 1. Permits shall be issued by the competent authorities of the country in which the vehicle is registered, on behalf of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, within the limits of annual quotas set by common agreement in a protocol drawn up by the Joint Commission provided for in article 20 of this Agreement.

2. The model permit shall be prepared by the said Joint Commission.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 8. Nothing in this Agreement shall give a carrier of one Contracting Party the right to transport passengers or goods between two points situated in the territory of the other Contracting Party for setting down or delivery therein, unless a special written permit has been issued by the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article 9. Carriers of one Contracting Party shall not be permitted to transport passengers or goods from the territory of the other Contracting Party to the territory of a third country or vice versa, unless a special permit has been granted by the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article 10. If the weight or dimensions of a vehicle exceed the limits permitted in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the vehicle must be in possession of a special permit issued by the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article 11. A commercial vehicle used for transport must meet the necessary conditions for the proposed operation and must be maintained, taking into account the provisions of the regulations of the country in which the vehicle is registered.

Article 12. In the event of a traffic accident involving a vehicle or its driver in the territory of one Contracting Party, the competent authorities of the country in which the accident occurred shall provide, at the request of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, a copy of the accident report.

Article 13. Each vehicle must carry the documents required for the transport operations in question under the regulations of the country being toured.

Article 14. Permits issued in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement must be kept on board the vehicle and presented on demand to duly authorized persons.

Article 15. 1. For the road transport operations covered by this Agreement, carriers of each Contracting Party shall pay in the territory of the other Contracting Party the duties taxes and other charges required under the national laws of the latter Party.

2. The two Contracting Parties may, in future, consider the possibility of reducing or not imposing such duties, taxes and other charges in order to promote the development of transport operations covered by this Agreement.

Article 16. 1. The fuel contained in the vehicles' tanks installed by the manufacturer shall be exempt from all duties and taxes.

2. Spare parts imported temporarily into the territory of the other Contracting Party for the repair of vehicles performing transport operations under this Agreement shall be admitted free of customs duties and all other import duties and taxes in accordance with customs regulations.

3. The spare parts replaced must be re-exported or destroyed under the supervision of the competent customs officials of the other Contracting Party.

Article 17. Carriers and drivers of vehicles of one Contracting Party shall observe the laws and regulations concerning traffic and road transport and the other legal provisions in force in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 18. 1. Where a carrier of one Contracting Party has committed an infringement of the provisions of this Agreement in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the competent authorities of the latter Contracting Party may notify the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, without prejudice of the legal provisions applicable in the country where the infringement was committed.

2. In the event of an infringement within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this article, the competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the infringement was committed may request the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party:

- (a) To issue a warning to the carrier, together with a notification that in the event of a further infringement, vehicles owned or operated by the carrier will be partially or totally excluded from transport operations in the territory of the Contracting Party where the infringement was committed;
- (b) To exclude the carrier, temporarily, partially or totally, from transport operations in the territory of the Contracting Party where the infringement was committed.

3. The authority taking such a measure shall so inform the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article 19. Each Contracting Party shall inform the other Contracting Party of the names of the competent authorities empowered to take the measures necessary to apply the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 20. 1. The Contracting Parties shall settle, by consultation or by correspondence, any questions concerning the implementation of this Agreement.

2. In order to ensure the smooth implementation of paragraph 1, the two Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Commission.

3. The Joint Commission shall meet at the request of the competent authority of either Contracting Party, alternately in the territory of each Party.

Article 21. This Agreement shall enter into force the thirtieth day after the Contracting Parties have notified each other that the required constitutional formalities have been completed.

This Agreement is concluded for a period of one year from the date of its entry into force. It shall be extended automatically from year to year, unless one of the Contracting Parties denounces it at least three months prior to the date of expiry of its validity.

DONE at Helsinki on 18 September 1979, in two original copies in the French language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

VEIKKO SAARTO

For the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic:

JABR AL-KAFRI