

No. 23748

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Agreement concerning co-operation in the field of environmental protection. Signed at Helsinki on 5 July 1985

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 19 February 1986.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES
RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES**

Accord concernant la coopération dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement. Signé à Helsinki le 5 juillet 1985

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 19 février 1986.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

Proceeding on the basis of the friendly and good-neighbourly relations existing between the two countries and reaffirmed in the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 6 April 1948,²

Taking into account the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Co-operation between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 16 August 1955,

Attaching great importance to the preservation of the environment and wishing to promote, through co-operation, the adoption of measures to achieve practical results in this field,

Aware of the fact that economic and social development with due regard to the interests of future generations requires measures to protect and improve man's environment today,

Reaffirming their desire further to develop and deepen the co-operation between the two countries in the field of environmental protection in accordance with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,³

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall develop and expand co-operation in the field of environmental protection on the basis of equality and reciprocal benefit and taking into account the interests of the two countries.

Article 2

1. The purpose of this co-operation shall be to solve major problems relating to environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources and it shall be directed primarily at preventing pollution of the air, surface water, sea water and the soil, protecting wild fauna and flora, and devising and standardizing methods and means of studying and monitoring the quality of the various natural environments.

¹ Came into force on 10 January 1986, i.e., 30 days after the Contracting Parties had notified each other (on 11 December 1985) of the completion of the required constitutional procedures, in accordance with article 10.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 48, p. 149.

³ *International Legal Materials*, vol. 14 (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

2. Co-operation shall be effected, in particular, in the following fields:

- (a) Protection of the air from pollution;
- (b) Protection of surface water, subterranean water and sea water from pollution;
- (c) Urban environmental protection;
- (d) Organization of protected natural areas and the protection of ecological systems and rare species of fauna and flora, including animals which inhabit the territory of the two countries and migrate between them;
- (e) Exchange of results of scientific research and information in devising methods for purifying industrial, agricultural and residential waste, gas and effluents, and developing non-waste technology;
- (f) Monitoring the state of the environment.

3. In the course of co-operation, the Contracting Parties shall consider new technology for preventing environmental pollution and promote its introduction, and also study the economic aspects of such new technology.

4. The Contracting Parties may, by mutual agreement, share the results of their co-operation with other countries.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties shall co-operate in order to promote the adoption of measures to reduce the flows of air pollutants between the two countries and prevent their harmful flow.

Article 4

1. The Contracting Parties shall co-operate on the basis of agreed co-operation programmes and working plans, principally in the following ways:

- (a) Joint research and planning work and the organization of joint field and sea expeditions;
- (b) Exchange of information;
- (c) Holding of bilateral conferences and symposia, and publication of reports, articles and monographs;
- (d) Exchange of delegations and specialists;
- (e) Participation by specialists of the Contracting Parties in international conferences, symposia and exhibitions on environmental protection held in the two countries.

2. Co-operation may also take other forms to be mutually agreed.

Article 5

On the basis of the purposes and the principles defined in the foregoing articles of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to promote the establishment of contacts in the field of environmental protection between the two countries' agencies concerned with co-operation.

Article 6

1. A Joint Finnish-Soviet Commission for co-operation in the field of environmental protection (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Commission) shall be

established in order to consider questions related to the implementation of this Agreement.

2. The Joint Commission, taking into account the legislation in force in each of the Contracting Parties and the requirements of treaties concluded between them, shall consider specific measures to develop co-operation, draw up fixed-term co-operation programmes and discuss the results of co-operation. Co-operation programmes shall specify the subjects and forms of co-operation, as well as dates for obtaining interim and final results of joint work, the general conditions for co-operation, and the administrative agencies and scientific research institutions participating in the co-operation programmes.

3. Within one month after the entry into force of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall notify each other of the appointment of the chairman representing the two sides of the Joint Commission.

4. The Joint Commission shall meet not less than once every two years alternately in each country.

5. The Joint Commission may, if necessary, establish working groups on specific areas and problems of co-operation.

6. Co-operation shall be financed on the basis of mutual agreement between the two sides of the Joint Commission.

Article 7

1. Each Contracting Party shall designate a lead agency which shall be responsible for co-ordinating and organizing work carried out under this Agreement. These agencies may engage in direct contacts with each other in respect of questions which relate to the implementation of this Agreement and fall within the scope of their activities.

2. Within one month after the entry into force of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall notify each other about these lead agencies.

Article 8

The Joint Commission referred to in article 6 of this Agreement and the Finnish-Soviet Commission on scientific and technical co-operation shall keep each other informed about work carried out as part of their activities in the field of environmental protection with a view to co-ordinating such work.

Article 9

Co-operation shall be effected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the two countries. This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under agreements concluded by them earlier, including the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning frontier water courses, of 24 April 1964.¹

Article 10

This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which the Contracting Parties notify each other that the necessary constitutional procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement have been completed.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 537, p. 231.

Article 11

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. Either of the Contracting Parties may denounce the Agreement by sending written notification to the other Contracting Party through the diplomatic channel. The denunciation shall enter into force one year after the receipt of the written notification, unless a longer period is specified in such notification.

DONE in duplicate at Helsinki on 5 July 1985 in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

MATTI AHDE

For the Government of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics:

Y. A. IZRAEL
