

No. 24409

**FINLAND
and
NORWAY**

**Agreement on co-operation concerning rescue services in
the frontier areas between Finland and Norway. Signed
at Helsinki on 16 January 1986**

*Authentic texts: Finnish and Norwegian.
Registered by Finland on 11 November 1986.*

**FINLANDE
et
NORVÈGE**

**Accord de coopération dans le domaine des services de se-
cours dans les régions frontalières entre la Finlande et
la Norvège. Signé à Helsinki le 16 janvier 1986**

*Textes authentiques : finnois et norvégien.
Enregistré par la Finlande le 11 novembre 1986.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ ON CO-OPERATION CONCERNING RESCUE SERVICES IN THE FRONTIER AREAS BETWEEN FINLAND AND NORWAY

The Governments of Finland and Norway,
Endeavouring to improve rescue services in the frontier areas between the two States,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. If a person residing in Finland or Norway is in or believed to be in an emergency situation in the frontier areas between the two States, search and rescue operations may, as necessary and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, be extended to the territory of the other State, after due notice is given. Notice shall be given in Finland by the District Police Superintendent (*Nimismies*) and in Norway by the Chief of Police (*Politimester*) to the corresponding authority of the other State.

Search and rescue operations shall, as a general rule, be carried out by each State using its own resources. In the event that personnel or other assistance from the other State is needed for such operations, the competent authority may apply to the authority of the other State for such assistance. The competent authority of the State in which the search and rescue operation is being conducted may, at any time, give notice that it is taking over the direction of the operation if the circumstances so require.

Equipment necessary for such operations in the territory of the other State, including vehicles and boats, may be introduced even if it does not meet the requirements applicable in the other State. Dogs may be introduced irrespective of the veterinary regulations limiting the import of animals. Equipment so introduced shall be removed from the State as soon as possible after completion of the operation.

Article 2. If there is reason to believe that a person from the other State is in an emergency situation of the kind referred to in article 1, in the territory of the other State, the competent police authority shall so inform the competent authority of the last-mentioned State.

Article 3. In the course of the search and rescue operations described in this Agreement, rescue units of the two States may cross the frontier without observing the official frontier-crossing rules and customs regulations.

Article 4. In the course of search and rescue operations the frontier between the two States may be crossed by civil aircraft in compliance with the regulations and agreements in force in the State concerned and between the two States. In such situations the appropriate authorities, the Air Rescue Center of Northern Finland and the

¹ Came into force on 13 March 1986, i.e., 30 days after the date (11 February 1986) on which the Parties had notified each other of its approval, in accordance with article 11.

Main Rescue Co-ordination Center of Northern Norway, shall maintain direct contact with each other.

Article 5. The competent rescue authorities may, where the situation so requires, agree to establish a joint rescue command at the appropriate level or exchange co-ordinators.

Article 6. Military units, military equipment or military *matériel* may not be used in pursuance of this Agreement for rescue operations in the territory of the other State.

Article 7. The Contracting Parties shall report to each other any significant experience relevant to rescue services and shall co-operate in the planning of rescue services in the frontier areas.

Article 8. Rescue plans for the areas concerned shall include information relevant to co-operation in rescue services in the frontier areas. The plans shall contain information concerning the rescue services of the other State.

Joint rescue exercises shall be carried out in the frontier areas at suitable intervals. The provisions of this Agreement shall also apply to such exercises.

Article 9. Compensation for damage caused by rescue service personnel or *matériel* shall be provided by the State of origin of such personnel or the State which owns the *matériel*. The settlement shall be arrived at in accordance with the legal regulations on compensation applicable in the State in which the damage occurred, unless any insurance arrangements in effect would lead to results more advantageous to the injured party.

Article 10. Each Party shall defray its costs in connection with the rescue operations and exercises covered by this Agreement.

Article 11. This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which the Parties notify each other of its approval.

Either Party may terminate the Agreement subject to six months' notice of denunciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the two Governments have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Helsinki on 16 January 1986, in duplicate in the Finnish and Norwegian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

PAAVO VÄYRYNEN

For the Government of the Kingdom of Norway:

KJELL COLDING