

No. 29998

**FINLAND
and
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Agreement concerning cooperation in the field of environmental protection. Signed at Moscow on 29 April 1992

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 29 April 1993.

**FINLANDE
et
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE**

Accord relatif à la coopération dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement. Signé à Moscou le 29 avril 1992

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 29 avril 1993.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Parties”,

Confirming their desire to effectively develop cooperation in the field of environmental protection, to resolve environmental problems and ensure the rational utilization of natural resources in accordance with the principle of sustainable development,

Proceeding on the basis of the obligations and principles adopted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies,

Acting in accordance with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,² the Charter of Paris for a New Europe³ and other documents of the Conference,⁴

Pursuant to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area⁵ and the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and Declaration,

Taking into account the Agreement on cooperation in the Murmansk region, the Republic of Karelia, St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Russian Federation of 20 January 1992,⁶

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall develop and strengthen cooperation in the field of environmental protection in accordance with the principle of sustainable development and taking into account the interests of the two countries.

Article 2

The purpose of this cooperation shall be to improve the quality of the environment and to increase environmental protection in the two countries, in the Baltic Sea and especially in the Gulf of Finland and to prevent environmental pollution by the following means:

— Reducing transboundary flow of environmental pollutants;

¹ Came into force on 14 January 1993, i.e., 30 days after the date of the last of the notifications (of 15 December 1992) by which the Parties had informed each other of the completion of the necessary constitutional procedures, in accordance with article 11.

² *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

³ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session*, document A/45/859, p. 3.

⁴ *International Legal Materials*, vol. XVII (1978), p. 414; vol. XXII (1983), p. 1395; vol. XXVIII (1989), p. 527; and vol. XXIX, No. 4 (1990), p. 1054 (American Society of International Law).

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1507, p. 166.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1691, No. I-29175.

- Increasing the effectiveness of protection of water and air, and of the system for storing and processing waste;
- Expanding protection of flora and fauna and of their habitats;
- Promoting the exchange of environmental information and the use of technology which allows for the least amount of pollution possible to the environment.

Article 3

Cooperation shall be effected with particular attention to the following areas of activity in the field of environmental protection:

- Protection of the air from pollution;
- Protection of bodies of water and the marine environment from pollution;
- Organization of protected natural areas and the protection of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna;
- Prevention of ecological accidents;
- Collection, processing and utilization of waste and monitoring of its transboundary transport;
- Abatement and control of noise;
- Monitoring of the quality of the environment;
- Scientific research in the field of environmental protection;
- Environmental impact assessment;
- Techniques and technology of environmental protection;
- Environmental education and training;
- Improvement of environmental protection policies and legislation.

Article 4

The cooperation shall take the following forms:

- Exchange of scientific and technical information, as well as of information regarding the quality of the environment and the discharge by the Parties of agreed obligations;
- Elaboration of joint technical and commercial programmes to resolve environmental problems and the associated planning and research;
- Holding of symposia, seminars and exhibitions;
- Exchange of specialists and delegations;
- Participation by specialists in international conferences on environmental protection held in the two countries;
- Other forms to be mutually agreed.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall conclude the necessary specific agreements to ensure the attainment of the objectives of this Agreement, in particular with regard to reducing the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere between the two coun-

tries and the pollutant load discharged into water bodies located along their mutual border.

Article 6

The designated authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement are, in the Republic of Finland, the Ministry of the Environment and, in the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The designated authorities may agree between themselves on measures to effect the cooperation provided for in this Agreement.

Article 7

For purposes of the implementation of this Agreement the Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Commission for cooperation in the field of environmental protection (hereinafter referred to as the Commission).

Article 8

The Commission shall approve fixed-term cooperation programmes which shall specify the objectives and forms of cooperation and the agencies and organizations involved in their implementation.

The Commission may, if necessary, establish working groups to review mutually agreed upon objectives and issues.

Within 30 days following the entry into force of this Agreement, the designated authorities shall notify each other of the appointment by both Parties of their respective co-chairmen to the Commission.

Cooperation shall be financed on the basis of mutual agreement between the two sides in the Commission.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall promote cooperation between local authorities and agencies and public organizations involved in environmental protection in the two countries.

Article 10

This Agreement shall replace the Agreement 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 of 5 July 1985.¹ However, the programme of measures to limit and reduce the emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere and their negative effects on the environment in territories bordering the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, established by the Agreement of 26 October 1989, shall remain in force.

Article 11

This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date of the last notification confirming that the necessary constitutional procedures for its entry into force have been completed.

¹United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1419, p. 157.

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period and shall remain in force for one year after the day on which either of the Contracting Parties notifies the other Contracting Party of its desire to denounce it.

DONE in duplicate at Moscow on 29 April 1992 in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the Republic of Finland:

SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN

For the Government
of the Russian Federation:

V. I. DANILOV-DANILIAN
