

No. 30000

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**FINLAND
and
BELARUS**

**Agreement on trade and economic cooperation. Signed at
Minsk on 20 May 1992**

Authentic texts: Finnish and Belarussian.

Registered by Finland on 29 April 1993.

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**FINLANDE
et
BÉLARUS**

**Accord relatif à la coopération commerciale et économique.
Signé à Minsk le 20 mai 1992**

Textes authentiques : finnois et bélarussien.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 29 avril 1993.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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

Aiming to promote and expand reciprocal trade and economic relations on the basis of equality and mutual advantage,

Aiming to strengthen their national economies and to improve conditions for close cooperation and for promotion of the openness of the world-wide trading system,

Taking into account the obligations of Finland as a party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)² and noting the intentions of the Republic of Belarus to comply with the rules and regulations generally applicable in international trade, including the rules and regulations of GATT,

Considering their point of departure to be also the possibilities offered by the technical and industrial resources of Finland and the Republic of Belarus for the diversification of mutual economic relations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The aim of this Agreement is to promote the development of trade and other kinds of economic as well as scientific and technical cooperation between Finland and Belarus on a mutually beneficial and long-term basis.

Article 2

The export and import of goods and services and the economic and technical cooperation between Finland and the Republic of Belarus shall be undertaken by means of contracts between individuals and legal entities in accordance with the legislation of the two countries.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties shall grant each other preferential treatment in all areas having to do with:

- Customs tariffs and charges levied on imports and exports, and procedures for their collection;
- Rules governing customs clearance, storing and trans-shipment;
- Taxes and other internal charges of any kind which are levied directly or indirectly on imports;

¹ Came into force on 21 March 1993, i.e., 30 days after the date on which the Contracting Parties had informed each other (on 19 February 1993) of the completion of the necessary legal procedures, in accordance with article 13.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 55, p. 187.

- Payment procedures and payment transfers;
- Quantitative restrictions on exports and imports;
- Rules governing the sale, purchase, transport, distribution and consumption of goods in domestic markets.

The aforementioned preferential treatment shall not apply to those privileges which the Contracting Parties grant or will grant to:

- Countries which participate together with either Contracting Party in established or possible future economic zones, customs unions or free-trade areas;
- Developing countries on the basis of international treaties;
- Neighbouring countries for the promotion of border trade.

Article 4

Payments resulting from the delivery of goods and services shall be made in freely convertible currency in accordance with the legislation of the two countries.

With a view to increasing trade and expanding the range of items, individuals and legal entities may also engage in mutual trade in any form accepted in international trade practice and in accordance with the legislation of the two countries.

Article 5

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall, within the framework of the legislation of each country and without delay, accord the requisite permits for the export and import of goods and services.

Article 6

1. The Contracting Parties shall aim to avoid disruption of mutual trade. However, in the event of any such problems as those outlined in paragraph 2 below, the Contracting Parties shall engage in consultations within the framework of the joint commission mentioned in article 11 of this Agreement no later than 30 days after the date upon which either Contracting Party has made a request for consultations. The aim of these consultations shall be to find mutually acceptable solutions to such problems. Both Contracting Parties shall give assurance that, with the exception of the critical situations defined in paragraph 4 of this article, they shall not take any measures before such consultations have taken place.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall be applied in cases in which goods entering into mutual trade are imported into the territory of either Contracting Party in increased quantities or in conditions which cause or threaten to cause harm to domestic manufacturers of similar or directly competing goods. In such cases the Contracting Party which requested the consultations shall transmit to the other Contracting Party all the information needed for a definitive resolution of the situation.

3. If, within three months after the date of the commencement of consultations, the Contracting Parties have not reached agreement concerning a means of resolving the situation, the Contracting Party which requested the consultations shall have the right to limit the importation of such goods to a quantity and for a period of time necessary for the prevention or elimination of harm.

4. In critical situations in which delay in taking measures might cause harm, the Contracting Party in question may resort to temporary protective measures. In such a case, the Contracting Parties which has taken such measures must, without delay, inform the other Contracting Party of such action in writing. Thereafter the Contracting Parties shall immediately begin consultations in order to resolve the situation.

5. In selecting measures under this article, the Contracting Parties shall give priority to those measures which least hinder the functioning of this Agreement.

Article 7

In the implementation of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall proceed on the basis of the generally accepted principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Article 8

With a view to ensuring the necessary preconditions for trade and for economic and technical cooperation, the Contracting Parties shall:

- Regularly publish laws and regulations having to do with the implementation of this Agreement and shall immediately inform each other of any changes in such laws and regulations;
- Protect and create favourable conditions for investments on the basis of the principles of nondiscrimination and reciprocity, including the return on investments and the repatriation of investment capital;
- Ensure the protection of industrial, commercial and intellectual property rights in accordance with the legislation of the two countries.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall, by any means available to them, promote trade, economic and technical cooperation and diversification based on long-term and mutual benefit, including cooperation in the field of industry, and education and the participation of small and medium-sized businesses in trading activities.

In order to attain these aims, the Contracting Parties shall:

- Promote direct trade and economic and technical cooperation between enterprises and organizations in all areas of industry and production in which the two Contracting Parties have a mutual interest;
- Promote direct contacts between specialists in various economic fields, including business-management training;
- Contribute to various forms of trade promotion such as the organization of seminars, exhibitions and symposia.

Article 10

With a view to developing cooperation in the economic and technical fields, the Contracting Parties shall contribute to the expansion and diversification of direct contacts between scientists, researchers and experts as well as scientific research institutes and organizations.

Article 11

In order to attain the objectives of this Agreement, a joint commission shall be set up.

Its duties shall be to make recommendations regarding:

- The development of trade and economic and technical cooperation;
- The elimination of obstacles to trade;
- The solution of possible problems or disagreements having to do with the application or execution of this Agreement.

Meetings of the joint commission shall be held alternately in Finland and in the Republic of Belarus at the request of either Contracting Party.

Article 12

The Contracting Parties may conclude agreements and protocols and draw up programmes of cooperation to supplement this Agreement.

Article 13

This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the Contracting Parties have notified each other through an exchange of notes that the legal procedures necessary for its entry into force have been completed.

Article 14

This Agreement shall remain in force until either of the Contracting Parties denounces it by giving 12 months' notice in writing to the other Contracting Party.

DONE at Minsk on 20 May 1992, in two originals, each in the Finnish and Belarusian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the Republic of Finland:

PAAVO VÄYRYNEN

For the Government
of the Republic of Belarus:

V. RADKEVITSH
