

No. 31247

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**FINLAND  
and  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Agreement on cooperation with regard to maritime and aeronautical search and rescue. Signed at Moscow on 5 March 1993**

*Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.*

*Registered by Finland on 30 September 1994.*

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**FINLANDE  
et  
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE**

**Accord relatif à la coopération dans les domaines de la recherche et du sauvetage maritimes et aéronautiques. Signé à Moscou le 5 mars 1993**

*Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.*

*Enregistré par la Finlande le 30 septembre 1994.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON COOPERATION WITH REGARD TO MARITIME AND AERONAUTICAL SEARCH AND RESCUE

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

Taking into account the provisions of the International Convention on maritime search and rescue, 1979<sup>2</sup> and of Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944,<sup>3</sup>

Aware of the vital importance that rapid assistance may have for persons in distress,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

For the purposes of this Agreement the terms and definitions contained in Chapter 1 of the Annex to the International Convention on maritime search and rescue, 1979, and in Chapter 1 of Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, shall be applicable.

*Article 2*

1. The Parties agree to regard the boundary between their adjacent flight information regions (FIR) as the boundary between their search and rescue regions for maritime and aeronautical purposes. This delimitation of the search and rescue regions between the Republic of Finland and the Russian Federation shall be without prejudice to the delimitation of any other boundary between the two States.

2. Each Party shall ensure that adequate maritime and aeronautical search and rescue services, hereinafter referred to as search and rescue services, are available in its search and rescue region.

3. The Parties shall notify each other through the diplomatic channel which are the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement. Such notification must be given before the entry into force of this Agreement. The Parties shall also notify each other through the diplomatic channel of any changes in the competent authorities.

*Article 3*

Search and rescue operations in and over the territorial sea, internal waters and land of either Party shall be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of that Party adopted in conformity with the provisions of the International Conven-

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 29 March 1994, i.e., 30 days after the date on which the Parties had notified each other (on 18 February 1994) of the completion of the internal procedures, in accordance with article 9.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1405, p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 15, p. 295. For the texts of the Protocols amending this Convention, see vol. 320, pp. 209 and 217; vol. 418, p. 161; vol. 514, p. 209; vol. 740, p. 21; vol. 893, p. 117; vol. 958, p. 217; vol. 1008, p. 213, and vol. 1175, p. 297.

tion on maritime search and rescue, 1979, and Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944.

#### Article 4

1. If the search and rescue service of one of the Parties receives information to the effect that human life is, or is believed to be, in danger on or over the Baltic Sea or in the territories adjacent to the Finnish-Russian State border in that Party's search and rescue region, that service shall without delay take all necessary search and rescue measures.

2. If the search and rescue service of one of the Parties receives information to the effect that human life is, or is believed to be, in danger on or over the Baltic Sea or in the territories adjacent to the Finnish-Russian State border in the search and rescue region of the other Party, that service shall without delay inform the search and rescue service of the other Party.

3. If the search and rescue service that has received information about a situation as referred to in paragraph 1 of this article considers assistance from the search and rescue service of the other Party necessary, it may request such assistance. The search and rescue service that has received such a request shall render every possible assistance. In this case, further measures shall be taken in cooperation between the search and rescue services of both Parties.

4. Assistance to any person in danger, or believed to be in danger, shall be rendered regardless of the nationality or status of that person or the circumstances in which that person is found.

5. Each Party shall inform the diplomatic or consular representation of the other Party about the rescue of survivors, or the discovery of the bodies of the deceased who were nationals of the other Party. The information shall be provided without delay and shall, as far as possible, include the surname, first name, date of birth, home address and number of passport or seaman's book, as well as details about the state of health and the whereabouts of survivors or the location of the bodies of the deceased.

#### Article 5

1. The Parties shall strengthen the cooperation between their search and rescue services. Such cooperation shall include, *inter alia*: joint search and rescue exercises, regular checks on inter-State communication channels, reciprocal visits by search and rescue experts and the exchange of search and rescue information and experience.

2. The competent authorities of the Parties shall prepare and conclude a protocol on cooperation for the practical implementation of this Agreement.

3. In order to consider and decide on matters of practical cooperation, the competent authorities of the Parties shall meet, as necessary, alternately in the Republic of Finland and in the Russian Federation.

#### Article 6

Each Party shall bear the expenses incurred by its participation in search and rescue operations in conformity with this Agreement.

*Article 7*

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect in any way the rights and obligations of either Party arising from other international agreements.

*Article 8*

This Agreement replaces the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning co-operation for the saving of human lives in the Baltic Sea, signed at Helsinki on 7 December 1956.<sup>1</sup>

*Article 9*

This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date on which the Parties notify each other in writing that the necessary internal procedures have been completed.

This Agreement shall remain in force until it is terminated by either Party upon six months' advance notice in writing to the other Party. The Agreement shall cease to have effect six months after the receipt of such notice.

DONE in Moscow, on 5 March 1993, in duplicate in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the Republic of Finland:

PAAVO VÄYRYNEN

For the Government  
of the Russian Federation:

V. B. JEFIMOV

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 258, p. 89.