

**No. 50325\***

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**Finland  
and  
Estonia**

**Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Republic of Estonia on abolishing the requirement of legalisation for population register documents. Turku, 12 December 2011**

**Entry into force:** *1 July 2012, in accordance with article 6*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Finland, 18 January 2013*

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**Finlande  
et  
Estonie**

**Accord entre la République de Finlande et la République d'Estonie sur la suppression de l'exigence de la légalisation des documents pour enregistrer la population. Turku, 12 décembre 2011**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *1er juillet 2012, conformément à l'article 6*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Finlande, 18 janvier 2013*

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[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

# Agreement

between

the Republic of Finland and the Republic of Estonia

on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Population Register Documents

**AGREEMENT**

**between the Republic of Finland and the Republic of Estonia on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Population Register Documents**

The Republic of Finland and the Republic of Estonia, hereinafter referred to as “the Contracting States”,

in a spirit of close co-operation,

desiring to facilitate the use in either of the Contracting States of public documents drawn up in the other Contracting State,

wishing to supplement in their mutual relations the provisions of the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents, in accordance with its Article 3 (2),

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. Public documents referred to in Article 2, executed in either Contracting State and presented to authorities in the other Contracting State shall not require legalisation, or any similar formality, including the apostille.

2. These documents must be drawn up in English, bear a seal or an official stamp, the signatures of the competent authority and an indication of the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Agreement, the following are deemed to be public documents:

a) the following civil status records emanating from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia:

- i. Birth certificate – extract;
- ii. Death certificate – extract;
- iii. Marriage certificate – extract;
- iv. Divorce certificate – extract;
- v. Marriage non-impediment certificate – extract;
- vi. Population register – extract;
- vii. Change of name certificate – extract.

b) the following extracts and certificates containing population information, the issuance of which in Finland is based on the competence vested in authorities by the legislation on the registration of population data and on marriage:

- i. Extract from the population information system in Finland;
- ii. Certificate from the member register of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland or the Finnish Orthodox Church;
- iii. Certificate on the capacity under Finnish law to contract marriage before a foreign authority.

#### Article 3

1. When a public document referred to in Article 2 is produced in either Contracting State and there are serious reasons for doubting the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the documents acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or official stamp which it bears, a request for verification may be addressed directly:

**In the Republic of Estonia:**

- to the Population Facts Department in the Ministry of the Interior,

**In the Republic of Finland:**

- to the central government authority responsible for population registry.

2. Authorities referred to in paragraph 1 shall be responsible for transmitting the reply of the competent person, body or authority.

3. The requests for verifications shall, where possible, be accompanied by the original, scanned image or photocopy of the document.

#### Article 4

1. Contracting States shall undertake to issue to the other Contracting State extracts or certificates described in paragraphs a and b of Article 2 concerning nationals of the requesting Contracting State when requested for official purposes in justifiable individual cases.

2. The request shall be made by diplomatic missions or consular posts to the competent authority or by the competent authority directly to the competent authority in the other Contracting State. It shall indicate briefly official purposes for which the request is made.

3. The fulfilment of such requests shall not entail payment of any charge or fee.

Article 5

The central government authorities responsible for the central population registry records of the Contracting States are obliged to keep updated and accessible to the other Contracting State the information on the country's competent authorities authorised to issue public documents as specified in Article 2 of this Agreement.

Article 6

1. This Agreement has been concluded for an indefinite period of time. The Contracting States shall notify each other in writing when their internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date of receipt of the latter notification.

2. This Agreement may be amended in writing by the mutual consent of the Contracting States. Such amendments shall enter into force according to paragraph 1.

3. This Agreement may be terminated by either of the Contracting States by giving prior notification through diplomatic channels and shall remain valid six months following the date of the receipt of such notification.

Done at Turku on the 12th of December 2011 in duplicate in English.



For the Government of the  
Republic of Finland



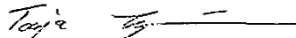
For the Government of  
the Republic of Estonia

I, THE UNDERSIGNED Tarja Hyvönen, hereby certify that the attached text is a true and complete copy of the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Republic of Estonia on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Population Register Documents, signed at Turku on 12 December 2011; that no reservations or declarations or objections were made by the Signatories or Parties thereto, and that it was concluded in duplicate in the English language.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Agreement came into force on 1 July 2012 after exchange of notifications, in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement, and that it was signed by Mr. Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of Finland and Mr. Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia. The exchange of notifications took place on 28 May 2012.

Helsinki 18 December 2012

Tarja Hyvönen



Director for Administration Unit

Department for Local Government and Regional Administration

Ministry of Finance