

No. 33392

**FINLAND
and
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Agreement on cooperation for the prevention of disasters
and on the elimination of the after-effects thereof (with
annex). Signed at Helsinki on 9 August 1994**

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 4 December 1996.

**FINLANDE
et
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE**

**Accord de coopération dans le domaine de la prévention des
catastrophes et de l'élimination de leurs conséquences
(avec annexe). Signé à Helsinki le 9 août 1994**

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 4 décembre 1996.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISASTERS AND THE ELIMINATION OF THE AFTER-EFFECTS THEREOF

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

Aware of the danger posed to both countries by industrial accidents and natural disasters,

Recognizing the potential benefit to both Parties of the exchange of scientific and technical information on the prevention of disasters and the elimination of the after-effects thereof,

Considering it essential that both Parties should receive the earliest possible notification of disasters having a harmful transfrontier impact,

Taking into account the need for coordinated action by the Contracting Parties in the event of disasters, the after-effects of which cannot be eliminated by one side acting alone,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this Agreement have the following meanings:

“Disaster” means an industrial accident, explosion, fire, landslide, earthquake, flood or other similar event or natural disaster which causes or may cause injury to people, or damage to property or to the environment;

“Requesting State” means the Government requests the other State to send an emergency team, relevant equipment or supplies;

“Assisting State” means the Government which complies with a request from the other State to send an emergency team, relevant equipment or supplies;

“Emergency teams” means organized teams of specialists from the assisting State, including military personnel and other relief teams, with the relevant equipment and supplies;

“Equipment” means vehicles and other equipment for the use of relief teams, including the means necessary to render assistance;

“Supplies” means materials for distribution among the population affected by the disaster;

¹ Came into force on 7 August 1996 by notification, in accordance with article 17.

“Rescue work” means measures implemented after the disaster has occurred to prevent a deterioration of the situation and to limit the damage;

“Competent organs of the Contracting Parties” means, in Finland, the Ministry of the Interior and, in the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Natural Disasters;

“Regional and local competent organs” means, in Finland, communes, commune unions and associations of communes, provincial authorities and relevant government authorities in the provinces of Lapland, Oulu, North Karelia and Komi, and, in the Russian Federation, the Government of the Republic of Karelia and St. Petersburg and the administrations of the Leningrad and Murmansk regions.

Article 2

SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be applicable to cooperation in the following fields:

The formulation of measures and procedures for enhancing the capacities of the Contracting Parties in the prevention and early warning of disasters and the elimination of the after-effects, thereof;

The early warning of disasters having a harmful transfrontier impact;

The rendering of mutual assistance in the elimination of the after-effects of a disaster.

Article 3

MODES OF COOPERATION

Cooperation under this Agreement shall include any activity agreed upon by the competent organs specified in this Agreement which relates to the warning and notification of disasters and the elimination of the after-effects thereof, including the exchange of specialists and scientists, the exchange of information, the organization of joint conferences, seminars, research projects and demonstrations, and the improvement of communication links between institutions of the Contracting Parties.

Cooperation shall be carried out in accordance with the domestic legislation and regulations of the Contracting Parties and within the limits of their available resources.

Article 4

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMPETENT ORGANS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The competent organs of the Contracting Parties shall agree upon a procedure for the implementation of this Agreement.

Representatives of the competent organs shall meet, as necessary, in connection with the planning, coordination and monitoring of cooperation.

Each Contracting Party shall inform the other immediately of any change of competent organ.

Article 5

FUNCTIONS OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL COMPETENT ORGANS

Regional and local competent organs in the frontier zones of both countries may, in accordance with their domestic legislation and within the limits of their competence and available resources, come to a mutual agreement regarding the provision of the cooperation envisaged in this Agreement.

These organs shall be independently responsible for the obligations deriving from such agreements.

Each Contracting Party shall inform the other immediately of any change of competent organ at the regional or local level.

Article 6

NOTIFICATION OF DISASTERS

The Contracting Parties shall, through communication posts, inform each other immediately of disasters in their territories which have, or may have, a harmful impact on the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Such notification shall contain information concerning the nature and location of the disaster, the measures which have been taken or are planned both at the site of the disaster and beyond its boundaries, as well as other important data. Such information shall be provided as events unfold.

Article 7

COMMUNICATION POSTS

The competent organs of the Contracting Parties shall inform each other which communication posts are designated to send and receive notifications and information pursuant to article 6 of this Agreement. Such communication posts shall be constantly operational.

The competent organs of the Contracting Parties shall inform each other immediately of any change in the information concerning communications posts.

Article 8

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE

In the event or threat of a disaster, either Contracting Party may, at the request of the other Party, render the necessary assistance in order to prevent or limit injury to people and damage to property or to the environment, within the limits of its capabilities and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

The requesting State shall determine the type and extent of the assistance it requires and, as far as possible, shall supply such information to the other State as it may need to determine to what extent it can meet the request.