

No. 33393

**FINLAND
and
ESTONIA**

**Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in cases of
accidents. Signed at Helsinki on 26 June 1995**

Authentic texts: Finnish and Estonian.

Registered by Finland on 4 December 1996.

**FINLANDE
et
ESTONIE**

**Accord relatif à la coopération et à l'assistance mutuelle en
cas d'accidents. Signé à Helsinki le 26 juin 1995**

Textes authentiques : finnois et estonien.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 4 décembre 1996.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA ON COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF ACCIDENTS

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

Recognizing the need for ongoing cooperation to combat the effects of accidents occurring in the territories of the Parties or of other States,

Convinced that cooperation in combating accidents is beneficial to both Parties and helps reduce danger to human beings, property and the environment,

Considering this Agreement as a framework agreement for other bilateral agreements in this area,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Agreement:

“The Party requesting assistance” means the Party which, in accordance with this Agreement, requests that the other Party send relief teams, needed equipment and relief supplies;

“The Party providing assistance” means the Party which, in accordance with this Agreement, complies with a request from the other Party to send relief teams, necessary equipment and relief supplies;

“Relief team” means a group of specialists, including military personnel, sent by the Party providing assistance, and other groups which are intended to provide assistance and which possess the necessary equipment;

“Equipment” means specialized and other vehicles belonging to the relief teams, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for providing assistance, and other objects, including personal items belonging to group members;

“Relief supplies” means food and items of everyday use to be distributed to persons affected by the accident.

Article 2

SCOPE

This Agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between the Parties; such cooperation is intended to prevent or minimize harm to human beings, property or the environment in cases of accidents, and includes:

¹ Came into force on 31 July 1996 by notification, in accordance with article 14.

- (1) Notification of accidents and the risk of accidents;
- (2) Mutual assistance in combating the effects of accidents.

Article 3

COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

For the purposes of this Agreement, the competent authorities are the Ministry of the Interior in the Republic of Finland and the Rescue Board in the Republic of Estonia.

The competent authorities shall reach mutual agreement regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement and practical cooperation in their implementation.

The Parties shall notify each other immediately of any change in connection with the competent authorities.

Article 4

CONTACT CENTRES

The competent authorities shall exchange information about contact centres, which shall transmit and receive the notifications referred to in article 5. These contact centres must be operational at all times.

The competent authorities shall notify each other immediately of any change in connection with the contact centres.

Article 5

NOTIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS

Each Party shall notify the other Party immediately through the contact centres of accidents occurring in its own territory which have or may have a harmful effect on the territory of the other Party.

The notification must contain information about the nature and location of the accident, any assistance measures that have been or will be implemented at the scene of the accident or in its environs, and any other significant circumstances. Notification concerning the development of the situation is also required.

The Parties shall also notify each other as necessary of accidents occurring in other States which have or may have a harmful effect on the territory of either Party.

Article 6

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE

In case of an accident or the risk of an accident, each Party may, at the request of the other Party and in accordance with its own resources and the provisions of this Agreement, provide the assistance necessary to prevent or minimize harm to human beings, property or the environment.