

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN REGARDING CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT OF MARITIME AND AERONAUTICAL SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden hereafter referred to as the Contracting Parties.

taking in consideration regulations of the 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue and Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation from 1944.

Acknowledging the importance of rapid assistance for persons in distress, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the application of this Agreement the concepts 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 adapted.

Article 2

1 The Contracting Parties agree to regard the boundary between their adjacent flight information regions (FIR) as the boundary for their search and rescue regions for maritime and aeronautical rescue purposes. This definition of the search and rescue regions between the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden, have no influence on definitions of any other boundaries between the two States.

2 Each Contracting Party ensures that adequate maritime and aeronautical search and rescue services, hereinafter referred to as search and rescue services are available in respect of its maritime and aeronautical search and rescue region.

3 The competent authorities, who are in co-operation with the corresponding authorities of the other Contracting Party, are listed in the annex to this agreement. The Contracting Parties shall inform each other, through diplomatic channels, of changes in the competent authorities.

Article 3

Search and rescue operations at territorial sea, inner territorial waters, land areas as well as in the air space above previously mentioned areas, shall be conducted accordingly to the laws of the respective Contracting Party.

Article 4

1 If the search and rescue service of one of the Contracting Parties receives information that human life is, or is believed to be, in danger within that Contracting Party's search and rescue region, shall that service without delay take all necessary search and rescue measures.

2 If a search and rescue service of one of the Contracting Parties receives information that human life is, or is believed to be, in danger within the search and rescue region of the other Contracting Party, shall that service without delay notify the search and rescue service of the other Contracting Party.

3 If the search and rescue service that has received information of a situation as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, considers assistance from the search and rescue service of the other Contracting Party necessary, it may request such assistance. The search and rescue service which has received such a request shall render assistance to the utmost possible extent. In such a case, shall further measures be taken in co-operation between the search and rescue services of both Contracting Parties.

4 Assistance to any person in danger, or believed to be in danger, at sea, on land or in the airspace above these areas shall be rendered regardless of the nationality or status of such a person or the circumstances in which the person is found.

5 The Contracting Party shall inform each other, through competent authorities, of rescue of survivors or retrieval of perished persons with the citizenship of the other Contracting Party. The information shall be provided without delay and shall as far as possible include, surname, first name, date of birth, home address, as well as details about the state of health and the whereabouts of the survivor or where the body of the deceased is retained.

Article 5

1 The Contracting Parties agree to strengthen the co-operation between each other's maritime and aeronautical search and rescue services. Such co-operation shall inter alia include joint search and rescue exercises, regular checks of communication channels between the States, liaison visits by search and rescue experts and exchange of search and rescue information and experiences.

2 The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall prepare and agree upon a protocol for the practical application of this Agreement.

3 The representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall meet, as necessary, in order to deal and decide matters of practical co-operation.

Article 6

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

Article 7

Nothing in this Agreement shall in anyway affect the rights and obligations of either Contracting Party, due to other international agreements.

Article 8

1 This agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date the Contracting Parties have notified each other in written form, through diplomatic channels, that the necessary internal legislative procedures for implementation of this agreement have been completed.

2 Each Contracting Party may in written form denounce this Agreement through diplomatic channels. The denouncement of this Agreement shall take effect six months after reception of such a notification.

Done in Stockholm on 17 of november 1993 in two copies, in Finnish and Swedish languages, each text being equally authentic.

For the Government of
the republic of Finland

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Sweden

ANNEX

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties are:

In the Republic of Finland:

1. The Frontier Guard regarding maritime search and rescue
2. The Civil Aviation Administration regarding aeronautical search and rescue

In the Kingdom of Sweden:

1. The National Maritime Administration regarding maritime search and rescue
 2. The Swedish Civil Aviation Administration regarding aeronautical search and rescue
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