

**No. 29615**

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**FINLAND  
and  
LITHUANIA**

**Protocol regarding temporary arrangements on trade and  
economic cooperation (with annexes). Signed at Vilnius  
on 5 June 1992**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered by Finland on 23 February 1993.*

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**FINLANDE  
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LITUANIE**

**Protocole relatif à des arrangements temporaires de com-  
merce et de coopération économique (avec annexes).  
Signé à Vilnius le 5 juin 1992**

*Texte authentique : anglais.*

*Enregistré par la Finlande le 23 février 1993.*

## PROTOCOL<sup>1</sup> REGARDING TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE RE- PUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The Republic of Finland and the Republic of Lithuania,

Desirous of creating favourable conditions for the development and diversification of trade and for the promotion of commercial and economic co-operation in areas of common interest on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and international law,

Taking into consideration the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe,<sup>2</sup> the Paris Charter,<sup>3</sup> and in particular the principles contained in the final document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe,<sup>4</sup>

Recalling the traditional trade and economic links between Finland and Lithuania, and taking into account their respective levels of economic development,

Taking into account the respective economic policies of the Parties and the favourable effect of the economic transformation under way in Lithuania on their trade and economic relations,

Noting that substantially all trade between Finland and Lithuania has taken place without customs duties and charges having equivalent effect,

Determined to continue the liberalized trade regime between Finland and Lithuania, *mutatis mutandis*, to the extent and under the conditions previously in force,

Resolved to develop further their relations in the field of trade in accordance with the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,<sup>5</sup>

Considering that no provision of this Protocol may be interpreted as exempting the Parties from the rights and obligations devolving upon them from other international agreements,

Have agreed as follows:

### Article 1

The objective of this Protocol is to promote the expansion of trade and harmonious development of economic relations between the Parties and thus to foster in them the advance of economic activity, the improvement of living and employment conditions, increased productivity, financial stability and fair conditions of competition in their mutual trade.

### Article 2

1. The trade between the Parties is conducted free of customs duties and other charges having equivalent effect except a statistical and administrative fee imposed on imports to and exports from Lithuania. This fee shall be abolished when a new customs data collection system is introduced. Until that time the amount of that fee may not be increased.

2. The trade between the Parties is conducted free of quantitative restrictions or measures having equivalent effect. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to the products listed in Annex (I).

3. This Article applies to products which fall within Chapters 25—97 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.<sup>6</sup>

4. The Joint Commission will decide on measures applicable to products which fall within Chapters 1—24 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

### Article 3

The Parties undertake to conduct their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour according to the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

### Article 4

The Parties shall explore all avenues to promote trade and economic co-operation be-

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 January 1993, i.e., the first day of the month following the exchange of the instruments of approval, which took place on 9 December 1992, in accordance with article 13.

<sup>2</sup> *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session*, document A/45/859, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> *International Legal Materials*, vol. XXIX, No. 4 (1990), p. 1054 (American Society of International Law).

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 55, p. 187.

<sup>6</sup> See "International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System", in United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1503, p. 3.

tween them including fostering a favourable climate for investments, joint ventures and sub-contracting, facilitating trade promotion activities, protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property rights and, as a temporary measure, utilizing barter, buy-back and counter-trade arrangements in contracts between economic operators when payments in freely convertible currencies are not feasible.

#### Article 5

The Annex (II) to this Protocol lays down the rules of origin.

#### Article 6

The Parties undertake to examine, in light of any relevant factor, the possibility of developing and deepening their relations in order to extend them to fields not covered by this Protocol, in particular to investment protection, economic assistance as well as economic, industrial and scientific co-operation.

#### Article 7

1. If an increase in imports of a given product originating in the territory of one of the Parties occurs in quantities or under conditions as to cause, or threaten to cause disruption to the domestic market or production of the other Party, the Party concerned may request that consultations on the situation be held without delay in the Joint Commission with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution.

2. The Party requesting such a consultation shall immediately inform the other Party of the disruption and supply the latter with all relevant information required for a thorough examination in the Joint Commission.

3. In the absence of any mutually satisfactory solution in the Joint Commission within three months of the matter being referred to it, the Party concerned may apply any safeguard measures necessary to remedy the situation.

4. Where exceptional circumstances requiring immediate action make prior examination impossible, the Party concerned may apply forthwith the precautionary measures strictly necessary to remedy the situation.

5. In the selection of measures under this Article priority must be given to those which least disturb the functioning of this Protocol.

#### Article 8

1. A Joint Commission is hereby established, which shall be responsible for the administration of this Protocol and shall review its implementation. For this purpose it shall follow closely the development of the trade and economic co-operation between the Parties and take any such measure which is necessary to improve and further develop those relations. The decisions of the Joint Commission shall be put into effect by the Parties in accordance with their own procedures.

2. For the purpose of the proper implementation of the Protocol the Parties shall exchange information and, at the request of either Party, shall hold consultations within the Joint Commission.

#### Article 9

1. The Joint Commission shall consist of representatives of Finland, on the one hand, and of representatives of Lithuania on the other.

2. The Joint Commission shall act by consensus.

3. The Joint Commission may decide to amend this Protocol.

#### Article 10

1. Each Party shall preside alternately over the Joint Commission.

2. The Chairman shall convene the meetings of the Joint Commission at least once a year in order to review the general functioning of the Protocol. The Joint Commission shall, in addition, meet whenever special circumstances so require, at the request of either Party.

3. The Joint Commission may decide to set up any working group that can assist it in carrying out its duties.

#### Article 11

The Annexes to this Protocol shall form an integral part thereof.

#### Article 12

Either Party may denounce this Protocol by notifying the other Party. The Protocol shall cease to be in force three months after the date of such notification.

#### Article 13

This Protocol shall be subject to approval by the Parties in accordance with their own procedures. The documents confirming such an approval are to be exchanged through diplomatic channels. The Protocol shall enter into