

AGREEMENT between Finland and Norway on the Finnish-Norwegian border water commission

The Government of Finland and the Government of Norway,

with the purpose of preserving the unique natural conditions of the border water bodies and their surroundings and to safeguard the interests of both parties to the agreement and especially the residents of the border region in matters concerning the use of border water bodies,

have entered into the following agreement:

Article 1

The parties to the agreement establish a joint transboundary water commission, whose task is to act as a cooperation and liaison body between the governments of Finland and Norway in matters concerning transboundary water bodies. For this purpose, the task of the Boundary Water Commission is to make presentations and initiatives and give statements on matters concerning the management of the border water bodies between Finland and Norway, monitoring and control of their state and water quality, fishing conditions, prevention of water pollution, construction in the border water body and regulation of the border water body, and in other matters whose effects appear in boundary water works.

The relevant authorities of the contracting parties must notify the Transboundary Water Commission of their plans that essentially concern or sidestep transboundary water bodies and the effects of the implementation of which, as stated, will be reflected in transboundary water works.

Article 2

The agreement applies to water areas that include the parts of Rajajoki, Skietshamjoki, Inarinjoki and Tenojokki, along which the national border runs, as well as the lakes, rivers and streams that the border line crosses. In this agreement, these water bodies are called boundary water bodies.

The agreement is also applied in the watersheds of which the transboundary watersheds are parts, with regard to measures that may cause harmful and harmful consequences in the transboundary waterworks.

Article 3

The government of each contracting party appoints three members to the border water commission, one of whom must have experience in the field of water management and one must be a person well-versed in the conditions of the border region, who will be appointed after the Lapland provincial government has made a proposal for a Finnish member and a Norwegian member of Finnmark's fylkesman. One or more alternates are assigned to each member in the same order.

The government of each contracting party appoints one of its appointed members to serve as the chairman or vice-chairman of the commission for one calendar year at a time, alternating between the states.

Article 4

The Boundary Water Commission meets when necessary at the invitation of the chairman or, if he is unable to do so, by the vice-chairman, but at least once during the calendar year. The meeting must be convened if requested by the commissioners appointed by the other contracting party.

Article 5

The commission can invite experts to its meetings and assign them investigative tasks. If necessary, the commission must also consult representatives of local residents.

The Commission has the right to contact the relevant authorities of both contracting parties, who must assist the Commission in investigation and research work.

Both parties to the agreement will provide a secretary to the commission.

The Commission itself, if necessary, establishes its rules of procedure.

Article 6

Each contracting party pays the remuneration to the commission members and secretaries they have chosen. The same also applies to reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for members and secretaries. Other costs caused by the Commission's work, including expert fees, reimbursement of travel expenses and Per diem, shall be paid in half by each contracting party, if some cost item is obviously not considered to be the sole expense of one of the two states.

Article 7

The Transboundary Water Commission must provide a report to the governments of the contracting parties every year, which also includes a notification on the division of the commission's costs between the contracting parties.

Article 8

The members and secretaries of the Transboundary Water Commission have the right to cross the border where it is appropriate for the work of the commission. The same applies to experts appointed by the Commission when it is necessary for the performance of their duties.

All border crossings must be notified in advance to the local police authorities.

Article 9

This agreement does not affect other agreements between the parties.

The Transboundary Water Commission may, within the scope of its authority according to Article 1, make proposals and initiatives to amend this agreement as well as other agreements between the contracting parties.

Article 10

This agreement will come into effect thirty days after the parties to the agreement have notified each other through diplomatic channels that their constitutional requirements for entry into force have been met.

Article 11

The agreement ceases to be valid from the beginning of the calendar year that first occurs two years after either state has terminated the agreement.

Done in Helsinki on November 5, 1980 in two copies in Finnish and two in Norwegian, so that all texts are equally authentic. As a guarantee of this, both representatives have signed this agreement.