

**Translation from Finnish**

**Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish**

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland**

**Act on the Making of Decisions Concerning the Provision of and Request for  
International Assistance**

*(418/2017)*

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

**Section 1**

**Scope of application**

This Act applies to decision-making concerning the provision of international assistance to, or the request for such assistance from, another State, the European Union or an international organisation, taking into account the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (Finnish Treaty Series 1/1956) and other rules of international law, if the assistance

- 1) is based on Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- 2) is based on Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union;
- 3) involves significant military resources;
- 4) may involve the use of military force;
- 5) is of significance from the foreign and security policy perspective; or
- 6) is far-reaching and important in principle.

Separate provisions are issued on decision-making concerning the provision of and request for international assistance other than that referred to in subsection 1.

**Section 2**

**Making decisions on the provision of and request for assistance**

A decision on the provision of or request for assistance is made by the government plenary

session, on the basis of a proposal presented by the competent ministry. If the provision of or request for assistance is an international matter of significance from the foreign and security policy perspective, the decision on it is made by the President of the Republic on the basis of a proposal for decision presented by the Government. Provisions on the competence of the Government to prepare decisions to be made in the European Union and to decide on the concomitant Finnish measures are laid down in the Constitution.

Before making a decision referred to in subsection 1, and after the matter in preparation has been considered at a meeting of the President of the Republic and the Ministerial Committee on Foreign and Security Policy or a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on European Union Affairs, the competent ministry may take preparatory and preparedness measures related to the provision or reception of assistance.

The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 also apply to any substantial change of a decision on the provision of or request for assistance.

Subject to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, the Defence Forces shall not be commanded to provide assistance under section 1 without applying the procedure laid down in subsections 1–3.

### **Section 3**

#### **Participation of Parliament in decision-making**

Before making a decision on the provision of or request for assistance referred to in section 2, the Government shall consult the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament, if the assistance may involve the use of military force. If the decision concerns a particularly demanding situation, the Government shall, before making the decision, consult Parliament by providing it a report on the matter.

### **Section 4**

#### **Procedure in urgent cases**

If a decision under section 2 concerning assistance referred to in subsection 1, paragraphs 1–3 cannot be made sufficiently quickly in an exceptionally urgent and serious situation where assistance would be provided or requested between Finland and the European Union or its other

Member States or between Finland and other Nordic countries, the competent ministry may decide on the provision of and on the request for assistance.

The Government and the President of the Republic shall be notified immediately of the decision of the ministry concerning the provision of or request for assistance. Decisions to continue and to discontinue assistance are made in compliance with the procedure laid down in section 2.

Subject to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, the Defence Forces shall not be commanded to provide assistance under this section without applying the decision-making procedure laid down in subsections 1 and 2.

## **Section 5**

### **Procedure in urgent cases requiring military force**

If a decision referred to in section 2 on the provision of or request for assistance involving the use of military force cannot be made sufficiently quickly, the decision may be made within the procedure laid down in this section in an exceptionally urgent and serious situation where assistance would be provided or requested between Finland and the European Union or its other Member States or between Finland and other Nordic countries, where assistance is necessary to prevent a terror attack immediately threatening the life or health of a large number of people or to counter an imminent danger seriously threatening national security, and where the danger cannot be countered by lesser means. In such cases the decision on the provision of or request for assistance is made by the government plenary session or the President of the Republic as provided in section 2, subsection 1.

Before making a decision on the provision of or request for assistance referred to in subsection 1, the Government shall give an account of the matter to the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament. After the decision is made, the matter shall be immediately submitted to Parliament for consideration. In such cases, decisions to continue and to discontinue assistance are made in compliance with the procedure laid down in sections 2 and 3.

Subject to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, the Defence Forces shall not be commanded to provide assistance referred to in this section without applying the decision-making procedure laid down in subsections 1 and 2.

The Territorial Surveillance Act (755/2000) contains provisions on the protection, within Finnish territory, of Finland's territorial integrity by the Finnish territorial surveillance authorities.

## **Section 6**

### **Entry into force**

This Act enters into force on 1 July 2017.