

Translation from Finnish

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

**Act on Decision-Making on International Assistance, Cooperation or Other
International Activities**

(418/2017; amendments up to 1303/2022 included)

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

Section 1 (1303/2022)

Scope of application

This Act applies to decision-making on the provision of international assistance to, and the request for such assistance from, another State, the European Union or an international organisation, on cooperation with another state, the European Union or an international organisation within or outside the territory of Finland, and on other international activities based on Finland's own needs outside the territory of Finland, 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 or activity

- 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 perspective of foreign and security policy; or
- 6) is far-reaching and important in principle.

Separate provisions are issued on decision-making other than that referred to in subsection 1.

Section 2 (1303/2022)

Decision-making

A decision on the provision of or request for assistance or on cooperation or participation in other international activity shall be made by the government plenary session, on presentation by the competent ministry. If the provision of or request for assistance or the cooperation or other international activity is an international matter of significance from the perspective of foreign and security policy, the decision shall in that respect be 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 the decisions to be made in the European Union and to decide on the concomitant measures to be taken by Finland are laid down in the Constitution.

Before a decision referred to in subsection 1 is made, and after the President of the Republic and the Ministerial Committee on Foreign and Security Policy in a joint meeting or the Ministerial Committee on European Union Affairs have considered the matter in preparation, the competent ministry may take preparatory and preparedness measures related to the provision or reception of assistance or to the cooperation or other international activity.

The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 also apply to any substantial revision of a decision on the provision of or request for assistance or on cooperation or other international activity.

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

Section 3 (1303/2022)

Participation of Parliament in decision-making

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

Section 4 (1303/2022)

Procedure in urgent matters

If a decision under section 2 concerning assistance or activity referred to in subsection 1, paragraphs 1–3 cannot be made sufficiently quickly in an exceptionally urgent and serious situation, the competent ministry may make a decision on the assistance or activity.

The Government and the President of the Republic shall be notified immediately of the decision of the ministry referred to in subsection 1. Decisions to continue or discontinue the assistance or activity shall be made following 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 ordered to provide assistance or participate in activities under this section without following the decision-making procedure laid down in subsections 1 and 2.

Section 5

Procedure in urgent matters requiring military force

If a decision referred to in section 2 involving military force cannot be made sufficiently quickly, the decision may be made following the procedure laid down in this section in an exceptionally urgent and serious situation where the information available on the situation provides reasonable grounds to assume that urgent action is necessary to avert a danger seriously threatening human life or health or national security or in situations with similar effects, and if the danger cannot be averted by less stringent means. In such cases, the decision shall be made by the government plenary session or the President of the Republic as provided in section 2, subsection 1.

(1303/2022)

Before a decision referred to in subsection 1 is made, the Government shall give an account of the matter to the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament. After the decision-making, the matter shall be immediately submitted to Parliament for consideration. In such cases, decisions to continue or discontinue the assistance or activity shall be made following the procedure laid down in sections 2 and 3. (1303/2022)

Subject to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, the Defence Forces shall not be ordered to provide assistance or participate in activities under this section without following the decision-making procedure laid down in subsections 1 and 2. (1303/2022)

Subsection 4 was repealed by Act 1303/2022.

Section 6

Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 1 July 2017.