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Maanmittauslaitos

Viite

Asia
Technical delimitation of the Åland Convention

As a result of a resolution concerning the Åland Islands, made by the League of Nations on 24 June, 1921, a treaty on non-fortification and neutrality of the Åland Islands (the so-called Åland Convention) was made on 20 October, 1921. Finland ratified the treaty on 28 January, 1922 (SopS 1/1922).

The borders of the demilitarised Åland Islands are defined in the second article of the Åland Convention.

On 14 March, 2005, the Ministry of Justice set up a work group to clarify the borders of the neutralised and demilitarised zone of Åland Islands. Based on the statement by the work group (*Ahvenanmaan demilitarisoinnin rajoja koskeva selvitys*, OM 2006:18), the Ministry of Justice drew up a separate memorandum *Ahvenanmaan demilitarisoinnin rajat Kihdin alueella - jatkotoimet* on the matter. Various authorities gave statements related to the statement and the memorandum related to it. After the statement and hearing rounds the matter was discussed at a meeting between government's Cabinet Committee on Foreign and Security Policy and the President of the Republic. The meeting decided to follow the alternative 1 presented in the statement and memorandum drawn up by the working group set up by the Ministry of Justice.

According to the definition of policy mentioned above, the list of coordinates included in the 1921 treaty on non-fortification and neutrality of the Åland Islands will be modernised in a way that allows drawing the demilitarised zone on maps. As little changes will be made to the coordinates as possible and the differences between the demilitarised area and the autonomous area will be preserved. The changes will be made according to the EUREF-FIN coordinate system, both the coordinates and the map will be notified to both parties of the treaty, to Russia and to other states bordering the Baltic Sea.

Based on the above information, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland asks the National Land Survey of Finland to perform the technical delimitation of the areas defined by the Åland Convention. The definitions of borders presented in the aforementioned statements by the Ministry of Justice's working group and the principles for interpreting the geophysical and geographical conditions presented by the group must be followed in carrying out the task in defining the unknown sections of the border. The contents and

stages of the technical delimitation are described in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the aforementioned memorandum by the Ministry of Justice.

In order to carry out the task in a practical manner, a national digital topographic database will be used as the basis of the work. In case the database does not cover the off-shore area completely, also data from the Finnish Transport Agency, collected during hydrographical surveying, must be used. Before beginning the actual work the data used must be reviewed together with the Finnish Transport Agency's experts.

The technical delimitation document includes a written description of the task, the coordinates and the maps. The documents will be drawn up in Finnish, Swedish and English. Other details of the document, such as sized of maps, will be agreed upon separately.

The work should be finished before 1 October, 2012.

State Secretary

Pertti Torstila

Director General at the Legal Service

Päivi Kaukoranta

Appendices

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