



## CIRCULAR NOTE

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs present their compliments to the Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations accredited to Helsinki and, with reference to the Ministry's earlier Circular Notes on the coronavirus situation, have the honour to inform them of the following:

On 25 March 2020, the Government of Finland submitted to Parliament a decree concerning the use of powers under the Emergency Powers Act related to the restrictions on movement. After the entry into force of the movement restrictions, the residents of Uusimaa must stay in the Uusimaa region as of 27 March until 19 April 2020. The restrictions do not apply to movement within Uusimaa.

Subject to the provisions of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations (Articles 22, 26, 29, 30, 31, 37, 38 and 41) and Consular Relations (Articles 31, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41, 43 and 55), privileged members of missions and their family members enjoy inviolability, immunity and freedom of movement and travel in Finland. At the same time, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. Also, the Government of Finland refers to its right to implement regulations concerning zones entry into which is prohibited for reasons of national security as provided by the above-mentioned international agreements.

Consequently, the Government of Finland notes that the entry into force of the movement restrictions will be applicable also on members of missions and their family members. Entering or leaving Uusimaa without a valid reason will not be allowed.

Everyone has the right to return to their home or place of residence. Also, exclusions from the restrictions may be granted if movement is necessary for official duties as well as in meeting a statutory obligation (e.g. a consular matter). Movement is not restricted if there are compelling personal reasons such as the right of access to a child or the death of a family member. The flow of goods will not be prevented even during the new restrictions. Recreational travel is not allowed.

The police will monitor compliance with the movement restrictions. If requested by the police, everyone needs to declare the destination and purpose of their journey. This may be done in writing or orally at the request of the police. The police will assess whether the travel is essential or not on a case-by-case basis in application of the governmental decree on the restrictions on movement.

Members of missions and their family members are requested to present the identity card issued by the Protocol Services to the police upon request if they have a compelling reason to travel outside the Uusimaa region during the validity of the movement restrictions.

Further information on the movement restrictions is available on the website of the Government of Finland at:

[https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/article/-/asset\\_publisher/10616/uudellemaalle-liikkumisrajoituksia-hallitus-paatti-uusista-lisatoimista-koronaepidemian-leviamisen-estamiseksi](https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/10616/uudellemaalle-liikkumisrajoituksia-hallitus-paatti-uusista-lisatoimista-koronaepidemian-leviamisen-estamiseksi)

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations accredited to Helsinki the assurances of their highest consideration.

Helsinki, 26 March 2020



To  
to the Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts  
and International Organizations accredited to Helsinki