

The Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



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Summary The Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs (Finnish Adoption Board) is the expert body in inter-country adoption affairs in Finland. It is subordinated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Board was founded in 1985 and has since 1 July 1997 acted as the central authority meant in the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention). In quantitative terms, granting permissions for inter-country adoption is one of the most significant tasks of the Board. In recent years, inter-country adoption has become increasingly popular. In 2005 the Board handled 275 permission applications, while in 2006 there were 413 applications. In 2007 a total of 404 applications were handled. The number of children arriving in Finland decreased from 218 to 176. This was first and foremost due to the tighter adoption regulations in China. 140 children were adopted from China in 2005, 49 children in 2006 and only 46 children in 2007. In 2007 most adoptive children came to Finland from Russia, China, Thailand, and South Africa. The Board had 29 meetings in 2007. 13 of them were meetings of the full composition and 16 of the limited composition. The Board issues expert opinions for example to the courts of justice. In 2007 the Board issued nine expert opinions to the Helsinki Court of Appeal. The Board also approves the Finnish service providers' international co-operation bodies. In 2007 the Board approved the applications of four Finnish service providers concerning co-operation with a foreign service provider.			
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1 General facts about inter-country adoption

In Finland, the provisions regulating child adoption and the relations between adoptive children and their parents are included in the Adoption Act (153/1985) and in the Adoption Decree (508/1997). Further provisions on inter-country adoption are contained in the Decree on the Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs (509/1997) and in the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Hague Convention). Finland acceded to the Hague Convention in 1997.

The general planning, steering and supervision of the inter-country adoption service is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The expert body in inter-country adoption matters is the Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs (the Finnish Adoption Board), which is subordinated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Board is the central authority referred to in Article 6, paragraph 1, of the Hague Convention.

Practical tasks relating to inter-country child adoption are attended to by the inter-country adoption service providers. Finnish legislation on adoption requires the use of a child adoption service. The service providers, which have a licence granted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to act as service providers for inter-country adoption, are the City of Helsinki Social Welfare Board, Interpedia and Save the Children Finland/Pelastakaa Lapset ry.

In 2007 there were 3,300 children in Finland who arrived via inter-country adoption. They were adopted under the terms of the Adoption Act, which entered into force in 1985. In some cases the adoption of children takes place in a foreign state, in accordance with that country's legislation, without permission granted by the Finnish Adoption Board. In such cases the Helsinki Court of Appeal can recognise the validity of the adoption in Finland. Most adoptive children have come to Finland from Russia, China, Thailand, Colombia and Ethiopia.

Foreign children have been adopted to Finland since the 1970s. In the 1980s less than hundred children arrived in Finland annually. In the 1990s the number of children was still under one hundred, but since 1993 more than a hundred children have arrived in Finland annually and in several years the number has been nearly two hundred. The number of children arriving in Finland has continued to increase in the 2000s. In 2005, 308 children arrived in Finland via inter-country adoption. In 2006 the number of children decreased substantially. A total of 218 children arrived in 2006. The most significant factor to this decrease was the tighter adoption regulations in China. 140 children were adopted from China in 2005 while in 2006 only 49 children arrived from China. In 2007 the number of children arriving from China decreased further, and only 176 children arrived. Although the number of adopted children in 2007 was less than in recent years it does not signify decrease in the interest for international adoption. On the contrary, the interest for international adoption has notably increased both in Finland and elsewhere in the world. Indeed in 2007 the Adoption Board processed 404 applications for adoption.

2 Composition of the Finnish Adoption Board

Provisions on the composition, appointment and tasks of the Finnish Adoption Board are laid down by Decree (509/1997). The Board has a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and the necessary number of other members. The last-mentioned members have a personal deputy each.

Representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health act as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board. Of the other members, at least one must represent the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, one the Ministry of Justice, one the Directorate of Immigration, one the expertise in municipal child welfare work and one expertise in social sector research and development, in addition to which one member is appointed by each licensed service provider. The Government appoints the Board for a five-year term. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health appoints a secretary for the Board.

Composition of the Finnish Adoption Board in 2007:

Chairperson	Ms Pia-Liisa Heiliö , Senior Officer (Legal Affairs) Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Vice-chairman	Mr Kari Ilmonen , Ministerial Adviser Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Members (Deputy members)	Ms Désirée Söderlund , Special Expert (Mr Håkan Stoor, Consulting Officer) Ministry of Justice
	Ms Tiina Nurmimäki , Lawyer From 1 October 2007, Ms Hanna Rantala , Lawyer (Ms Minna-Kaisa Liukko , Lawyer) Ministry for Foreign Affairs
	Ms Marja Pajukoski , Lawyer National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (Mr Esa Eriksson , Development Chief National Research and Development Centre for Social Welfare and Health) Social sector research and development expertise
	Mr Tapani Unkila , Chief Social Welfare Worker City of Tampere (Mr Olli-Pekka Alapiessa , Director of Social Work City of Vantaa) Municipal child welfare work expertise
	Mr Jarmo Tiukkanen , Senior Officer (Ms Arja Kallakivi , Head of Unit) Finnish Immigration Service

Mr **Risto Pomoell**, Ministerial Counsellor, Health/Medical Affairs
 (Mr **Sakari Lankinen**, Ministerial Counsellor, Health/Medical Affairs,
 from 14 June 2007 Ms **Maire Kolimaa**, Senior Officer)
 Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Ms **Aulikki Haimi-Kaikkonen**, acting Chief Social Welfare Worker
 (Social Welfare Worker from 1 September 2007)
 (Ms **Raija Panttila**, Chief Social Welfare Worker)
 City of Helsinki Social Welfare Board

Ms **Tuula Kumpumäki**, Chief of Inter-Country Adoption Service
 (Ms **Marja Miikkulainen**, Head of Development, from 14 June 2007
 Ms **Tiina Tammi**, Head of Adoption)
 Save the Children/Pelastakaa Lapset ry

Ms **Anja Ojuva**, Chief of Adoption Service
 (Ms **Eija Kiiskinen**, Adoption Officer)
 Interpedia

Ms **Kaarina Koskela**, Senior Officer, has acted the secretary for the Board in 2007.

3 Activities of the Finnish Adoption Board

According to the Decree on the Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs (509/1997), the tasks of the Adoption Board are as follows:

- to grant families the permission for inter-country child adoption;
- to approve the foreign co-operation partners (foreign service providers) of Finnish adoption service providers;
- to maintain a file on the child adoption legislation of foreign states;
- to issue expert opinions;
- to make initiatives on the development of inter-country child adoption activity;
- to monitor international development in inter-country adoption affairs;
- to monitor the way in which the Hague Convention is complied with in Finland and, if necessary, to set about measures to produce conformity with it;
- to cooperate with the central authorities of states parties to the Hague Convention in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and to exchange information referred to in the Convention;
- to attend to the tasks of the central authority under the Hague Convention which have not been assigned to another body by a law, decree or decision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Since 1 July 1997, the Finnish Adoption Board has been the central authority meant in the Hague Convention. Among the co-operation states of Finnish service providers, the Convention has been ratified by China, Colombia, Estonia, India, the Philippines, South

Africa, and Thailand. A list of the states, which have acceded to the Hague Convention, is attached (Appendix 3).

The Adoption Board had 29 meetings in 2007. 13 of them were meetings of the full composition and the remaining 16 were meetings of the limited composition. The limited composition includes, in addition to the chairperson, the member representing expertise in social sector research and development and the member representing expertise in municipal child welfare work. The competence of the limited composition includes dealing with the permissions to be granted for inter-country adoption.

Granting permissions for inter-country adoption is the most significant task of the Board. In 2007 it processed 404 permission applications. Ten applications for permission were withdrawn. Five actual applications were rejected during the year of operation.

The permission applications are forwarded to the Adoption Board through adoption service providers. In regard to 171 applications the service provider was Save the Children Finland/Pelastakaa Lapset, in 185 applications Interpedia and in 48 applications the City of Helsinki Social Welfare Board. During the year, five notifications of change of service provider were made to the Board.

The Board made its decision on 40 applications within one month from their receipt. The processing of 35 applications took more than one month but less than two months. The processing of 20 applications and the decision-making concerning them took more than two months but less than three months and 309 applications more than three months. The processing was prolonged, inter alia, by the requested further reports. In 2007, 39 supplemental reports regarding the applications were requested.

During the past year the Board received reports of altogether 176 arrivals of adoptive children in Finland. A total of 20 children arrived in Finland from Russia. 46 children were adopted from China. After Russia and China, next most children came from Thailand (27), South Africa (25), and the Philippines (19). More detailed statistical data on the children arriving in Finland and on the permission applications are attached (Appendix 1).

The Adoption Board gave nine expert opinions to the Helsinki Court of Appeal for the recognition of adoption that had taken place in a foreign state.

During the year 2006, the Board dealt with and accepted four Finnish service providers' applications for co-operation with foreign service providers. All of the applications concerned license to continue the already existing co-operation. No new contacts were established. A list of the foreign co-operation partners of the Finnish service providers is enclosed (Appendix 2).

The Executive Board of Euradopt had a meeting in Luxembourg on 30 March–1 April 2007. Ms Anja Ojuva, Chief of Adoption Service, took part as the Finnish Adoption Board representative.

On 28 May 2007 the Adoption Board was visited by Mrs Lyra del Castello and Mrs Angeles Fullerton of the Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB), which the central authority in the Philippines. Finland was represented in the meeting by the Board Chair Pia-Liisa Heiliö, the Board Secretary Kaarina Koskela, and Ms Tuula Kumpumäki, Chief of Inter-Country Adoption Service at Save the Children Finland/Pelastakaa Lapset ry.

In 2007 it was Sweden's turn to arrange the meeting of Nordic adoption authorities. The meeting took place in Stockholm on 30–31 May 2007. The meeting was attended by delegations from all the Nordic Countries. The topics of the meeting included the concept of place of residence in the Hague Convention and how different countries interpret it. Also cooperation with various countries (including China, Russia, Vietnam, Ukraine) was discussed in the meeting from the perspective of each participating country. The Board Chair Pia-Liisa Heiliö and Ms Tiina Nurmimäki, Lawyer, attended the meeting.

On 11 June 2007, the Adoption Board was visited by Maria Mabetoa, Pierie Du Preez, and Mmakepa Rosina Mnisi from the South African Ministry of Social Development and by Katinka Pieterse from the Abba Adoptions organisation. The Finnish delegation to the meeting included the following Board members: the Board Chair Pia-Liisa Heiliö, the Board Secretary Kaarina Koskela, Ms Anja Ojuva, Chief of Adoption Service, Mr Harri Hakola, Executive Director at Interpedia, and Ms Marika Elmeranta, Adoption Officer at Intermedia.

The Nordic Meeting of the Nordic Adoption Council (NAC) took place in Helsinki on 21–23 September 2007. It was organised by two Finnish service providers, i.e. Interpedia and Save the Children Finland/Pelastakaa lapset ry. The Board Chair Pia-Liisa Heiliö and Ms Tiina Nurmimäki, Lawyer, attended the meeting on behalf of the Adoption Board. One of the topics of the meetings was post-adoption service.

The Board Secretary and Ms Tuula Kumpumäki, Chief of Inter-Country Adoption Service, attended the annual working meeting of European central authorities in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 4–5 October 2007. The meeting topics included daily problems with inter-country adoption cooperation. Also adoption counselling and the possibilities of national or inter-country adoption by same-sex couples were discussed.

The Adoption Board visited the Helsinki Court of Appeal on 17 October 2007. The following Board members took part: Board Vice-Chair Kari Ilmonen, Board Secretary Kaarina Koskela, Chief Social Welfare Worker Aulikki Haimi-Kaikkonen, Chief of Inter-Country Adoption Service Tuula Kumpumäki, Chief of Adoption Service Anja Ojuva, Lawyer Marja Pajukoski, Consulting Officer Håkan Stoor, Tiina Tammi, and Senior Officer Jarmo Tiukkanen. The topics included independent adoptions among others.

The Board Secretary Kaarina Koskela and Ms Aulikki Haimi-Kaikkonen, Chief Social Welfare Worker, gave a lecture on official adoption regulations at a seminar organised by the National Council on Disability (VANE) and the National Advisory Board on Health Care Ethics (ETENE) on 26 November 2007.

The Secretary of the Board participated in meetings of the adoption network during the year.

The Board's Internet pages are found at www.stm.fi under the heading of Neuvottelukunnat. The pages give information about the Board, service providers and inter-country adoption in general and the Board's meeting schedule.

9 July 2008

APPENDIX 1

STATISTICAL DATA ON CHILDREN ARRIVING IN FINLAND IN 2007**Number of children, country of origin, sex, and service provider**

Country	Save the Children			Interpedia			City of Helsinki SWB			Children in total
	Girl	Boy	Total	Girl	Boy	Total	Girl	Boy	Total	
China	25	2	27	11	8	19				46
Colombia				2	6	8	2	4	6	14
Estonia								3	3	3
Ethiopia				5	8	13				13
India				8	1	9				9
Philippines	6	13	19							19
Russia	8	12	20							20
South Africa				6	5	11	5	9	14	25
Thailand	2	5	7	4	9	13	2	5	7	27
Total	41	32	73	36	37	73	9	21	30	176

Children's age, sex, and service provider

Age	Save the Children			Interpedia			City of Helsinki SWB			Children in total
	Girl	Boy	Total	Girl	Boy	Total	Girl	Boy	Total	
Under 1 year	5	4	9	10	12	22	4	5	9	40
1 year	16	14	30	14	5	19	3	5	8	57
2 years	8	4	12	8	10	18	1	5	6	36
3 years	4	3	7	2	3	5		1	1	13
4 years	5	3	8	1	3	4		2	2	14
5 years	1	1	2		3	3	1	1	2	7
6 years	1	2	3	1	1	2				5
7 years								2	2	2
8 years -	1	1	2							2
Total	41	32	73	36	37	73	9	21	30	176

Children's year of birth and country of origin

Year of birth	China	Colombia	Estonia	Ethiopia	India	Philippines	Russia	South Africa	Thailand	Total
2007	2	3		2				3		10
2006	13	7		4	2	7	1	16	8	58
2005	21	1		1	5	7	4	2	13	54
2004	7	2		1	2	2	2	2	3	21
2003	1	1		1		1	4		3	11
2002	2		1	2		2	2	1		10
2001				2			2	1		5
2000			1				3			4
1999			1							1
1998							1			1
1997							1			1
1996										
1995										
1994										
1993										
Total	46	14	3	13	9	19	20	25	27	176

PROCESSING OF PERMISSION APPLICATIONS IN THE BOARD IN 2007

Decisions

Contents	Number
Permission granted for 1 child	151
Permission granted for 1 child/2 or more siblings	21
Permission granted for child born before year x	23
Permission granted for child born after year x	99
Permission granted for child born between xx-xx	20
Validity of permission extended	76
Permission refused	5
Other	9
Total	404

Cancelled applications

	Number
Permission applications	7
Applications for extension of permission	3
Total	10

Processing time in the Board

Time	Number
Under one month	40
1-2 months	35
2 months but under 3 months	20
3 months or longer	309
Total	404

39 supplemental reports were requested.

Service provider in the decisions

Service provider	Number
Save the Children/Pelastakaa Lapset ry	171
Interpedia	185
City of Helsinki Social Welfare Board	48
Total	404

STATISTICAL DATA ON APPLICANTS IN 2007

The statistical data on applicants does not include applicants, whose permission has been extended.

Age of applicants

Age	Number of men	Number of women
25 - 29	9	15
30 - 34	51	80
35 - 39	106	105
40 - 44	86	99
45 - 49	30	26
50 -	6	3
Total	288	328

Sole applicants

Women	40
Men	
Total	40

Applicant families with no children and families with children

Number of children	No children	Biological	Adopted	Both	Total
No children	174				174
1 child		38	79		117
2 children		8	12	2	22
3 children		7	3	3	13
4 or more children		1		1	2
Total	174	54	94	6	328

Residence of applicant families by province

Province	Families
Southern Finland	139
Western Finland	149
Eastern Finland	17
Oulu	17
Lapland	4
Åland Islands	2
Total	328

FOREIGN CO-OPERATION PARTNERS OF THE FINNISH SERVICE-PROVIDERS

Foreign service providers which have been approved by the Board and the last day of approval

Save the Children Finland/Pelastakaa Lapset ry

China	China Center of Adoption Affairs, 5 September 2011
Philippines	Inter-Country Adoption Board, 9 May 2011
Russia	City of St Petersburg Committee on Labour and Social Affairs, 5 September 2011
	Leningrad Oblast Committee on General and Vocational Education, 20 April 2008
	Republic of Karelia, Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs, 3 June 2009
	Administrative district of Tcheljabinsk, Educational and Science Administration, 11 November 2008
Thailand	The Department of Social Development and Welfare, 15 December 2009
	Holt Sahathai Foundation, 9 May 2011

City of Helsinki Social Welfare Board

Colombia	Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, 15 May 2010
	Casa de Maria y el Niño, 15 May 2010
	La Casita de Nicolás, 4 December 2011
Estonia	Ministry of Social Welfare of Estonia, 6 June 2012
South Africa	Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, 31 October 2010
Thailand	The Department of Social Development and Welfare, 5 September 2011
	Thai Red Cross Children Home, 5 September 2011

Interpedia

Ethiopia	Children, Youth and Family Affairs Department, 21 August 2010
China	China Center of Adoption Affairs, 15 June 2012
Colombia	Los Chiquitines, 10 February 2012 Fundación “Los Pisingos”, 15 December 2009 Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, 15 December 2009
India	Families for Children (FFC), 18 April 2010 Delhi Council for Child Welfare, 12 October 2009
South Africa	Apostolic Faith Mission Executive Welfare Council/ Abba Adoptions, 21 April 2012
Thailand	Friends For All Children Foundation, 15 December 2009 The Department of Social Development and Welfare, 15 December 2009

THE HAGUE CONVENTION CONTRACTING STATES 31 JULY 2008

The following states have ratified the Convention / acceded to the Convention. A total of 75 contracting states by 31 July 2008.

Albania	1 January 2001	Italy	1 May 2000
Andorra	1 May 1997	Kenya	1 June 2007
Armenia	1 June 2007	Latvia	1 December 2002
Australia	1 December 1998	Lithuania	1 August 1998
Austria	1 September 1999	Luxembourg	1 November 2002
Azerbaijan	1 October 2004	Madagascar	1 September 2004
Belarus	1 November 2003	Mali	1 September 2006
Belgium	1 September 2005	Malta	1 February 2005
Belize	1 April 2006	Mauritius	1 January 1999
Bolivia	1 July 2002	Mexico	1 May 1995
Brazil	1 July 1999	Moldova	1 August 1998
Bulgaria	1 September 2002	Monaco	1 October 1999
Burkina Faso	1 May 1996	Mongolia	1 August 2000
Burundi	1 February 1999	Netherlands	1 October 1998
Cambodia	1 August 2007	New Zealand	1 January 1999
Canada	1 April 1997	Norway	1 January 1998
Chile	1 November 1999	Panama	1 January 2000
China	1 January 2006	Paraguay	1 September 1998
Colombia	1 November 1998	Peru	1 January 1996
Costa Rica	1 February 1996	Philippines	1 November 1996
Cuba	1 June 2007	Poland	1 October 1995
Cyprus	1 June 1995	Portugal	1 July 2004
Czech Republic	1 June 2000	Romania	1 May 1995
Denmark	1 November 1997	San Marino	1 February 2005
Dominican Republic	1 March 2007	Slovakia	1 October 2001
Ecuador	1 January 1996	Slovenia	1 May 2002
El Salvador	1 March 1999	South Africa	1 December 2003
Estonia	1 June 2002	Spain	1 November 1995
Finland	1 July 1997	Sri Lanka	1 May 1995
France	1 October 1998	Sweden	1 September 1997
Georgia	1 August 1999	Switzerland	1 January 2003
Germany	1 March 2002	Thailand	1 August 2004
Guatemala	1 March 2003	Turkey	1 September 2004
Guinea	1 February 2004	United Kingdom	1 June 2003
Hungary	1 August 2005	United States	1 April 2008
Iceland	1 May 2000	Uruguay	1 April 2004
India	1 October 2003	Venezuela	1 May 1997
Israel	1 June 1999		

Decree

on the Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs

(509/1997)

Issued in Helsinki on 30 May 1997

On the submission of the Minister of Justice, the following is enacted on the basis of section 20(3) of the Adoption Act (153/1985) issued on 8 February 1985, as amended by the Act (175/1996) of 22 March 1996:

Section 1

The task of the Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs (*the Finnish Adoption Board*) is to:

- 1) collect and maintain data on the legislation of foreign states concerning adoption and international adoption services and provide information about this on request to authorities and service providers;
- 2) follow the international development in inter-country adoption matters;
- 3) follow the implementation of the Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (*the Hague Convention*) in Finland and, if necessary, take measures for the implementation of it;
- 4) co-operate with the central authorities or the bodies taking care of the duties of a central authority in the states that are parties to the Hague Convention to achieve the objects of the Convention and to exchange the information referred to in the Convention;
- 5) approve for a fixed period those foreign service providers, referred to in section 21(3)

of the Adoption Act (153/1985), with which Finnish service providers may co-operate, and revoke earlier approvals;

6) grant the permissions for adoption referred to in section 25 of the Adoption Act;

7) provide the evidence referred to in section 44 of the Adoption Act and statements referred to in sections 45, 46, 47a(2) and 50(2), as well as the statements referred to in section 7(2) of the Adoption Decree (508/1997);

8) take care of those tasks of a central authority, referred to in the Hague Convention, which have not been delegated to any other body by Act, Decree or Decision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; and

9) submit initiatives and proposals to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health for the development of the inter-country adoption activity.

Section 2

If the Finnish Adoption Board has granted permission for adoption on the basis of sec-

tion 27(1) of the Adoption Act, the permission shall state that

- 1) the adopter has been deemed an appropriate and suitable adoptive parent; and
- 2) the adopter has received inter-country adoption service and adoption counselling.

If the Finnish Adoption Board has granted permission for adoption on the basis of section 27(2) of the Adoption Act, the permission shall state that

- 1) the foreign body has deemed the adopter an appropriate and suitable adoptive parent;
- 2) the adopter has received necessary counselling in his home state; and
- 3) according to the certificate presented by the adopter the child has the right or will get the right of entry and habitual residence in that state.

The permission referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above shall also state the period of validity of the permission as well as the possible conditions or restrictions on the adoption referred to in section 27(3) of the Adoption Act.

The permission referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above may, on the request of the adopter, be given in English.

Section 3

A permission granted on the basis of section 27 of the Adoption Act shall be sent directly to the service-provider from which the adopter has received the inter-country adoption service.

Section 4

The Board has a chairman, a vice-chairman and a necessary number of other members. Each member has personal deputy member.

Both the chairman and the vice-chairman shall represent the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. At least one of the other members shall represent the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one the Ministry of Justice and one the Directorate of Immigration. One member shall be an expert on municipal child welfare work and one an expert on social sector research and development. In addition, one

representative will be elected from each service provider which has been licensed to provide inter-country adoption service by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. What is provided above concerning members also apply to deputy members.

The majority of the members of the Board shall represent public authorities.

Section 5

The Council of State appoints the chairmen, the members and the deputy members for a five-year period at most. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health appoints the secretary to the Board.

The chairman or vice-chairman of the Board and at least half of the other members constitute a quorum.

However, in matters relating to granting of a permission referred to in section 1(6), the Finnish Adoption Board also constitutes a quorum in the presence of the chairman or the vice-chairman and the expert on municipal child welfare work and the member representing the expertise on social sector research and development.

Section 6

Otherwise the regulations on state committees are applied to the Board.

Where necessary, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health issues more detailed instructions to the Board.

Section 7

This Decree enters into force on July 1 1997.

This Decree repeals the earlier Decree (155/1985) on the Finnish Board of Inter-Country Adoption Affairs, issued on 8 February 1985 and later amendments.

When this Decree enters into force the appointed Board will continue its work until the end of its term. A member representing the Directorate of Immigration referred to in section 4 must, however, be appointed.

Measures for the implementation of this enters into force.
Decree may be undertaken before the Decree

Helsinki 30 May 1997

President of the Republic

MARTTI AHTISAARI

Minister of Justice *Kari Häkämies*

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