

Draft  
April 26, 2016

**Helsinki**

**September 14, 2016**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

**on cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) of the United States of America to counter shared security threats**

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) of the United States of America, hereafter 'the Participants', considering the agreements between the two States, such as the Preventing and Combating Serious Crime Agreement (PCSC) signed at Washington on March 17, 2010, intend to enhance their cooperation on internal/homeland security issues and especially to take the following measures within the framework of their national legislation and international obligations:

1. To share best practices on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) more regularly, including sharing information on the objectives and implementation of the States' national programs to counter violent extremism, and to collaborate on the development of metrics to assess the effectiveness of CVE measures.
2. To identify new and innovative ways to enhance the exchange of information regarding known and suspected terrorists and to use information thus exchanged to screen travelers transiting the external borders managed by the Participants.

3. To develop closer cooperation between the National Targeting Center of the United States and the Police of Finland, by such means as arranging an expert-level visit by CBP officials to Finland in autumn 2016 to share passenger targeting best practices; exchanging information on how passenger information is currently being processed and how the national passenger information system of Finland will be constructed; and developing and exchanging joint passenger targeting rules or profiles and any necessary protocols to facilitate this exchange.
4. To exchange best practices on the performance of background and security checks of refugees and asylum seekers and to evaluate the practical benefits of engaging in scalable, reciprocal vetting of the fingerprints of such persons.
5. To cooperate on emergency response and crisis preparedness, with the participation of DHS component agencies. To evaluate the practical benefits of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the national authorities of the Participants for closer cooperation on civil preparedness and civil defense issues, to include exploring the potential for cooperative activities in science and technology for internal/homeland security.
6. To enhance the exchange of information on biometric identifiers by using available new technical applications.
7. To more regularly share best practices on the objectives and implementation of the States' national programs to counter cybercrime. To arrange a visit of the Cybercrime Center of the Police of Finland to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Cybercrime Center and other relevant DHS facilities.

To promote closer cooperation on countering cybercrime in operational activities, research and development, and training by arranging expert meetings and joint seminars.

8. To engage in the regular and timely exchange of information and experience on new threats and phenomena related to internal/ homeland security.
9. To organize, to the extent possible, joint seminars and expert meetings on internal/homeland security issues, on the basis of reciprocity.
10. To exchange, within the competence of the Participants, views in relation to the measures taken by the United Nations and other international organizations on internal/homeland security issues, especially in relation to counterterrorism.
11. To enhance cooperation between the Finnish Border Guard and the United States Coast Guard in their areas of competence (maritime search and rescue, maritime safety and security, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, Arctic capabilities and training), by such means as exchanging information, conducting reciprocal personnel visits, and offering opportunities to participate in training and exercises organized by the agencies according to need, as assessed separately.
12. To enhance cooperation between the Finnish Border Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on border security, by offering, based upon needs, opportunities to exchange information and conduct reciprocal personnel visits.

13. To have the implementation of the measures described in this Statement coordinated on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland by its International Affairs Unit, and on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America by its Office of Policy.
14. To exchange, within 30 days of the date on which this Statement is signed, information on the contact persons designated to coordinate the implementation of the measures described in this Statement.
15. To develop, within 120 days of the date on which this Statement is signed, an implementation plan for the measures described in this Statement. To hold regular, expert-level meetings to monitor the progress made in implementing the measures described in this Statement, exchange information regarding changes to the Participants' internal/homeland security policies and priorities, assess operational cooperation between the Participants and, on these bases, plan efficient projects to counter new and potential security threats.
16. To review the implementation of the measures described in this Statement at meetings between the relevant Ministers of the Participants or their designees, and to renew this Statement every second year.
17. This Statement represents an understanding and cooperative arrangement among the Participants and does not constitute a legally binding agreement. All activities of each Participant and its implementing agents under this Statement should be carried out consistent with the laws and regulations of that Participant's Government and applicable international agreements to which that Participant's Government is a party. This Statement does not

create or confer any rights, privileges, or benefits upon any person, party, or entity, private or public.

**On behalf of the Ministry of the  
Interior of the Republic of Finland**

**On behalf of the Department of  
Homeland Security (DHS) of the  
United States of America**