AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION

concluded the 3rd of December 2014 between

LABOUR INSPECTORATE OF ESTONIA

and

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE REGIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY FOR SOUTHERN FINLAND

Labour Inspectorate of Estonia and Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties, having regard to the need to ensure effective protection of employment, safe and healthy conditions of workers posted to work in the territories of the Contracting Parties, resolve to conclude the following Cooperation Agreement.

The Contracting Parties agree to cooperate in the following matters:

1. Information sharing

1.1 Transferring information

Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland agrees to transfer information about Estonian companies operating in its region to Estonian labour inspectors.

The above-mentioned transferring of information would apply to following situations concerning workers posted to Southern Finland:

- When The Internal Market Information System (IMI) cannot be used to transfer the information because the nature of the information does not fall into competence of IMI.
- When Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland have information about work accidents occurred to Estonian posted workers in Southern Finland.
- When the labour inspectors of Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland are not able to continue their inspection activity with the company in Southern Finland but the information is essential for the Labour Inspectorate of Estonia.
- When information is fragmented and IMI is not the right tool to forward information.
- When labour inspectors of Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland see that the inspectors of Labour Inspectorate of Estonia might be interested in the information from the point of view of Estonian enforcement.

The information about Estonian companies will be shared only on the enforcement perceptions made by the inspectors of Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency
for Southern Finland. If other Finnish regional labour inspectorates wish to forward their perceptions to Labour Inspectorate of Estonia they can be forwarded via labour inspectors of Southern Finland.

In cases when transferred information includes classified information, both parties treat it confidentially, by the guidance of sending partner.

Labour Inspectorate of Estonia agrees to transfer information to Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland when it considers it to be important for labour inspectors in Southern Finland and the matter falls into the competence of labour inspectors of Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland.

1.2 Receiving information

The Contracting Parties agree to receive information from each other and treat it accordingly. They will also consider the information sent from other Contracting Party respectfully and if possible to take it into account it their enforcement activity.

2. Biannual meetings between the Contracting Parties

The Contracting Parties agree to meet biannually in order to discuss, to implement and to evaluate the cooperation described in this Agreement.

2.1 Evaluating information sharing

The Contracting Parties will evaluate the effectiveness of information sharing in biannual meetings. They will also inform each other what they have done with the information received via information sharing and discuss details of the cases to build better practice.

2.2 Informing partners on general issues

In biannual meetings both Contracting Parties will inform each other on the general issues related to work environment and labour law in their countries. The Contracting Parties will also share information on phenomena observed in enforcement, on new legislation related to enforcement and on new campaigns concerning posted workers.

3. Exchange of inspectors

3.1 Receiving inspectors

Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland agrees to receive Estonian labour inspectors to Southern Finland regularly and according to details described in paragraph 3.

If Labour Inspectorate of Estonia sees a need to receive labour inspectors from Southern Finland to visit them related to a concrete case, this may be agreed on ad hoc-basis.

3.2 Sending inspectors to Finland

Labour Inspectorate of Estonia agrees to send its inspectors to Southern Finland regularly and according to details described below.
3.3 Aim of Estonian inspectors’ visits to Finland

During the Estonian inspectors’ visits to Finland, labour inspectors of Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland will make inspections related to Estonian posted workers. These inspections will focus on both labour law matter and occupational safety and health matters.

Estonian labour inspectors will get informal and practical training on the enforcement of Estonian posted workers in Southern Finland. Joint visits will be made in the aim of training and cooperation to solve cases that involve Estonian posted workers.

Estonian inspectors will be present at inspections even though all enforcement activities will be made by Finnish labour inspector due to matters of competence.

3.4 Time frame of Estonian inspectors’ visits to Finland

The precise time frame of Estonian inspectors’ visits to Finland will be agreed dependently on the partners’ needs and resources. This time frame will be collectively defined by Contracting Parties for each year.

4. Raising awareness of Estonian workers posted to Finland

4.1 Cooperation in raising awareness

The Contracting Parties agree to co-operate in raising awareness of Estonian posted workers on their rights and obligations while working in Finland. This will apply both to labour law and occupational safety and health matters.

4.2 Sharing information

The Contracting Parties agree to share materials that have been developed and use both authorities official web pages to raise awareness among posted workers.

4.3 Details about cooperation in raising awareness

Details about cooperation in raising awareness will be defined for each year separately in meetings.

5. Costs

5.1 Transferring information

The Contracting Parties shall take care of their expenses related to transferring information.

5.2 Meetings between partners

The cost of travel and accommodation related to participation in the meetings between the Contracting Parties shall be covered by the Contracting Parties in their respective scope.

5.3 Estonian inspectors’ visits

Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland agrees to cover mutually agreed amount of the expenses related to Estonian inspectors visiting Southern Finland. Extent of financial contribution will be defined for each calendar year.

Labour Inspectorate of Estonia will take care of the expenses which will not be covered by Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland.
5.4 Raising awareness

Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland agrees to use their funds to provide information for Estonian workers to Finland.

6. General terms of Agreement

6.1 Duration

This Agreement shall come into effect on the date of its signing.

Both Contracting Parties agree to work on this cooperation on a long-term basis. The details of cooperation will be defined for each calendar year in separate annexes.

6.2 Changes to Agreement

This Cooperation Agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual written consent of the Parties on a date specified by them.

6.3 Termination of Agreement

This Cooperation Agreement may be terminated by any Parties with a three month notice period. The notice period starts on the day following the day of receipt written statement concerning the termination of the Cooperation Agreement.

Labour Inspectorate of Estonia

Maret Mariipuu
Director General

3.12.2014

Division of Occupational Health and Safety of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland

Kaarina Myyri-Partanen
Director

3.12.2014