

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. LS32/11-12

**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
on 17 February 2012**

**Legal Service Division Report on
Subsidiary Legislation Gazetted on 10 February 2012**

Date of tabling in LegCo : 15 February 2012

Amendment to be made by : 29 February 2012 (or 18 April 2012 if extended by resolution)

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Finland) Order (Cap. 525 sub. leg. Y)

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Finland) Order (Commencement) Notice (L.N. 21)

The Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Finland) Order (Cap. 525 sub. leg. Y) (the Order) has been made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 4 of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (Cap. 525) (the Ordinance). Pursuant to section 1 of the Order and by L.N. 21, the Secretary for Security appoints 19 February 2012 as the day on which the Order comes into operation.

2. The Order specifies the scope and procedures in relation to the provision of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters applicable between Hong Kong and the Republic of Finland, and the modifications to the Ordinance. The Order is made in consequence of the agreement between Hong Kong and the Republic of Finland signed on 4 October 2007. The agreement is reproduced in Schedule 1 to the Order, and the modifications are set out in Schedule 2 to the Order.

3. According to the LegCo Brief dated 30 April 2008 issued by the Security Bureau on the Order (File Ref: SBCR3/5691/95 Pt.41 and SBCR1/2716/89(98) Pt.24), the commencement date would be settled after consultation with the Government of the Republic of Finland and would depend upon when the necessary domestic procedures of the Republic of Finland were to be completed. Upon our enquiry, the Administration advised that in January 2012, the Government of the Republic of Finland confirmed that it had completed such requirements and the two Governments agreed that the Order would enter into force on 19 February 2012.

4. The Order has been scrutinized by a subcommittee and received its support. Members may wish to refer to the report of the subcommittee to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2)2144/07-08) for further information. The Legislative Council approved the Order by resolution under section 4 of the Ordinance on 26 June 2008.

5. The Panel on Security has not been consulted on L.N. 21.

6. No difficulties have been identified in the legal or drafting aspects of L.N. 21.

Prepared by

KAN Wan-yee, Wendy
Assistant Legal Adviser
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 February 2012