

**NB: Unofficial translation,
legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish**

Act on Political Parties

(10/1969; amendments up to 653/1992 included)

Section 1

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, a political party means an association entered in the Party Register maintained by the Ministry of Justice.

Section 2

- (1) An association may upon written application be entered in the Party Register as a political party if
 - (1) its main object is to influence state matters,
 - (2) it has signed support cards of at least 5000 citizens entitled to vote in parliamentary elections,
 - (3) the rules and regulations of the association guarantee that democratic principles are abided by in decision-making and in the activities of the association and
 - (4) the association has drafted a party programme, which takes up the goals and principles followed in the national activities, whose final objective is mentioned in the rules and regulations.
- (2) Member, local, parallel or support associations of an association can not be entered in the Party Register as political parties.
- (3) Entering of an association in the Party Register as a political party is free of charge.

Section 3

- (1) The application for entering an association in the party register shall include:
 - (1) an extract from the Register of Associations,
 - (2) a certified copy of the rules and regulations in force,
 - (3) the party programme and
 - (4) a list of the citizens supporting the party, compiled by use of support cards conforming to the model approved by the Ministry of Justice.
- (2) The support card shall include:
 - (1) personal data of the supporter,

(2) the supporter's assurance that he or she is entitled to vote in parliamentary elections,

(3) a date that can not date back more than one year and

(4) personal signature of the supporter.

Section 4

- (1) When an association has been entered in the Party Register as a political party the abbreviation "r.p.", for the words "rekisteröity puolue" or "registrerat parti" (registered party) is added to its name.
- (2) Abbreviations or words relating to the registration of an association may not be used in connection to the name of a political party.

Section 5

- (1) Amendments to the rules and regulations or the party programme of a political party shall be notified to the Ministry of Justice. An amendment of rules and regulations does not enter into force until it is entered in the Party Register.
- (2) Amendments to the rules and regulations of a political party shall be entered in the Party Register, if the rules and regulations even after the amendment comply with the requirements laid down by this Act.

Section 6

- (1) A political party that fails to gain a parliamentary seat in two consecutive parliamentary elections is deleted from the Party Register. The same applies if a political party ceases to be a registered association
- (2) A party may also apply for deletion from the register.

Section 7

- (1) A decision by the Ministry of Justice to enter a political party in the Party Register or to delete it from the register must be complied with notwithstanding an appeal, until the appeal has been resolved.

Section 8

- (1) The provisions in the Accounting Act (655/73) on an association's legal obligation to keep books apply to political parties. At least one of the party's auditors and his/her deputy must be an auditor or an auditing company approved by the Central Chamber of Commerce or a chamber of commerce. The auditing company must notify to the party the name of the responsible auditor. This person must be approved by the Central Chamber of Commerce or a chamber of commerce.
- (2) Within three months of the approval of the financial statement, the political party must send certified copies of the income statement and balance sheet, including their supplements, and the auditors' report of the party and associations acting as its district organisations to the Ministry of Justice. If part of the party subsidy,

granted to the party in accordance with section 9, has been allocated to another association in the State Budget, the party must also send certified copies of the income statement and balance sheet, including their supplements, and the auditors' report of this association to the Ministry of Justice.

- (3) The profits and expenses of election activities must be presented separately in the income sheet mentioned above in subsection 2. The Ministry of Justice may issue further regulations on this matter.

Section 9

- (1) Within the limits of the State budget, a political party represented in the Parliament may be granted party subsidy from government funds to finance the party's public activities specified in its rules and regulations and the party programme. Party subsidy is allocated to the parties in accordance with the number of parliamentary seats each party has gained in the latest parliamentary elections. If, during the period between parliamentary elections and before the publication of the State budget every budgetary year, at least half of a certain party's parliamentary representatives have notified the Speaker of the Parliament that they cease to represent the party in question in the Parliament, the allocation of the subsidy shall be adjusted to correspond with the changed situation. [\(1/1973\)](#)
- (2) In addition to the parties referred to in subsection 1, party subsidy is also granted to a political party, which a representative elected as a candidate for a joint list or a constituency association in the last parliamentary elections, has notified to the Speaker of the Parliament as the party he/she wishes to represent, and which continues the political activities of the voter group that formed the joint list or established the constituency association. However, this requires that the party in question has not been entered in the Party Register before the statutory date, when the Ministry of Justice for the purposes of the above mentioned elections must notify the central election committees of the electoral districts the parties entered in the Party Register. The party subsidy is granted, as appropriate, in accordance with the allocation grounds laid down in subsection 1. (1007/1989)
- (3) The party must submit an account for the use of the party subsidy in accordance with the regulations issued by the government. If part of the subsidy granted to the party has been used to finance the activities of a district organisation or another association referred to in section 8 (2), the party must submit an account also for this use of the subsidy. [\(1007/1989\)](#)

Section 9 a § (1048/1986)

- (1) The Ministry of Justice supervises the use of the subsidy granted from government funds and monitors compliance with this Act and other provisions and regulations issued by virtue of this Act in the activities of a party and associations acting as its district organisations as well as other associations referred to in section 8 (2).
- (2) The Ministry of Justice inspects the accountancy and use of funds of the associations referred to in subsection 1. The Ministry may also appoint an auditor approved by the Central Chamber of Commerce to carry out inspections and examinations relating to the accountancy and use of funds.

- (3) The State Audit Office has the right to inspect the use of funds granted as government subsidies to the associations referred to in subsection 1. For this purpose the State Audit Office may inspect the accountancy of an association in order to determine whether the funds have been used in accordance with the law for the purpose the subsidy has been intended for.

Section 10

- (1) State authorities and the State or an organisation or a body governed by the State must treat all political parties equally and following uniform criteria.
- (2) Oy Yleisradio Ab (Finnish Broadcasting Company) may, when it applies the provisions in subsection 1, take into account aspects relating to public service programming. [\(653/1992\)](#)

Section 11

- (1) If a party fails to fulfil an obligation laid down in this Act, the subsidy referred to in section 9 may be withheld until the obligation has been fulfilled.

Section 12

- (1) Further regulations on the implementation and application of this Act shall be issued by Decree.

Section 13

- (1) This Act enters into force on 1 February 1969.
- (2) If some of the political parties entered in the Party Register are linked to each other as referred to in section 2 (2), these parties are considered as one party, when the provisions in this Act are applied.