

Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції  
«УКРАЇНА У СУЧАСНОМУ МІЖНАРОДНОМУ ПРОСТОРИ»  
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**THE HELSINKI ACT ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE:  
HISTORY, CONTENT AND IMPORTANCE FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT**

On August 1, 1975, in the capital of Finland, Helsinki, representatives of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Denmark, Ireland, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, the Holy See, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Turkey, Finland, France, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Sweden and Yugoslavia signed the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe/

The meeting was convened at the suggestion of the socialist member states of the Warsaw Pact and was held in three stages. From July 3 to 7, 1973, the Foreign Ministers conferred in Helsinki. The second phase of the meeting was held in Geneva from September 18, 1973 to July 21, 1975, in rounds lasting from 3 to 6 months at the level of delegates and experts nominated by the participating States. The final chord was the meeting in Helsinki on July 30 - August 1, 1975 of the highest state and political leaders.

Interstate agreements have been grouped into several sections. In the first section, dealing with security issues in Europe, 10 principles were formulated that define the rules and norms of relations and cooperation of all states participating in the Conference: sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty; non-use of force or threat of force; inviolability of borders; territorial integrity of states; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-interference in internal affairs; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; equality and the right of peoples to control their own destiny; cooperation between states; fulfillment of obligations under international law in good faith.

The second section agreed on the main areas of cooperation in the field of economics, science and technology, and environmental protection. The third section included issues related to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. The fourth section contained provisions on cooperation in the field of culture, education, information and other humanitarian fields, subject to the agreed principles of interstate relations, including the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the sovereign rights of states.

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The original Final Act was drawn up in English, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian and French, and handed over to the Government of the Republic of Finland for keeping in its archives. Each of the participating States received a certified copy of the Act.

The agreement on the next steps after the meeting provided for the continuation of the multilateral process launched by the all-European meeting, which resulted in a number of new agreements designed to prevent interstate conflicts and overcome their consequences. In 1994, the Meeting was renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.