

Article 22 of the Constitution of the ILO**Report for the period 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2017, made by the Government of Finland****on the****EQUALITY OF TREATMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) CONVENTION, 1962 (No. 118)**

(ratification registered on 15 August 1969)

I-V

Nothing new to report.

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A copy of this report has been sent to the following labour market organisations:

1. The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK)
2. The Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK)
3. The Finnish Confederation of Professionals (STTK)
4. The Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland (Akava)
5. Local Government Employers (KT)
6. The Office for the Government as Employer (VTML)
7. The Federation of Finnish Enterprises

Statements of the labour market organisations

SAK, STTK, Akava:

The aim of the Government in 2016 was to create a system where immigrants would have had a lower level of unemployment security than the rest of the population. They intended to pay integration assistance to residence permit holders who registered as unemployed jobseekers and who had not lived or worked in Finland during the previous ten years. The lower level of benefits would have applied not only to immigrants from third countries but also to immigrants from other EU Member States. In the bill prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the new integration assistance was set at 90% of the basic daily allowance, or EUR 630 [per month]. The estimate was that this would have saved over EUR 22 million in public spending in the years 2017 to 2019. The rationale for this bill was to make Finland less attractive for asylum seekers. The Constitutional Law Committee of Parliament considered the proposal problematic vis-à-vis the non-discrimination principle, and the Government withdrew it. The proposal would most probably also have contravened the ILO Convention.