

Unofficial translation
© Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Reindeer Husbandry Decree (883/1990)

Reindeer herding co-operatives

Section 1

- (1) The State Provincial Office keeps a register of the reindeer herding co-operatives in its territory, which must contain the names, addresses and territorial boundaries of the reindeer herding co-operatives and the names of their chairmen and vice chairmen. The register must also have a map as an appendix that shows the territorial boundaries of the reindeer herding co-operatives. A reindeer herding co-operative must submit a notification of a matter to be entered in the register to the State Provincial Office.

Section 2

- (1) The general meeting of a reindeer herding co-operative is held twice a year. The autumn meeting is held in September or October and the spring meeting in April or May.
- (2) The financial year of a reindeer herding co-operative is the reindeer herding year.

Section 3

- (1) The autumn general meeting of a reindeer herding co-operative shall decide on the following:
 - 1) approval of the annual accounts for the previous financial year;
 - 2) approval of the annual report;
 - 3) discharge of the board members of liability for the previous financial year;
 - 4) remuneration for the chairman, vice chairman and other board members;
 - 5) at the end of their terms of office, election of the chairman, vice chairman and other board members for the following three reindeer herding years;
 - 6) election of auditors and deputy auditors for the following reindeer herding year, and their remunerations; and
 - 7) election of foremen and reindeer round-up counters for the following reindeer herding year, and their remunerations.

Section 4

- (1) The spring general meeting of a reindeer herding co-operative shall decide on the following:
 - 1) approval of the action plan and the budget for the following term of office;
 - 2) the procedure to be adopted in the management of the assets of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 3) the plan concerning the use of grazing areas;
 - 4) approval of the reindeer register;
 - 5) the amount of the annual contribution and the method of payment;
 - 6) the amount of the increased annual contribution and the method of payment; and
 - 7) the marking fee.

Section 5

- (1) The constitutive meeting of a reindeer herding co-operative shall decide on the following:
- 1) the name of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 2) presentation of a proposal for the maximum number of reindeer permitted for the reindeer herding co-operative and each of its shareholders;
 - 3) election of the chairman, vice chairman and other board members, and auditors and deputy auditors for the first financial year, and their remunerations;
 - 4) approval of the action plan and the budget;
 - 5) the amount of the annual contribution and the method of payment; and
 - 6) the marking fee.

Section 6

- (1) The meetings referred to in sections 4-5 and the extraordinary meetings of a reindeer herding co-operative may also decide on the following:
- 1) changing the name of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 2) measures associated with the merger or demerger up of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 3) territorial boundaries of the reindeer herding co-operative and changes to them and the submission of the decision to the State Provincial Office for approval;
 - 4) presentation of proposals concerning the reindeer earmarks of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 5) election of valuers;
 - 6) temporary reduction in the maximum number of living reindeer referred to in section 21(3) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 7) measures referred to in section 22 of the Reindeer Husbandry Act concerning the reduction in the number of reindeer to the maximum allowable number;
 - 8) taking of reindeer to be looked after referred to in section 9(3) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 9) permission to use temporary earmarks referred to in section 25(1) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 10) permission to keep reindeer marked with a cancelled reindeer earmark referred to in section 26(2) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 11) notification of an unused reindeer earmark referred to in section 26(3) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 12) gathering and marking of reindeer, and the carrying out of other reindeer herding work without the permission of the board of the reindeer herding co-operative, referred to in section 41(1) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 13) fees to be charged for reindeer herding work carried out by the reindeer herding co-operative referred to in section 12(3) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 14) procedure to be adopted in the payment of compensation for damage;
 - 15) matters submitted to the meeting of the reindeer herding co-operative for consideration referred to in section 13(2) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act; and
 - 16) other matters of the reindeer herding co-operative that under the Reindeer Husbandry Act do not fall under the purview of the chairman or the board of the reindeer herding co-operative.

Section 7

- (1) The minutes of a meeting of a reindeer herding co-operative is checked by two scrutineers elected by the meeting within one week of the meeting.
- (2) An extract of the minutes of the meeting of a reindeer herding co-operative certified by the chairman of the reindeer herding co-operative must be given to the party whose interests or rights the decision concerns, and on request to a shareholder of the reindeer herding co-operative.

Section 8

- (1) The task of the board of a reindeer herding co-operative is to:
 - 1) direct the activities of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 2) convene the meetings of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 3) see to the preparation and implementation of the decisions of the meetings of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 4) decide on the reindeer herding work to be carried out as annual contribution referred to in section 12(1) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 5) decide on the construction of fences and any other devices and structures necessary for the prevention of damage;
 - 6) ensure that there are persons in the association's territory who can be reached and notified of reindeer that have trespassed on agricultural land without permission or caused damage;
 - 7) propose the approval of a reindeer earmark;
 - 8) decide on the prohibition referred to in section 10(1) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act and the granting of the permission referred to in subsection 2 of the same section;
 - 9) decide on the amount and payment period of the entrance fee referred to in section 11(1) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 10) decide on a reindeer title deed permit and the use of a right of pre-emption;
 - 11) determine on the grazing areas referred to in section 41(1) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
 - 12) grant permission for the gathering and marking of reindeer, and other reindeer herding work in accordance with the instructions issued by the meeting of the reindeer herding co-operative; and
 - 13) review appeals concerning the decisions of the chairman of the reindeer herding co-operative.
- (2) The board of a reindeer herding co-operative must notify the shareholders of the reindeer herding co-operative of the decisions it has made in the following meeting of the co-operative.

Section 9

- (1) The task of the chairman of a reindeer herding co-operative is to:
 - 1) see that the practical tasks of the reindeer herding co-operative are carried out;
 - 2) implement the decisions of the board of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 3) employ the persons needed in addition to the employees hired by the meeting and the board of the reindeer herding co-operative and those paying their annual contributions by carrying out reindeer herding work;
 - 4) act as the representative of the reindeer herding co-operative;
 - 5) supervise the work of the officials of the reindeer herding co-operative;

- 6) see to it that order is maintained and that the provisions of the Reindeer Husbandry Act are observed in reindeer herding work;
- 7) decide on reductions in the number of reindeer referred to in section 22(4) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
- 8) undertake the selling or marking of reindeer referred to in section 24(1) and (2) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
- 9) receive notifications concerning the cancellation of a reindeer earmark and submit them to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives;
- 10) issue notifications of reindeer round-ups;
- 11) take care of and transport reindeer identified as belonging to his reindeer herding co-operative at a reindeer round-up held by another reindeer herding co-operative;
- 12) carry out reindeer sales and submit the notifications to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives referred to in section 29(3) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act;
- 13) receive notifications concerning the transfer of ownership of reindeer and take measures needed for them to be considered by the board of the reindeer herding co-operative;
- 14) debit payments due to the reindeer herding co-operative under the Reindeer Husbandry Act and take the measures referred to in section 49 of the Act for the recovery of payments;
- 15) draw up a proposal for a reindeer register for the meeting of the reindeer herding co-operative, submit a copy of the approved register to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives and notify other reindeer herding co-operatives of their registered reindeer;
- 16) draw up a proposal for the annual report of the reindeer herding co-operative and submit an annual report approved by the co-operative to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives; and
- 17) carry out all other tasks coming under the purview of the reindeer herding co-operative that have not been laid down as being the responsibility of the meeting or the board of the reindeer herding co-operative.

Section 10

- (1) The declaration referred to in section 51 of the Reindeer Husbandry Act shall be as follows: "I N.N hereby declare that I will diligently, conscientiously, impartially, and without concern for personal gain and to the best of my ability and understanding fulfil the task entrusted to me so that in the course of carrying out my duties I will not for any reason promote injustice. I hereby swear the aforesaid on my honour and conscience".

Section 11

- (1) The layout of the reindeer register referred to in section 30 of the Reindeer Husbandry Act is approved by the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives. The reindeer register must be drawn up in accordance with this layout prior to the spring meeting of the reindeer herding co-operative. A copy of the reindeer register must be submitted to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives annually by the end of the reindeer herding year.
- (2) A notification concerning reindeer registered at reindeer round-ups which belong to other reindeer herding co-operatives must be submitted to these co-operatives by the end of March.

Section 12

- (1) The notification referred to in section 29(3) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act must be submitted to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives by the end of March.
- (2) A copy of the annual report of the reindeer herding co-operative must be submitted to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives by November 15. The Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives must submit copies of the co-operatives' annual reports to the State Provincial Offices of the reindeer herding area for their information by the end of November.

The Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives

Section 13

- (1) An extract of the minutes of a meeting of the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives and the meeting of its board certified by the executive director of the Association or a person designated by him/her must be given to the party whose interests and rights the decision concerns.

Reindeer marking districts

Section 14

- (1) By decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the reindeer herding area shall be divided into reindeer marking districts, which must see that reindeer earmarks are usable and can be distinguished from each other to a sufficient degree.
- (2) The meeting of a reindeer marking district undertakes the tasks the marking district is responsible for. The meeting issues statements on matters concerning the granting and transferring of reindeer earmarks. The meeting of a reindeer marking district must support the approval or transfer of a reindeer earmark if the reindeer earmark is usable and if the reindeer earmarks of reindeer owners belonging to the same or nearby reindeer herding co-operatives are sufficiently different from the reindeer earmark submitted for approval or transfer.

Section 15

- (1) Each reindeer herding co-operative is represented by its chairman at a meeting of a reindeer marking district. The meeting elects a chairman and vice chairman for the reindeer marking district. The term of office of both is three years.
- (2) The meeting of a reindeer marking district is convened by the chairman or, if he/she is prevented from attending to his/her duties, the vice chairman. The meeting of a reindeer marking district may only consider matters mentioned in the invitation to the meeting.
- (3) The meeting of a reindeer marking district has a quorum when the chairman or the vice chairman and at least half of the other delegates are present. Each of the participants has one vote and the opinion supported by a majority of the votes cast is regarded as a decision of the meeting. In a tie, the opinion of the chairman shall be decisive, except in the election of a person, which shall be decided by lot.

Reindeer earmarks

Section 16

- (1) A reindeer earmark may only be approved on condition that it is clearly distinguishable from other reindeer earmarks or that reindeer equipped with similar earmarks are kept so far apart that there is no danger of confusion.
- (2) When reindeer are marked with reindeer earmarks, a maximum of one third of the length of the ear may be cut, the reindeer mark may not be extended to the cartilage roots of the ear, and the reindeer earmark may not extend over a third from the ear's edge in other parts of the ear. The earmarks may be of 15 different shapes (in Finnish pistel, tiili, pykälä, hanka, rappuhanka, poikki, haara, halki, vita, terotus, ketunkanto, vastahanka, reikä, reiästä halki, linnunvarvas). The reindeer may also be marked with additional earmarks approved by the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives.
- (3) A reindeer herding co-operative may decide that reindeer must be marked in the presence of witnesses.

Section 17

- (1) An application concerning the approval of a reindeer earmark must be addressed to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives and submitted to the chairman of the reindeer herding co-operative. A drawing and a description of the reindeer earmark applied must be appended to the application.
- (2) The chairman of a reindeer herding co-operative must obtain a statement on application from the meeting of a reindeer marking district and submit the application, the statement issued, and his/her own statement to the board of the reindeer herding co-operative, which presents a proposal on the approval of the reindeer earmark to the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives.
- (3) Reindeer owners who transfer their reindeer to the territory of another reindeer herding co-operative must apply for the approval of their reindeer earmark from the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives in accordance with subsection 1.
- (4) A reindeer earmark may only be approved if the applicant has in his/her possession the reindeer to be marked with the reindeer earmark being applied for.

Section 18

- (1) The Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives must notify the applicant and the reindeer herding co-operative in question of the approval or cancellation of the reindeer earmark. The Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives must notify the reindeer herding co-operative in question of the decision on the expiry of the reindeer earmark and notify the holder or the reindeer earmark of the matter in a verifiable manner. Notification of the decisions must also be given at the following ordinary general meeting of the Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives.

Section 19

- (1) The Association of Reindeer Herding Co-operatives must keep a reindeer earmark register into which diagrams and descriptions of the approved reindeer earmarks are entered. The date of approval, the name of the party for whom the mark has been approved and from whom the earmark has been transferred and the date on which the reindeer earmark expired or was cancelled must also be entered in the register.
- (2) The reindeer herding co-operative must keep a register of its shareholders' reindeer earmarks. The provisions laid down in subsection 1 apply to the register.

Valuation committee

Section 20

- (1) A valuation committee convenes at the invitation of its chairman. Minutes shall be kept of the valuation committee meetings.
- (2) If there are different opinions in the valuation committee, the opinion supported by the majority shall be regarded as the decision of the meeting.

Section 21

- (1) The valuers representing agricultural producers referred to in section 36(2) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act are selected by the local association of agricultural producers.

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 22

- (1) In cases referred to in section 44(3) and section 45 of the Reindeer Husbandry Act, a copy or an extract referred to in sections 9 and 15 must be appended to the petition of appeal. In such cases the copy or extract is considered as the decision subject to appeal.

Section 23

- (1) Further provisions on the implementation of this Decree are given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as necessary.

Section 24

- (1) This Decree enters into force on 1 October 1990.