

**DECLARATION FORM ON NOTHING TO DECLARE OR NOTHING NEW TO  
DECLARE FOR USE IN THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Measure	Nothing to declare	Nothing new to declare
A, part I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A, part 2 (i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A, part 2 (ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A, part 2 (iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B (i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B (ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(Please mark the appropriate box(es) for each measure, with a tick.)

Date: 11 April 2006\_\_\_\_\_

State Party to the Convention: Finland

## **CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE A Part 1**

### **Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories - #1**

- 1. Name(s) of the research centre and/or laboratory**  
Centre for Biothreat Preparedness
- 2. Responsible public or private organization or company**  
Finnish Defence Forces and the National Public Health Institute
- 3. Location and postal address**  
Mannerheimintie 164, FIN-00301 Helsinki and Mannerheimintie 166, FIN-00300 Helsinki
- 4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence**  
The Centre is financed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Scientific Advisory Board for Defence (MATINE) financed a project conducted at the Centre during the year 2005 for 37 000 €.
- 5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m<sup>2</sup>)**  
There are no BSL-4 units at the Centre.
- 6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection**  
BSL-3
- 7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate**  
The Centre for Biothreat Preparedness started its activities in May 2005. The Centre conducts diagnostic PCR assay development of selected agents as well as testing of commercial PCR devices for rapid detection. During the year 2005, the Centre performed studies on the following microbes: *Yersinia*, *Bacillus*, *Francisella*, *Brucella* and *Clostridium*.

## Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories - #2

- 1. Name(s) of the research centre and/or laboratory**  
National Public Health Institute, Bacteriological and Virological laboratories and Biothreat unit
- 2. Responsible public or private organization or company**  
National Public Health Institute under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- 3. Location and postal address**  
Mannerheimintie 166  
FIN-00300 Helsinki
- 4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence**  
Funding from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and a large variety of external research funding. A small funding contribution from the Ministry of Defence (50 000 €).
- 5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m<sup>2</sup>)**  
There are no BSL-4 laboratories in Finland.
- 6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection**  
BSL-3 level laboratory
- 7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate**  
Clinical and environmental microbiological research and reference laboratory facilities in Helsinki, Turku, Kuopio and Oulu. Work mainly with ordinarily occurring endemic and epidemic bacteria and viruses with main emphases on vaccine preventable diseases, enteric pathogens, zoonoses, tuberculosis spp, enteroviruses, polioviruses, influenza, HIV, Hepatitis viruses and environmental fungi and bacteria causing human health problems. The Institute manages regional Influenza and Polio laboratory facilities. The Institute is in charge of biothreat preparedness in the public health context.

## Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories - #3

**1. Name(s) of the research centre and/or laboratory**

Yersinia Research Laboratory

**2. Responsible public or private organization or company**

University of Helsinki

University of Turku

**3. Location and postal address**

Department of Bacteriology and Immunology

Haartman Institute, University of Helsinki

Haartmaninkatu 3

P.O.Box 21

FIN-00014 University of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland

and

Department of Medical Biochemistry

University of Turku

Kiinamyllynkatu 10

FIN-20520 Turku, Finland

Yersinia-research home page: [Http://www.hi.helsinki.fi/yersinia/](http://www.hi.helsinki.fi/yersinia/)

**4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence**

Academy of Finland

**5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m<sup>2</sup>)**

No BSL-4 laboratories in Finland.

**6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection**

Containment level BSL-2. The studied microbes have been attenuated or are avirulent.

**7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate**

The research is focused on genetics of the biosynthesis of *Yersinia pestis* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), as well as on the role of LPS in virulence. Another research topic is on *Y. pestis* specific bacteriophage receptors.

## Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories - #4

- 1. Name(s) of the research centre and/or laboratory**  
Department of Virology
- 2. Responsible public or private organization or company**  
University of Helsinki
- 3. Location and postal address**  
P.O. Box 21  
Haartman Institute  
00014 University of Helsinki
- 4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence**  
Helsinki University Hospital EVO-fund, University of Helsinki, National Technology Agency of Finland, MATINE (Ministry of Defence), Academy of Finland, Sigrid Jusélius Foundation, European Union
- 5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m<sup>2</sup>)**  
There are no BSL-4 laboratories.
- 6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection**  
BSL-3, 75 m<sup>2</sup> and 100 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate**  
The Helsinki University Viral Zoonoses Group (HUVZG) conducts research on virology, cell biology, ecology and epidemiology of zoonotic viruses, especially hantaviruses and certain other rodent-borne and arboviruses occurring in Northern Europe. Our research group operates within Faculty of Medicine, Haartman Institute Department of Virology, and partially at the Division of Microbiology and Immunology at the Veterinary Faculty, has a BSL-3 facility in both faculties and is also connected to diagnostic laboratory of viral zoonoses in HUSLAB, Helsinki, and also acts as a WHO Collaborating Center for Arbo- and Zoonotic Viruses. Principal investigators of the group are Alexander Plyusnin, Antti Vaheri and Olli Vapalahti.

## **CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE A Part 2 (i, ii, iii)**

### **National biological defence research and development programme Declaration**

#### **Description and Facilities**

The Centre for Biothreat Preparedness was founded in May 2005. The Centre is located in Helsinki and in 2005 had laboratory and an office space on Mannerheimintie 166, 00300 Helsinki, as well as offices at the Central Military Hospital, Mannerheimintie 164, 00301 Helsinki. The Centre is a joint programme of the Ministry of Defence and The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. It consists of the Biodefence Unit of the Finnish Defence Forces and the Biothreat Unit of the National Public Health Institute. All eight employees working at the Centre during 2005 were civilian. The analytical laboratory consists of BSL-3 and BSL-2 facilities.

The aim of the work conducted at the Centre is focused to enhance capabilities for both national NBC defence and preparedness as well as to support the development of an analytical NBC Field Laboratory for the EU Battle Groups and other international tasks. The Centre works in close cooperation with the civil sector, in particular with groups from the University of Helsinki. During 2005, the Centre developed rapid detection and identification methodologies for selected agents belonging to Risk Groups 2 and 3. The Centre aims to publish its scientific research studies in international peer-reviewed journals.

## CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE B

### Background information on outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of cases per year</u>						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Tularaemia	87	926	29	106	823	151	62
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Febris typhoides	8	0	1	3	6	6	8
Febris paratyphoides	36	3	7	1	4	9	5
Salmonellosis alia	2801	2624	2734	2351	2170	2248	2477
Ornithosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shigellosis	71	75	223	85	64	110	113
Nephropatia epidemica (Puumala virus infection)	2300	774	1057	2603	1566*	1429	2402

**CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE "C":**  
**Encouragement of publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge**

Publications:

Kurkela S, Manni T, Myllynen J, Vaehri A, Vapalahti O: Clinical and laboratory manifestations of Sindbis virus infection: Prospective study, Finland 2002-2003. *J Infect Dis*, 191:1820-9, 2005.

Li XD, Lankinen H, Putkuri N, Vapalahti O, Vaehri A: Tula hantavirus triggers pro-apoptotic signals of ER stress in Vero E6 cells. *Virology*. 2005;333:180-9

Juceviciene A, Zygtiene M, Leinikki P, Brummer-Korvenkontio H, Salminen M, Han X, Vapalahti, O: Tick-borne encephalitis virus infection in Lithuanian domestic animals and ticks. *Scand J Infect Dis*, 2005;37:742-6.

Han X, Juceviciene A, Uzcategui NY, Brummer-Korvenkontio H, Zygtiene M, Jaaskelainen A, Leinikki P, Vapalahti O: Molecular epidemiology of tick-borne encephalitis virus in Ixodes ricinus ticks in Lithuania. *J Med Virol*. 2005 77: 249-256

Kallio-Kokko H, Laakkonen J, Rizzoli A, Tagliapietra V, Cattadori I, Perkins S, Hudson PJ, Cristofolini A, Versini W, Vapalahti O, Vaehri A, Henttonen H: Hanta- and arenavirus antibody prevalence in rodents and humans in Trentino, Northern Italy. *Infect Immunol* 2005 22:1-7

Sironen T, Vaehri A, Plyusnin A: Phylogenetic evidence for the distinction of Saaremaa and Dobrava hantaviruses. *Virol J*. 2005 Dec 8;2:90.

Kaukinen P, Vaehri A, Plyusnin A: Hantavirus nucleocapsid protein: a multifunctional molecule with both housekeeping and ambassadorial duties. *Arch Virol*. 2005 Sep;150(9):1693-713.

Cvetko L, Markotic A, Plyusnina A, Margaletic J, Miletic-Medved M, Turk N, Milas Z, Avsic-Zupanc T, Plyusnin A: Puumala virus in Croatia in the 2002 HFRS outbreak. *J Med Virol*. 2005 Oct;77(2):290-4.

Plyusnina A, Plyusnin A: Recombinant Tula hantavirus shows reduced fitness but is able to survive in the presence of a parental virus: analysis of consecutive passages in a cell culture.



Kiljunen S, Hakala K, Pinta E, Huttunen S, Pluta P, Gador A, Lonnberg H, Skurnik M: Yersiniophage phiR1-37 is a tailed bacteriophage having a 270 kb DNA genome with thymidine replaced by deoxyuridine. *Microbiology*. 2005 Dec;151(Pt 12):4093-102.

Jacobsen NR, Bogdanovich T, Skurnik M, Lubeck PS, Ahrens P, Hoorfar J: A real-time PCR assay for the specific identification of serotype O:9 of *Yersinia enterocolitica*. *J Microbiol Methods*. 2005 Nov;63(2):151-6. Epub 2005 Apr 19.

Biedzka-Sarek M, Venho R, Skurnik M: Role of YadA, Ail, and Lipopolysaccharide in Serum Resistance of *Yersinia enterocolitica* Serotype O:3. *Infect Immun*. 2005 Apr;73(4):2232-44.

Kiljunen S, Vilen H, Pajunen M, Savilahti H, Skurnik M: Nonessential genes of phage phiYeO3-12 include genes involved in adaptation to growth on *Yersinia enterocolitica* serotype O:3. *J Bacteriol*. 2005 Feb;187(4):1405-14.

Stolen CM, Marttila-Ichihara F, Koskinen K, Yegutkin GG, Turja R, Bono B, Skurnik M, Hanninen A, Jalkanen S, Salmi M: Absence of the endothelial oxidase AOC3 leads to abnormal leukocyte traffic in vivo. *Immunity*. 2005 Jan;22(1):105-15.

#### Reviews:

Kaukinen P, Vaeheri A, Plyusnin A: Hantavirus nucleocapsid protein: a multifunctional molecule with both housekeeping and ambassadorial duties. *Arch Virol*. 2005 ;150(9):1693-713.

Kallio-Kokko H, Uzcategui N, Vapalahti O, Vaeheri A: Viral zoonoses in Europe. *FEMS Microbiol Rev* , 2005;29:1051-77.

**Active promotion of contacts**

1. Planned international conferences, symposia, seminars, and other similar forums for exchange

For each such event, the following information should be provided:

- name of the conference: NBC 2006 Symposium
- arranging organizations: The Association of Finnish Chemical Societies  
Section for NBC protection, rescue and civil  
defence
- time: 18-21 June, 2006
- place: TTT Theatre, Tampere, Finland
- main subject(s) for the conference:  
Symposium on Chemical, biological nuclear and  
radiological threats: A safety & security challenge
- conditions for participation:  
Open conference
- point of contact for further, information, registration:

[www.nbc2006.com](http://www.nbc2006.com)

NBC 2006 Symposium  
University of Jyväskylä  
Department of Chemistry  
P.O. Box 35  
FIN-40014 University of Jyväskylä  
FINLAND  
Fax: +358-14-260 2501  
[sktakala@cc.jyu.fi](mailto:sktakala@cc.jyu.fi)

**Form E**

**Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures**

<u>Relating to</u>	<u>Legislation</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Other measures</u>	<u>Amended since last year</u>
(a) Development, production stockpiling, acquisition or retention of microbial or other biological agents, or toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I	YES	YES	YES	NO
(b) Exports of micro-organisms* and toxins	YES	YES	YES	NO
(c) Imports of micro-organisms* and toxins	YES	YES	YES	NO

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\* Micro-organisms pathogenic to man, animals and plants in accordance with the Convention.

**Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes**

Nothing to declare.

**CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE G**

**Declaration of vaccine production facilities**

Vaccine production in the National Public Health Institute has stopped since 2001. No facilities for vaccine production exist anymore, since the production unit has been irreversibly remodelled into general laboratory and office space.

**Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures**

**Additional information**

Finland's legislation on biological weapons is based on the Biological Weapons Act 257/1975 and Decree 258/1975. Corresponding penal provisions were included in the Penal Code, chapter 11, section 7 b (Breach of the prohibition of biological weapons), with amendment 17/2003. Penal Code (39/1889) chapter 11, section 1 (War Crime), chapter 5, section 3 (Complicity in an offence) and section 6 (Abetting), chapter 34, sections 4 (Health endangerment) and 5 (Aggravated health endangerment), and chapter 34 a (Terrorist offences) are also applicable.

Exports of micro-organisms and toxins are regulated by the Act on the Control of Export of Dual-Use Goods (562/1996, as amended by Acts 891/2000, 884/2001 and 581/2003), Government Decree on the Control of Export of Dual-Use Goods (924/2000 as amended by Decree 924/2000) and EC Council Regulation 1334/2000. Corresponding penal provisions were incorporated in the Penal Code (39/1889), chapter 46, sections 1-3 by Acts 769/1990, 1522/1994 and 706/1997. Since 2003, the authority responsible for export controls of micro-organisms and toxins is the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Export Control Unit).

Imports of micro-organisms and toxins are regulated by the Biological Weapons Act 257/1975 and Decree 258/1975. Transports of micro-organisms and toxins are also regulated by the EC Council Directives 94/55/EEC and 96/49/EEC, the Communicable Diseases Act 583/1986 (as amended), section 33; Communicable Diseases Decree 786/1986 (as amended); Act on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (719/1994 as amended) and related decrees, Act on Protecting Plant Health (702/2003), section 7, and related decrees, Act on Animal Diseases (55/1980 as amended) and related decrees, Act on Veterinary Border Control (1192/1996 as amended) and related decrees. The corresponding penal provisions are included in the Penal Code (39/1889 as amended), chapter 44, section 2 (Health protection violation), chapter 44, section 13 (Transport of dangerous substances offence) and chapter 46, section 4 (Smuggling).