

Expropriation of land for building a Border Barrier Fence along Finland's Eastern border

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SUMMARY

In order to maintain a good border security level and as part of the national, NATO and European Union security Finland is building a barrier fence along the border against Russia. The fence is being built for approximately 200 kilometers along Finland's 1,300-kilometer-long eastern border. The construction is underway in 45 separate target areas, preferably near former border control stations, roads, urban areas etc. It would not be a sensible option to build a fence that extends along the entire length of the border. The intention is to complete the entire barrier fence in 2026.

In Finland, landowners own their property all the way to the nation border line, although there is a 5 m wide border line closest to the border. Finland's and Russia's border lines together form a 10 m wide border opening, which is being held free from trees. With this new border barriers fence, the wideness of the tree-free area on the Finnish side of the border will expand to approximately 26 meters. The expanded area will be expropriated for this purpose. The expropriation is not being carried out by ownership, but by the right of use. The area will stay as the former landowner's property, but the state of Finland will get the right to build the border barrier fence as well as a road along the fence and to keep the area free from trees. In the expropriation process, the landowners will be compensated for the economical losses due to losing their right to use the land.

In Finland, all expropriations are being carried out by the National Land Survey. This is a quite unique system, in most countries in the world expropriations are carried out by courts. In the Finnish expropriation process, the establishment of the right of use, the measurement and building of border marks and the decisions on compensation for landowners will take place in the same procedure, led by a land surveyor from the National Land Survey of Finland.

The landowner has the right to be compensated for all economical losses. The compensation being

paid is calculated as market value raised by 25 %. This is the case in all expropriations being done in the public interest in Finland. The raise by 25 % came into force 1st of August 2025, before that the compensation should equal to market value.

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