DECREE ON THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON RESEARCH ETHICS

Given in Helsinki on November 15, 1991

As decreed on the referral of the Minister of Education and Science:

1 §
For the purpose of addressing ethical questions relating to scientific research and the advancement of research ethics there is to be an Advisory Board on Research Ethics.

2 §
The responsibilities of the Board shall be:
1) to make proposals and to respond to governmental authorities on legislative and other matters concerning research ethics;
2) to act as an expert body working towards the resolution of ethical questions arising out of research;
3) to take initiatives for advancing research ethics and to further discussion concerning research ethics in Finland;
4) to monitor international developments in the area and to take an active part in international co-operation;
5) to inform the public about research ethics.

3 §
The Board shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and eight other members, who are nominated by the Ministry of Education for a term of three years at a time. The members of the Board shall represent most important disciplines relating to research ethics and the authorities primarily responsible for research ethics.

4 §
The Board may also have a secretary general and assistant secretaries hired by the Ministry of Education.

5 §
In addition to this Decree, the Advisory Board on Research Ethics shall be governed by provisions concerning governmental committees.
6 §
The Ministry of Education shall issue further instructions for the implementation of this Decree, where necessary.

7 §
This Decree shall come into force on February 1, 1992.

Measures required for the implementation of this Decree may be taken before its entry into force.

The President of the Republic of Finland
Mauno Koivisto

The Minister of Education and Science
Riitta Uosukainen