



22 May 2008

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**REVISED EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

**REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Third report on the implementation of  
the Revised European Social Charter

submitted by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND**

(for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006:  
**Articles 15§1)**

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Report registered at the Secretariat on 19 May 2008

**CYCLE 2008**

**From:** Liisa.Saastamoinen@tem.fi [mailto:Liisa.Saastamoinen@tem.fi]  
**Sent:** Mon 19/05/2008 13:30  
**To:** BRILLAT Regis  
**Subject:** 3rd periodical report of Finland on Revised Social Charter

Dear Regis,

I refer to your question regarding the 3rd Finnish report on the Revised Charter on special needs and part time special need education dated 11 April 2008.

According to the Ministry of Education special needs education is meant for pupils with learning difficulties such as maladjustment because of emotional or social reasons. In 2006 little less than half of those receiving special needs education were integrated entirely or partly to supported mainstream education. Slightly more than half studied in special groups in comprehensive schools or special institutions. In 2006 there were 176 such institutions in Finland. The amount of students in these schools was slightly under 8000. Compared to year 1999 the number of students has reduced with 4000. The aim is that special needs education would be integrated as much as possible to mainstream education.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Best regards

Liisa Saastamoinen  
Ministry of Employment and the Economy  
Finland

**APPENDIX**

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

DIRECTORATE OF MONITORING

DEPARTMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER  
THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE  
OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

ESC 111  
GS / SF



Mrs. Liisa Saastamoinen  
Senior Officer, Legal Affairs,  
Ministry of Employment and the  
Economy  
PO Box 32  
FI-00023 Government  
Finland

Strasbourg, 11 April 2008

Dear Mrs. Saastamoinen,

The European Committee of Social Rights is currently examining the 3<sup>rd</sup> Finnish report on the Revised European Social Charter and has instructed me to forward to you the enclosed question concerning Article 15§1.

The Committee would be grateful if you could reply to this question before 30 May 2008 in order to allow the information to be taken into account in Conclusions 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Régis Brillat

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[http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_Rights/Esc/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Esc/)

11 April 2008

Question in respect of the 3<sup>rd</sup> report of Finland

Article 15§1:

The report informs that in 2005 the percentage of students transferred to special needs education increased by 7.5% compared to the previous year and that during the school year 2004-2005 more than every fifth student received part-time special needs education.

Please clarify whether special needs education and part time special needs education refer to education in special institutions, support in mainstream education or both.