



## Additional panel colours

Finnish practices in accordance with the definitions of the Convention and the European Agreement

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## Additional panel colours

- Finland follows the Annex of the European Agreement, point 27:  
"The ground of additional panels should be preferably the same as the particular groups of signs with which they are used."
- In the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the EG there was an informal comment of the secretariat that the above sentence should be deleted. A contracting party should choose one possible colour and then only use that one colour in all additional panels
- Even though Finland follows the EA. Annex for all additional panels, I totally understand the idea of using uniform panels in combination with A, B, C and D category of signs
- With the following examples I try to show that in combination with E, F and G category of signs the principals of the EA. Annex make the Sign combinations better looking and more understandable.



# The Finnish way of choosing the colour

- In Finland additional panels have two different colours depending on the colour of the main sign: Blue signs are used with blue additional panels and all other signs with yellow additional panels.





# A problem with a white background

- In all "ordinary" additional panels (used with A, B, C and D signs) the colour of an additional panel could be harmonized (however, the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Finland is not planning to do so)
- A problem with the white "default" colour in the Convention drawings is that in most cases a white panel has a too strong retroreflection compared to the main sign
  - The main sign is always the more important part of a sign combination
  - The white background of the additional panel makes the additional panel more reflective than the main sign!
  - Therefore a white background should not be recommended in additional panels (if the background of the main sign is not white)





## Additional panels with some E-signs

- In some cases there is a possible need to use additional panels with many of the E-category signs
- In these cases the sign combination looks better and is better understood when the colour of the additional panel follows the colour of the main sign





## Additional panels with F signs

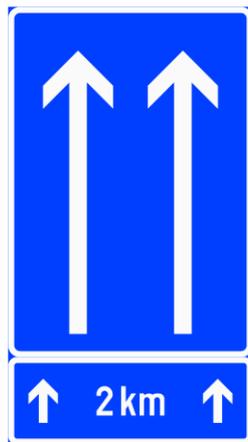
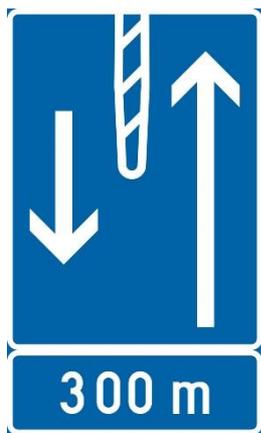
- In Finland brown colour is used with the touristic (non-Conventional) signs
- In combination with the F-signs in the Convention the background is blue
- In these cases the Sign combinations look better when the additional panels follow the colours of the main Sign





## Variations of G,11 / G,12 signs

- Two examples of G signs where there would certainly not be any benefit of using a uniform colour in the additional panels



- (sorry about the differentiations in the shade of the blue in these examples)



# G,1 variations

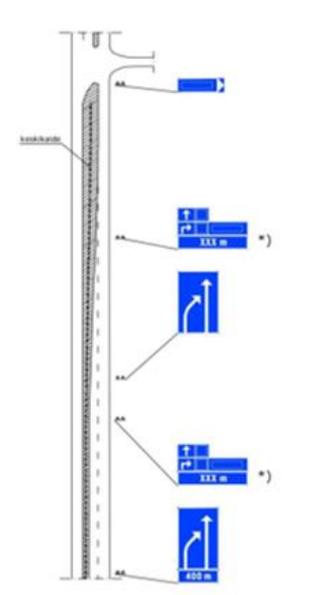
- In Finnish advance direction / orientation signs the blue background is the default, green is used for motorways and white is for local targets inside a built-up area
- We are planning to increase the use two separate orientation signs also on other main roads (today mostly only on motorways) and therefore planning to use more additional panels showing the distance to the intersection. On motorways the exit number is also usually shown in an additional panel





## G,1c Stacked sign

- In Finland stacked signs are used as advance direction signs in cases when the crossing road is not so important
- In Finland arrows to all directions are placed on the left in these signs
- In this case it is not clear if the distance to the intersection is in an additional panel or in a part of the stacked sign itself!
- Anyway also in this type of a sign it is clear that the additional panel (or the lowest part of the stacked sign) should be recommended to have the same background colour than the rest of the sign





## Conclusions?

- The point 27. of the Annex of the European Agreement should not be deleted.
- The text of the Annex should be considered to be added as a recommendation in the Convention but only when additional panels are used in combination with E, F and G signs.
- In combination with the A, B, C and D signs it should be recommended to use a uniform colour in additional panels.
- The possibility to use the same background colour in the additional panels as in the sign with which they are used should also be allowed (but not recommended) in combination with the A, B, C and D signs.

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