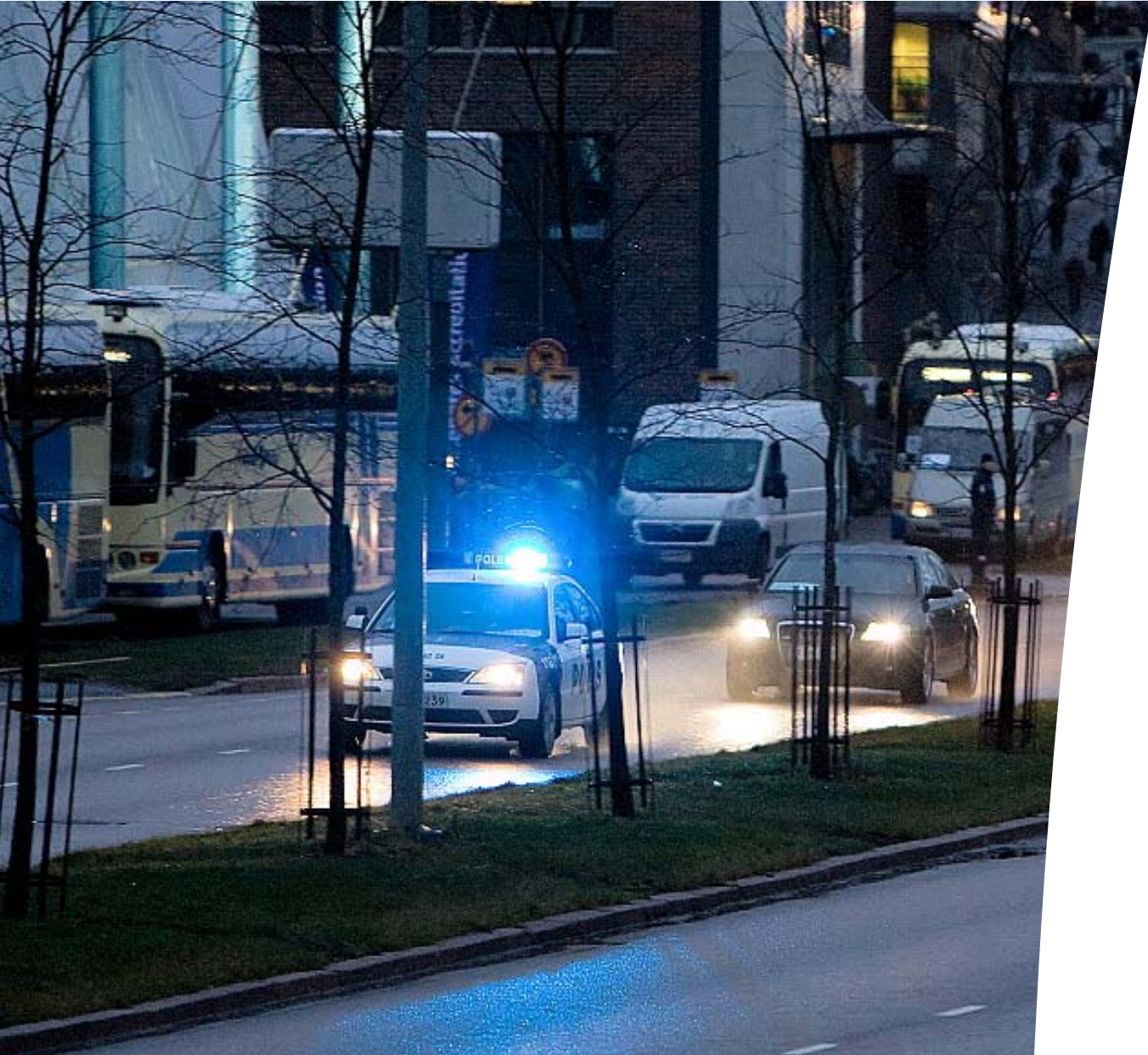


Case Study

How VIRVE network delivered security and diplomacy at ministerial OSCE meeting in Helsinki, Finland



VIRVE

delivers security and diplomacy at ministerial meeting

When the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) met in Helsinki in December, the nationwide VIRVE network helped the Finnish authorities to secure the safety of high-level officials, as well as helping the event organisers to manage some of the more delicate, diplomatic aspects of the meeting.

The two-day OSCE Ministerial Council meeting gathered 50 ministers, 1200 guests and 300 members of the media

together at the Helsinki Conference Center. It was the largest summit in Finnish history.

A private security company was responsible for checking bags and visitors at the entrance, but most of the security for the event was provided by the

police force, both indoors and outside the venue. Local police called in support from other parts of the country, with further personnel and equipment provided by Finnish defence and border organisations.

Organising the handshaking

In addition to security, there were also diplomatic and logistical issues to consider with so many senior officials involved. The current OSCE Chairman is Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander

Reliability was paramount - the organisers chose to use VIRVE for coordination

Stubb, who needed to greet the arriving delegates one by one in the foyer of the Exhibition Centre. Yet this seemingly simple gesture required careful organisation to avoid any breach in etiquette. The organisers chose to use VIRVE for coordination and announcements, since reliability was paramount.

It was out of the question for senior delegates to queue up for their turn with Mr. Stubb, so each politician had to arrive at a certain, pre-arranged time. With the police in charge of traffic control, the route for each arrival was mapped out and timed beforehand and the convoys were in constant contact by radio. This did not jeopardise the security of the delegates, however, because the VIRVE network makes eavesdropping impossible.

Each convoy knew exactly when they should arrive. Constant communication enabled them to adjust the timing as the event progressed, perhaps by taking a longer route to allow for any delay.

Thanks to the excellent communications provided by VIRVE, the result was a smooth flow of cars delivering the politicians to the door exactly on schedule.

