

Accusation: the PRH's Enäjärvi withdrew EUR 58 000 from a credit card without authorisation

According to the prosecutor, Martti Enäjärvi, former Director General of the Patent and Registration Office (PRH), used his employer's credit card to make unauthorised cash withdrawals worth EUR 58 000 for his own use between 2005 and 2010.



Martti Enäjärvi, former Director General of the Finnish Patent and Registration Office, at Helsinki District Court on Wednesday.

Photo by Vesa Moilanen Lehtikuva

Lasse Kerkelä

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According to the prosecutor, Martti Enäjärvi, former Director General of the Finnish Patent and Registration Office (PRH), used his employer's credit card to withdraw 58 000 euros worth of unauthorised cash withdrawals for his own use between 2005 and 2010.

The Helsinki District Court started hearing the criminal charges in Enäjärvi case on Wednesday. The prosecution is asking for him to be punished for breach of duty and fraudulent use of means of payment.

Mr Enäjärvi did not report his cash withdrawals to his employer, who paid his credit card bills. The PRH ordered him several dozen times to repay the cash withdrawals, which he did.

According to District Prosecutor Anja-Riitta Rinkinen, Mr Enäjärvi borrowed state funds without permission and repaid them when his financial situation allowed it.

Enäjärvi denies the charge. He claims that he used the money to carry out his official duties and that he has not sought personal financial gain.

Mr Enäjärvi retired in autumn last year.

The prosecution is also demanding that Eero Mantere, the Director General of the PRH, who is Enäjärvi's deputy in the PRH organisation and who was supposed to supervise the use of Enäjärvi's credit card, be punished for breach of duty.

Mr Mantere also denies the charge. He said that he had ordered the uncleared cash withdrawals to be recovered from Mr Enäjärvi and that he had repeatedly warned the Director General about the use of the card.

Mr Mantere told the court that Mr Enäjärvi made a total of 55 cash withdrawals, which were recovered from him.

Original text in Finnish at:

<https://www.hs.fi/kotimaa/art-2000002509015.html>