



19 November 2018

ANNEX TO THE REPORT ON CITIZENS' CONSULTATIONS ON EUROPE – FINLAND

Additional information on activities organized or supported by the Finnish Government

Prime Minister's debate series

In February 2018, Prime Minister Juha Sipilä launched a series of debates in Finnish universities to listen to citizens' views on Finland's and EU's future. So far he has visited four cities (Oulu, Turku, Vaasa and Kuopio). The events were organized in the form of workshops with the Prime Minister interviewing the workshop chairs at the end of the event.

In the workshop in Oulu on 26 February 2018, themes discussed included sustainable growth and employment, research and innovation, digital literacy and combatting inequality. In addition to the workshop, a separate discussion event was organised with local entrepreneurs. The event was specifically aimed at young adults and focused on the EU and sustainable development.

In the workshop in Turku on 12 March 2018, themes discussed included the future of work and technology, Europe's stability and security as well as growth, employment and skills. In addition to the workshop, a separate discussion event ("Prime Minister's open EU hearing") was organised together with the Regional Council of Southwest Finland. In addition to the Prime Minister, the panelists included representatives of the Student Union of the University of Turku, JEF-Turku (Turun Eurooppanuoret), Finnish Schuman Society, European Movement Southwest Finland and the Regional Council of Southwest Finland. Themes discussed included Brexit, the next Multiannual Financial Framework, security issues, the Baltic Sea, Finland's role in the EU as well as the key role of NGOs in promoting public debate on EU issues.

In the workshop in Vaasa on 24 April 2018, themes discussed included the future of work, platform economy, sustainable economic growth, inclusiveness and competitiveness.

In the workshop in Kuopio on 14 May 2018, themes discussed included environmental change and the sustainability of natural resources, life-long learning in the digital age, demographic ageing and health. In addition to the workshop, a separate discussion event ("Prime Minister's open EU hearing") was organised in cooperation with the Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo. The main question of the event was: What would the EU look like if it would be established today? Issues raised included democracy, equality, peace and security, sustainable development and growth and protection of the environment.

On 31 August 2018, the Prime Minister participated in the Europe Forum Turku. His speech and the following discussion focused on the future of EU and the forthcoming Finnish EU Presidency. Themes raised included common values, climate policy, migration, defence cooperation, the Economic and Monetary Union, trade policy, single market and research and innovation policy. The event was live streamed on Yle Areena (online service of Finland's national broadcasting company).

Participation of ministers

Examples of ministers' participation include:

- Discussion event on the economic situation of Finland and Europe with Jyrki Katainen, European Commission Vice-President, and Sampo Terho, Minister for European Affairs, 12 March 2018. The European Commission Representation in Finland organized the event.

- Civil dialogue on energy and climate policy with Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing, Helsinki University's Think Corner, 12 April 2018. The dialogue was part of Think Corner's Hope for Globe discussion series. It was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.
- Civil dialogue on EU Plastics Strategy with Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing, Helsinki University's Think Corner, 23 April 2018. The dialogue was part of Think Corner's Hope for Globe discussion series. It was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment.
- Citizens' Dialogue on EU trade policy with Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Trade, and Anne-Mari Virolainen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Helsinki, 26 April 2018 ("EU as a leader of rule-based multilateral trading system"). The European Commission Representation in Finland organized the event.
- Citizens' Dialogue on the New Deal for Consumers with Antti Häkkänen, Minister of Justice, and Jari Lindström, Minister of Employment, Helsinki, 1 June 2018. The event was organized jointly by the Commission (DG Justice and Consumers), the Commission Representation in Finland and the Finnish consumer authorities.
- Seminar on the next Multiannual Financial Framework with Jyrki Katainen, European Commission Vice-President, and Sampo Terho, Minister for European Affairs, Helsinki, 8 June 2018. The European Parliament's Office in Finland organized the seminar.
- Seminar on the future of Common Agricultural Policy with Jari Leppä, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki, 15 June 2018. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry organized the seminar.
- Question Time of the Minister for European Affairs Sampo Terho, Thalia Market at the Hansa shopping centre in Turku, 31 August 2018 (Turku Europe Forum). Key issues raised included federalism vs. EU as a Union of Member States, division of competences between the EU and the Member States, "European culture", brexit, the next Multiannual Financial Framework (including Member States' financial contributions to the EU, fair burden sharing and taxation as one of the sovereign state's key assets), common migration and asylum policy (including disembarkation arrangements, controlled centres and the costs of migration), pros and cons of the Finnish EU and EMU membership, development of the EMU (including pushing forward a functioning sovereign debt restructuring framework vs. increasing joint liabilities), ending the seasonal time changes, low turnout in European Parliament elections and the forthcoming Finnish EU Presidency. Defence cooperation, cooperation on environmental issues and student exchange (Erasmus+) were raised as examples of positive EU cooperation.
- Participation of Anne-Mari Virolainen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, in the public hearing of the Grand Committee of the Parliament on the EU's trade and development policies, Åbo Svenska Teater, 31 August 2018 (Turku Europe Forum).
- Participation of Sampo Terho, Minister for European Affairs, in a panel discussion on the European Commission's Country Specific Recommendations for Finland, Åbo Svenska Teater, 31 August 2018 (Turku Europe Forum). The panel discussion was organized by the Finnish labour market organisations (SAK, AKAVA, STTK, EK). Other panelists included the chairs of the Finnish labour market organisations and a Board Member of the European Movement International. The event was live streamed.
- Discussion event on worker mobility in the EU and the future of work with Jari Lindström, Minister of Employment, Helsinki University's Think Corner, 27 August 2018. The event was organized jointly by the MFA's Europe Information and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.

- Participation of Annika Saarikko, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services, in a panel discussion on “EU policy in the 2020s: Security, Economy and the Environment”, Åbo Svenska Teater, 31 August 2018 (Turku Europe Forum). The panel consisted of representatives of all parliamentary parties. It was organized by Newspaper Turun Sanomat.
- Panel discussion on “EU Policy in the 2020s: Challenges of the EU Presidency and the new Parliamentary Term” with Petteri Orpo, Minister of Finance and Leader of the National Coalition Party, and Antti Rinne, Leader of the Social Democratic Party (currently the biggest opposition party), Thalia Market at the Hansa shopping centre in Turku, 31 August 2018 (Turku Europe Forum). The panel was organized by Newspaper Turun Sanomat.
- Citizens' Dialogue on the European Education Area 2025 with Jyrki Katainen, European Commission Vice-President and Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister for Education, Helsinki University's Think Corner, 8 October 2018. The dialogue was organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Other panelists included the Rector of the Helsinki University and the President of the National Union of University Students.
- Seminar on topical fundamental rights issues in the EU with Antti Häkkänen, Minister of Justice, and Dr. Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Helsinki, 29 November 2018. Comments will be given by representatives of the Parliament, academia and the civil society. The seminar is co-organized by the Ministry of Justice, the FRA and the Human Rights Centre.

Events and activities organized or supported by the MFA's Europe Information

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Europe Information) started a discussion series on “Finland and the future of EU” in autumn 2017. The tour continued in 2018 across the country, including:

- Discussion event on the EU and Globalisation based on the EU's Global Strategy, Kuopio, 26 February 2018. The panelists included an MFA official responsible for common foreign and security policy, an MP from the biggest opposition party (SDP), a Finnish MEP (ALDE) and an expert from the local University of Applied Sciences (Savonia ammattikorkeakoulu).
- Discussion event on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, Hämeenlinna, 9 April 2018. The panelists included a MEP from the National Coalition Party, an MP from the Centre Party and an officer from the Ministry of Finance.
- Seminar on the EU, Åland and the development of Security Policy, Marienhamn, 8 May 2018. The seminar was held in Swedish (official language of Åland). It was organised jointly by Europe Information and the Government of Åland (Ålands landskapsregering). The director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute led the seminar. Panelists included a Finnish (ALDE) and Swedish MEP (EPP), the MP representing Åland and the Director General of the MFA's Legal Service. The seminar focused on the development of the EU's common foreign and security policy from the perspective of Åland, an autonomous and demilitarised region of Finland.
- “Europe in my Region” public event focusing on sustainable development and topical EU issues, Marienhamn, 8 May 2018. The event introduced 20 EU-funded projects in Åland region. Several panel discussions were organized throughout the day, panelists included Finnish (ALDE) and Swedish (EPP) MEPs, the MP representing Åland, an EU Commission translator, as well as representatives from the Government of Åland as well as various NGOs. The event was organized jointly by the Europe Information, Centrum Balticum and the Government of Åland.
- Discussion event on worker mobility in the EU and the future of work, Helsinki University Think Corner, 27 August 2018. Panelists included the Minister of Employment, the Head of Talent Management of Bayer Nordics as well as representatives of JEF Finland (a non-partisan youth NGO “Eurooppanuoret”) and Demos Helsinki (an independent think tank). The MFA's Europe Information and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment organized

the event jointly. Themes discussed included worker mobility, digitalization and the skills needed in new forms of work.

- Discussion event on the Role of the EU in the World (Deals or Rule-Based Action in the Field of Security Policy?), Åbo Svenska Teatern, 31 August 2018 (Turku Europe Forum). The speakers included the Permanent State Secretary of the MFA, the Finnish Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, Finland's Permanent Representative to the EU and Programme Director in the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Europe Information and FIIA organized the event jointly. The discussion was live streamed.

Europe Information also participated to the Educa fair on 26-27 January 2018 and the Helsinki book fair on 25– 28 October 2018. Both were organized in the Messukeskus Expo and Convention Centre in Helsinki. Themes discussed included Finland's role in the EU, brexit, common foreign and security policy, development policy and Finland's forthcoming EU presidency.

The NGO activities supported by the MFA's Europe Information in 2018 include:

- European Movement Finland's seven panel discussions on the Future of EU in high schools and vocational schools in the wider Helsinki Region February–March 2018 (free movement, brexit, studying in Europe).
- European Movement Finland's Future of EU discussion tour: Turku on 19 March (brexit, elections, Finnish EU Policy), Tampere on 21 March (brexit, EP elections, Finnish EU Policy), Hämeenlinna on 22 March (regional funds, future of EU, common values), Pori on 20 July (panel discussion on EU defence cooperation, organized jointly with the European Commission Representation and the European Parliament's Office), Oulu on 19 September (populism and EU skepticism), Rovaniemi on 20 September (environmental issues, EU railway links to Finland and the Arctic Sea), Vaasa on 15 October (climate change), Seinäjoki on 16 October (Finland in the EU, migration), Jyväskylä on 17 October (bioeconomy, EU myths) and Tampere 18 October (brexit, elections, EU pros and cons). The tour included one bigger discussion event in each city as well as smaller events and visits to local high schools, vocational schools and universities. The tour was organized in cooperation with JEF Finland.
- A survey about the opinions and attitudes of the Finnish youth towards the EU commissioned by the Young European Federalists (JEF) Finland and conducted by Taloustutkimus Oy. As many as 81 % of the respondents (1009 people aged 18–29) thought that the EU membership was beneficial for Finland. Nearly 90 % said that they identified also as an EU citizen and agreed with the statements "the EU promotes peace" and "the EU promotes welfare and equality". The respondents thought that EU cooperation should be enhanced especially in combating climate change (76 %).

Discussion events organized by the Ministry of the Interior

The Ministry of the Interior organized two discussion events at the Europe Forum Turku on 30 August 2018. The events focused on internal security and the prevention of extremism and violent radicalisation as well as issues related to migration and integration from the viewpoint of cities and municipalities.