

ENGLISH

PARLIAMENT
of FINLAND
2012



Parliament convened for the first plenary session of the spring term on Monday, 6 February 2012. As the oldest MP, *Kauko Tuupainen* held the chair until the election of the Speakers. *Eero Heinäluoma* (Social Democratic Party) was re-elected as Speaker, *Pekka Ravi* (National Coalition Party) as First Deputy Speaker and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* (Finns Party) as Second Deputy Speaker.

The opening ceremonies took place on Tuesday, 7 February, at which time President of the Republic *Tarja Halonen* opened Parliament for the last time.

Sauli Niinistö took over as President of the Republic after making his solemn affirmation before Parliament on Thursday, 1 March 2012.

Exceptional summer session owing to the euro crisis

The European economic crisis dominated Parliament's year. In June Parliament decided on Finland's participation in the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), which is intended to support euro countries in serious difficulties. For the first time in fifty years Parliament was convened during the summer break on 19–20 July, when Spain urgently needed to borrow money from the other euro countries to stabilize its banking system. Two interpellations were also submitted with regard to the European economic crisis.



Newly elected President of the Republic Sauli Niinistö (on the right) made his solemn affirmation before Parliament on 1 March 2012. Speaker Eero Heinäluoma delivered speeches to Niinistö and to outgoing President Tarja Halonen.

The Government's planned reforms of the municipal structure, social and health services, and national defence stimulated lively debate in Parliament and resulted in several interpellations. The required legislative changes will be considered by Parliament in 2013.

A total of eight interpellations were submitted, which is twice the normal amount. One interpellation led to a vote measuring confidence in a single member of the Government, Minister of Defence *Stefan Wallin* (Swedish People's Party). In general each interpellation ended in a vote to decide whether the Government as a whole enjoyed Parliament's confidence. Since the six Government parties (National Coalition Party, Social Democratic Party, Left Alliance, Greens, Swedish People's Party and Christian Democrats) hold a majority in Parliament, the motions for a vote of no confidence made by the opposition (Finns Party, Centre Party and Left Faction) were defeated each time.

Parliament discussed domestic economic policy and the use of state tax revenues in connection with the spending limits report as well as the budget and supplementary budgets. During consideration of the central government spending limits for 2013–2016 Parliament approved the Government's policies for adjusting state revenues and expenditure to the weakening economic situation.

Youth guarantee and Act on Care Services for the Elderly

During the spring term Parliament decided on a new public service broadcasting tax to replace the old system of TV fees. The new tax, which has a ceiling of 140 euros, does not require measures on the part of taxpayers, since it is automatically included in preliminary taxation.

During the autumn term, which lasted from 5 September to 21 December, in addition to the state budget and a third supplementary budget Parliament approved a new Act on Care Services for the Elderly, a social guarantee for young people, a new solidarity tax for those earning over 100,000 euros a year, and an Act on the Legal Position of Parliamentary Groups. The youth guarantee is intended to ensure that every person under 25 years of age and recent graduates under 30 years of age will be offered work, a work trial, or a study, workshop or labour market rehabilitation place within three months of registering as an unemployed jobseeker.

The Act on the Legal Position of Parliamentary Groups gives each parliamentary group the status of a legal person,

allowing it to acquire rights and make commitments and to act as a party in a court of law or with respect to other authorities.

The state budget totals about 54.5 billion euros. This includes 50.9 million euros that was added during parliamentary handling of the budget. The largest increases in appropriations were in the main title of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The plenary session on 5 December 2012, just before Independence Day, was dedicated to war veterans. Parliament decided to expand war veterans' right to institutional care and to increase rehabilitation funds. The session did not handle other business and was Parliament's tribute to veterans on the 95th anniversary of Finland's independence.

MPs' work is international

Finnish MPs are active in numerous international parliamentary organizations, in addition to which bilateral visits are arranged between parliaments. Parliament has

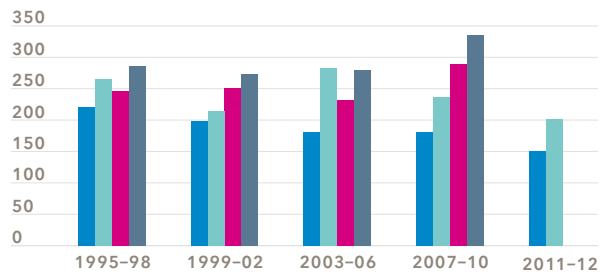
appointed nine delegations to multilateral international organizations:

- Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council
- Finnish Delegation to the Council of Europe
- Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Finnish Delegation to the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- Finnish Delegation to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
- Finnish Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Finnish Delegation to the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP)
- Finnish Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly
- Finnish Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly

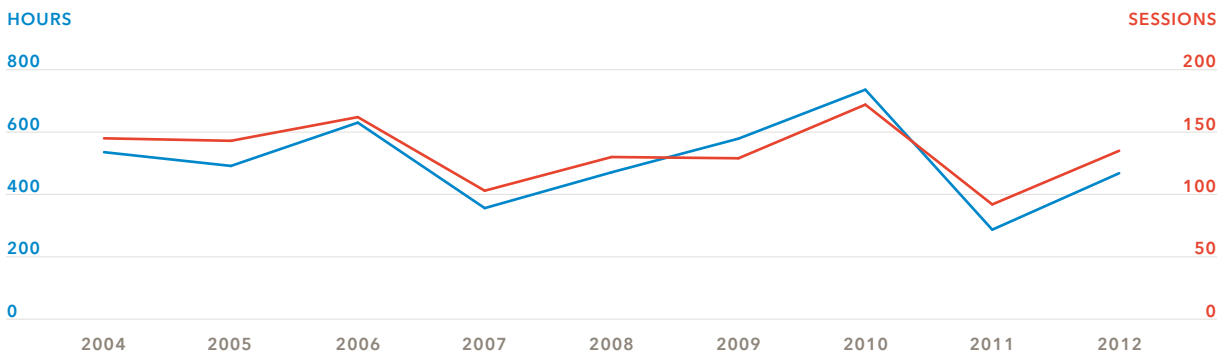
The Nordic Council met in Parliament on 29 October – 1 November 2012.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS 1995-2012

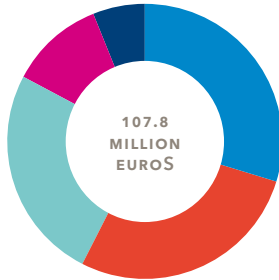
- The first annual session of the electoral period
- The second annual session of the electoral period
- The third annual session of the electoral period
- The fourth annual session of the electoral period



TOTAL NUMBER OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND THEIR TOTAL DURATION 2004-2012



PARLIAMENT'S EXPENSES 2012 (MILLION EUROS)



| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|
| ● MPs, their assistants and parliamentary groups | 32.3 |
| ● Staff expenses | 29.8 |
| ● Renovation and estate expenses | 27.4 |
| ● Information management expenses | 11.9 |
| ● Other expenses | 6.4 |

Parliament's expenses 2012: total 107.8 million euros

Changes in the composition of Parliament and the Government

In the autumn term one new MP went to work, *Anu Urpalainen* (National Coalition Party), from the Kymi electoral district. On 21 November 2012 she replaced *Jyri Häkämies* following his appointment as managing director of the Confederation of Finnish Industries. MP *Jan Vapaavuori* from the National Coalition Party Parliamentary Group replaced Häkämies as Minister of Economic Affairs.

Another change took place in the Cabinet in 2012 when *Carl Haglund*, the newly elected chairman of the Swedish People's Party, replaced fellow party member *Stefan Wallin* as Minister of Defence.

The members of the Government at the end of 2012 were:

- Prime Minister *Jyrki Katainen* (National Coalition Party)
- Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance *Jutta Urpilainen* (Social Democratic Party)
- Minister for Foreign Affairs *Erkki Tuomioja* (Social Democratic Party)
- Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade *Alexander Stubb* (National Coalition Party)
- Minister for International Development *Heidi Hautala* (Greens)
- Minister of Justice *Anna-Maja Henriksson* (Swedish People's Party)
- Minister of the Interior *Päivi Räsänen* (Christian Democrats)
- Minister of Defence *Carl Haglund* (Social Democratic Party)
- Minister of Public Administration and Local Government *Henna Virkkunen* (National Coalition Party)

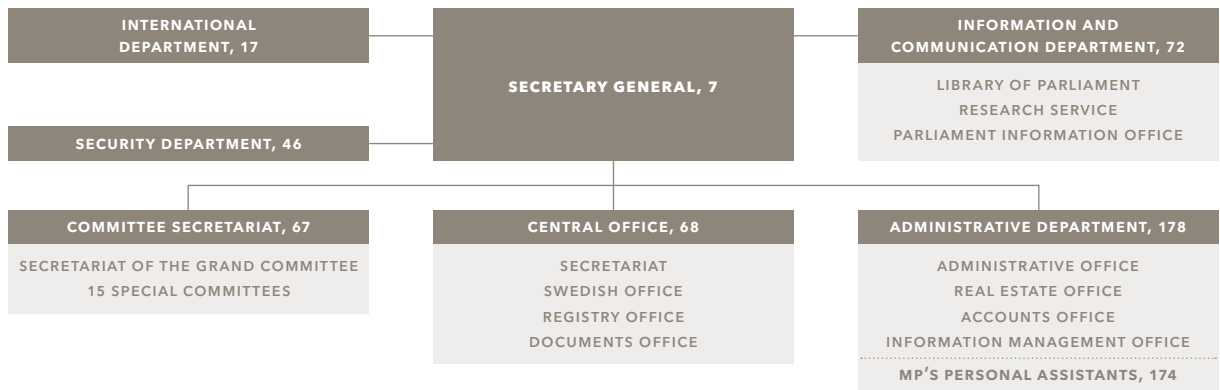
- Minister of Education and Science *Jukka Gustafsson* (Social Democratic Party)
- Minister of Culture and Sport *Paavo Arhinmäki* (Left Alliance)
- Minister of Agriculture and Forestry *Jari Koskinen* (National Coalition Party)
- Minister of Transport *Merja Kyllönen* (Left Alliance)
- Minister of Economic Affairs *Jan Vapaavuori* (National Coalition Party)
- Minister of Labour *Lauri Ihalainen* (Social Democratic Party)
- Minister of Social Affairs and Health *Paula Risikko* (National Coalition Party)
- Minister of Health and Social Services *Maria Guzenina-Richardson* (Social Democratic Party)
- Minister of the Environment *Ville Niinistö* (Greens)
- Minister of Housing and Communications *Krista Kiuru* (Social Democratic Party)

Youth Parliament arranged for the eight time

The Youth Parliament, which convenes every other year, took place in the Plenary Hall on Friday, 23 March 2012. As in the past the format was based on Question Time, with Speaker *Eero Heinäluoma* directing the proceedings. Fifteen ministers were on hand to answer young people's questions, which dealt with such issues as support for organic and locally produced food, improving the safety of moped cars, the youth guarantee and employment. The Youth Parliament voted on whether the President of the Republic's term of office should be shortened. A clear majority supported keeping the present term of six years.

Student representatives from Parliament clubs in 105 schools all over Finland attended the session, which was arranged for the eight time. >

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE: PERSONNEL (ALTOGETHER 455 EMPLOYEES AND 174 MP'S PERSONAL ASSISTANTS)



➤ The price of democracy: €19.85 per citizen

Parliament's expenses totalled €107.8 million last year. This comes to €19.85 per citizen. The figure the year before was €18.65.

The Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure includes personnel, real estate and information management costs. Parliament's total costs also include



The Youth Parliament convened on 23 March 2012, with a format based on Question Time. Student representatives sat at MPs' desks in the Plenary Hall, and ministers answered their questions from the Government Box.

MPs', their assistants' and political groups' costs. Figures do not include VAT or the costs of organs operating in connection with Parliament (the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the National Audit Office and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs).

The Office Commission, which is headed by the Speaker and composed of MPs, directs, supervises and develops Parliament's administration and financial management. It appoints Parliament's highest officials and resolves significant matters regarding Parliament's administration and financial management.

In 2012 the Office Commission consisted of Speaker *Eero Heinäluoma*, Deputy Speakers *Pekka Ravi* and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* and MPs *Jouni Backman* (Social Democratic Party), *Pietari Jääskeläinen* (Finns Party), *Timo Kalli* (Centre Party) and *Petteri Orpo* (National Coalition Party). Deputy members were *Johanna Karimäki* (Greens), *Mikaela Nylander* (Swedish People's Party), *Anna-Kaisa Pekonen* (Left Alliance) and *Leena Rauhala* (Christian Democratic Party).

Renovation of the Parliament buildings continues

All of Parliament's buildings except for the Little Parliament annex will be renovated in 2007–2017. In May 2012 work started on Building C, as a result of which the Administrative Department and the Library of Parliament temporarily moved to the Post Office Building. The renovation of underground facilities is still under way.

TYPE OF THE MATTER / YEAR

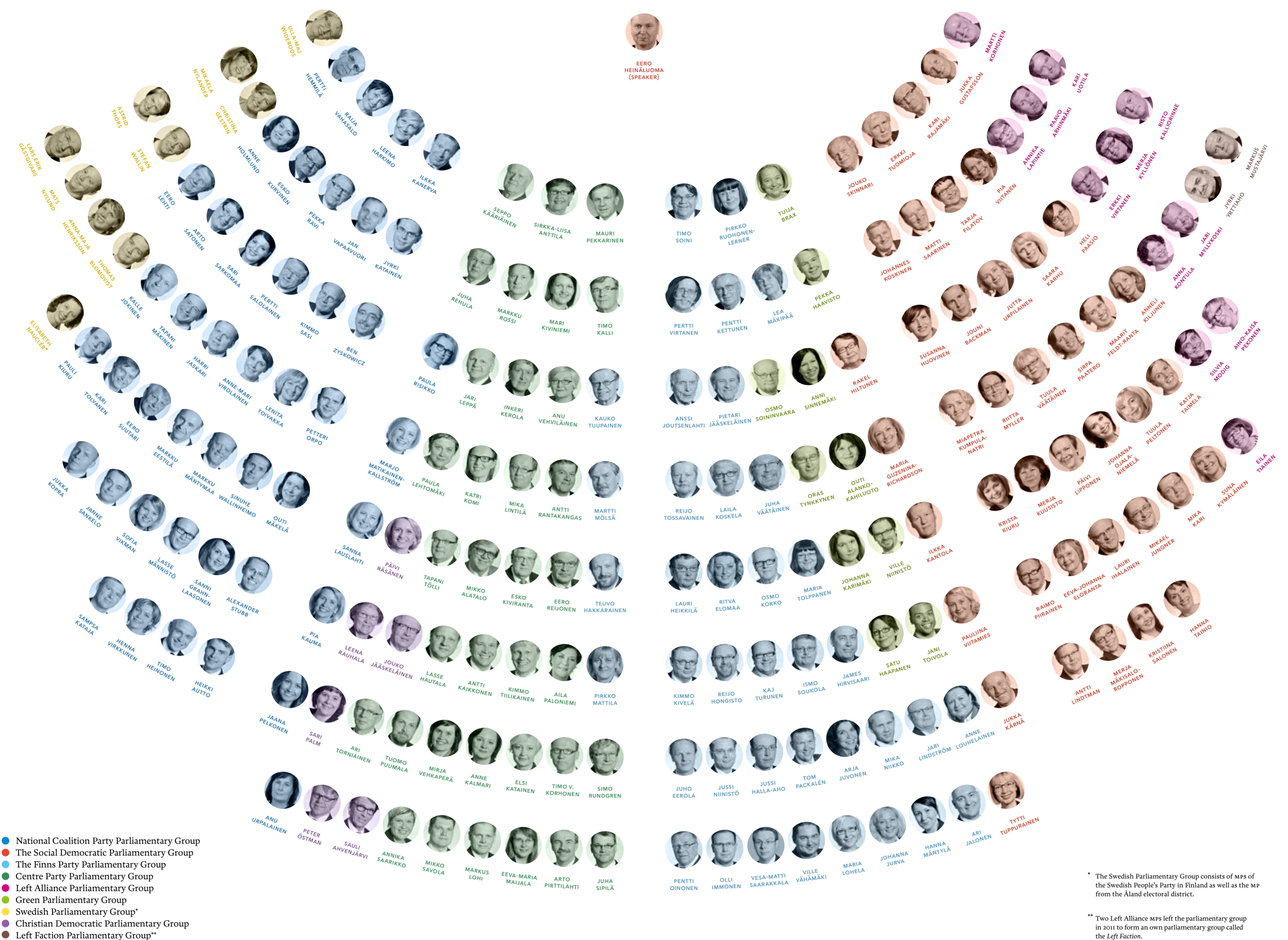
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Government proposals | 236 | 289 | 336 | 151 | 205 |
| Government statements | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Government reports | 8 | 9 | 11 | 2 | 6 |
| Prime Minister's announcements | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Legislative motions | 137 | 127 | 140 | 60 | 91 |
| Petitionary motions | 78 | 91 | 149 | 30 | 51 |
| Budgetary motions | 1,088 | 1,109 | 1,147 | 551 | 602 |
| Supplementary budgetary motions | 115 | 84 | 130 | 1 | 99 |
| Interpellations | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Written questions | 1,066 | 1,119 | 1,436 | 499 | 1,057 |
| Union matters | 86 | 90 | 73 | 84 | 82 |

THE COMMITTEES HELD THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF MEETINGS

AND DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF REPORTS AND STATEMENTS IN THE 2012 SESSION

| | MEETINGS | REPORTS | STATEMENTS |
|----------------------------------------|----------|---------|------------|
| Grand Committee | 65 | 1 | 4 |
| Constitutional Law Committee | 94 | 12 | 39 |
| Foreign Affairs Committee | 90 | 14 | 4 |
| Finance Committee* | 60 | 39 | 17 |
| Audit Committee | 71 | 9 | 9 |
| Administration Committee | 82 | 25 | 20 |
| Legal Affairs Committee | 75 | 16 | 17 |
| Transport and Communications Committee | 84 | 21 | 16 |
| Agriculture and Forestry Committee | 86 | 11 | 30 |
| Defence Committee | 60 | 5 | 7 |
| Education and Culture Committee | 88 | 9 | 14 |
| Social Affairs and Health Committee | 80 | 27 | 22 |
| Commerce Committee | 105 | 15 | 47 |
| Committee for the Future | 36 | 0 | 6 |
| Employment and Equality Committee | 74 | 7 | 20 |
| Environment Committee | 77 | 8 | 16 |
| Total (including subcommittees) | 1,523 | 219 | 288 |

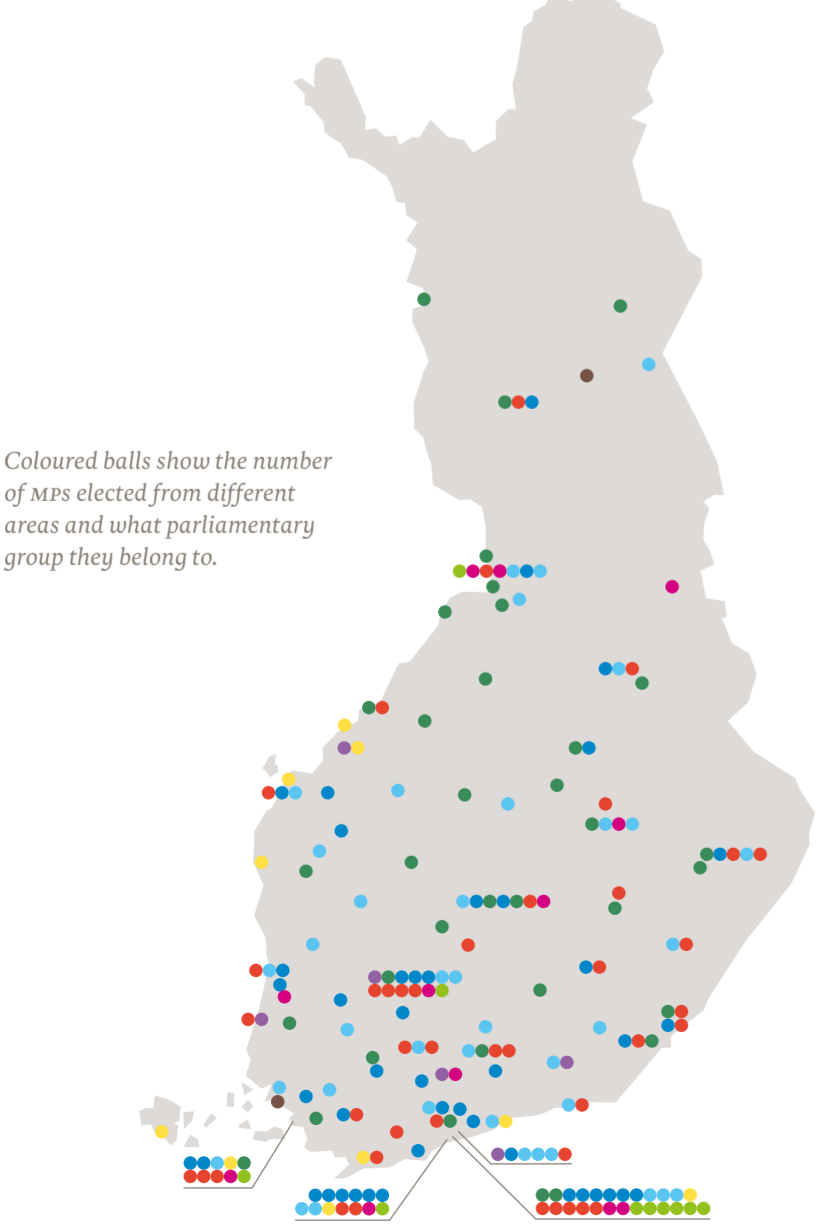
* The Finance Committee generally prepares matters in eight subcommittees. These held the following number of meetings: Administration and Security Subcommittee 35, Tax Subcommittee 73, Education and Science Subcommittee 33, Agriculture Subcommittee 26, Communications Subcommittee 46, Employment and the Economy Subcommittee 29, Municipal and Health Affairs Subcommittee 26, Housing and Environment Subcommittee 28.



- National Coalition Party Parliamentary Group
- The Social Democratic Parliamentary Group
- The Finns Party Parliamentary Group
- Centre Party Parliamentary Group
- Left Alliance Parliamentary Group
- Green Parliamentary Group
- Swedish Parliamentary Group*
- Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group
- Left Faction Parliamentary Group**

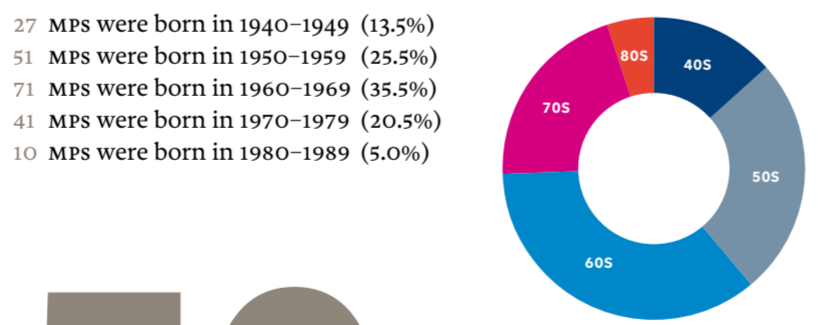
* The Swedish Parliamentary Group consists of MPs of the Swedish People's Party in Finland as well as the MP from the Åland electoral district.
 ** Two Left Alliance MPs left the parliamentary group in 2011 to form an own parliamentary group called the Left Faction.

MPS' HOME MUNICIPALITIES



Coloured balls show the number of MPs elected from different areas and what parliamentary group they belong to.

MPS' AGE DISTRIBUTION



50
 MPS' average age is 50. The oldest MP is Kauko Tuupainen (born 1940) and the youngest is Olli Immonen (born 1986).

LONGEST-SERVING MPS / YEARS IN PARLIAMENT

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>Ilkka Kanerva</i> (National Coalition Party) | 38 |
| <i>Mauri Pekkarinen</i> (Centre Party) | 34 |
| <i>Pertti Salolainen</i> (National Coalition Party) | 34 |
| <i>Ben Zyskovicz</i> (National Coalition Party) | 34 |
| <i>Jouko Skinnari</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 33 |
| <i>Erkki Tuomioja</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 32 |
| <i>Kari Rajamäki</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 30 |
| <i>Kimmo Sasi</i> (National Coalition Party) | 30 |
| <i>Sirkka-Liisa Anttila</i> (Centre Party) | 28 |
| <i>Jukka Gustafsson</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 26 |
| <i>Seppo Kääriäinen</i> (Centre Party) | 26 |
| <i>Jouni Backman</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 22 |
| <i>Timo Kalli</i> (Centre Party) | 22 |
| <i>Martti Korhonen</i> (Left Alliance) | 22 |
| <i>Johannes Koskinen</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 22 |
| <i>Matti Saarinen</i> (Social Democratic Party) | 22 |

The list includes MPs who have served in Parliament for more than 20 years.

9/44/2

There are nine parliamentary groups in Parliament, with 44 members in the largest and 2 in the smallest.

MPS BY GENDER

114 MPs are men and 86 are women. Women's share is thus 43 per cent.

Finland's first women MPs were elected in 1907. There were 19 of them or 11 per cent of the total at that time.



43
 43 per cent of MPs are women.

MPS' SALARIES

MPS' starting pay is currently 6,335 euros a month. After three terms the figure rises to 6,811. The Speaker receives 11,675 euros a month. This is taxable income.

In addition MPs receive taxfree compensation for expenses ranging from 990 to 1,810 euros a month, depending on where they live and whether they have a second home in the Helsinki metropolitan area.

6335
 MPS' pay is 6,335 euros a month.

A three-person remuneration committee appointed by the Speakers decides on MPS' pay. The chair from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2012 was Pekka Tuomioja, with Maj-Len Remahl and Seppo Riski serving as members.

SEATS IN THE PARLIAMENT BY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP



* True Finns changed their English name into The Finns Party in August 2011.
 ** The number includes the MP elected from the Åland electoral district as an independent.

RESULTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON 17 APRIL 2011 AND NUMBER OF SEATS BY PARTY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| National Coalition Party | 44 |
| Social Democratic Party of Finland | 42 |
| True Finns | 39 |
| Center Party of Finland | 35 |
| Left Alliance | 14 |
| Green League | 10 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland | 9 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland | 6 |
| Others (Electoral district of Åland) | 1 |