

ENGLISH

PARLIAMENT
of FINLAND
2011



Following an amendment of the Election Act, the spring 2011 parliamentary elections were held in April instead of March. Owing to the elections the 2010 session of Parliament continued well into 2011. The final session of the electoral term did not end until 12 April.

In the elections that were held on Sunday, 17 April, parties' relative strengths changed. The National Coalition Party became the largest parliamentary group with 44 MPs. The Social Democrats lost some support but still came in second with 42 seats. The biggest surprise was the Finns Party, whose parliamentary group rose from five MPs in the previous elections to 39. This change was the biggest in Finland's political history.

The Centre Party, which won the most seats in 2007, came in fourth in the 2011 elections with 35 seats. The Left Alliance won 14, the Greens 10, the Swedish People's Party 9 and the Christian Democrats 6 seats. The MP elected from Åland belongs to the Swedish Parliamentary Group as an independent.

New MPs numbered 84, although nine of these had served as MPs earlier. The number of women MPs rose to 85, an all-time high.

The election results were confirmed on 20 April and MPs' mandates were checked in Parliament on Tuesday, 26 April 2011.

The next day *Ben Zyskowicz* (National Coalition Party) was elected as Speaker, *Jutta Urpilainen* (Social Democratic Party) as First Deputy Speaker and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* (Finns Party) as Second Deputy Speaker. As the oldest MP, *Kauko Tuupainen* (Finns Party) chaired the plenary session until the speakers were elected.

Lengthy government negotiations

On the same day as the speakers' election, 27 April 2011, the parliamentary groups entrusted the chairman of the National Coalition Party, MP *Jyrki Katainen*, with the task of forming a government. Katainen sent the parliamentary groups a list of questions to determine parties' attitudes towards major issues in the electoral term.

On April 28 the opening of Parliament took place and Prime Minister *Mari Kiviniemi* (Centre Party) submitted the outgoing Government's resignation to the President of the Republic.

The government negotiations proved unusually complex, with parties failing to reach an agreement on economic policy in the coming years or support for

crisis countries in the euro zone, among other things. On 12 May 2011 the Finns Party announced that it would remain in the opposition. Subsequently negotiations went on in different compositions for over a month, including all the other parties.

Negotiators representing the National Coalition Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Left Alliance, the Greens, the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats reached an agreement on a government programme on 17 June. Parliament elected *Jyrki Katainen* as Prime Minister on Wednesday, 22 June, just before Midsummer.

Once the government base had been decided, the parliamentary groups agreed on the division of ministerial posts and other important tasks. The composition of the Speaker's Council was also changed, with *Eero Heinäluoma* (Social Democratic Party) being elected as Speaker, *Pekka Ravi* (National Coalition Party) as First Deputy Speaker and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* (Finns Party) as Second Deputy Speaker on 23 June. According to established practice the Prime Minister comes from the largest party following elections and the Speaker from the second largest party. The First Deputy Speaker comes from the Prime Minister's



On June 23 *Eero Heinäluoma* (in the middle) was elected Speaker of Parliament, *Pekka Ravi* (right) as First Deputy Speaker and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* (left) as Second Deputy Speaker.

party and the Second Deputy Speaker from the third largest party.

Parliament approved the government programme on Thursday, 30 June 2011. Two members of the Left Alliance voted against the Government and were consequently expelled from their parliamentary group. As a result the number of parliamentary groups increased by one compared with the situation before the elections, with the two MPs forming a new parliamentary group called the *Left Faction* in the autumn.

Attention focused on the euro crisis throughout the year

The euro crisis kept Parliament busy throughout the year, particularly in the Grand Committee, which is responsible for EU matters, but also in the Commerce Committee, the Finance Committee and the Constitutional Law Committee. The first decision on support for euro countries was made by Parliament in May, before a new government was formed. On 25 May

the plenary session approved a loan guarantee for Portugal required to raise funds for the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF).

In the autumn Parliament approved an increase in Finland's EFSF commitments to 14 billion euros. Later on it was found that the justifications in the government proposal had not clearly stated whether interest was included in the total. After a statement from the Constitutional Law Committee, the Government revised its proposal, which was reconsidered at the beginning of the 2012 session of Parliament.

In November the Finns Party submitted an interpellation concerning the euro crisis. The first interpellation in the autumn was submitted by the Centre Party and concerned ensuring municipal services.

Citizens' initiative introduced

A reform of the Constitution that was set in motion during the last electoral term was brought to completion after the elections. According to the Constitution

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS 1995-2011

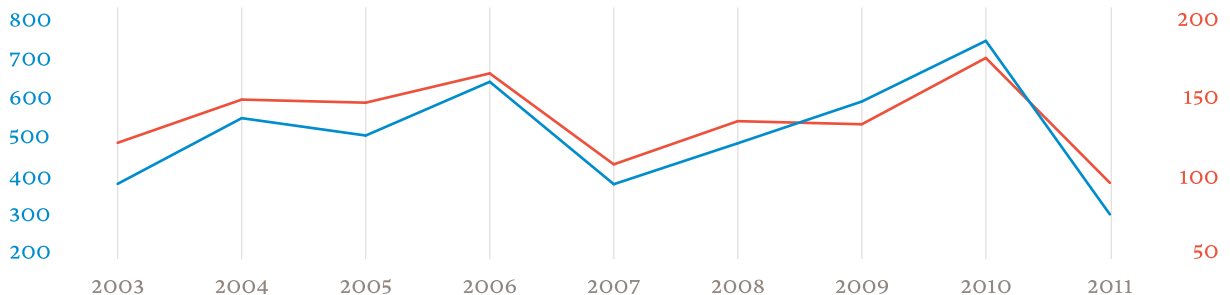
- The first annual session of the electoral period
- The second annual session of the electoral period
- The third annual session of the electoral period
- The fourth annual session of the electoral period

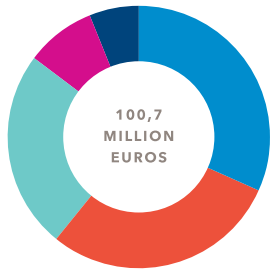


TOTAL NUMBER OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND THEIR TOTAL DURATION 2003-2011

HOURS

SESSIONS





PARLIAMENT'S EXPENSES 2011 (MILLION EUROS)

● MPs, their assistants and parliamentary groups	32
● Staff expenses	29,5
● Renovation and estate expenses	24,6
● Information management expenses	8,5
● Other expenses	6,1

PARLIAMENT'S EXPENSES 2011: total 100,7 million euros

amendments must be left in abeyance until after an election unless an amendment is declared urgent and approved by a five-sixths majority of votes.

Parliament approved amendments to the Constitution on 21 October 2011. The amendments reduce the President's powers and improve citizens' participatory rights by introducing a new citizens' initiative.

The Act on Citizens' Initiatives was approved at the beginning of December and entered into force on 1 March 2012. An initiative for new legislation can be submitted to Parliament if it is signed by at least 50,000 Finnish citizens who are entitled to vote.

In addition to the state budget and three supplementary budgets, during the autumn term Parliament approved Finland's accession to the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines and an extension of VAT to newspapers and magazines. The state budget totalled 52.5 billion euros. Appropriations were increased by 40.4 million euros during parliamentary handling of the budget. The largest increases were made in the main title of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

MPS' work is international

Finnish MPs are active in numerous international parliamentary organizations, in addition to which bilateral visits are arranged between parliaments. In 2011 Parliament appointed nine delegations to multilateral international organizations:

- Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council
- Finnish Delegation to the Council of Europe

- Finnish Delegation to the OCSE 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 price of democracy: €18.65 per citizen

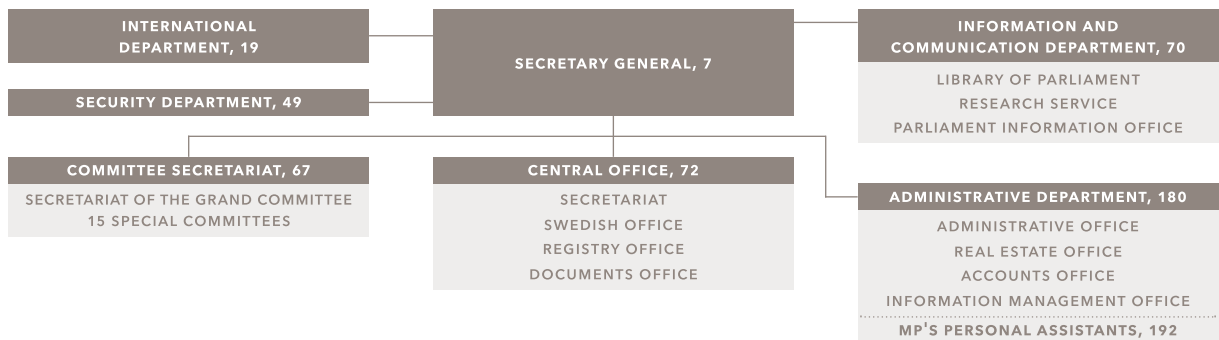
In addition to MPs and their assistants, Parliament employs 460 people. Among this number are lawyers, carpenters, secretaries, records clerks, custodians, data processors, librarians, security personnel and computer technicians.

Two-thirds of the employees of the Parliamentary Office are women. The largest category of personnel is cleaners, who must attend to 47,100 square metres of floor space.

Parliament's expenses totalled €100.7 million last year. This comes to €18.65 per citizen. The figure the year before was €18.10.

The Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure includes personnel, real estate and information management costs. Parliament's total costs also include MPs', their assistants' and political groups' costs. Figures do not include VAT or the costs of organs oper-

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE: PERSONNEL



ating 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 2011 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), *Leena Rauhala* (Christian Democratic Party) and *Erkki Virtanen* (Left Alliance).

Renovation of the Parliament buildings continues

All of Parliament's buildings except for the Little Parliament annex will be renovated in 2007–2017. In 2011 work was completed on the office wing between the main building and Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu. Underground facilities were excavated and preparations were made for the next stages in the project. In 2011 an agreement was also reached so that Parliament can hold plenary sessions in the Sibelius Academy's facilities during the renovation of the Parliament Building in 2015–16.

Members of the Government appointed by the President of the Republic on 22 June 2011:

- 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 Democratic Party)
- Minister of Defence *Stefan Wallin* (Swedish People's 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 *Jyri Häkämies* (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)

TYPE OF THE MATTER / YEAR

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Government proposals	181	236	289	336	151
Government reports	3	8	9	11	2
Government statements	1	–	2	2	2
Interpellations	1	3	3	6	2
Prime Minister's announcements	4	1	2	5	2
Union matters	52	86	90	73	84
Legislative motions	145	137	127	140	60
Petitionary motions	64	78	91	149	30
Budgetary motions	1069	1088	1109	1147	551
Supplementary budgetary motions	40	115	84	130	1
Written questions	637	1066	119	1436	499

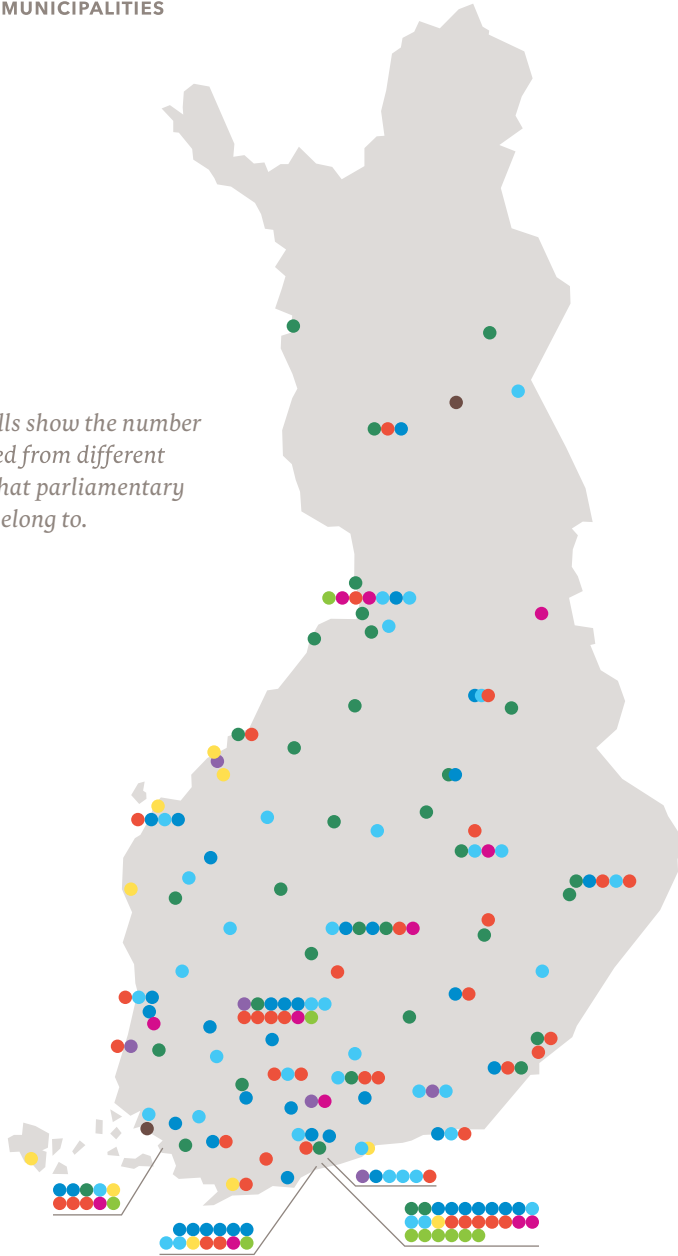
THE COMMITTEES HELD THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND
DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF REPORTS AND STATEMENTS IN THE 2011 SESSION:

2011 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION	MEETINGS	REPORTS	STATEMENTS
Grand Committee	54	1	10
Constitutional Law Committee	58	7	25
Foreign Affairs Committee	47	2	3
Finance Committee*	43	26	8
Audit Committee	33	5	5
Administration Committee	50	8	29
Legal Affairs Committee	46	12	23
Transport and Communications Committee	56	17	16
Agriculture and Forestry Committee	52	11	20
Defence Committee	38	3	5
Education and Culture Committee	43	5	11
Social Affairs and Health Committee	40	18	15
Commerce Committee	63	11	28
Committee for the Future	27	–	3
Employment and Equality Committee	46	4	9
Environment Committee	40	1	14
TOTAL (including subcommittees)	920	131	224

* The Finance Committee generally prepares matters in eight subcommittees. These held the following number of meetings: Administration and Security Subcommittee 27, Tax Subcommittee 37, Education and Science Subcommittee 21, Agriculture Subcommittee 22, Communications Subcommittee 22, Employment and the Economy Subcommittee 20, Municipal and Health Affairs Subcommittee 22, Housing and Environment Subcommittee 19.

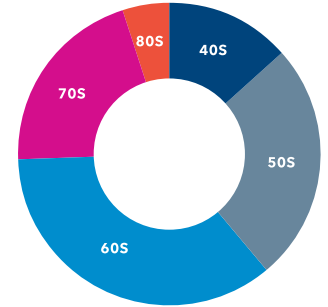
MPS' HOME MUNICIPALITIES

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



MPS' AGE DISTRIBUTION

- 27 MPs were born in 1940–1949 (13.5%)
- 51 MPs were born in 1950–1959 (25.5%)
- 71 MPs were born in 1960–1969 (35.5%)
- 41 MPs were born in 1970–1979 (20.5%)
- 10 MPs were born in 1980–1989 (5.0%)



49

MPs' average age is 49. The oldest MP is Kauko Tuupainen (born 1940) and the youngest is Olli Immonen (born 1986).

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 is Pekka Tuomisto, with Maj-Len Remahl and Seppo Riski serving as members.

LONGEST-SERVING MPS / YEARS IN PARLIAMENT

<i>Ilkka Kanerva</i> (National Coalition Party)	37
<i>Mauri Pekkarinen</i> (Centre Party)	33
<i>Pertti Salolainen</i> (National Coalition Party)	33
<i>Ben Zyskowitz</i> (National Coalition Party)	33
<i>Jouko Skinnari</i> (Social Democratic Party)	32
<i>Erkki Tuomioja</i> (Social Democratic Party)	31
<i>Kari Rajamäki</i> (Social Democratic Party)	29
<i>Kimmo Sasi</i> (National Coalition Party)	29
<i>Sirkka-Liisa Anttila</i> (Centre Party)	27
<i>Jukka Gustafsson</i> (Social Democratic Party)	25
<i>Seppo Kääriäinen</i> (Centre Party)	25
<i>Jouni Backman</i> (Social Democratic Party)	21
<i>Timo Kalli</i> (Centre Party)	21
<i>Martti Korhonen</i> (Left Alliance)	21
<i>Johannes Koskinen</i> (Social Democratic Party)	21
<i>Matti Saarinen</i> (Social Democratic Party)	21

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.



PARLIAMENT
OF FINLAND

MPS' BY GENDER

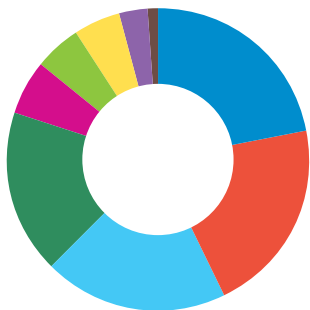
115 MPs are men and 85 are women.
Women's share is thus 43 per cent.

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.

SEATS IN THE PARLIAMENT BY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP



● National Coalition Party Parliamentary Group	44
● The Social Democratic Parliamentary Group	42
● The Finns Party Parliamentary Group	39 *
● Centre Party Parliamentary Group	35
● Left Alliance Parliamentary Group	12
● Green Parliamentary Group	10
● Swedish Parliamentary Group	10 **
● Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group	6
● Left Faction Parliamentary Group	2

* 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



- 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 August to form an own parliamentary group called the *Left Faction*.