



9th SESSION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT, JUNE 16–17, 2017

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, HELSINKI

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION

1. Opening of the plenary session

The Speaker Jarmo Virmavirta opened the 9th session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament – its 20th anniversary session – at 9.05 am and welcomed the delegates, observers and invited guests. The Parliament Secretary explained the channels used for interpretation (English, Swedish, Finnish). The Speaker announced that the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Ms **Maria Lohela**, had arrived.

2. Letter from the President of the Republic of Finland

The Speaker read aloud **President of the Republic Sauli Niinistö's** letter to the session and to expatriate Finns. The representatives of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament had collected this letter from the President of the Republic's residence in Kultaranta the day before. The letter is annexed to these minutes. (Annex 1)

3. Opening address by the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Maria Lohela, in honor of the occasion

The opening address is annexed to these minutes. (Annex 2)

4. Address by the Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, Jarmo Virmavirta

The Speaker thanked the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament for her kind words and for emphasizing the importance of the session. The Speaker proposed that before starting the session we would pay our respect to the late President of the Republic **Mauno Koivisto** by having a moment of silence (the audience stood up).

The Speaker's address is annexed to these minutes. (Annex 3)

The Speaker continued by announcing that there were several persons present in this session who also took part in the first session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament 20 years ago. He asked these persons to stand up to receive applause. **Ilkka-Christian Björklund**, who created the whole idea, especially deserved to be applauded. (About 20 people stood up.) The Speaker invited the representatives of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament's regions to give their views on the activities of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

5. Speeches by the Deputy Speakers

1. **Risto Söder**, Deputy Speaker, Australia and Asia:

The Deputy Speaker brought greetings from Australia and Asia. In 1997, the founders of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament did not know what the forms and policies of the activities would



look like. These took form during the first years. It was also not yet known how this unique activity would be received by the Finnish government. Today, 530 associations from 39 countries are involved in the activities. A close relationship has been successfully established with the Finnish government. We do not only advocate for improved benefits for expatriate Finns, we also want to contribute to developing the entire Finnish society. People from the FEP are Finland's ambassadors in the world, promoting the brand of Finland. We are grateful to the ministers in many cabinets, as well as to civil servants and Members of Parliament for the co-operation between the Finnish government and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament that has evolved over the years.

2. **Satu Mikkola**, Deputy Speaker, USA and Latin America:

The Deputy Speaker brought greetings from the region of the USA and Latin America. The USA is going through a historically challenging period, where any day may bring with it unexpected and surprising events. In the United States, Finns are eagerly waiting to have a right to vote by post at a national election. The FEP has been working on the postal voting project for more than 15 years. We are very happy that the bill will be handled by the Finnish Parliament in the autumn of 2017 so that it would enter into force in the spring of 2019, starting from the parliamentary election, and thus making it easier for expatriate Finns to fulfill their duties as citizens. Long distances to polling stations have made it difficult for expatriate Finns to vote, but judging from the experiences of a corresponding situation in Sweden, after the law takes force and postal voting can start, Finns may also expect a rise in voter turnout. Recent problems in postal services are a concern, but it is hoped that the situation will be remedied by the bill on postal services that is currently being handled by the Finnish Parliament.

Increasing the use of mobile passport units continues to be a topical matter in countries where people have to travel long distances to embassies and general consulates in order to have their passports renewed. The aim is to increase the mobility and use of mobile passport units and thereby make it easier to apply for a Finnish passport.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Finnish independence is a visible part of the program for expatriate Finns in 2017. There is a great variety of programs on offer. The financial aid received from the Finnish government through the Finland Society has been very important for our Finland 100 projects. In the United States, the Finlandia Foundation National encourages Finland 100 projects and provides financial support to many of them, having listed as many as around 200 Finland 100 events related to the anniversary theme "Yhdessä – Together". Thank you.

3. **Veli Niinimaa**, Deputy Speaker, Canada: The Speaker announced that as Veli Niinimaa was unable to attend, **Niilo Saari** would speak on his behalf:

Niilo Saari said it was an honor and pleasure for him to bring the greetings from Canada, as both Deputy Speaker **Veli Niinimaa** and his alternate **Maarit Koivunen** were unable to attend. This year, Canada is celebrating the country's 150th anniversary. Under the auspices of this celebration, the Premier of Ontario sent a congratulatory letter to the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. I would like to thank **Juha Mynttinen** for organizing this. **Kathleen Wynne** writes: *"In recognition of this unique celebrational occasion and in acknowledgement of the diligent work of the Finnish citizens and government in providing national and global contributions to science, arts and culture, innovation and technology, I am privileged to have the opportunity to work with and learn from the Finnish community of Ontario. Please accept my sincere congratulatory sentiments and wishes for happy festivities and continued success. Happy centennial anniversary. Kathleen Wynne, Premier."*

In Canada today, there are approximately 60 associations that belong to the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. We know of another 20 associations which have not used this opportunity. There are also 11 Suomi Schools in Canada. We are proud to have some of the oldest schools abroad. The *Toronto Finnish Language School* has especially been active for many years



already. We are happy and grateful for the encouragement and help that we have received from *Finland Society*, the secretariat of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

Canadian Finnish groups and communities are active in maintaining their identity. This very day in Sudbury, my hometown, Finns are celebrating the GrandFest, and I am sending them my greetings. Up to 1,000–3,000 people from America, and also from Finland, are expected to participate in the GrandFest. Finland Society's newsletter *Sutinat* is an important tool for us, and we distribute it all over Canada. **Veli Niinimaa** organizes the English version of the newsletter. The newsletter helps us reach out to the large number of Finns who are not involved in associations. Thank you.

4. **Barbro Allardt Ljunggren**, Deputy Speaker, Swedish Finns around the world:

I will mainly be speaking Swedish, but I will briefly summarize what I have to say in Finnish, because I heard that not enough receivers are available for listening to interpretation. Like Risto, I will begin with history.

I want to begin with history. It could by no means be taken for granted that the Finnish Expatriate Parliament would be such a success as it has been. **Ilkka-Christian Björklund**, who is present here today, created the original idea in his article in the *Finland Bridge* magazine in 1995. Many people from *Finland Society* are present here: **Paula Selenius** and many others who have made it possible for it all to work so well. **Kalevi Sorsa** is, unfortunately, no longer with us, but as the first Speaker of the Parliament he was very important, and it was he who made sure that we were given the possibility to present our resolutions to the Prime Minister after each session. We should be very proud and grateful for what all of us have achieved. In other words, it was not something that could be taken for granted that, after twenty years, we are still here and that the Finnish Expatriate Parliament has worked so well.

The other thing I want to take up is postal voting, which you know my region has been working to achieve. I am extremely grateful that we are finally going to have the possibility to vote by post in national elections. I hope it is going to encourage the Finnish political parties to care more about expatriate Finns and to direct their election campaigns to us and to also give more consideration to the matters relevant to us.

In other words, I am very happy about the possibility of postal voting and I also hope that political parties will care about expatriate Finns, that they will campaign in our regions and that they will give more consideration to things that are important to us.

The third point is a matter that, unfortunately, due to unfortunate circumstances, did not turn into a motion from our region. Two associations were working on it. It concerns a cultural political program for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. I know **Rabbe Sandell** is going to take up the matter in his speech. I appeal to you to consider his request in accordance with 8§ of the Standing Order. According to this article, it is possible to decide to include urgent matters in the agenda during the session. The idea is simply that the Speakers would be tasked with preparing, by the next session, a cultural political program for this parliament to be decided upon at the next session. This requires, however, that we can take it up already now in the Cultural Committee.

In other words, our region is requesting that a motion, which, unfortunately, did not arrive in time, would be included in the agenda with reference to 8§ of the Standing Order – according to which, during the general debate, a decision can be made on including an urgent matter in the agenda. The topic of this motion would be a cultural political program to be prepared by the time of the next session. The matter is only urgent because these sessions take place at intervals of 2–3 years. The [Government] Policy Program for Expatriate Finns, of course, includes matters concerning schools and identity, but not much else. For this reason, we hope you will consider this matter favorably.

Thank you.

5. **Katia Brunetto**, Deputy Speaker, Southern Europe, Africa and the Middle East:

The Speaker announced first that Katia Brunetto is linked to a very special matter, namely the awarding of the *Expatriate Finn of the Year*. This year, the Finland Society's Board decided to



nominate Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu) as the *Expatriate Finn of the Year*. In practice, this means that all Finnish language schools will receive an honorary diploma. Katia Brunetto functions as a teacher in a Finnish language school and joined us yesterday for a visit to the President of the Republic and Mrs **Jenni Haukio**. During the visit, Mrs Haukio presented the first honorary diploma to Katia Brunetto to be put up in the rooms of the Suomi-koulu of Florence, Italy.

This year, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence. During the anniversary year, Finland will receive a lot of publicity in different events all over the world, and we should make use of this to promote the kind of image of Finland that we like. Education is one thing that always interests people from other countries and that Finland is known for. There are several Finnish language schools offering the comprehensive school curriculum, and as Finns become increasingly mobile, the number of students in these schools keeps increasing. In addition, there are approximately 140 Finnish language schools in different countries, offering complementary tuition in the Finnish language and culture to more than 4,000 students all over the world.

During the 20-year journey of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, Finnish language schools have become an extremely important topic for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, which works for them every year. The budget cuts of recent years have also had an impact on the funding of the Finnish language schools. This year, however, the amount distributed as state aid to Finnish language schools is larger than ever. For this, we are grateful to the Finnish Parliament, which annually increases the state aid by an additional appropriation. However, the number of Finnish language schools is growing all the time. Therefore, in the long run, it would be necessary to increase the state aid permanently, in particular as it has been indicated every year that this is what the Finnish Parliament wishes to happen.

The significance of the Finnish language schools is also evidenced by the fact that the Finnish National Agency for Education published a recommendation for a curriculum for Finnish language schools, providing important support for their teachers all over the world. To celebrate this anniversary, Finland Society decided to honor the Finnish language schools by awarding them the title of the Expatriate Finn of 2017, which was solemnly presented to us yesterday by the Spouse of the President of the Republic, Mrs **Jenni Haukio**.

The number of senior citizens living abroad increases as expatriate Finns age and Finns relocate to other countries after retirement. This makes different services for seniors and aging-related problems abroad increasingly topical. On the other hand, it means that support is needed for expatriate Finns returning to Finland on their retirement.

As the number of expatriate Finns in our region increases, the availability of social services has become increasingly important. When problems arise, expatriate Finns often turn to the Finnish communities in their region for help, but these communities do not necessarily possess the required expertise or resources.

The expatriate Finnish population is heterogeneous and has very diverse needs, and it is the duty of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament to help and represent all expatriate Finns. It is also important that expatriate Finns co-operate amongst themselves and work for shared goals. This year, we have an excellent opportunity to do just that, as the theme of the Finland 100 celebration suggests: Together. So, let us work together to make this a great anniversary year for all Finns.

6. **Kati Hognes**, Deputy Speaker, Central Europe:

Among the regions of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, Central Europe is very large, and still growing. There is a lot of mobility to Central Europe and back. There are dozens of Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu) in our region, and they play a significant role in maintaining the language skills of returning expatriates. Keeping up the language skills of children who reside abroad temporarily benefits the children themselves but also Finland, when the children do not need special support with the language on returning to Finland. For children who reside abroad permanently, Finnish language schools are important not only for keeping up the language but also for finding and maintaining their Finnish identity. The ordinary Finnish comprehensive schools operating abroad also give their important contribution, and it is vital that Finland



secures the necessary resources for them. As there is a particularly large number of Finnish language schools in our region, we organize annual Suomi-koulu seminars, where teachers can network and exchange ideas.

Correspondingly, we organize annual Senior Seminars to discuss the challenges facing the aging population. There is a large aging population in Central Europe. For them, flexible possibilities to apply for passports as well as postal voting are even more important than for the rest of us.

We are grateful that postal voting is finally going to become reality.

We also hope for improvements regarding the unreasonably long journeys required to apply for a passport. This could be achieved, for example, by increasing the number of mobile passport units. As both the number of expatriate Finns and their importance for Finland are constantly growing, the FEP's Central European region is strongly in favor of enshrining the status of the FEP in legislation [original wording: 'legalizing']. That is a natural next step towards securing the operations of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. Thank you.

7. Wladimir Kokko, Deputy Speaker, Eastern Europe:

In the Kaivopuisto Park (Brunnsparken) in Helsinki, there is a large fir tree. Under this tree, there is a memorial stone with an engraving saying that the tree was planted when Finland's independence was declared. This is a fantastic symbol of a changing and developing Finland. It goes without saying that everything happening right now in the work concerning expatriate Finns is dedicated to the anniversary of Finland's independence. But in the middle of all the celebrations, we should, from time to time, stop and consider what an independent Finland means to us all. What would happen to the Finnish language without an independent Finland? What would be the status of expatriate Finns in the world if we did not have the famous Finnish history and culture supporting us but just a certain "westernmost province"? I think the anniversary is a suitable time to stop and think about this.

I have been representing the associations in Eastern Europe, Russia and Estonia in the Speaker's Council of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament for three terms, or seven years. During this time, significant changes have happened in the lives of expatriate Finns in Eastern Europe. June 1st of last year marked the end of the so-called repatriation system for Ingrian Finns, which was initiated by President **Mauno Koivisto**, who passed away recently. One dramatic result of this system is the fact that, today, the number one place of residence of Ingrian Finns in the world is – surprise – Finland. About 25,000 people of Finnish origin have moved to Finland mostly from Russia and Estonia. Back in Ingria, there are approximately 7,000 Ingrian Finns left; the same amount resides in Estonia, and even fewer in Carelia around Petrozavodsk. In Estonia, the number of Finnish Finns is increasing. Their number is now as great as that of Ingrian Finns. I believe that my successor in the Speakers' Council, who comes from Estonia, will take this fact seriously and will be able to establish a fruitful co-operation between the associations belonging to the association of Ingrian Finns in Estonia (Viron Inkerinsuomalaisten liitto) and the Finland Societies in Estonia. This is a new challenge in the activities of expatriate Finns in Eastern Europe.

I understand that Ingrian Finns have quite specific problems, which are different from those of other expatriate Finns. We are grateful to all of you for always accepting us as equals. We have always felt your solidarity, and our initiatives have always been adopted in the FEP's sessions. We can be proud of the fact that, thanks to the FEP, among others, we were able to preserve a permanent right of repatriation to those Ingrian Finns who were evacuated to Finland during the Continuation War, and of the fact that vocational education and university studies in Finland are still available, free of charge, to those foreigners coming from outside the EU who can pursue their studies in Finnish.

The expatriate Finnish communities in Eastern Europe consider the issue of enshrining the status of our FEP in legislation to be very topical. Such a law would guarantee the future of the FEP. This would benefit not only the Finnish Expatriate Parliament but also the Finnish government. Don't people in Finland want to know what happens to one and a half million Finns? How will 300,000 people be able to exercise their right to vote? The Finnish Expatriate Parliament is a direct link both from us to Finland and from Finland to us, and can open up



pathways for both marketing and, for example, cultural exchange. The slogan of the anniversary of Finland's independence is "Together". I think the same slogan would be suitable to describe the continued activities of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. We will achieve our aims together, and together with Finnish authorities. Thank you and have a good anniversary!

8. **Seija Sjöstedt**, Deputy Speaker, Northern Europe:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament functions as an advocate and as a link towards Finnish society, and we, expatriate Finns, contribute to building the image of Finland abroad. Many excellent reforms have been achieved over the past years, and good, important things will certainly arise from this session to be promoted in the future. The increasing co-operation between the Nordic countries is valuable to us. In Sweden, we are a national minority, and there is a law which should guarantee the possibility for us to keep up the Finnish language and culture. Without voluntary work, without Finnish schools and associations in Sweden, we would not be able to go forward.

It is only through persistent work and perseverance and by working together that we can promote things and maintain our language and culture in a country where Finnish has been spoken from time immemorial.

Finland itself is made visible around the world, largely thanks to the efforts of active expatriate Finns. In Sweden, one of the most important events was organized in the Stockholm City Hall. The Blue Hall, known as the venue of the Nobel Prize banquet, was filled with four generations of Finns residing in Sweden. Children from the Finnish Parish in Stockholm sang: "*Myö se ollaan, myö se ollaan, tämän kylän pienintä väkkee, meitä pitää olla paljon, että meidät näkkee*" (It is us, it is us, the smallest folk in this village, we must be many so you can see us).

I have been thinking about these lyrics, about how well they describe our situation. We expatriates are the "smallest folk" in the respective societies in which we live but also here in Finland. That is why we have to work together and join forces to promote things that are important for us. And that is exactly what we are doing now, through the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, whose status should be enshrined in law. 'Together' is a good word when it becomes more than just a word. Together we can achieve things, and together we can congratulate the Finnish Expatriate Parliament for its 20 years, the *Finland Society* for its 90 years, and Finland for its 100 years. Thank you.

Speaker Virmavirta adjourned the session at 10.10 am for practical arrangements and said that after a break of 15 minutes, the Secretariat would make the updated lists of delegates with the right to vote available for scrutiny both on the screens and on paper.

6. **Report by the Secretariat on the activities of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament**

Speaker Virmavirta resumed the session at 10.25 pm. He introduced **Tina Strandberg**, the Executive Director of the Finland Society. The Secretariat's report on activities in 2015–2017 had been sent to the participants and is also available on the FEP's website (www.usp.fi > Session 2017).

Ms Strandberg started her speech by showing the video greetings from the Finnish language school (Suomi-koulu) of Tokyo to celebrate Finland's 100th anniversary. (The video) Finnish language schools are an example of how the Finnish language and culture are maintained abroad. Ms Strandberg described how Finland's 100th anniversary was being celebrated and how the Suomi 100 Maaillalla network (Finland 100 Worldwide) operates. The advocacy work and persistent efforts of the Secretariat are examples of how Finland is well equipped to become a pioneer in managing the affairs of its expatriate citizens. This requires sufficient resources to secure the continuity of the activities of Finland



Society and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. Examples of how the activities will be developed in the near future include making more efficient use of digitalization and reforming communications.

The speech by the Secretariat is annexed to these minutes. (Annex 4)

7. Summary of new motions for resolutions

The Parliament Secretary **Ms Sini Castrén** presented the initiatives submitted to the Secretariat to be discussed by the 9th session and explained how they had been distributed to the different committees, as well as described the interpreting arrangements and working hours for the committees (on June 16, 1–5 pm and where necessary, on June 17, 8–8.45 am) and the discussion on the proposals for resolutions in the plenary (on June 17 at 11.30 am). (Annex 5)

8. Calling the plenary session to order

8.1. Confirming the associations and delegates participating in the session, recording the presence of observers

A list of the delegates and observers participating in the session was distributed to the participants. The Speaker proposed that as the list of the associations and delegates registered for the session was still being verified, it would be adopted in the afternoon. The proposal was adopted. A total of **186** representatives of expatriate Finnish communities with a right to vote in the session were in attendance, representing a total of **193 communities**. The presence of **74** observers from these communities was recorded. The final list of participants is annexed to these minutes, including a total of 260 delegates and observers. (Annex 6)

8.2. Adoption of the agenda

The session agenda is available in the folders distributed to the participants. The session agenda was adopted.

8.3. Decisions concerning the committees

It was decided that for the duration of the session, the Study and Training Committee would be divided into two parts, indicated by the Roman numbers I and II. The Information and Financial Committees shall be combined for the duration of the session. The motion for a resolution on the FEP's accounts and budget will be transferred from the Financial Committee to the Statutory Committee, because it has statutory implications. The Speaker said that the delegates had registered for the committees in advance and that the session folders included the matters to be handled by the committees, a map of committee meeting rooms, as well as the names of the summoner and secretary of each committee.

The Speaker invited the following persons to act as the summoners of the committees



1. Committee for Political and Official Issues: Ossi Rahkonen (United States)
2. Citizenship Committee: Satu Mikkola (United States)
3. Senior Committee: Satu Oldendorff (Germany)
4. Social Committee: Seija Noppa (Sweden)
5. Study and Training Committee I: Pia Godderis (Germany)
6. Study and Training Committee II: Hilikka Asteljoki (Spain)
7. Cultural Committee: Päivi Oksi-Walter (Finland)
8. Information and Financial Committee: Risto Söder (Australia)
9. Statutory Committee: Voitto Visuri (Sweden)

Delegate **Barbro Allardt Ljunggren** asked that, before taking a final decision on the committees, the session would refer the motion signed by Rabbe Sandell on behalf of his association, which was submitted to the Secretariat after the deadline, to the Cultural Committee. The motion is about tasking the Speakers' Council with preparing a cultural political program for the FEP to be presented at the next session. Article 8 of the FEP's Standing Order allows the plenary session to refer an urgent motion directly to a committee. **The Speaker** said that the matter would be taken up in the general debate and could be decided upon at that point. All summoners were present and their nomination was adopted.

8.4. Election of the new Speakers' Council

According to the By-laws of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (Article 4), the plenary session will elect the Deputy Speakers and their alternates from among those candidates who have been nominated no later than in the regional meetings preceding the plenary. The following persons had been elected by the regions as Deputy Speakers for the FEP's eight regions and as their alternates, and the plenary session confirmed the following persons as members of the Speakers' Council for the term 2017–2020:

1. Australia and Asia: Deputy Speaker **Mikko Pekkala** (Australia), alternate **Risto Söder** (Australia)
2. USA and Latin America: Deputy Speaker **Hanna Wagner** (United States), alternate **Teuvo Pulkkinen** (United States)
3. Canada: Deputy Speaker **Veli Niinimaa** (Canada), alternate **Maarit Koivunen** (Canada). It was noted that Niinimaa and Koivunen were unable to attend.
4. Swedish Finns around the world: Deputy Speaker **Barbro Allardt Ljunggren** (Sweden), alternate **Alexandra Hibolin** (Sweden)
5. Southern Europe, Africa and the Middle East: Deputy Speaker **Katia Brunetto** (Italy), alternate **Marko Suomalainen** (Greece)
6. Central Europe: Deputy Speaker **Kati Hognes** (Belgium), alternate **Satu Oldendorff** (Germany)
7. Eastern Europe: Deputy Speaker **Sakari Neuvonen** (Estonia), alternate **Wladimir Kokko** (Russia)
8. Northern Europe: Deputy Speaker **Seija Sjöstedt** (Sweden), alternate **Josefin Gustafsson** (Sweden)



9. General plenary debate

Speaker Virmavirta opened the general debate. The maximum duration of comments was limited to 3 minutes. The following persons took the floor during the general debate:

Voitto Visuri (The National Association of Finns in Sweden, RSKL) A minority policy study was published yesterday in Sweden. In accordance with the Act on National Minorities and National Minority Languages, part of the municipalities are minority administrative areas. There is concern in Sweden about the status of the Swedish language in Finland. Finns in Sweden have always supported the status of Swedish-speaking Finns. The Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) has decided to study the minority status of Swedish-speaking Finns in Sweden. Thanks, congratulations, and greetings from Sweden to the Finland Society, the FEP, and Finnish decision makers for the support we have received. Congratulations to Finland. As Speaker Virmavirta wrote about history in the magazine Finland Bridge, Finns residing in Sweden did not earlier enjoy much recognition in the country.

Ossi Rahkonen (Finlandia Foundation National) extended FFN's congratulations to the Finland Society for its 90th anniversary and to the FEP for its 20th anniversary and pointed out that both had achieved a lot. A proposal for the future: as the largest association of Finns in America, FF represents 55 societies in the United States, having doubled its size in just over 10 years. The new members are mostly old associations. The problem is that people in the United States and in the associations are aging. There is little immigration and external migration; new growth comes from the Finnish-minded generations already residing in the country. In the beginning of the 2000's, the largest association was the *Finnish Center Association* in Michigan, with 1,500 members. Fifteen years later, there are 750 members with an average age of 80 years. Due to the cruise shipping business, Miami represents an exceptional growth sector. Ms. Allart Ljunggren's proposal regarding a youth program is interesting. Growth could be found in social media if it is given a role in the FEP, in the same way as FF could integrate it into its own activities. About the concept of "expatriate Finn" in English: 'Finns Abroad' has a wider coverage than 'expatriate Finn' and can offer a source of reform and growth for the future.

Rabbe Sandell (Föreningen Finlandssvenskar i Uppsala/the association of Swedish-speaking Finns in Uppsala) said that in the session two years ago, there was a motion to prepare a cultural political program. It was not discussed. This time he has written a new motion, which, for practical reasons, was not submitted to the Secretariat on time. He asked the plenary session to resolve to refer the motion to the Cultural Committee, which is possible according to article 8 of the FEP's Standing Order. In the motion, it is proposed that the FEP consider guidelines for a cultural political program in a working group to be established for this purpose, so that the working group could present a proposal for FEP's cultural political program in the next session (*creation of a cultural political program*). It could be decided today that such a cultural political program must be prepared.

Marita Cauthen (Raivaaja Foundation) spoke about the importance of a mobile passport unit for Finns residing in the United States. A passport application has to be submitted in person, which means that it is not very simple. You may need to travel thousands of kilometers and spend money on both travel and accommodation. More resources are needed to eliminate the problems related to mobility and the small number of mobile passport units.

Hilkka Asteljoki (the Patrons' Association of the Finnish School of Costa del Sol) said that the Finnish School of Costa del Sol is a Finnish comprehensive school that has operated for 25 years. A total of 360 students are enrolled in the fall term in all grades from primary school to upper secondary school, and there are 130 students on the waiting list. The Spanish Costa del Sol is not a migrant community. The community consists of working-age population, brought to the area by employers like Telia, Fortum, and Trafi. Their children study in a high-quality Finnish comprehensive school temporarily for a couple of years. However, the children are victims of bureaucracy: they must be domiciled in Finland and possess an extract from the Population Register. It can be purchased by approval from the Regional State Administrative Agency in Southern Finland. When the new interpretation of the enrollment rules was given, it was demanded that the school pay back over €600,000 for the years 2009–2011. The case was



appealed to the Supreme Administrative Court 3.5 years ago but still no ruling has been given. The other five Finnish comprehensive schools abroad may face the same problem. These expatriate Finnish schools do the same work as Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu) but in more depth. The school sends 98% of the children back to Finland to serve in the army, to study, and to work. They understand foreign languages. I would like to thank **Jarmo Virmavirta** and former Senior Government Adviser **Fredrik Forsberg** for their support.

Marko Suomalainen (Pohjois-Kreikan Suomi-Seura/Finland society in Northern Greece) was going to give an angry speech about the funding of Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu), but the Finnish government spoiled his intentions by issuing a record-high grant for this year (applause). This is an example of how persistent work in the FEP leads to results. In addition, for his part and on behalf of the Finland societies in Thessaloniki and Northern Greece as well as of everyone present, he would like to thank **Paula Selenius** for the excellent work that she did for expatriate Finns for more than 20 years (applause).

Eila Sarvanto Chisholm (Messiah Lutheran Church - Portland Finnish Church) is advocating for the same thing as before but has also brought greetings from the Portland Finnish Church which is celebrating its 110th anniversary, and from the first Finnish language school (Suomi-koulu) in the United States that is celebrating its 35th anniversary. In addition, we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Finland 100, and the Finland Society. The parish has been operating for 10 years with the help of voluntary ministers and contributions collected at church services. The parishes in Oregon and Seattle need a permanent Finnish minister. Aging people need the church. There are Finnish language schools and families in both places. The number of Finns in the area is growing. Continuity is needed to keep up the language and culture. The local synod is understanding, and there has been cooperation with the Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Church and their Unit for Ministry to Finns Abroad. Only a few Finnish churches are left in the United States. The church should reach out to people who do not go to church. In his address to an earlier session, the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, **Eero Heinäluoma**, said he hoped for the Church to use their resources for the benefit of expatriate Finns.

Lasse Lund (Finnation): I represent the Finnish student nation at Örebro University, Sweden. This is the second Finnish association that was established in the autumn. I represent a student perspective in relation to students leaving Finland for studies abroad and returning exchange students. Students activate their environment. Our activities involve Swedish-speaking Finns, Finns from Sweden, and Swedes (such as our Deputy Chair). Those who were born in Finland proudly keep up their culture and wake enthusiasm in the locals, too. We can also encourage the 2nd or 3rd generation Finns to promote their language and culture. Without pride, it is difficult to keep up a community. This is something Finland needs to improve. We are not told about the possibility to study abroad; this is not considered an option in Finnish-speaking schools. Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu) and Finnish schools play an extremely important role abroad. This role is not understood among the young people in Finland. Not everyone who leaves comes back, or they may only come back after many years.

Mikko Ramstedt (Finn-Guild) spoke for a separate constituency for expatriate Finns. Greetings from Great Britain, and congratulations from Finn-Guild to the FEP for its 20 years, to the Finland Society for its 90 years, and to Finland for its 100 years! I am sorry to say that the previous session's proposal on a separate electoral district for expatriate Finns was not well received in the ministries. We should not forget about the goal of establishing a separate electoral district when we define our goals for the next 20 years. There are two reasons: Securing the position of the FEP is related to securing our voice, which, at the moment, is not being heard sufficiently. This can be best achieved by having a separate electoral district. Secondly, accountability is important. As the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament just said, at the moment, our voice disappears in our own electoral districts. Nevertheless, there is a need for the FEP and its Secretariat. For a Finnish voter, the cause of expatriate Finns will never be big or important, which means it will not be big or important for Members of the Parliament, either. That is why we need to have our own MPs.

Matti J. Korhonen (Ikinuoret/Tukholman Suomalainen Seura/Finnish Association of Stockholm) reminded everyone about the importance of school to a living Finnish language. The first question: Does



Russia have the same kind of Finnish language schools as other countries? (Secretary: The representative of the Eastern European region, **Wladimir Kokko**, says that Russia does not have the same kind of Finnish language schools as elsewhere. There was a comment from the audience, saying that there is both a Finnish school and a Finnish language school in St. Petersburg.) The second question: Several speakers have mentioned Finland's 100th anniversary; proposes a shout of 'hurrah' for the 100-year-old Finland, led by the Speaker. (Speaker: This will be done at the end of the general debate.) Thirdly, there are at least two people present who are not able to walk all the way down. Hopes that the Speakers' Council will find out what kinds of obstacles to mobility there are, even for people who have an assistant. Earlier, the sessions were held in the Finlandia Hall. (Secretary: The 2nd and 3rd floors of the old University of Helsinki Main Building are not accessible. A comprehensive renovation will be carried out in the building in about 1.5 years. According to the chief caretaker, **Sauli Vilen**, the renovation is going to be massive, so other venues need to be sought when planning the next session.) The fourth question concerns the refusal to speak Swedish in Finland, and the hatred towards expatriate Finns in certain political circles.

Executive Director Tina Strandberg said that we would return to the last question.

Dennis Barvsten (Ruotsinsuomalaisten nuorten liitto, RSN/the league of Finnish youth in Sweden) As Voitto Visuri mentioned, Finns or Finnish-speaking people in Sweden have had the status of a national minority since 2000. The aim of the youth association is to promote the linguistic rights of Finnish children, youngsters, and young adults in Sweden and to function as their leisure organization. The aim of the youth association is to remove border obstacles in the Nordic countries and in the whole world. The youth association has submitted 7 motions to the session, from the status of citizens to the status of young people in the Parliament. Among other things, amendments to the by-laws have been proposed, such as having a youth representative in the Speakers' Council and removing the Youth Committee from the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, because a youth perspective should be integrated in all committees. We would like to thank the Finland Society for funding granted to the youth association for organizing its annual Independence Day celebration. We also want to thank the FEP for allowing us to come to Finland to influence decision making. The photo exhibition organized by the RSN/the league of Finnish youth in Sweden here at the session venue makes visible our perspective on how it is to be a Finnish youngster living in Sweden.

The Speaker closed the general debate on Friday, June 16, 2018, at 11.50 am.

The Speaker said that during the debate, a proposal had been made to prepare a cultural political program and that the motion can be referred to the appropriate committee if it is deemed urgent by the plenary session. The Chair of the Cultural Committee, **Päivi Oksi-Walter**, asked **Rabbe Sandell** to provide more background information to help in considering the matter. According to him, the matter was not new but had been a long time in preparation; we should have a decision in principle to establish a working group for the cultural political program. The Speaker reminded everyone that motions require preparation, and they cannot be submitted at the session, and that the Speaker's opinion is decisive in terms of whether the matter will be referred to the Cultural Committee for it to make a proposal to either start promoting the matter or to reject it. The Speaker gave his approval. It was decided that the matter shall be referred to the Cultural Committee.

The plenary session was adjourned at 12.00 noon for the duration of the work in committees, to be resumed next morning.



The Speaker announced that the shout of 'hurrah' for Finland would take place at the end of the plenary debate. The committees will start their work at 1 pm except for the Study and Training Committee II, which will start at 1.30 pm.

The secretary announced that in the back foyer it is possible to acquaint oneself with the exhibitors' information desks, and in the front foyer to the left of the session room, there is an exhibition titled "From Hanko to the new world" by photographer **Karoliina Veijo**. Downstairs from the Great Hall, in the lobby of Aleksanterinkatu 5, there is an exhibition organized by *Sverigefinska ungdomsförbundet/Ruotsinsuomalaisten Nuorten Liitto* (the league of Finnish youth in Sweden), titled #stoltsverigefinne and representing the life of Finnish youth in Sweden.

10. The plenary session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament was resumed on Saturday, June 17, 2018, at 9.00 am

Speaker Virmavirta, welcomed the participants of the session and reminded them of the channels for simultaneous interpretation. He welcomed Minister of Education **Sanni Grahn-Laasonen** to the session.

The Speaker announced that the session would be adjourned at 9.30 am for the performance of the *Pohjois-American Suomikuoro* (the Finnish choir of North America) in the Great Hall. After that, according to the program at 9.30–10.15 am there will be a sing-along and a family photo will be taken outside the University's Main Building in the Senate Square on the Cathedral stairs. In addition, at 11 am, a short meeting of the new Speakers' Council will be held in this room. All representatives of Suomi Schools – there were a significant number of principals and chairpersons present – were also requested to come together for a family photo in the Great Hall at 11.20 am.

11. Address by Minister of Education Sanni Grahn-Laasonen

The Minister started by saying that it was very festive to be celebrating both the 20th anniversary of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament and the 100th anniversary of Finland simultaneously, as these two fit together very well. On such a warm summer morning, nothing could be better. The Minister's address is annexed to these minutes. (Annex 7)

The Speaker thanked the Minister for the address and said it had included some tasks for us in terms of maintaining continuous contact with the Finnish administration and politicians.

The plenary session was adjourned from 9.30 to 11.30 am

The choir *Pohjois-American Suomikuoro* performed in the Great Hall in the presence of Minister Grahn-Laasonen. After this, the session participants went out to the Senate Square to sing in honor of Finland's 100th anniversary.

12. The plenary session was resumed at 11.30 am: Presentation of the committees' proposals for resolutions, debate on resolutions, and adoption of resolutions



The proposals for resolutions had been distributed to participants. The committee chairs briefly presented their committees' proposals for resolutions. After this, the Speaker presented the proposals one by one and they were discussed, text amendments were proposed, and finally the resolutions were either adopted or rejected. Requests for the floor were submitted to the Speaker (maximum duration of comment 3 minutes). Proposals which were adopted unanimously and without amendments are not listed here; this list only includes amended proposals. In unclear cases, there was a vote. The Speaker decided that the green ticket would be used to vote for and the red ticket to vote against. The following amendments to the committees' resolution proposals were proposed and adopted:

Proposal for resolution no. 9

The committee's chair proposed an amendment: 'more than'. The resolution was adopted after this amendment.

Proposal for resolution no. 12

A proposal to amend the last words as 'up to date' was adopted. The resolution was adopted after this amendment.

Proposal for resolution no. 14

It was proposed that two spelling mistakes are corrected. The resolution was adopted after this amendment.

Proposal for resolution no. 24

The resolution was adopted after correcting the name of the ministry as 'Ministry of Transport and Communications'.

Proposal for resolution no. 34

It was found that the last sentence, or three last rows of the committee's proposal were missing from the screen and had to be added: "The Finnish Expatriate Parliament also proposes that the Finnish authorities investigate whether European Schools could issue a proof of education corresponding to the Finnish comprehensive school leaving certificate to those students who do not complete the European Baccalaureate." The resolution was adopted after this amendment.

Proposal for resolution no. 42

The resolution was adopted after correcting one word in the last sentence: 'networks'.

Proposal for resolution no. 43

There was discussion on whether the desired availability area of Yle's (Finnish Broadcasting Company) offering should be defined as "outside Finland", because there are limitations, even in Sweden, or as "outside the EU", because it was foreseen that Yle's programs would be made available within the EU. The Chair supported inserting the words "all over the world" at the end of the first sentence. There was also discussion on the copyrights of other television companies apart from Yle. The resolution was adopted after the amendment proposed by the Chair.

Proposal for resolution no. 46

For reasons related to Finnish grammar, it was proposed that the Finnish word 'se' be replaced with the word 'tämä' to refer to the Finnish government. The resolution was adopted after this amendment.

Speaker Virmavirta proposed having a pause in presenting the committees' proposals for resolutions in order to have a coffee break at 1 pm. Motions made in two comments were adopted: it was requested that a very short break would take place after adopting



each proposal to accommodate the slight delay in interpretation. A differing opinion due to the timing of return flights and a request not to adjourn the session were adopted. The presentation of the committees' proposals for resolutions was continued.

Proposal for resolution no. 51

The committee chair said that part of the proposal that was shown on the screen was missing from the paper versions which had been distributed to the participants. The committee's aim was to make sure that the documents are also sent to the observers. It was, therefore, proposed that the underlined word "observers" be added to 3§ of the Standing Order and that the underlined word "observers" be added to 4§ of the Standing Order. The Speaker adjourned the discussion on this proposal before taking a decision, in order to resume the discussion once the text is visible.

During the discussion on the proposal for resolution no. 52, two comments were made with regard to proposal no. 51: Amending the By-laws of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament requires a two-thirds majority. The Finnish words "mitkä haluaa" were corrected to read "jotka haluaa käsiteltäväksi" (which... wishes to be considered).

The following was inserted in the end: "The Speakers' Council is urged to investigate the status of observers in the Finnish Expatriate Parliament and to put forward an initiative to the next session about a possible amendment to the By-laws or Standing Order." The resolution was adopted after these amendments.

Proposal for resolution no. 52

It was noticed that the text was included in the papers which had been distributed to participants, but not on the screen. The Finnish abbreviation "ml." was replaced by the whole words "mukaan lukien" (including). "*Live stream*" means the possibility to send video in real time; it was corrected to read "direct webcast".

There was discussion on the freedom to set up social media communities, on their existence and domicile. According to the committee chair, the condition "fulfills the criteria for ratification" is not broad. Years ago, there was discussion on the possibility that the sections of Swedish-speaking Finns in Scandinavian communities could be given the right of ratification, and in relation to that discussion, the wording "part of the Finnish community" is problematic, which has been pointed out earlier by [former Chairman of the Finland Society and the first Speaker of the FEP] Pertti Paasio. The Speaker asked the committee chair to read aloud the amended text, after which there would be a trial vote on adopting (green ticket) or rejecting (red ticket) the proposal. In the vote, the red side won. The proposal was rejected.

Proposal for resolution no. 53

There was a written request to take the floor. No requests for the floor were granted. The resolution was adopted without amendments by a vote.

Proposal for resolution no. 54

The discussion started with a request of inserting more text with the justification that insufficient participation of young people is a threat to consistent decision making and to the whole FEP. When all delegates under 30 years of age were asked to stand up, 6 delegates stood up (applause). If such development continues, there is reason for concern about the coverage and continuity of the FEP. It was hoped that the FEP would have youth delegates like some other Nordic expatriate parliaments have. According to another view, there is a concern about the continuity but the committee's proposal is sufficient; neither the Youth Committee nor the Senior Committee should be removed. Having a youth delegate would mean that there would also have to be delegates representing senior citizens and people in early and late middle age. The system of regional representation works well and young people should also be active in the regional meetings while the older people should publicize the activities and encourage everyone to get involved. The Deputy Speaker does not only represent his/her own stakeholder group but all Finns residing in the region (applause).

Activity in social media groups increases continuity. They help close the distances between Finns who are dispersed across the region. In Mexico, people are active in social media groups. In the United States, young people are active in social media groups, not in Finlandia Foundation. Nevertheless, criteria for participation are needed. According to RSN, the program for expatriate Finnish youth concerns their challenges for involvement abroad, which is different from the activities in the FEP. Therefore, a vote was requested on the last sentence to be inserted: "The Secretariat and the Speakers' Council shall also look



into ways of developing young people's participation and possibilities to get involved in the Finnish Expatriate Parliament in the future." There was a vote on adopting or rejecting the resolution. The resolution was adopted without amendments.

Proposal for resolution no. 55

The resolution was adopted without amendments by a vote. After this, it was pointed out that those who do not have access to e-mail, but have to rely on regular mail, will be in trouble, and the Speaker said this would be impossible. In a motion for a compromise, the word "primarily" was inserted into the text in 2§ and 4§. The resolution was adopted after this amendment.

The final resolutions adopted by the plenary session are annexed to these minutes.
(Annex 8)

The Speaker adjourned the session at 1.40 pm for a coffee break of 30 minutes.

13. Closing discussion and closing of the session

The Speaker said that the decisions pertaining to the session had been taken. Resolution no. 52 was rejected. Requests for the floor in the closing discussion can be made by raising one's hand.

Lasse Lund (Finnation – Finnish student nation at Örebro University, Sweden) expressed his thanks and said that, for a first-timer, the experience had been really rewarding. Gave some instructions to the Finnish Expatriate Parliament of 2020 regarding meeting procedures and how to start a meeting. The folders should contain prepared procedures and agenda so that participants know what kind of comments they can make. In addition to the chair of the meeting, there is room for improvement in the procedures for the counting of votes. You also need to know what you are voting on: if there are three proposals, you need to know which of them you will vote on first. If a sentence is to be inserted to the text, you have to vote on the amendment first and only then on whether the committee's proposal for a resolution is adopted or not. He is going to prepare a written report and proposal from his point of view for the 2020 session in order to make the meeting procedures more professional. The young people all agree on the meeting procedures.

Voitto Korhonen (Evangelical-Lutheran Parish in Costa Blanca) said that old people, too, understand meeting procedures, which went quite well, even though they are always prepared to learn more from the young people. It should always be clearly indicated what is being decided upon. He referred to earlier resolutions and wished to see more reporting on what has already been done.

Matti J. Korhonen (Ikinuoret) asked the FEP to forward a message from the people with limited mobility: as the University Main Building is being renovated, an accessible toilet should be built also on this floor.

Tuula Fomin (Tukholman Suomalainen Seura/Finnish Association in Stockholm): As a former representative of the Northern European region, I am confident in watching the Speakers' Council work, with two young women involved and with everyone having a great deal of experience. When we return home from here, it is up to each of us to disseminate information about these resolutions and to raise the important ones.

Voitto Visuri (Ruotsinsuomalaisten Keskusliitto/National Association of Finns in Sweden) expressed gratitude for what has been achieved with the resources available. Please disseminate information about the participation of young people. We now have a Deputy Speaker's alternate who is under 30 years of age. Congratulations to the new Speakers' Council.



Risto Söder (Suomi Konferenssi): There has been the same fundamental problem in all sessions: the documents for our committees were only received at the last minute, which means we did not have time to read the texts properly. Next time, not such a hurry, please.

Sointu Beuerfeind (Deutsch Finnische Gesellschaft/German-Finnish Association, Cologne) expressed her thanks and wished for more comments and possibilities for discussion. We cannot read the documents so fast, and we are interested in the work of various committees. So much time has been arranged for coming here that everyone should have the opportunity to say what they have to say.

Dennis Barvsten (Ruotsinsuomalaisten Nuorten Liitto/the association of Finnish youth in Sweden) would have liked to have a vote on amending the original proposal for resolution no. 55 (*Sending session documents by e-mail*) to read "all motions shall be published in full on the Internet before the plenary session".

Kati Hognes (Belgian Suomi-klubi asbl/The Finnish Association in Belgium) agreed with the first speaker. This was her third session and she still did not know what the voting procedures were. Earlier, it was not the case that you had to hand in a piece of paper every time you wanted to request for the floor. Also, a little more discussion must be allowed. In a voting situation, you did not even have time to get out your tickets before the vote had already been closed. At times it was unclear what you were voting on and what the alternatives were. Other than that, thank you for excellent arrangements and a nice session.

Barbro Allardt Ljunggren (FRIS) has already made the request in the Speakers' Council that the procedure for handling the motions would be discussed. Each committee chair could first read aloud all their proposals for resolutions, and only then would we start discussing the individual proposals. The need for interpretation is a problem, because there is a delay in what you hear. But there is always room for improvement.

Alexandra Hibolin (Finlandssvenska Skånegillet) emphasized that the FEP is supposed to be trilingual. In this aspect, there is room for improvement. Many thanks to the interpreters who were also working in the committees.

Hanna Wagner (Finlandia Foundation National Washington) came back to proposal no. 52. One of the people who submitted the motion did not even get to vote before the vote was closed. Wants to take the matter up again in three years' time. In a large number of cities in the United States, there are only social media groups. My own son is only involved in two organized social media groups. Everything else about the session was well organized.

Dennis Barvsten (Ruotsinsuomalaisten Nuorten Liitto/the association of Finnish youth in Sweden) mentioned the document they are preparing and said that everyone who wants to say his/her opinion is welcome to visit our exhibition. Thanked Sini Castrén for her work.

Pauli Tuohioja (observer, the Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Parish in Costa del Sol) found the resolutions and their adoption the most interesting part of the session, because they represented concrete action. Because we are so many, there are a lot of different opinions. Proposed that only seconded motions for amendments would be handled. The original proposal would always be the one shown on the screen.

14. Closing words of the 9th session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

Speaker Jarmo Virmavirta thanked everyone.

To the young people, we can say that it brings to mind the old tradition of the labor movement, according to which two things are important in any meeting: get yourself elected to chair the meeting, and make sure you have suitable people to scrutinize the minutes. All else will take care of itself. We will try to do better in the future, as far as procedures are concerned. Already before this session, it was agreed that the Speakers' Council and the working committee of the Finland Society will start discussing the



Standing Order and By-laws, because all these documents, especially those of the Finland Society, are rather old. For the FEP, after 20 years, it is time to check what was planned in the beginning and what the situation is today.

I would especially like to point out that the Finnish Expatriate Parliament is highly esteemed by the administration and the top political decision makers in Finland. They are interested in us, and we always have high-level contacts in connection with the sessions and also otherwise. In particular, it is evidenced by the fact that the government always prepares a specific policy program for expatriate Finns, taking into account the very matters on which we have adopted resolutions. Of course, we would like to see faster progress, but in many cases, society and politics are very slow in moving forward. However, things are moving all the time.

In Finland, this is certainly due to what the President of the Republic mentioned in his address: we have understood early on that expatriate Finns are also a resource for Finnish society. This has become very obvious during the 90 years of existence of the Finland Society. And it does not only concern these 90 years; this topic was discussed already before Finland became independent. As early as 1911, a committee was set up to look into the status of expatriate Finns. This committee was run over by the World War and never produced any concrete results. However, it is important to understand that this was part of Finnish thinking already before the country became independent. We have no reason to believe that it would not be the case today and continue to be so in the future. We are in a good position, and it is partly up to ourselves to promote our goals. Between the sessions, the Secretariat and the whole Finland Society work hard to promote matters, and the Speakers' Council is convened once or twice a year to maintain contact to decision makers in Finland. The most important thing is the contact between all of us, which is demonstrated in this session. That is part of real life. What kind of a contact we have with the Finnish society, depends on us. I would like to thank all participants of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, regardless of their status. It has been a good session. My sincere thanks.

15. Closing of the session

The Speaker closed the session at 2.40 pm.

Helsinki, February 13, 2018

Sini Castrén, Parliament Secretary



Annex 1. Greetings from the President of the Republic

Puhemies Jarmo Virtavirta lukenut ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 9. istunnon avajaisissa, Helsingin yliopiston juhlasali 16.6.2017



TASAVALLAN PRESIDENTIN TERVEHDYS

Suomi juhlii itsenäisyyden 100-vuotisjuhlaa. Täällä koti-Suomessa on ollut suuri ilo seurata sitä innostusta, miltä te maailmana asuvat suomalaiset olette lähteneet juhluvuotta valmistelemään ja viettämään. Suomen kunniaksi eri puolilla maailmaa järjestettävien tapahtumien määrä on todella vaikuttava: noin viidesosa kaikista Suomi 100 tapahtumista järjestetään Suomen rajojen ulkopuolella, kaikilla kuudella mantereella.

Maailma on monella tapaa pienentynyt ja kynnys lähteä maailmalle on madaltunut. Arkipäivää on, että suomalaiset muuttavat ulkomaille väliaikaisesti tai pysyvästi. Ihmisten liikkuvuuden lisääntyminen on pysyvä trendi, ja tässä muutoksessa Suomeen yhteenkuuluvuutta tuntevat ulkosuomalaiset ovat todellinen voimavara. Tietoisuus omasta kulttuuristaan ja omista juuristaan on jokaiselle meille tärkeää. Ulkomailla asuu paljon Suomen kansalaisia, joilla on lisäksi nykyisen kotimaansa kansalaisuus. Suomen kansalaisuus on yhä merkittävä side, joka pitää maailmalla asuvan yhteydessä Suomeen.

Ulkosuomalaisten merkitys on oivallettu Suomen julkisessa hallinnossa jo itsenäisyyden alkuvuosista lähtien. Suomi-Seura ry perustettiin vuonna 1927 maailmalla asuvien suomalaisten yhteiseksi järjestöksi ja toiminnan rahoitus on katsottu julkisen vallan velvollisuudeksi.

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin perustamisen jälkeen 1997 on moni ulkosuomalaisia läheisesti koskettava ja arkea helpottava asia edennyt, joista esimerkkejä ovat kaksoiskansalaisuuden toteutuminen (2003), työeläkeverotuksen yhdenmukaistaminen ulkosuomalaisille (2011), veteraanien kuntoutus kotimaassaan, oikeus turvalliseen vanhuuteen suomen kielellä ulkomailla ja maailmalla toimivien Suomi-koulujen toimintaedellytysten turvaaminen. Suomi on nyt siirtymässä niiden maiden joukkoon, jotka sallivat kirjeäänestyksen ulkomailla oleville kansalaisilleen.



Ulkosuomalaisparlamentti toimii maailmalla asuvien suomalaisten demokraattisena foorumina, jonka kautta ulkosuomalaiset voivat vaikuttaa ja osallistua Suomen yhteiskunnalliseen päätöksentekoon.

Maailmaa ravisuttelevista muutoksista huolimatta Suomelle kuuluu hyvää. Kansainvälisissä tutkimuksissa Suomen on todettu olevan maailman vakain maa. Olemme maailman kärkeä myös rehellisyydessä, innovatiivisuudessa, lukutaidossa, koulumenestyksessä ja tyttöjen mahdollisuuksissa. Suomi 100 -tutkimuksen mukaan turvallisuus, puhdas luonto ja koulumme muodostavat suomalaisten ylpeydenaiheiden kärkikolmikön. Seuraavaksi tulevat tasa-arvo ja sananvapaus.

Suomella on myös kaikki edellytykset olla kansainvälinen edelläkävijä ja suunnannäyttävä ulkomailla asuvien kansalaistensa asioiden hoitamisessa. Tällä saralla suomalaisilla voi olla paljon annettavaa muille kansoille ja tässä prosessissa ulkosuomalaisparlamentilla on tärkeä rooli.

Suomen itsenäisyyden 100-vuotisjuhlan teema on "Suomi 100 — yhdessä". Se haastaa jokaisen meistä pohtimaan, mitä me Suomessa ja suomalaisuudessa arvostamme, mikä saa meidät pitämään Suomi-suhdetta yllä, vaikka asuisimme kaukana Suomesta.

Te maailmalla asuvat suomalaiset teette suomalaisuutta tunnetuksi ja muokkaatte positiivista Suomi-kuvaa: tämä jos jokin on aitoa kansainvälisyyttä ja mitä arvokkainta työtä Suomen hyväksi.

Minulla on ilo onnitella 20 vuotta täyttävää ulkosuomalaisparlamenttia sekä 90 vuotiasta Suomi-Seura ry:tä! Samalla toivotan teille kaikille hyvää Suomi 100-juhlavuoden jatkoa!

Sauli Niinistö
Tasavallan presidentti



Annex 2. Opening speech by the Speaker of the Parliament Ms Maria Lohela

Eduskunnan puhemies Maria Lohelan avajaisjuhlapuhe ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 9. istunnon avajaisissa

Helsingin yliopiston juhlasali 16.6.2017

Hyvät ulkosuomalaisparlamentin osallistujat,

Nuorena luulin, että maailma löytyy jostakin kaukaa. Nyt vähän vanhempana tiedän maailman pyöreäksi: mitä kauemmaksi menen, sitä lähemmäksi tulen omia juuriani.

Luulen, että moni teistä tuntee tämän saman tunteen, olettehan nytkin saapuneet tänne Suomeen pitkien matkojen takaa, eräät Australiasta ja Uudesta-Seelannista saakka.

Kotimaa on mielentila, joka ei kerro siitä, missä ihminen on syntynyt, vaan siitä, mihin ihminen tuntee kuuluvansa. Moni teistä on asunut vuosikymmeniä tai jopa koko elämänsä jossakin muualla, mutta silti varmasti edelleen tunnette kuuluvanne myös tähän maahan, Suomeen.

Ulkosuomalaisuutta tutkineiden sosiologien mielestä siirtolaisiksi muuttaneet suomalaiset ovat historian eri vaiheissa valinneet jonkin neljästä erilaisesta strategiasta sopeutuakseen uuteen yhteiskuntaan.

Käytän esimerkkinä Suomesta Yhdysvaltoihin suuntautunutta siirtolaisuutta, mutta olen varma, että tunnistatte nämä erilaiset sopeutumiskeinot myös kaikista muista suomalaisista siirtolaisyhteisöistä.

Ensimmäinen sopeutumiskeino on ollut *odottaminen*, jota monet suomalaiset siirtolaiset käyttivät muuttaessaan Yhdysvaltoihin 1800-luvun lopulla. Nämä muuttajat ajattelivat tullessaan uuteen maahan vain muutamaksi vuodeksi eivätkä edes tahtoneet sopeutua uuteen kulttuuriin vaan odottivat vain kotiin paluuta. Suomalainen mainari kirjoitti kotiinsa Pohjois-Suomeen vuonna 1882 näin:

”Työpaikat täynnä, outo maa, wieras kieli, useimmilla matkapiljetti velkana. Sen tähden olis parasta jokaiselle Amerikkaan aikojalle, että katsoisi etuansa eikä tuota kuuluisaa Amerikan nimeä. Minä palaan kotiin heti kun voin.”

Toinen mahdollinen strategia on ollut *välttämättömyyteen alistuminen*. Uuteen maahan oli tultu, elämä oli sinne rakennettava, välttämättömyyteen oli alistuttava. Nämä ihmiset elivät usein muistoissaan ja kiinnittyivät toisiin suomalaisiin niin tiiviisti, että eivät tahtoneet aina edes opiskella englantia. Eräs vuonna 1905 New Hampshireen tullut suomalainen kuvasi vanhemmilleen ensimmäistä paikallista joulua:



”Oliko teillä hauskaa joulua ja oliko siellä mitään iltamia tai tanssia joulun pyhinä? Täällä oli hankittu kuusi suomalaisten kokoushuoneelle ja siellä sitte laulettiin ja lausuttiin runoja ja veisattiin. Minullakin kuvastui armas koulu-aika ihan elävänä silmiäni eteen, mutta voi kuinka se tuntui katkeralta, kun muisti, että ne, joiden kanssa hauskaa vietettiin, ovat kaukana – niin hirveän kaukana!”

Kolmas sopeutumiskeino on ollut *unohtaminen*, mikä on tarkoittanut suomalaisten juurien katkaisemista ja uuden kulttuurin mahdollisimman täydellistä omaksumista. Eräs länteen muuttanut suomalainen puhui englantia kaikille. Jopa omalle äidilleen, joka ei osannut sitä sanaakaan. Tällaisesta unohtamisesta hyvä esimerkki ovat myös erään kirjeen sanat:

”Olen aito amerikkalainen luonteeltani. Tämä on niin tosi. Täällä olen kuin kotonani. Ellei näin olisi, jäisi täällä toisista järeille. Täällä tosiaan tehdään rahaa toisella innolla kuin Suomessa. Tollarien perään uhraa jokainen työnsä ja työtä tekee jokainen.”

Neljäs sopeutumiskeino on ollut sitten *uusiutuminen*. Tämä on tarkoittanut sellaisen uuden identiteetin luomista, jossa suomalaisuus ja uuden maan kulttuuri elävät rinnakkain. Monessa amerikkalaisessa kodissa kohtaa esimerkiksi tällaisen tunnelman. Talot ovat amerikkalaisen suuria, makuuhuoneita on monta, sisustus on loistokasta ja väljää. Seinällä kuitenkin saattaa olla porontalja, ikkunalaudalla puinen hirvi, keittiössä litalan astiat ja kylpyhuoneessa Marimekon pyyhkeet.

Olen varma, että te olette kohdanneet nämä kaikki ihmistyypit eri puolilla maailmaa. Minne suomalaiset ovat muuttaneet, siellä joku on päättänyt odottaa tai alistua välttämättömyyteen, joku toinen taas on päättänyt unohtaa tai uusiutua. Nykyisin luulisin, että unohtaminen tai uusiutuminen ovat aikaisempaa yleisempää, koska suomalaisten kielitaito on parempaa ja sopeutuminen uuteen kulttuuriin tästä syystä helpompaa.

Hyvät vaikuttajat,

Te ette ole unohtaneet. Olen varma, että tässä joukossa suurin osa ihmisistä on uusiutujia, joiden elämässä vanhat suomalaiset arvot ja tavat elävät hyvässä sovussa uuden asuinmaan kulttuurin kanssa.

Juuri teidänkaltaisilla ihmisillä on paljon annettavaa Suomelle. Ihminen tarvitsee juuret, mutta myös siivet, jotka syntyvät uusista ajatuksista. Kuten kaikki yhteiskuntaamme tuntevat tietävät, meidän maamme kaipaa uudistumista. Uusia ajatuksia syntyy parhaiten ympäristössä, missä uusi ja vanha kulttuuri kohtaavat toisensa ja pakottavat arvioimaan uudelleen totuttuja tapoja. Tällaisia ajatuksia saamme parhaiten juuri ulkomaille muuttaneilta suomalaisilta.

Kun yhteiskunta ympärillämme horjuu, instituutiot luovat turvaa. Suomalainen demokratia on rakennettu graniitille, kovalle ja kestäväälle kivelle.



Suomalaisessa demokratiassa on kuitenkin pieni särö: ulkosuomalaisten poliittinen edustus. Viime eduskuntavaaleissa äänioikeutettuja ulkosuomalaisia oli vajaa 250 000, saman suuruinen ryhmä ihmisiä kuin ruotsia äidinkielenään puhuvat suomalaiset. Näistä ulkosuomalaisista eduskuntavaaleissa äänesti vain pieni vähemmistö, noin 10 prosenttia. Nykyisessä vaalijärjestelmässämme ulkosuomalaisten äänet hajoavat eri alueille eikä niitä lasketa omana vaalipiirinä. Tästä kaikesta johtuu, että ulkosuomalaiset eivät saa kokoaan vastaavaa edustusta eduskuntaan.

Tämä tilanne vahvistaa ulkosuomalaisparlamentin asemaa ulkosuomalaisten edustajana. Työnne on näkynyt muun muassa kansalaisuuslain uudistamisessa, suomenkielisen opetuksen puolustamisena, työeläkkeiden verotuksen kohtuullistamisessa ja kirjeäänestyksen toteuttamisessa.

Teillä on suuri vastuu, uskon Teidän käyttävän sitä harkiten ja kaikkien suomalaisten puolesta.

Toivon menestystä työhönne yhteisen kotimaamme puolesta.

Kiitos!

(*)



Annex 3. Greetings by the Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin puhemies, Suomi-Seura ry:n johtokunnan puheenjohtaja Jarmo Virmavirran tervehdys

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 9. istunto, Helsingin yliopiston juhlasali 16.6.2017

Arvoisa ulkosuomalaisparlamentti, parlamentin jäsenet ja tarkkailijaosanottajat,

Ennen kuin aloitamme istunnon, ehdotan että mustamme edesmennyttä tasavallan presidentti Mauno Koivistoa hetken hiljaisuudella. Hän oli presidentti, jonka aikana Suomi orientoitui uudella tavalla kansainväliseen yhteistyöhön. Siinä oli kysymys muutoksista, ei murroksista. Muutosten jälkeenkin Suomen ulkopoliitiikan ydin oli kiteytettävissä kolmeen sanaan: hyvät suhteet naapureihin.

-

Haluan istunnon aluksi muistuttaa siitä, että ulkosuomalaisparlamentti on ainutlaatuinen elin koko maailmassa. Ranskassa ja Italiassa on maiden ulkopuolella asuvien kansalaisten merkitys otettu huomioon omanlaatuisilla järjestelyillään. Ulkoranskalaisilla ja ulkoitalialaisilla on omat edustuksensa maiden parlamenteissa. Suomen malli on herättänyt keskustelua pohjoismaisissa naapureissamme, mutta samankaltaista järjestelyä ei ole saatu aikaan sen enempää Ruotsissa, Norjassa kuin Tanskassakaan. Mutta Suomessa ulkosuomalaisparlamentin kehittyminen kuvastaa hyvin sitä yleistä kehitystä, jossa Suomen ulkopoliittikkaa luotsataan lisääntyvän kansainvälisen yhteistyön maailmassa.

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Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin asemaa täydentää se, että Suomen hallitus on jo useamman kerran laatinut erityisen valtioneuvoston ulkosuomalaispoliittisen ohjelman politiikan ja hallinnon ohjeeksi niiden päätöslauselmien perusteella, joita ulkosuomalaisparlamentissa on päätetty. Tämä merkitsee sitä, että meillä on tässä kokouksessa myös suuri vastuu päätettävistä asioista. Seuraava askel ulkosuomalaisparlamentin aseman suhteen onkin varmaan se, että ulkosuomalaisparlamentin asema määritetään lainsäädännöllä. Tätä koskeva päätös tapahtuneet aivan lähiaikoina hallituksen strategiaohjelman käsittelyn yhteydessä. Lainsäädännöllinen asema tulee selvitettäväksi erillisessä työryhmässä.

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin asema kertoo ennen muuta siitä, että Suomessa ulkosuomalaisten merkitys ja mahdollisuudet on hyvin käsitetty. Juuri siksi myös Suomi-Seura on toiminut jo 90 vuoden ajan. Tämä kaikki on syytä muistaa, kun tässä kokouksessa käsittelemme aloitteita. Näillä sanoilla avaan ulkosuomalaisparlamentin yhdeksännen istunnon.

(*)



Annex 4. Statement by the Secretariat, Finland Society Managing director Tina Strandberg

Sihteeristön puheenvuoro Suomi-Seura ry:n toiminnanjohtaja Tina Strandberg

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 9. istunto, Helsingin yliopiston juhlasali 16.6.2017

Muutosvarauksin

Arvoisa juhlayleisö,

Puheenvuoroni aluksi siirrymme hetkeksi pois istuntosalista kauas Tokioon kirsikkapuiden keskelle ja katsomme **Tokion Suomi-koulun tervehdyksen 100 vuotiaalle Suomelle**

https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/selkouutiset/suomi_100_terveisia_tokion_suomi-koulusta/9628779

Tämä ihastuttava Suomi-koulutervehdys on toteutettu Ylen Selkouutisten ja Suomi-Seuran yhteistyönä. Tokion lisäksi myös Zürichin, Dubain, Kosin, Tarton, Varsovan, Vancouverin ja Baselin –koulujen terveiset 100 vuotiaalle Suomelle on nähty Yle 1 -kanavalla. Ja lisää tervehdyksiä on tulossa.

Suomen kielen ja kulttuurin ylläpitäminen ulkomailla ei ole mikään itsestään selvyys – sen eteen pitää nähdä vaivaa. **Suomi-koulut** tarjoavat paitsi lapsille ja nuorille niin myös koko perheelle erinomaisen kohtaamispaikan, yhteisen suomalaisen olohuoneen, jossa voi jakaa arkisia asioita omalla äidinkielellään.

Suomi-koulut eivät toimi ilman Suomi-kouluopettajia, puheenjohtajia, rahastonhoitajia ja muita vapaaehtoisia, jotka tekevät huipputyötä maailmalla suomen kielen ja kulttuurin puolesta. Opetushallituksen myöntämän vuotuisen avustuksen tuvin noin 4 300 lasta, 140 koulussa ja 45 maassa voivat käydä Suomi-koulua.

Suomi-koulujen tervehdykset 100-vuotiaalle Suomelle on hyvä esimerkki siitä, miten Suomea juhlietaan yhdessä koko maailmassa. Suomi-Seura on koordinoanut **Suomi 100 Maailmalla** –hanketta, jonka tarkoituksena on ollut innostaa ja tukea ulkosuomalaisia järjestämään juhluvuoden tapahtumia. Yhteistyötahoina ovat Kirkon ulkosuomalaistyö ja Siirtolaisuusinstituutti ja lisäksi hankkeen toteuttamisessa ovat keskeisesti olleet mukana ulkoministeriö ja Suomen Merimieskirkko. Arviolta noin 20 % Suomi 100 tapahtumista järjestetään ulkomailla kaikilla kuudella mantereella.



Nyt kun kirjäänestysmahdollisuus vihdoin 20 vuoden työn tuloksena on toteutumassa ulkosuomalaisille, voimme todeta, että **edunvalvonta on pitkäjänteistä työtä** eikä siinä ole oikotietä onneen. Asioiden edistäminen vaatii satoja sähköposteja, puhelinsoittoja, tapaamisia, kirjeitä, kirjoituksia, keskusteluja, lausuntoja, kannanottoja - ja monta monta kuppia kahvia. Sen lisäksi on ajan oltava kypsä muutokselle.

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin puhemiehistön puheenvuoroissa esille nousivat viime kauden tärkeimmät parlamentin edunvalvontakohteet, enkä lähde niitä toistamaan.

Suomella on kaikki edellytykset olla edelläkävijä ulkokansalaistensa asioiden hoitamisessa – olla maailman ykkönen tässäkin niin kuin monella muullakin alalla. Olemmehan maailman kärkeä rehellisyydessä, innovatiivisuudessa, lukutaidossa, koulumenestyksessä ja tyttöjen mahdollisuuksissa.

Riittävät resurssit Suomi-Seuran ja ulkosuomalaisparlamentin toiminnan jatkuvuuden turvaamiseksi ovat kuitenkin edellytykset sille, että ulkosuomalaisparlamentti voi kymmenen vuoden päästä juhlia kolmekymppisiä ja Suomi-Seura satavuotisjuhlia. Suurista summista ei ole kysymys, mutta toiminnan kehittäminen edellyttää varmuutta resurssien jatkuvuudesta. Suomi-Seuran lähiajan keskeisimpiä toiminnan kehittämiskohteita ovat **digitalisaation tehokkaampi hyödyntäminen ja viestinnän kokonaisvaltainen kehittäminen**. Tässä yhteydessä haluan mainostaa, että Suomi-Seura on keskiviikkona julkaissut uudet kotisivut. Toivomme, että ne palvelevat teitä maailmalla olevia suomalaisia entistä paremmin ja monipuolisemmin.

Hyvä juhlayleisö,

Puheenvuoroni loppuksi siirrymme vielä hetkeksi ulkoilmaan, Taivaan alle, kesäisiin tunnelmiin. **Finnish Your Dinner** –tapahtuma kutsuu kaikki suomalaiset ympäri maailmaa järjestämään päivällisiä satavuotiaan Suomen kunniaksi 25. - 27.8. Nyt on lupa kattaa pöytä omalla tyyllillä ja kutsua tutut ja tuntemattomat juhlimaan yhdessä

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Na0Hwr9Eqj8>

(*)



Annex 5. Summary of motions for resolutions submitted to the Secretariat

Parlamenttisihteerin aloitealustus

Sini Castrén

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 9. istunto, Helsingin yliopiston juhlasali 16.6.2017

Hyvä eduskunnan puhemies, arvoisa ulkosuomalaisparlamentin puhemiehistö, your excellencies, hyvät kutsuvieraat ja ulkosuomalaiset ystävät!

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin kaltaista ei ole toista pohjoismaissa. USP on kanava, jonka kautta ulkosuomalaisten ääni kuuluu maailmalta Suomeen. On arvokasta, että ulkosuomalaiset haluavat kertoa viranomaisille, lainsäätäjille ja muille päättäjille mitä toivotte Suomelta – ja mitä itse voitte Suomeen eteen tehdä. USP:n toiminnan kautta ulkosuomalaiset osallistuvat suomalaiseen yhteiskuntaan.

Voimakkaimmillaan tämä ääni kuuluu parlamentin istunnossa Helsingissä kahden, kolmen vuoden välein: tämän 20-vuotisjuhlaistunnon käsiteltäväksi ulkosuomalaisyhteisöt jättivät Ecuadorista Uuteen-Seelantiin, Espanjan Aurinkorannikolta Venäjälle istunnon käsiteltäväksi kaikkiaan 74 aloitetta. Samankaltaisten yhdistämisten jälkeen istunto käsittelee 55 aloitetta.

Edeltäjäni totesi vuoden 2012 istunnossa, että aloitteiden laskeva määrä ei millään lailla vaikuta niiden tärkeyteen. Ei myöskään niiden nouseva määrä. Numeroiden sijaan tärkeää on se, että ihmiset ja asiat keskustelevat. Kansalaisuusvaliokunnassa ratkotaan passi- ja viisumi- sekä kansalaisuusksymyksiä. Seniori- ja Sosiaalivaliokunnissa huomioidaan ikääntyneiden, sairaiden, heikkojen ja byrokratian rattaissa painivien asioita. Opinto- ja koulutusvaliokunnat käsittelevät suomalaislasten ja -nuorten kielen ja kulttuurin tukea ja joustavan maailmalta paluun edellytyksiä. Sääntömääräisesti ja vakiintuneesti toimiva ulkosuomalaisparlamentti on ajan hermolla ottaessaan tässä istunnossa kantaa tiedotuksen ja viestinnän perustavanlaatuisiin ratkaisuihin, tai katsoessaan miten ulkosuomalaiset asiantuntijat, nuoret ja yhteisöllisestä toiminnasta kiinnostuneet verkottuvat digimaailmassa toistensa ja Suomen kanssa. Lisäksi parlamentin tehtäviin kuuluu USP:n tilien ja talousarvion eli budjetin tarkistus.

Hieno lahja 20-vuotiaalle parlamentille on sen ikänsä ajama kirjeäänestysosoikeus ulkosuomalaisille kansallisissa, vaaleissa menee eduskunnan käsittelyyn syksyllä. Äänestysmahdollisuudet ovat parantumassa kertaheitolla yhtä suurelle määrälle



ulkosuomalaisia, kuin mitä Suomessa asuu äänioikeutettua ruotsinkielistä väestöä. Tällä demokratialoikalla Suomi vahvistaa yhteyksiään maailmalle.

Merkityksessään se tuo mieleen vuonna 2003 saavutetun tavoitteen kaksoiskansalaisuus. Moni muistaa vuoden 2002 istunnon innon. Tänään te 200 edustajaa ja 82 tarkkailijaa eli 282 istunto-osallistujaa olette luomassa USP:n historian 3. suurinta istuntoa. Tarkkailijoiden alati nouseva luku kertoo, että USP nähdään hyvänä kanavana Suomeen. Toimintaa seuraa 530 yhteisöä 39 maassa. Suomen kannattaa tukea tätä arvokasta toimintaa ja päätöstä USP:n aseman uudelleenarvioinnista odotetaan toiveikkaasti. Sillä välin, hyvä edustajat, työstäkää RESOLUTIONEhdotuksia, tuokaa istunnolle huomenna RESOLUTIONesityksiä!

Aloitteiden valiokunnittaisten lukumäärien takia puhemiehistö ehdottaa pysyvien valiokuntien yhdistämisiä seuraavasti: Kuten edellisessä istunnossa vuonna 2015, Opinto- ja koulutusvaliokunta jaettaisiin kahtia tämän istunnon ajaksi ja merkitään roomalaisin numeroin I ja II. Tiedotusvaliokunta yhdistettäisiin Talousvaliokunnan kanssa, kuten vuonna 2015. Ehdotetaan samalla, että Tiedotus- ja Talousvaliokunnasta siirretään tämän kerran Sääntövaliokuntaan aloite *USP:n tilit ja budjetti*. Kertaluontoisesi ehdotetun siirron peruste on käytännöllisyys ja koska aloitteella on sääntövaikutuksia. Istunto ottaa näihin ehdotuksiin kantaa järjestäytymisen yhteydessä.

Tulkausta on saatavilla kolmessa valiokunnassa. Poliittisten ja virallisten asioiden valiokunnassa on ruotsin tulkkaukset, samoin Kulttuurivaliokunnassa. Kulttuurivaliokunnassa ja Opinto- ja koulutusvaliokunta II:ssa tarjotaan englannin tulkausta. Valiokunnilla on aikaa aloitteiden käsittelyyn tänään kello 13:sta kello 17 asti. Huomenna on lisätyöaikaa varattu kello 8:sta viittä vailla yhdeksään, jolloin valmiit RESOLUTIONesitykset jätetään sihteeristölle. Esitysten käsittely alkaa täysistunnossa kello 11.30.

Toivotan teille koko sihteeristön puolesta mukavia hetkiä yhdessä.

(*)



Annex 6. List of Assembly session participants

REPRESENTATIVES (186 representatives, representing 193 expatriate Finnish organisations)

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--|---------------|
| Aarnio | Arja | Hanian Suomalaiset ry | Kreikka |
| Ahonen | Tarmo | Club 2000 | Ruotsi |
| Allardt Ljunggren | Barbro | Finlandssvenskarnas riksförbund i Sverige FRIS | Ruotsi |
| Alton | Helena | Finnish Ladies in the East Midlands | Iso-Britannia |
| Asteljoki | Hilkka | Aurinkorannikon suomalainen koulu | Espanja |
| Barvsten | Dennis | Tukholman Suomalaiset Opiskelijat | Ruotsi |
| Bauerfeind | Sointu | Deutsch Finnische Gesellschaft (DFG) Köln | Saksa |
| Björklund | Taimi | Tyresön Suomi-Seura | Ruotsi |
| Bout-Saari | Riitta | Rotterdamin suomalainen merimieskirkko | Alankomaat |
| Brangefeldt | Kaisa | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Naisten Foorumi / Sverigefinska Kvinnoforum | Ruotsi |
| Brunetto | Katia | Firenzen Suomi-Seura | Italia |
| Burow | Justus | Deutsch Finnische Gesellschaft (DFG) Westfalen-Lippe | Saksa |
| Büchler | Seija | Suomalainen Kirkko Sveitsissä (SKS) | Sveitsi |
| Bykova-Soittu | Tatiana | Inkerin Liitto Tyrön osasto | Venäjä |
| Böök | Jussi | Norrteljen Suomi Seura | Ruotsi |
| Carlsson | Jouni | Suomi-Seura Oslo | Norja |
| Carnegie | Leila | Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church | Kanada |
| | | Toronto Finlandia Lions Club | Kanada |
| Cauthen | Marita | Raivaaja Foundation | USA |
| Christiansen | Kerttu | Ruotsin Suomenkielisten Näkövammaisten Liitto | Ruotsi |
| Damström | Gunnar | The Swedish Finn Historical Society | USA |
| Dauvergne | Anja | Ranskan Suomi-Seura | Ranska |
| Eskelinen | Tuula | Bournemouth Area Finns | Iso-Britannia |
| Eskelinen | Anja | Finn-Guild | Iso-Britannia |
| Flavet | Leena | SUOMIART | Ruotsi |
| Fonsen | Ilkka | Sofian kannatusyhdistys ry. | Espanja |
| Forsman | Katriina | Düsseldorfin suomalainen seurakunta | Saksa |
| Frölander | Monica | Finnish Room Committee of the University of Pittsburgh | USA |
| Gibbs | Kirsti | Bristolin suomalainen lauantaikoulu | Iso-Britannia |
| Gilbert | Jonna | Swansean suomalaiset | Iso-Britannia |
| Godderis | Pia | Saksan Suomi-koulujen neuvosto | Saksa |
| Grahn | Erica | Finlandssvenskarnas riksförbund i Sverige (FRIS) | Ruotsi |
| Gustafsson | Josefin | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Nuorten Liitto | Ruotsi |
| Gülch | Marja | Deutsch Finnische Gesellschaft (DFG) Stuttgart - Mittlere Neckar | Saksa |
| Haaksi | Carita | Finlandsvenska Nylandsgillet i Stockholm | Ruotsi |
| Hanson | Riitta | Suomalainen Ystäväverkosto | Iso-Britannia |
| Hatanpää-Wetzel | Heli | Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley | USA |



| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--|------------------------|
| Hechler | Kirsi | Sisu-Radio | Saksa |
| Heiskanen | Anu | Kölnin suomalainen kielikoulu | Saksa |
| Hibolin | Alexandra | Finlandssvenska Skånegillet | Ruotsi |
| Hillman | Mark V. | The Swedish Finn Historical Society | USA |
| Hognes | Kati | Suomi-Klubi a.s.b.l. | Belgia |
| Holzer | Ulla | SenioriFoorum Zürich | Sveitsi |
| Horstia | Heikki | Algarven Suomi-Seura | Portugal |
| Hukka | Vladimir K. | Inkerin Liitto Nizni Novgorodin alueen osasto | Venäjä |
| Huotari-Müller | Helmi | Deutsch Finnische Gesellschaft (DFG) Mittlerer Schwarzwald | Saksa |
| Hämäläinen | Susanna | Barcelonan Suomi-koulu | Espanja |
| Ilmokari | Irina | Toronton Suomalainen Teatteri | Kanada |
| Impola | Leila | Düsseldorfin Suomalainen Kielikoulu | Saksa |
| Ivanov | Leonid | Tyumenin läänin suomalainen seura | Venäjä |
| Juutinen | Helena | Finnish Lutheran Church of Melbourne West Sydney Finnish Club | Australia Australia |
| Järvi | Henriikka | St. Albansin Suomi-koulu / St. Albans Finnish School | Iso-Britannia |
| Kabanen | Toivo | Suomalaisen vähemmistön kulttuuri-itsehallinto | Viro |
| Kalliomäki | Marjo | Ranskan suomalainen ev.-lut. seurakunta | Ranska |
| Kambarova | Anna | Novosibirskin suomalaisten kansallis-kulttuurinen autonomia 'Ingeria' | Venäjä |
| Karjalainen | Pirkko | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Keskusliitto (RSKL) | Ruotsi |
| Katajikko | Kristiina | Tukholman suomalainen seurakunta / Finska församlingen i Stockholm | Ruotsi |
| Kellokumpu | Erkki | Ruotsinsuomalainen harrastajateatteriliitto (RSHT) | Ruotsi |
| Kharpak | Irina | Hatsinan Inkeri-Seura | Venäjä |
| Kivikangas | Jaana | Tukholman suomalainen seurakunta / Finska församlingen i Stockholm | Ruotsi |
| Kivinen | Tuula | Canada-Finland Chamber of Commerce | Kanada |
| Kivisaari | Helena | Tukholman Suomalainen Seura | Ruotsi |
| Kokko | Wladimir | Pietarin Inkerin Liitto | Venäjä |
| Konkola | Matti | Aurinkorannikon sydänyhdistys | Espanja |
| Korhonen | Matti J. | Ikinuoret, Tukholman Suomalaisen seuran jaosto | Ruotsi |
| Korhonen | Voitto | Costa Blancan suomalainen ev.lut. seurakunta | Espanja |
| Korja-Mayer | Armi | Rhein-Neckarin suomalainen seurakunta | Saksa |
| Korosteleva | Hilja | Pihkovan inkerinsuomalaisten kansallis-kulttuurinen yhteisö "Pikku Inkeri" | Venäjä |
| Krats | Jimmy | Sudbury Finnish Rest Home Society (Finlandia Village) | Kanada |
| Kröger-Müller | Marjut | Alanyan suomalaiset ry | Turkki |
| Kuivinen Brown | Marta | Evergreen NW Kantele Players | USA |
| Kuparinen | Veli-Matti | Asociación Finlandesa Costa Blanca de Torre Vieja (Costa Blanca Suomi-seura) | Espanja |
| Kurvi | Annikki | Finnish Center Association (FCA) | USA |
| Kuusela | Milla | Frankfurtin suomalaisen kouluyhdistyksen nuorisajaosto | Saksa |
| Kuusela | Inka | Frankfurtin suomalainen kouluyhdistys | Saksa |



| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---|---------------|
| Kyander | Alice | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Nuorten Liitto / Sverigefinska ungdomsförbundet | Ruotsi |
| Kymäläinen | Kimmo | Kroatia-Suomi Yhdistys | Kroatia |
| Lamu | Kaisa | Ruotsinsuomalaiset Eläkeläiset (RSE) | Ruotsi |
| Langeland | Kaarina | Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter | USA |
| Lehto | Satu | San Diegon Suomi-talo / House of Finland Inc. | USA |
| Lehtonen | Markku Olavi | Länsi-Viron Inkerinsuomalaisten Kulttuuriseura | USA |
| Lehtonen | Katariina | Finlandia Foundation Columbia Pacific Chapter | USA |
| Leinonen | Irmeli | Alanya Finliler Derneği | Turkki |
| Lindholm | Hanna | Lontoon Merimieskirkko | Iso-Britannia |
| London | Kaisa | Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter | USA |
| Lund | Lasse | Finska nationen vid Örebro universitet | Ruotsi |
| Lännerpää | Piia | Suomi-Klubi a.s.b.l. | Belgia |
| MacLaughlin-Garbes | Heather | University of Washington Finnish Program | USA |
| Madej | Sanna | Hampurin suomalainen koulu | Saksa |
| Makila | Peter J. | FACC Florida Chapter | USA |
| Mannisto | Eva | Finnish Choral Society of Seattle | USA |
| Markomäki-Thomaser | Marianne | Aargaun Suomi-koulu | Sveitsi |
| McEachern | Outi | Calgary Finlandia Cultural Association | Kanada |
| Merigdal | Kati | Norjalais-suomalainen liitto / Norsk-finsk forbund | Norja |
| Mikkola | Satu | Finlandia Foundation National (Pasadena) | USA |
| Myllys | Asko | Finroart Forum | Sveitsi |
| Mynttinen | Juha | Suomi-koti Toronto | Kanada |
| Männistö | Heikki | Finnish Lutheran Church, Seattle | USA |
| Mökkönen | Petteri | Suomen Sotaveteraaniliitto, Kanadan Piiri | Kanada |
| Neuvonen | Sakari | Tarton Suomi-Seura | Viro |
| Nevala | Teuvo | Ruotsinsuomalainen liikunta ja urheilu | Ruotsi |
| Niskanen | Helena | FinnFest USA | USA |
| Niskanen | Kreetta | Frankfurtin Suomi-koulu: Rhein-Neckarin alue | Saksa |
| Noppa | Seija | Kulttuuri-75 | Ruotsi |
| Nousiainen | Tapani | Suomi-koti Toronto | Kanada |
| Nurminen | Markku | Deutsch Finnische Gesellschaft (DFG) Nord e.V., Hamburg | Saksa |
| Nyblom Hermansson | Inger | Finlandssvenskarnas Riksförbund i Sverige (FRIS) | Ruotsi |
| Oksajärvi Snyder | Marja | Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter | USA |
| Oldendorff | Katri | Brysselin Merimieskirkko | Belgia |
| Oldendorff | Satu | Hampurin suomalainen merimieskirkko / Finnische seemannskirche | Saksa |
| Olkkonen | Pentti | Rivieran Suomi-Seura | Ranska |
| Paananen | Martti | Tukholman suomalainen seurakunta | Ruotsi |
| Palomäki | Auli | Alanyan suomalaiset ry | Turkki |
| Passiniemi | Leena | Bremenin suomalainen seurakunta | Saksa |
| Pekkala | Mikko | Canberra Finnish Society | Australia |
| Pekkanen | Ritva Helinä | Asociación Finlandesa Suomela | Espanja |
| Petrova | Maire | Viron Inkerinsuomalaisten Liitto | Viro |



ULKOSUOMALAISPARLAMENTTI

UTLANDSFINLÄNDARPARLAMENTET – FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT

Minutes of the session 2017

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Peuhkurinen | Seppo | Suomen Sotaveteraanit Kanadassa, Toronton Kerho Toronton Suomalainen edistysliitto | Kanada Kanada |
| Pitkänen | Raija | Suomi-kerho Club Finlandia (Las Palmas) | Espanja |
| Post | Malle | Suomi-Kerho Tallinn | Viro |
| Preema | Herta | Järvamaan Inkerinsuomalaisten Seura | Viro |
| Pruul | Ester | Suomalaisen vähemmistön kulttuuri-itsehallinto | Viro |
| Pudas | Kaisa | Krungthepin Suomalaiset | Thaimaa |
| Pukari | Seppo | Motalan Suomi-Seura | Ruotsi |
| Pulkinen | Teuvo | The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Inc., San Diego | USA |
| Puolle | Seppo | Ruotsinsuomalaiset Eläkeläiset (RSE) | Ruotsi |
| Puuska | Esko | Suomi-kerho Club Finlandia, Las Palmas | Espanja |
| Qvist | Aili Anneli | Hua Hinin seudun suomalaiset | Thaimaa |
| Rahikainen | Mauno | RSKL Sörmlandin-Itägotanmaan piiri | Ruotsi |
| Rahkonen | Ossi | Finlandia Foundation National (Pasadena) | USA |
| Ramstedt | Mikko | Finn-Guild | Iso-Britannia |
| Ranta | Seppo | Boråsin Suomi-Seura | Ruotsi |
| Rautio | Anneli | Ruotsinsuomalaiset Eläkeläiset (RSE) Göteborgin ja Bohusinläänin Piiri | Ruotsi |
| Rekola | Kaj | Finlandia Foundation Berkeley Chapter | USA |
| Ristimäki-Brock | Sirpa | West Sound Suomi-koulu | USA |
| Rostron | Eija | North West Senioriklubi | Iso-Britannia |
| Ruusunen | Reino | West of Scotland Finns | Iso-Britannia |
| Saari | Eila | Sudburyn Suomen Kielen koulu | Kanada |
| Saari | Niilo | Sudburyn Suomalainen Lepokotiyhdistys (SFRHS) | Kanada |
| Saarinen | Seppo | Nordic Northwest | USA |
| Saarnio | Ulla | Toronto Suomi Lions Club | Kanada |
| Salmi | Valteri | Rotterdamien suomalainen merimieskirkko | Alankomaat |
| Salo | Sanna Kristiina | Sisuseura Bologna | Italia |
| Sandell | Rabbe | Finlandssvenskar i Uppsala (FSU) | Ruotsi |
| Sarvanto Chisholm | Eila | Messiah Lutheran Church of Portland | USA |
| Saukkonen-Bernal | Seija | Madridin Suomi-Seura | Espanja |
| Saunanen | Albert | Suomalaisen vähemmistön kulttuuri-itsehallinto | Viro |
| Schäfer | Soile | Itävalta-Suomi -yhdistys, Wien | Itävalta |
| Sengebusch | Riitta | Kölnin suomalainen seurakunta / Finnische Gemeinde Köln | Saksa |
| Silvasti-Kontos | Sari | Thessalonikin Suomi-koulu | Kreikka |
| Sjöstedt | Seija | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Keskusliitto (RSKL) / Sverigefinska Riksförbundet | Ruotsi |
| Spangenberg | Mia | Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter | USA |
| Sulkunen | Satu | Rooman Suomi-Seura | Italia |
| Suomalainen | Marko | Pohjois-Kreikan Suomi-Seura | Kreikka |
| Surakka | Pirjo | Ruotsin Suomenkielisten Näkövammaisten Liitto | Ruotsi |
| Suurhasko | Nella | Münchenin Suomalainen kielikoulu / Finnischer Schulverein München e.V. | Saksa |
| Söder | Risto | Suomi Konferenssi / Suomi Conference of LCA Inc. | Australia |



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| Takkinen | Pirjo | Boråsin Suomi-Seura | Ruotsi |
| Talikka | Minna | Club Finlandia Ancona | Italia |
| Thylin | Anneli | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Naisten Foorumi / Sverigefinska Kvinnoforum | Ruotsi |
| Tikka | Elena | Pietarin Inkerin Liitto | Venäjä |
| Tikka | Roman | Inkerin Liitto Moskovan osasto | Venäjä |
| Tissari | Päivi | Schweizerische Vereinigung der Freunde Finnlands (SVFF) | Sveitsi |
| Toikka-Seudle | Anneli | Bremenin suomalainen seurakunta | Saksa |
| | | Lapland-Initiative Bremen e.V. | Saksa |
| Tumelius | Kari Henrik | Manchesterin Suomi-koulu | Iso-Britannia |
| Tuomanen | Pauliina | Rotterdamin suomalainen merimieskirkko | Alankomaat |
| Turta | Ella | Göteborgin Suomalaiset Nuoret | Ruotsi |
| Turunen | Olavi | Asociación Finlandesa Suomela | Espanja |
| Törmä | Arja | Benalmádenan Suomalaiset ry. | Espanja |
| Wagner | Hanna | Finlandia Foundation National (Pasadena) | USA |
| Vainionpaa | Timo | USAsuomeksi | USA |
| Wallenius-Jokinen | Virpi | Zugin Suomi-koulu | Sveitsi |
| | | Aurinkorannikon SOS-ryhmä | Espanja |
| Vallius | Suvi | FINNLUST - Lundin Suomalaiset Opiskelijat | Ruotsi |
| Valtanen | Anu | Silicon Valleyn Suomi-koulu | USA |
| | | Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter | USA |
| Varis | Marja-Liisa | Riminin Suomi-Seura | Italia |
| Vaselenko | Valeri | Rakveren Inkerinsuomalaisten Seura | Viro |
| Venetvaara | Ulla | Axevallan kansankorkeakoulu | Ruotsi |
| Vepsäläinen | Sirpa | Pietarin suomalainen kannatusyhdistys ry | Venäjä |
| White | Riitta-Liisa | Sudbury Finnish Rest Home Society (Finlandia Village) / Sudburyn suomalainen lepokotiyhdistys | Kanada |
| Wieland | Leena | DFG Baden-Württemberg e.V. | Saksa |
| Viljakainen | Nea | Berliinin suomalainen kielikoulu | Saksa |
| Visuri | Tuulikki | Gävlen Suomalainen kerhoVi | Ruotsi |
| Visuri | Voitto | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Keskusliitto (RSKL) | Ruotsi |
| | | Ruotsinsuomalainen kansankorkeakoulu (SveFI) | Ruotsi |
| Vlasova | Galina | Viipurin Piirin Inkeri-liitto | Venäjä |
| Woodward | Minna | Finn-Guild | Iso-Britannia |
| Vuori | Hannu | Asociación Cultural Finlandesa KALEVA kulttuuriyhdistys | Espanja |
| Ylijärvi | Anneli | Ruotsinsuomalaiset Eläkeläiset (RSE) Göteborgin ja Bohuslänin Piiri | Ruotsi |

OBSERVES (74)

| | | | |
|----------|--------|---|----------|
| Ahlbom | Anna | Itävalta-Suomi -yhdistys, Wien | Itävalta |
| Backman | Tarja | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Naisten Foorumi / Sverigefinska Kvinnoforum | Ruotsi |
| Beketova | Marina | Viipurin Piirin Inkeri-liitto | Venäjä |



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|--------------------|--------------|---|---------------|
| Bouvard | Sirkku | Ranskan Suomi-Seura | Ranska |
| Burgess | Pirkko | North West Senioriklubi | Iso-Britannia |
| Bykova | Nadezhda | Inkerin Liitto Tyrön osasto | Venäjä |
| Cameletti | Carol | Sudbryn Suomalainen Lepokotiyhdistys (SFRHS) | Kanada |
| Chisholm | Craig | Messiah Lutheran Church of Portland | USA |
| Clouts | Ben | St. Albansin Suomi-koulu / St. Albans Finnish School | Iso-Britannia |
| Eilu | Päivö | Aurinkorannikon suomalainen koulu | Espanja |
| Eklund | Anna | Hampurin suomalainen merimieskirkko | Saksa |
| Elo-Schäfer | Johanna | Hampurin suomalainen merimieskirkko | Saksa |
| Erikoinen | Pekka | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Keskusliitto (RSKL) | Ruotsi |
| Fomin | Tuula | Tukholman Suomalainen Seura | Ruotsi |
| Franken | Marja | Hampurin suomalainen merimieskirkko | Saksa |
| Halttunen | Sinikka | Asociación Finlandesa Costa Blanca de Torrevieja (Costa Blanca Suomi-seura) | Espanja |
| Heikkinen | Eija | Firenzen Suomi-Seura | Italia |
| Hokkanen | Juhani | The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Inc., San Diego | USA |
| Häivälä | Irja Helena | Alanya Finliler Derneği | Turkki |
| Jaakkola | Aina | Pietarin Inkerin Liitto | Venäjä |
| Kaisla | Marja | Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley | USA |
| Karhu | Gennady | Inkerin Liitto Moskovan osasto | Venäjä |
| Kenttälä | Jani | Tukholman suomalainen seurakunta | Ruotsi |
| Kiddle | Sari | Frankfurtin suomalainen koulu yhdistys | Saksa |
| Klén | Marja-Eliisa | Seniöfoorum Zürich | Sveitsi |
| Korhonen | Raili | Ikinuoret, Tukholman Suomalaisen Seuran jaosto | Ruotsi |
| Krupina | Juliana | Itä-Virumaan Inkerinsuomalaisten Seura | Viro |
| Kurula | Anna | Hua Hinin Seudun Suomalaiset | Thaimaa |
| Lassila | Riitta | Bremenin suomalainen seurakunta | Saksa |
| Laurila | Anja | Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter | USA |
| Lehmann | Ritva | Hampurin suomalainen merimieskirkko | Saksa |
| Liljeqvist | Tomi | Tukholman Suomalainen Seura | Ruotsi |
| Lindgren | Arja | Finland Centre Foundation | USA |
| Mattila | Kristina | FinnFest USA | USA |
| Mikkola | Juhani | Finnish Lutheran Church of Seattle | USA |
| Miller | Anja | Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter | USA |
| Männistö | Maria | Finnish Choral Society of Seattle | USA |
| Nurmi-Steinke | Päivi | Hampurin suomalainen koulu | Saksa |
| Paavola | Minna | Bournemouth Area Finns | Iso-Britannia |
| Paukkunen | Jouko | Portland Finnish School | USA |
| Peipinen-Kricorian | Pirjo | Ranskan Suomi-Seura | Ranska |
| Pekkala | Eine | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Naisten Foorumi | Ruotsi |
| Pekkala | Eila | Costa Blancan suomalainen ev.lut. seurakunta | Espanja |
| Pervilä | Heikki | Canada-Finland Chamber of Commerce | Kanada |



ULKOSUOMALAISPARLAMENTTI

UTLANDSFINLÄNDARPARLAMENTET – FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT

Minutes of the session 2017

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| Peurala | Hanna Leena | West of Scotland Finns | Iso-Britannia |
| Pilzer | Outi | Itävalta-Suomi-yhdistys, Wien | Itävalta |
| Puumalainen | Kristiina | Suomi-Seura Oslo | Norja |
| Pöysä | Katri | Suomi-Seura Oslo | Norja |
| Rajavuori Ludvigsen | Aira | Ruotsinsuomalainen harrastajateatteriliitto (RSHT) | Ruotsi |
| Röömus | Kadri Helena | Suomi-Kerho Tallinn | Viro |
| Räty | Leila | Finn-Guild | Iso-Britannia |
| Salonen | Erja-Riitta | SUOMIART | Ruotsi |
| Saluste | Marje | Suomi-Kerho Tallinn | Viro |
| Schmitter | Marjatta | SenioriFoorum Zürich | Sveitsi |
| Schäfer | Gustav | Itävalta-Suomi-yhdistys, Wien | Itävalta |
| Sengebusch | Wolfgang | Kölin suomalainen seurakunta / Finnische Gemeinde Köln | Saksa |
| Siegerist | Monika | Finroart Forum | Ruotsi |
| Slagner | Jouni | Ruotsinsuomalaisten Keskusliitto (RSKL) | Ruotsi |
| Spangenberg | Mia | Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter | USA |
| Ståhlberg | Klaus | Suomi-Klubi a.s.b.l. | Belgia |
| Tastula | Pirjo | Sudburyn Suomalainen Lepokotiyhdistys (SFRHS) | Kanada |
| Tengvall | Sirkku Helena | Schweizerische Vereinigung der Freunde Finnlands (SVFF) | Sveitsi |
| Tregub | Svetlana | Pietarin Inkerin Liitto | Venäjä |
| Troshina | Natalia | Pietarin Inkerin Liitto | Venäjä |
| Uuttu | Martti | Tyresön Suomi-Seura | Ruotsi |
| Wagner | David G. | Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter | USA |
| Vainionpaa | Nezihe Y. | USA-suomeksi | USA |
| Wallin | Carola | Finlandssvenskar i Uppsala (FSU) | Ruotsi |
| Valtanen | Sara | Silicon Valleyn Suomi-koulu | USA |
| Wehder | Sisko | SenioriFoorum Zürich | Sveitsi |
| Welti | Maria | Suomalainen kirkko Sveitsissä (SKS) | Sveitsi |
| Whitaker | Marjatta | North West Senioriklubi | Iso-Britannia |
| Wolff | Kaisa | Münchenin Suomalainen kielikoulu / Finnischer Schulverein München e.V. | Saksa |
| Vuori | Lea | Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter | USA |



Annex 7. Festive speech by Minister of Education Ms Sanni Grahn-Laasonen

Opetusministeri Sanni Grahn-Laasonen juhlapuhe ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 20-vuotisjuhlaistunnossa

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 9. istunto, Helsingin yliopiston juhlasali 17.6.2017

Hyvä juhlaväki,

Suomalaisuutta on pohdittu ja pohditaan Suomen 100-vuotisjuhlien kunniaksi useissa eri tilanteissa.

Uskon, että suomalaisuuden määrittely ulkosuomalaisena kirkastuu. Me kaikki muualla asuneet tiedämme ja te asuvat tiedätte, miltä tuntuu kantaa kotiin laukuissa tuttuja aikakauslehtiä, lastenkirjoja, muumi- tai satavuotismukeja, Fazerin sinistä ja/tai salmiakkia. Herkkuja ja mukejakin saa joka puolelta maailmaa. Miksi sitten juuri näitä aarteita rahdataan paikasta toiseen, vuodesta toiseen? Miksi ulkosuomalaismyyjäisissä viedään sinapit, hernekeitot, salmiakit, karjalanpiirakat ja pullat nenän edestä? Koska ne ovat suomalaisia. Koska ne tuovat Suomen sinne, missä ikinä olemme.

Tänä vuonna on erityisen hienoa olla suomalainen. Olemme voineet yhdessä juhlia niin täällä Suomen kamaralla kuin kaikkialla siellä, mihin suomalaiset ovat vuosien varrella kotiutuneet. Suomalaisuus on sitä, että tuntee olevansa suomalainen - olipa missä pain maailmaa tahansa.

Mainitsin äsken suomalaiset lastenkirjat. Ne esittelevät usein hausalla, hieman vinolla ja samalla tarmokkaalla huumorilla sisukkaita ja vaikeuksia pelkäämättömiä lapsia - ajatelkaamme vaikkapa Tatua ja Patua, Ellaa, Heinähattua ja Vilttitossua, Risto Räppääjää, Onnelia ja Annelia. Tarinoilla on opetuksia, ne viestittävät usein vaikeistakin asioista, mutta ne koukuttavat. Tarinoita haluaa kuulla ja lukea kerta toisensa jälkeen.

Kun monikielisyys on yhä useammassa perheessä arkea, äidinkielen säilyttäminen on tärkeää. Tiedämme, että äidinkielen kehitys tukee tasapainoista kasvua ja tunne-elämässä



vaikeiden asioiden sanottamista. Suomalaiset lastenkirjat tukevat sekä kielenoppimista että tunne-elämän monipuolisuuden hyväksymistä.

Arvoisat kuulijat,

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin yksi tärkeimmistä toiminnoista on antaa tukea suomen kielen opetukselle maailmalla. Suomi-koulut ovat syntyneet maailmalla ulkosuomalaisten omasta tarpeesta ja aloitteesta välittää lapsilleen suomen kieltä ja suomalaista kulttuuriperintöä.

Monelle oppilaalle Suomi-koulu on tärkeä ja joskus jopa ainoa side suomen kieleen ja omien vanhempiensa kotimaahan.

Suomi-koulun merkitys on niin vanhemmille kuin lapsille ensisijaisesti sosiaalinen. Koulun kautta on mahdollista tukea koko perheen suomen kielen ja kulttuurin ylläpitämistä ja oppimista ja lisäksi koululta on helppo löytää vertaistukea ja suomenkielisiä ystäviä.

Suomi-kouluja tuetaan valtionavustuksin vuosittain. Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö osoittaa tästä määrärahasta kokonaisuuden, jonka Opetushallitus kohdistaa Suomi-koulujen toiminnan tukemiseen ja kotiperuskoulu/hemgrundskola-toimintaan sekä Suomi-koulujen tuki ry:lle.

Suomi-koulujen oppilasmäärä kasvoi voimakkaasti 2000-luvun ensimmäisellä vuosikymmenellä, mutta näyttää vakiintuneen 2010-luvun alussa noin 4 000:een. Suomi-kouluja toimii noin 150 eri puolilla maailmaa. Oppilaiden määrä lisääntyy jatkuvasti. Valtion avustusta saavissa Suomi-kouluissa oli lukuvuonna 2015–2016 yhteensä 258 oppilasta enemmän kuin aiempänä vuonna. (Lisäys oli 6,1 % kokonaisoppilasmäärästä 4 238.)

Suomi-kouluja ei olisi ilman sitä valtavaa aika- ja työpanosta, jota suomalaiset ympäri maailmaa tähän toimintaan antavat. Kuten äsken totesin, Suomi-koulu ei synny tyhjästä. Jokainen kohtaaminen suunnitellaan, valmistellaan huolella ja niihin matkustetaan usein kaukaa. Uskon, että Suomi-koulut syntyvät välittämisestä.



Hyvät kuulijat, arvoisat ulkosuomalaisparlamentin jäsenet,

Suomen itsenäisyyden satavuotisjuhluvuosi 2017 on sukupolvemme merkittävin juhluvuosi.

Juhluvuosi vaalii Suomen vahvuuksia, kuten tasa-arvoa ja demokratiaa, ja tarjoaa suomalaisille ja Suomen ystäville monipuolista ohjelmaa niin Suomessa kuin rajojemme ulkopuolella. Juhlavuoden aikana muistetaan mennyttä, juhlitaan juuri tätä hetkeä, jossa elämme, ja luodaan suuntaa Suomen tulevaisuuteen.

Juhlavuoden kantava kattoteema on Yhdessä– ja yhdessä olemme rakentaneet koko tälle vuodelle kulttuuria ja elämyksiä sisältävän ohjelman eri toimijoiden kanssa. Emme juhli itsenäistä Suomea vain täällä kotimaassamme vaan ympäri maailmaa, jokaisessa maassa, jossa suomalaiset elävät ja vaikuttavat.

Ulkomailla olevien Suomi-toimijoiden yhteinen Suomi 100 Maailmalla -hanke, jossa Suomi-seurakin on mukana, vahvistaa yhteistä juhlaa kutsumalla ulkosuomalaisia mukaan juhluvuoteen ja kokoamalla yhteen ulkomailla järjestettävää juhluvuosiohjelmaa. Suomi-Seuran edelleen jakamat valtionavustukset eri ulkosuomalaisjärjestöille ja -medioille mahdollistavat juhluvuoden kulttuurista ulkosuomalaistoimintaa ruohonjuuritasolla maailman eri kolkissa.

Hyvät kuulijat,

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentti on toistuvasti pitänyt esillä ulkosuomalaisten kohtaamia vaikeuksia äänestää yleisissä vaaleissa ja ehdottanut ratkaisuksi kirjeäänestyksen käyttöönottoa.

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin 20-vuotisjuhlaistunnossa on ilo todeta, että hallitus valmistelee kirjeäänestyksen käyttöönottoa. Kirjeäänestys on tulossa mahdolliseksi ensimmäistä kertaa vuoden 2019 eduskuntavaaleissa.



Monilla ulkosuomalaisilla on kohtuuttoman pitkä matka äänestyspaikalle ja ulkosuomalaisten äänestysaktiivisuus on merkittävästi kotimaassa asuvia heikommalla tasolla. Tähän kirjeäänestys voi tuoda ratkaisun.

Kirjeäänestys tulee edellyttämään äänestäjältä suurempaa omatoimisuutta kuin äänestäminen vaaliviranomaisen läsnä ollessa. Niinpä yhteistyö Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin ja Suomi-Seuran kanssa uudesta äänestystavasta tiedottamisessa ja äänestäjien opastamisessa tulee olemaan merkittävässä roolissa.

Arvoisa yleisö,

Myös 90-vuotias Suomi-Seura viettää juhlavuotta. Suomi-Seura on olemassa Suomesta lähteviä, ulkomailla asuvia ja ulkomailta Suomeen palaavia varten. Suomesta on aina lähdetty ulkomaille, milloin työn, milloin rakkauden perään ja milloin jostain muusta syystä. Sotien jälkeisen maastamuuton aallon harja sijoittuu 60- ja 70-luvun vaihteeseen, jolloin Suomesta lähdettiin erityisesti Ruotsiin. Vaikka silloisiin maastamuuton lukemiin on matkaa, on selvää, että maahan- ja maastamuutto on kokonaisilmiönä tarkasteltuna yhä merkittävämpää, ja liikkuvuudesta on tullut globaalia.

On tärkeää, että onnistumme ylläpitämään ja kehittämään ulkosuomalaisyhteyksiä sekä hyödyntämään Suomen kansainvälisyystyössä sen yhä kasvavan potentiaalin, jonka ulkomailla asuva suomalaisväestö tänä päivänä muodostaa.

Suomi-Seuralla on tässä työssä aivan keskeinen rooli toisaalta sillanrakentajana, toisaalta tiedotus- ja neuvontatoiminnassa. Maailman muuttuessa ja erityisesti sosiaalisen kanssakäymisen muotojen muuttuessa tarve Suomi-Seuran kaltaiselle toimijalle ei muutu, mutta tekemisen välineet ja muodot muuttuvat.

Arvoisat edustajat,

Korkeakoulutuksen ja tutkimuksen kansainvälisen toiminnan edistämisen linjauksissa, jotka julkaistiin aikaisemmin tänä vuonna, on erityispaino ulkosuomalaisten osaajien verkostolla. Linjauksissa todetaan, että ulkosuomalaisten verkottaminen suomalaisen korkeakoulutuksen ja tutkimuksen kansainvälisyyden edistämiseen on ensiarvoisen



tärkeää. Lähiaikoina julkaistavassa toimenpideohjelmassa on useita toimia, joilla ulkosuomaisia houkutellaan verkostoon mukaan. Toivomme, että näin saamme jaettua tietoa suomalaisesta osaamisesta, opiskelu- ja työmahdollisuuksista Suomessa, sekä helpotamme verkostoitumisen kautta myös paluumuuttoa, mikäli sellainen on ajankohtaista. Tämän teemme yhteistyössä, eri ministeriöiden ja kansallisten toimijoiden kanssa, mutta ensisijaisesti teidän kanssanne.

Myös suomalainen tutkimus tarvitsee teitä. Tarvitsemme Suomeen osaajia, jotka ovat valmiita ottamaan sen ensimmäisen askeleen tutustuakseen suomalaiseen tutkimusjärjestelmään ja mahdollisesti työskentelemään korkeakoulussa, tutkimuslaitoksessa, yrityksessä tai vaikkapa julkisella sektorilla.

Perustamme myös lähetystöjen yhteyteen ja vierelle KNOWLEDGE FINLAND/TEAM FINLAND KNOWLEDGE-verkoston niihin maihin, joissa näemme erityisesti olevan lisäarvoa suomalaisen korkeakoulutuksen ja tutkimuksen näkyvyydestä ja yhteistyöstä niin osaamisen kuin globaalien arvoketjujen näkökulmasta.

Menemme sinne, missä Suomen pitää olla vahvemmin paikan päällä, jossa kumppanimaan ja Suomen yhteistyöstä hyötyvät kaikki osapuolet. Nämä sillanpääasemat toimivat tulevaisuudessa myös ulkosuomalaisverkostojen kanssa tiiviisti yhteistyössä.

Kansainvälisyyden edistämisen linjauksissa korostamme mahdollisuuttamme tehdä yhteistyössä maailman parasta. Tätä haluamme tehdä teidän kanssanne.

Kiitos!

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Annex 8. Resolutions adopted by the 9. session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

This is a list over the short decisions of adopted resolutions (total 56). Full adopted resolutions include these short decisions alongside their resolution background text. Full texts are found at FEP home pages (www.usp.fi > Session 2017, or via: www.usp.fi > Activity > Resolutions).

I COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AND OFFICIAL ISSUES

1. The impact of Brexit on Finns

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament encourages the Finnish authorities and government to advocate for the Finns living in the UK and their families and to regularly disseminate information about the situation as the Brexit process progresses. The Secretariat and the Speakers' Council shall promote the views of Finns living in the UK in discussions with the authorities in Finland.

2. Postal voting

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that before postal voting becomes effective, the Finnish government organize an understandable and effective information campaign about it by utilizing the multiple channels of both domestic and expatriate Finnish media. Information shall also be disseminated to Finland Societies, Finnish parishes, Suomi Schools, and any other organizations that may then pass the information on to their members.

3. Joint Nordic embassy buildings

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that the matter does not fall within the mandate of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament. However, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament emphasizes the importance of Nordic co-operation.

4. A parallel bilateral review of the language situation in Finland and Sweden

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that the initiative does not fall within its mandate.

II COMMITTEE ON CITIZENSHIP ISSUES

5. Long-term visas to Finland to be granted also on the basis of recommendations from Finnish expatriate communities

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Speakers' Council of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament will discuss the criteria for granting long-term visas between Finland and Russia with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

6. Free and unlimited visas for close relatives of Finnish citizens –

Бесплатные и бессрочные визы для близких родственников гражданина Финляндии

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:



The Speakers' Council of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament is going to discuss the criteria for granting long-term visas between Finland and Russia with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, also in the case of siblings.

7. Authorizing and obligating Finnish embassies and diplomatic representations abroad to receive and forward notifications regarding changes in the marital status, birth of children, and citizenship of Finnish citizens

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that Finnish embassies and honorary consulates abroad be authorized to receive and forward notifications regarding changes in the marital status, birth of children, and citizenship of Finnish citizens living abroad.

8. Mobile passport unit to be established in Central Europe (Frankfurt)

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

A mobile passport unit will be established in Frankfurt-am-Main. Therefore, the initiative does not require action.

9. Increasing the efficiency of use of the mobile passport unit

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that those Finnish embassies which use mobile passport units be allocated sufficient resources to use them efficiently. Mobile passport units must travel around in their area so that the entire area is covered and that they are regularly available in different towns/states/neighboring countries. Mobile passport units must be available in one place for more than one day at a time.

10. Renewing passports and adding the unused months remaining in the old passport

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that when a passport is renewed, its period of validity be extended by the remaining period of validity of the old passport. Six months could be set as a maximum.

11. Extending the validity period of passports to 10 years

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament encourages the Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior to actively continue investigating the possibility of issuing Finnish passports for ten years.

12. A fee payable to the Finnish Immigration Service for determining citizenship status

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament chooses not to express an opinion on the initiative and concludes that it may be a matter of an individual case. The Finnish Immigration Service announces on its website that an authority (the police, a Local Register Office, a diplomatic representation) shall request for determination of citizenship status if the information of a person's citizenship in the population information system may be incorrect or not up to date.

13. Apostille

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:



The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Finnish embassies and honorary consulates abroad be authorized to certify original official documents and to forward them to Finnish authorities.

14. The criteria for Finnish citizenship of expatriate Finns

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Nationality Act be amended to the effect that native Finnish citizens, who are also citizens of another country, can automatically retain their Finnish citizenship. In this way, they no longer need to prove that they have sufficient connection with Finland or notify Finnish authorities by the age of 22 of their wish to retain their Finnish citizenship.

15. Finnish citizenship to be granted to the children of former Finnish citizens as well as their children under 18 years of age by declaration

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Nationality Act be amended to the effect that the grown-up children (18 years or older) of both former and present native Finnish citizens and their children under 18 years of age may be granted Finnish citizenship by declaration.

III COMMITTEE ON SENIOR ISSUES

16. A care home for expatriate Finns to be established in the Helsinki area and the help needs of Finnish senior citizens to be coordinated

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Speakers' Council and the Secretariat to continue investigating the need for senior housing units or places in senior housing units dedicated for repatriates and different options for financing and implementation, as well as to identify bodies potentially interested in cooperation. At the same time, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament reminds the Speakers' Council and the Secretariat that they shall continue advocating for the provision of care for elderly expatriate Finns as well as report the results of their work in the next session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

17. Student and employee exchange in elderly and dementia care

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that support for the care of elderly expatriate Finns, which is the basic idea of this initiative, is already being promoted on the basis of resolutions taken in previous sessions. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Speakers' Council and the Secretariat continue to follow up and report on the resolutions concerning trainee and employee exchange promoting care for elderly expatriate Finns.

18. A person's last will

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Secretariat to continue disseminating information, in particular to senior expatriate Finns, about their possibilities to make sure that their last will is implemented. At the same time, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Secretariat to investigate and develop possibilities to promote the implementation of the last will of adult expatriate Finns.

19. Collecting health insurance contributions from retired expatriate Finns who live permanently abroad



RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that the initiative does not require action because the Finnish tax authorities only collect health insurance contributions from those retired expatriate Finns whose health care expenses Finland is liable to cover.

20. Supporting senior expatriate Finns

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament does not express an opinion on the initiative as such and points out that the Speakers' Council and the Secretariat already co-operate with bodies working with expatriate and repatriated Finnish senior citizens and have advocated for their interests.

21. Extending the time limit for adjustment of taxation back to five years

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Tax Administration and, if necessary, the Ministry of Finance investigate and make the necessary changes to practices that lead to double taxation of Finnish expatriate senior citizens, against the tax treaties concluded by the Finnish government to prevent double taxation. In addition, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Tax Administration publishes clear instructions on its website for filing a claim for adjustment of double taxation. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Tax Administration extends the handling time of claims for adjustment back to five years until a permanent solution has been negotiated with the States Parties to the tax treaties.

IV COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

22. A permanent social worker's post to be established in the Spanish Costa del Sol

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Finnish government establish a permanent social worker's post in the Spanish Costa del Sol.

23. Health care expenses in Finland of expatriate Finns living in certain countries

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to investigate whether Finns who live in countries which do not have a social security agreement with Finland and who pay their taxes in Finland could have the right to use Finnish health care services during their visits to Finland at the same price as persons residing in countries with which Finland has a reciprocal health care agreement.

24. Registering a vehicle in Finland for an expatriate Finn

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Ministry of Transport and Communications investigates how registering vehicles in Finland could be made easier for expatriate Finns.

25. Reducing the fee for registering a divorce at a District Court in Finland in the case of a marriage between a Finn and a non-EU citizen

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:



The Finnish Expatriate Parliament decided not to express an opinion because the background information for the initiative was not clear enough.

26. Kela card to be issued to Finnish citizens living abroad

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:
The Finnish Expatriate Parliament decided to reject the proposal.

V COMMITTEE ON STUDY AND TRAINING ISSUES I

27. Increasing the state subsidy for the Kulkuri School of Distance Education

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:
The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Ministry of Education and Culture to comply with the will of the Finnish Parliament and take action to increase the annual state subsidy for the Kulkuri School of Distance Education run by the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation to at least 200,000 euros per year, so that online tuition is made possible. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament emphasizes that these must be funds specifically allocated to the Kulkuri School of Distance Education, which do not reduce the funding for other operators included in the budget line in question.

28. The state subsidy granted to the Summer High School Association for organizing summer camps for Finnish expatriate children and young people to be secured in the future

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:
The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Ministry of Education and Culture to increase the state subsidy allocated to the Summer High School Association at least to the same level as in 2013 to make it possible to restart the important summer camp activities for Finnish expatriate children and young people. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament emphasizes that these must be funds specifically allocated to the Summer High School Association, which do not reduce the funding for other operators included in the budget line in question.

29. Funding of Finnish language schools

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:
The Finnish Expatriate Parliament demands that the Ministry of Education and Culture comply with the clearly expressed will of the Finnish Parliament and permanently increase the state subsidy granted to Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu), taking into consideration their continuously increasing number. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Ministry of Education and Culture to include in the government budget a new budget line dedicated to Finnish language schools in order to make the funding situation clearer.

30. Children under 3 years of age to be covered by the state subsidy for Finnish language schools

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:
The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Ministry of Education and Culture to extend the state subsidy to cover the activities for children under 3 years of age in Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu) and to increase the appropriation for Suomi Schools accordingly. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament emphasizes that this appropriation must be specifically allocated to children under 3 years of age so that they will not share the funding allocated to those aged 3 to 18 years.

31. Reducing the group size in Finnish language schools

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:



The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Ministry of Education and Culture to reduce the group size, required to qualify for state subsidy, from six to four pupils (cf. Decree issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture 1777/2009, Section 3). In this way, high-quality teaching in Finnish language schools (Suomi-koulu) can be guaranteed for students with varying levels of language skills.

VI COMMITTEE ON STUDY AND TRAINING ISSUES II

32. Traineeship subsidy for university students

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that students studying abroad should have easy, centralized access to information about grants and other funding options.

In addition, Finns studying abroad should be able to benefit from the same subsidy system to fund their traineeship periods in Finland as those students who study in Finland.

33. Act amending the Act on Liberal Adult Education 1765/2009. To be added: The authorization may also be granted for education provided abroad

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Act amending the Act on Liberal Adult Education (1765/2009) be amended by inserting the following into Section 4: "The authorization may also be granted for education provided abroad".

34. Lack of space and remedial teaching in European Schools

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the responsible educational authorities take action to remedy the problematic conditions in which Finnish students study in European Schools and to secure a safe and healthy learning environment.

In addition, the support services for learning and studying (student welfare services) and the relevant staff resources should be secured in the way required by Finnish law.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament also proposes that the Finnish authorities investigate whether European Schools could issue a proof of education corresponding to the Finnish comprehensive school leaving certificate to those students who do not complete the European Baccalaureate.

35. Completing a National Certificate of Language Proficiency outside Finland

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that in order to support the official languages of Finland, the law on National Certificates of Language Proficiency must be amended to make it possible to take the general language proficiency tests in the official languages of Finland even outside Finland.

36. Specifying and amending the authorizations to provide education of existing Finnish expatriate schools

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Ministry of Education and Culture renegotiate the content of the authorizations of the existing Finnish schools abroad so as to safeguard the possibility of Finnish citizens to flexibly receive education within the Finnish educational system in Finnish.



37. Obstacles to the freedom of movement for foreign students to be eliminated

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges Finnish educational institutions to accept the grades of applicants from outside Finland, adjusted to the Finnish grading system, so that their possibilities to apply for admission into Finnish educational institutions would be the same as those of Finnish applicants.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges Finnish educational institutions to apply common agreements and rules that determine the admission criteria for applicants from outside Finland, and to provide clear information about them.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges Finnish educational institutions to comply with the Constitution of Finland and to provide the relevant information on their websites in both of Finland's official languages.

VII COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL ISSUES

38. Finns in Oregon, United States, need a permanent Finnish pastor

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament will forward the wish of having a shared Finnish pastor in Oregon and Washington to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland's Unit for Ministry to Finns Abroad. The Unit for Ministry to Finns Abroad should cooperate with both parishes.

39. A Week of Positive Talk to be organized November 20-26

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament rejects the initiative and proposes that those behind the initiative use other channels to promote their purpose.

40. Cultural tourism between Italy and Finland

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament cannot express an opinion on the initiative because it is still in its early stages. At the same time, it proposes that those behind the initiative develop a cooperation network model, especially since the initiative is based on the knowledge of expatriate Finns about the local culture and business.

41. Finnish Expatriate Parliament's recognition of the Finnish Room Committee of the University of Pittsburgh, within the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

Taking into consideration that the project of the Finnish Room Committee within the University of Pittsburgh involves significant action to cherish the Finnish cultural heritage in the United States, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that the information channels of Finland Society and the Secretariat of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament shall be utilized.

AN INITIATIVE TO THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE, ADDED BY THE SESSION

56. A working group to be established to create a cultural political program for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Speakers' Council should investigate and decide upon establishing a possible working group to work on the cultural political program.



VIII COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION ISSUES

42. A database on expatriate Finns to be established for smart networking

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that similar registers, as the one proposed in the initiative, already exist or are being planned. Expatriate Finnish experts and enterprises may contact the bodies who maintain such registers if they wish to be included in such networks.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament emphasizes that networks must be open and that information about them should be disseminated effectively.

43. Following Finnish television and radio programs abroad

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges Yle (the Finnish Broadcasting Company) to continue negotiating copyrights and other factors related to a global program offering with the relevant stakeholders so that, in the future, Yle Areena's offering could be available as extensively as possible all over the world.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Speakers' Council to negotiate with the government about the unjust features of the Public Broadcasting Tax.

44. Updating the communication methods of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament and Finland Society

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that Finland Society and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament start to use electronic mail in their mail communication. Traditional mail can still be used when necessary.

45. Support to Finnish expatriate electronic media

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament proposes that the Speakers' Council negotiate with the Ministry of Education and Culture with the aim of securing sufficient funding for Finnish expatriate media, both traditional and electronic.

46. An electronic archive to be established for Ingrian Finnish cultural co-operation

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament supports the efforts of Ingrian Finns to establish an electronic archive and database. The Finnish Expatriate Parliament, therefore, appeals to the Finnish government that it would allocate resources to establishing an electronic network on an Internet platform that would bring together scattered information and actors with an interest in Ingrian Finnish culture and history.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament considers the Ingrian Finnish project as an excellent pilot project, which can be used as a model for other surveys and studies on expatriate Finns.

IX COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AND STATUTORY ISSUES

47. Accounts and budget of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament resolves that the Finland Society shall continue supporting the Finnish Expatriate Parliament and report on its expenses also to the Financial Committee and Speakers' Council of the next session.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Finnish Parliament and the Ministry of Education and Culture to



pay attention to the Government Policy Programme on Expatriate Finns for years 2017-2021, in which the government policy is to secure the operation of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

**48. The website of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament and its forms to be available in Russian –
Создание сайта www.usp.fi и регистрационных форм на русском языке**

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that, according to Article 9 in its By-laws, its languages are Finnish, Swedish, English, and Russian. In the founding session in 1997, it was jointly agreed that those who need interpretation into Russian will take care of the interpretation and translation services themselves. This practice has functioned well, and no amendments in this regard are proposed to the By-laws or Standing Order of the FEP. The possibility of the Eastern European region to translate their regional website into Russian will be investigated. At the moment, there are no resources available for translating the forms into Russian.

49. A badge of merit system for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

At the moment, the initiative is not topical. If the status of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament is made official, and/or it receives a dedicated budget appropriation, the initiative will be revisited.

50. Removal of a ratified organization from the registry of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament after inactivity

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that Resolution number 25 of the 2005 session already gives the Secretariat the possibility to remove a member organization from the membership register, if the organization has not updated its contact details within three session terms. The FEP considers that it is not appropriate to make this policy stricter.

51. The status of observers in the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament resolves to amend 3 § of its Standing Order as follows:

The Finnish organizations are to inform the Finland Society of their participation no later than three months before the session. The motions, which each organization wishes to be considered, are also to be submitted at the same time. The Finland Society should also be given the names of the representatives, their substitutes, and observers, as well as any other persons wishing to follow the work of the Parliament, no later than six weeks before the session.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament resolves to amend 4 § of the Standing Order as follows:

The Finland Society will send the registered representatives and observers the agenda for the session, including all motions, no later than one month before the session.

The language of the Swedish version of paragraph 11 will be checked.

The Speakers' Council is urged to investigate the status of observers in the Finnish Expatriate Parliament and to put forward an initiative to the next session about a possible amendment to the By-laws or Standing Order.

52. Social media groups in the activities of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that any community, including social media communities, that fulfills the criteria for ratification by the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (the community is a functioning part of the local Finnish community and is fundamentally Finnish) and the requirements set on organizations/communities, can participate in the activities of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament also urges the Secretariat to investigate whether future sessions can be



aired through direct webcast.
The proposal was rejected.

53. Putting forward initiatives in the name of a region of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament to be made possible by decision of the regional meeting

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament concludes that the procedure of putting forward initiatives shall be made smoother in the way that the communities of a region may put forward a joint initiative officially signed by only one FEP community. Other communities supporting the initiative may announce their support by e-mail, sent by their chairperson or other member who has the right to sign for the community.

54. Possibilities of young people to influence the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament urges the Finland Society and the FEP to co-operate with young expatriate Finns in order to prepare a program for expatriate Finnish youth that will look into the situation and opportunities for young expatriate Finns and set guidelines for development. The implementation of the program for expatriate Finnish youth will be monitored in the FEP's Youth Committee, which will also decide upon the future guidelines of the program.

55. Sending session documents by e-mail

RESOLUTION OF THE FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:

The Standing Order of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament is amended as follows:

2 § The Finland Society will send an invitation to all registered Finnish organizations primarily by e-mail no later than six months before the session.

4 § The Finland Society will send the registered representatives and observers the agenda for the session, including all motions, primarily by e-mail, no later than one month before the session.

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