



PARLIAMENT OF FINLAND 2010

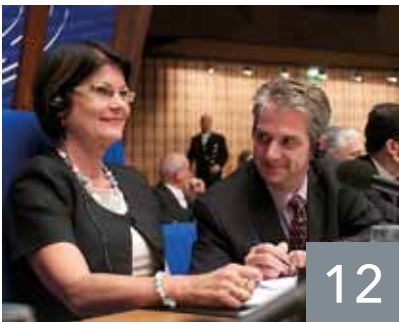




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Back cover:

Parliament approved the state budget in December. This required over 600 votes in plenary session.



Speaker's Review

The final session of an electoral term has traditionally been referred to as a “long Parliament”, because it has usually lasted from February until March of the following year. The 2010 session of Parliament lasted even longer, since general elections were moved back from March to April.

Parliament made many far-reaching decisions during the long session. It authorized the construction of two additional nuclear power plants, voted to amend the Constitution in a more parliamentary direction by reducing presidential power and decided to support euro countries that are in financial trouble.

During the 2007–2011 electoral term an entirely new committee went to work. The Audit Committee supervises the financial management of the state and compliance with the budget. In 2010 it commissioned a study of the increasingly international grey economy in Finland and prepared a 25-point action plan to combat it.

The renovation of the Parliament Buildings is proceeding according to plans and should reach completion before Finland celebrates the 100th anniversary of independence in 2017. A new accessible entrance was opened in the autumn, making it significantly easier for persons with disabilities to visit. Over 36,000 people took guided tours of

Parliament last year.

During the electoral term Parliament's administration was reformed. The change in Parliament's operational expenditure remained moderate throughout the term. Expenditure was lower in 2010 than in the final year of the preceding term. Including the Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure and money spent on renewal work, Parliament cost €18.10 per citizen in 2010.

In a service survey MPs gave the Parliamentary Office's services a mark of 4.13 on a scale of 1–5. This result shows that the Parliamentary Office is on the right track in pursuing its objective of producing the best parliamentary service in Europe.

Public perceptions of Parliament often centre around MPs. A large group of people with different skills work in the background, however. Without their support Parliament could not enact laws, draft budgets and oversee administration. It may come as a surprise to many that Parliament's largest personnel group is cleaning staff.

Parliament is a unique place to work not only because employees are strongly committed to their work, but also because of Parliament's community atmosphere and service culture. It is a pleasure to welcome new MPs as well as visitors.

Sauli Niinistö





Big decisions made in long session

The final session of the 2007-2011 electoral term was unusually long, since Parliament decided in spring 2010 to move back general elections from March to the third Sunday in April.

The 2010 session of Parliament opened on 3 February and lasted until 12 April 2011.

Sauli Niinistö served as Speaker, Seppo Kääriäinen as First Deputy Speaker and Tarja Filatov as Second Deputy Speaker.

In the session preceding elections Parliament received 336 government proposals, which was higher than usual. The number of government proposals in the final sessions of the three previous electoral terms was less than three hundred.

20 government proposals were allowed to lapse because there was not enough time to handle them by the end of the electoral term. Four

“The general tone of Parliament’s activities was marked by polls indicating exceptionally large changes in party preferences”

years ago five government proposals were allowed to lapse.

Parliament made a number

of decisions with broad and far-reaching impacts, including amendments to the Constitution, authorizations to build additional nuclear power plants and support for crisis countries in the euro area.

Seppo Tiitinen, who has served as Secretary General for nearly twenty years, says that the approaching elections began colouring parliamentary work earlier this time than in past years.

“The general tone of Parliament’s activities was marked by polls indicating exceptionally large changes in party preferences, by Finnish standards. The agitation under the surface received new driving force from the economic difficulties of Greece, Ireland and Portugal and the arrangements put in place to help Greece and Ireland,” he notes.



As the oldest MP, Jacob Söderman (Social Democratic Party) held the chair on 2 February until the Speakers were elected. He is shown here with Secretary General Seppo Tiitinen (left) and Director of Legislation Keijo Koivukangas.



Parliament well informed on the crisis

Erkki Tuomioja (Social Democratic Party) is the chair of the Grand Committee, which is responsible for handling EU matters. He says that in the best case the euro crisis will cost Finland nothing if guarantees are not needed and loans are repaid.

“The worst thing is not the prospect of losing some of the loans that have been made, which is quite possible with Greece, but allowing

“The worst thing is not the prospect of losing some of the loans that have been made, but allowing a few countries’ problems to spread to a pan-European recession.”

a few countries’ problems to spread to a pan-European recession. This would be very costly for Finland as well.”

The alternative to aid packages would be to allow crisis countries to restructure their debt.

“If that happened banks that have carelessly given these countries



After the resignation of Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen (Centre Party), Parliament elected Mari Kiviniemi (Centre Party) as Prime Minister by a vote of 115-56.

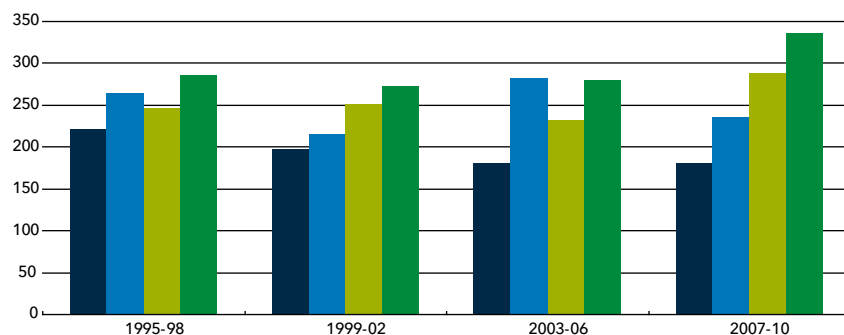
credit at high interest rates would have participated in the costs. This has been a subject of debate and disagreement in the committee the whole time.”

Tuomioja says that the Grand Committee has constantly been kept up to date on the management

of the euro crisis, even though the message has not always been what it would like to hear.

“The Finnish Parliament is the only parliament in Europe that the government has kept properly informed, even during crisis weekends.”

Government proposals 1995-2010



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



Reform will strengthen Parliament's position

On the final stretch of the 2010 session Parliament approved an amendment to the Constitution that will shift power in the area of foreign policy from the President of the Republic to the Government and Parliament.

“Giving one person great power can lead to the abuse of power, as history has shown.”

The new Parliament that will convene after the election must give its approval before the amendment can enter into force. Secretary General Tiitinen considers the reform another step towards a more parliamentary system of government.

The Constitutional Law Committee played a decisive role in considering the matter, and the amendment was approved on the basis of its report. Committee



Tarja Filatov served as Second Deputy Speaker in the 2010 session of Parliament. On the left is Secretary General Seppo Tiitinen.

chair Kimmo Sasi (National Coalition Party) believes that strong presidential power has a downside.

“Giving one person great power can lead to the abuse of power, as history has shown. All parts of society are represented in Parliament. They scrutinize one another and have to negotiate and

make compromises. Decision-making in Parliament is therefore more stable and takes different views into account better.”

Another amendment to the Constitution would make it possible to petition Parliament for legislation by collecting the names of 50,000 voters who are Finnish

An MP's work requires patience

Before Tarja Tallqvist (Christian Democrats) was elected to Parliament, she was known for her award-winning TV documentaries and defense of elderly people's rights.

At first she was surprised by the slow pace of legislative work. She chuckles that four years ago she sincerely believed that problems in care for the elderly could be corrected if only someone would take the floor and explain what caretakers had to deal with in real life.

“It was quite a disappointment to notice that nothing happened. Still, we have to draw attention to issues, which means talking and listening,” she says.

Tallqvist's work as a director of documentaries ended on a high note: a programme that stimulated social discussion and demands for corrective measures.

“It's harder to be a decision-maker and face demands now that I know how slowly things proceed.”

Tallqvist had been in Parliament for only a month when she submitted a legislative motion calling for the investigation of the criminal backgrounds of people working with the elderly, disabled and mentally ill.

“Legislation is now being prepared. Although we'll have to wait until the next term and no one may remember that it was my motion, the important thing is that something is being done.” Tallqvist notes.



citizens. A separate act on this procedure could enter into force as soon as the beginning of 2012.

Sasi hopes that citizens' initiatives will address major issues and show proper forethought.

"It would be too bad if initiatives were made for irrational reasons, distorting issues. If initiatives are good and important, they can establish a tradition and lead to real results."

Nuclear power and renewable energy

One of the most important decisions of the electoral term was made in summer 2010, when Parliament gave two companies (Teollisuuden Voima and Fennovoima) permission to build additional nuclear power stations.

"A precondition for Finnish industry and jobs in Finland is access to energy so that we aren't entirely dependent on imports. The aim of the nuclear power decision was to stimulate falling exports and get Finland out of recession," explains Jouko Skinnari (Social Democratic Party), the chair of the Commerce Committee.

In addition to voting on nuclear power stations, Parliament approved a sizable aid package for renewable



In autumn 2010 former Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen (Centre Party) appeared before the Constitutional Law Committee to respond to allegations of misconduct. The committee concluded that Vanhanen was wrong to participate in a decision allocating funds from the Slot Machine Association, but Parliament considered that the threshold for bringing charges was not reached.

"The aim of the nuclear power decision was to stimulate falling exports and get Finland out of recession"

energy. In the future an increasing share of energy will be produced using wood chips, waste, ground heat, wind, water and the sun.

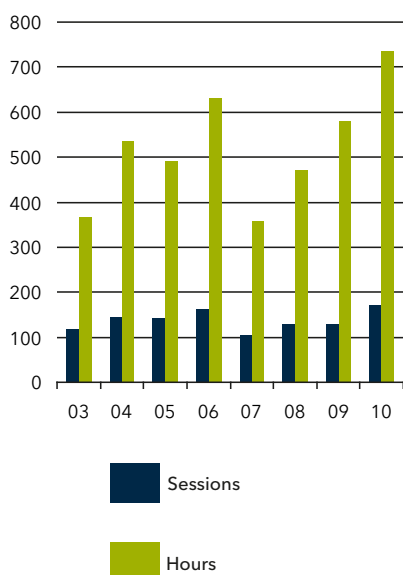
"This is a longer-term solution and is also in line with EU objectives. Renewable energy can be an important export product for Finland and promote employment." Skinnari adds.

Type of matter / Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Government proposals	280	181	236	289	336
Government reports	8	3	8	9	11
Government statements		1		2	2
Interpellations	7	1	3	3	6
Prime Minister's announcements	4	4	1	2	5
Union matters	80	52	86	90	73
Legislative motions	186	145	137	127	140
Petitionary motions	167	64	78	91	149
Budgetary motions	1 580	1 069	1 088	1 109	1 147
Supplementary budgetary motions	126	40	115	84	130
Written questions	1 206	637	1 066	1 119	1 436



Quicker intervention in family violence

Total number of plenary sessions and their total duration 2003–2010



In the opinion of Vice Chair Anna-Maja Henriksson (Swedish People’s Party), the most noteworthy accomplishment in the Legal Affairs Committee was to make petty assault an offence subject to public prosecution in cases of family violence or if the victim is under 18.

“It was a very important signal to society that family violence is not an internal matter and that all violence must be condemned. Hopefully the amendment will have a preventive effect and reduce acts of violence or at least keep them from escalating before anyone can intervene,” Henriksson says.

Many of the matters that come before the Legal Affairs Committee are connected to people’s daily lives. In Finland a parliamentary committee’s work is not public before it issues a report or statement, however. In many countries

committee meetings are open to the public, and from time to time there have been calls for a similar practice in Finland.

In Henriksson’s opinion this question is difficult, because committees must be able to work in peace and yet open social debate should be possible while work is going on in Parliament.

“It could be useful to hold public

“It was a very important signal to society that family violence is not an internal matter.”

hearings on a general level, for example regarding how to develop the rule of law, what values we want to protect, how to prevent crime and improve victims’ position. These issues should also be discussed more in plenary sessions.”

The committees held the following number of meetings and drafted the following number of reports and statements in the 2010 session::

2010 parliamentary session	Meetings	Reports	Statements
Grand Committee	81	2	14
Constitutional Law Committee	145	15	68
Foreign Affairs Committee	106	13	6
Finance Committee*	70	62	10
Audit Committee	84	11	10
Administration Committee	128	42	51
Legal Affairs Committee	129	45	21
Transport and Communications Committee	114	28	20
Agriculture and Forestry Committee	141	36	39
Defence Committee	70	5	13
Education and Culture Committee	124	15	22
Social Affairs and Health Committee	124	58	20
Commerce Committee	141	51	33
Committee for the Future	74	1	5
Employment and Equality Committee	120	18	21
Environment Committee	142	24	33
Total (including subcommittees)	2 107	426	386

* The Finance Committee generally prepares matters in eight subcommittees. These held the following number of meetings: Administration and Security Subcommittee 39, Tax Subcommittee 86, Education and Science Subcommittee 39, Agriculture Subcommittee 29, Communications Subcommittee 24, Employment and the Economy Subcommittee 35, Municipal and Health Affairs Subcommittee 33, Housing and Environment Subcommittee 29.



Health Care Act allows more choice

The Social Affairs and Health Committee began considering the Health Care Act in summer 2010 with an exceptional public hearing at a sports arena in Pori. Later on the committee heard testimony from dozens of experts.

“Most of the experts considered the proposed changes necessary. Many thought the reform did not go far enough, however, since changes were not made in the way services are arranged and financed,” relates Inkeri Kerola (Centre Party), the chair of the Social Affairs and Health Committee.

The Health Care Act brings together provisions regarding activities and services that were previously contained in the Primary Health Care Act and the Act on Specialized Medical Care. Kerola views this is a good thing.

“The possibility to choose

health-care services across municipal boundaries is a significant improvement for clients,” she adds.

Freedom to choose where a person receives care will be expanded gradually. In the initial stage clients can decide which local clinic they want to use in their own municipality, and if they need specialized medical care they can choose a unit within a larger area. Later on clients’ freedom to choose will be expanded to clinics and hospitals anywhere in the country.

“The first stage starts in spring 2011 and the right to choose will be expanded to the entire country in 2014,” Kerola says.

Kerola is also glad that rules have been spelled out regarding waiting times. A client must receive treatment within six months after receiving a referral. Young people under the age of 23 are guaranteed access to psychiatric care within three months.

Seats in the Parliament:

National Coalition Party
Parliamentary Group 51

Centre Party Parliamentary
Group 50

Social Democratic Parlia-mentary
Group 45

Left Alliance Parliamentary
Group 17

Green Parliamentary Group 14

Swedish Parliamentary
Group 10

Christian Democratic Parlia-
mentary Group 7

True Finns Party Parliamentary
Group 6

Total 200 seats

At the beginning of September the Transport and Communications Committee visited the Port of Kemi with Port Director Reijo Viitala (left) as their guide. Shown here are committee chair Martti Korhonen (Left-Wing Alliance) and members Markku Pakkanen (Centre Party), Janne Seurujärvi (Centre Party) and Lyly Rajala (National Coalition Party), with committee counsel Juha Perttula in the background.





Rhythm of parliamentary work improved

Nearly forty MPs decided not to stand for reelection in spring 2011.

Among those who are stepping down are Janina Andersson (Greens) from Turku and Raimo Vistbacka (True Finns Party) from Alajärvi. Andersson served 16 years in Parliament and Vistbacka 24.

“I’ll miss many people, being close to information and constantly learning new things. But I won’t miss arriving in Turku at 8 pm, knowing I’ll have to take the train back at 6:38 the next morning. Or the evening papers’ way of making everything we do in Parliament seem evil and selfish,” Andersson says.

In Vistbacka’s opinion the electoral term was particularly marked by the campaign finance scandal following the 2007 general elections.

“It disturbed MPs’ normal work. There have been some useful consequences, such as the tightening of campaign finance legislation,

but constantly keeping the muck flying in public has given the wrong picture and labelled Parliament’s work.”

When she started out in Parliament, Andersson felt she could easily get across her own ideas and values in the media.

“There might be a few lines about my personal life to add spice, but the main emphasis was on politics. Nowadays it’s harder for new MPs to convey a meaningful message. Often all you can hope for is a couple of lines with some substance in an article, which is all about looking inside the person,” she points out.

Both veteran MPs are happy that Parliament’s work rhythm became more reasonable while Riitta Uosukainen was Speaker in the latter part of the 1990s. Since then MPs have been notified of voting times in advance. Sessions stretching late into the night were also abolished.

“One good thing about the old days was getting mail written by hand. People should of course be encouraged to use the Internet,



Tuija Brax and Pekka Haavisto of the Greens voting on the state budget in December 2010.

but at my age I find it hard to get through all the e-mails, sometimes coming a hundred or two hundred a day,” Vistbacka muses. ■

“A slight Kainuu touch”

If the Government parties have a simple majority, the opposition has no chance to win a vote in plenary session.

Opposition MPs must therefore be resourceful and have negotiating skills if they wish to leave their own mark on legislation. The place to do this is in committees, where reports and statements are prepared.

MP Merja Kyllönen (Left-Wing Alliance), who is from Suomussalmi, points to the defining of the commuting area in the Employment Services Act

as the most important victory for the opposition in the 2010 session of Parliament.

“It received a slight Kainuu touch when the Employment and Equality Committee wrote into its report that applicants for work should not be required to purchase a car but that real possibilities to commute should be determined according to public transport timetables and possibilities to walk or bike to work. MPs from areas where distances are truly long cooperated with one another so that people will

not have to bear unreasonable costs,” Kyllönen says.

Otherwise Kyllönen believes that the reform of the Employment Services Act was carried out poorly.

“It involved the hardest political jockeying of the year. Employment opportunities in the third sector, meaning organizations and associations, were slashed, and this will have a great impact on ordinary people’s lives. Competition neutrality won at people’s expense,” she laments.



Playing an international role requires expertise

MPs are needed to represent Finland in international politics. Finnish MPs are actively involved in ten interparliamentary organizations.

The largest and oldest of these is the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which has a global scope with 155 members and nine associate members.

“During IPU Assemblies and votes one can feel currents in world politics in a concrete way. One can see how small Europe is on the world stage, but also Finland’s possibilities to play its own part. A small country cannot take its place and earn recognition unless it has expertise,” says MP Katri Komi (Centre), who chairs the Finnish Group to the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

“The IPU was a channel for Finland to expand international relations, as it is for new developing democracies today. At this stage in our democratic development we have an obligation to participate more in a sharing capacity but we also can also broaden our own understanding,” Komi adds.

Komi was on the IPU’s Executive Council for four years and considered the organization’s efforts on behalf of gender equality especially rewarding.

“We worked hard for women’s right to vote, and it was a pleasure to hear women from Kuwait, for example, thank the IPU when they obtained it,” Komi recalls.

Komi is steadily improving her language skills by attending courses

arranged by Parliament. She also draws attention to the work of the International Department, which often remains behind the scenes.

“Without their contribution, experience and skill, I would not have been able to participate in the IPU Executive Council or serve as acting President at the Assembly in South Africa,” she acknowledges.

High profile for Finland in the Council of Europe

The Finnish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is among the most active. In 2010 all the members of the delegation took part in discussions, presented initiatives, prepared reports and participated in

Vice-President Xi Jinping of China (left) visited Parliament in March. Speaker Sauli Niinistö gave him a tour of the Plenary Hall.





MPs Johannes Koskinen (Social Democratic Party), Juha Korkeaoja (Centre Party) and Ilkka Kanerva (National Coalition Party) attended the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Riga last May. The assembly offers MPs from non-NATO countries a chance to exchange opinions with politicians from NATO members and to hear what topics are being discussed, for instance with regard to participation in crisis management operations or defence spending.

In 2010:

- Speaker Sauli Niinistö visited Vietnam, China, South Korea and the Czech Republic. He also participated in the Conference of Speakers of Parliament that was arranged by the IPU in Geneva.
- Deputy Speaker Tarja Filatov visited Lithuania in March to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the restoration of independence.
- Speakers visited Finland from Norway, Vietnam, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Slovenia.
- Parliament and the World Bank Institute arranged a seminar for MPs from developing countries in Helsinki on 17-19 May 2010. The seminar focused on the activities of parliamentary audit committees.

election monitoring.

MP Sinikka Hurskainen (Social Democratic Party), who chairs the delegation, was elected Vice-President at the Parliamentary Assembly in January 2010. She also played a visible role as a rapporteur for Belarus when the human rights situation in that country attracted international attention on account of the demonstrations that followed presidential elections.

Last year both Council of Europe Secretary-General Thorbjorn Jagland and Parliamentary Assembly President Mevlüt Çavusoglu visited Finland.

Hannes Manninen (Centre Party) continued as chairman of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. He is the first Finn to hold this post. The Conference is held every other year and took place in Brussels last September.

Christina Gestrin (Swedish People's Party) continued as chair of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, which met on 29-31 August in Åland.

Kimmo Kiljunen (Social Democratic Party) served as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's special representative in Central Asia, and Johannes Koskinen (Social Democratic Party) headed a working group that considered ways to develop the organization's activities.

Tuija Nurmi (National Coalition Party) prepared a report on cooperation in military medicine for the European Security and Defence Assembly.

In 2010 the Nordic Council focused on strengthening Nordic welfare, influencing globalization, increasing mobility between the Nordic countries, protecting the maritime environment, giving more content to the Northern Dimension and developing language cooperation.

Other forms of Parliament's international cooperation are Speakers' conferences and exchanges of visits. Over a hundred parliamentary delegations from different parts of the world visit Finland each year. ■



Excavation continues beneath Parliament

People living in the Etu-Töölö section of Helsinki cannot have failed to notice noise coming from Parliament this past winter. A new civil defence shelter and logistics centre are being built underground.

“We’re aware of the disturbance this causes and sincerely apologize to neighbours,” says Project Director Hannu Peltonen, who is in charge of the renovation of the Parliament Buildings.

“We’ve tried to cause less disturbance to neighbours with smaller blasts, but another objective is to complete blasting as soon as possible.”

To make life easier for neighbours, a special warming system has been

“We’ve tried to cause less disturbance to neighbours with smaller blasts”

developed. Anyone who signs up can receive a text message a few minutes before the next blast.

In addition to noise, neighbours have concerns about the impacts of blasts on buildings. On the basis of an environmental study, 45 buildings were surveyed before excavation began. The impacts of vibration are monitored with the help of sensors installed in the neighbourhood. Once excavation has been completed,



The renovation of the Parliament Buildings is proceeding in stages. The renewal of the northern wing of the main building was completed in autumn 2010. An accessible entrance was added to serve groups and individuals visiting Parliament.

final inspections will be carried out to see if buildings have been damaged in any way.

“The goal is naturally to perform work so that no damage is caused,” Peltonen says.

The renovation of the office wing on the Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu side of Parliament will reach completion in June. A small site on the Aionkatu side of Parliament, facing the Helsinki Art Exhibition Hall, is

connected to building technology solutions. A wall nearly two metres high will be built next to Aionkatu after the completion of this part of the project. The top of the structure will be landscaped with plants.

The entire renovation project is scheduled for completion in 2017 when Finland will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its independence. ■



Youth Parliament

The Youth Parliament, which convenes every other year, took place in the Plenary Hall on 16 April 2010. As in the past the format was based on Question Time.

A total of 194 student representatives from 93 Parliament clubs all over Finland attended the session, together with 87 student journalists and 90 club leaders. Representatives of two clubs were unable to attend because their flights were cancelled as a result of the ash cloud produced by the eruption of a volcano in Iceland.

Student representatives sat at MPs' desks in the Plenary Hall, while the ministers who were on hand took their seats in the Government Box. Student journalists, club leaders and guests



Members of the Youth Parliament take their seats in the Plenary Hall and ask ministers questions just as MPs do at Question Time.

The Youth Parliament announced the opening of a new website at www.nuorteneduskunta.fi.

sat in the public gallery. Of the 180 questions that were submitted in advance, 42 were placed on the agenda and there was time to discuss 22 of these during the hour-long session.

The Youth Parliament voted on

whether a driving test should be required in order to obtain a moped licence, similar to the procedure at driving schools. The vote was 104 for and 86 against requiring a driving test.

The plenary session was followed by a reception that was hosted by the Speaker for participants and guests. During the reception students eagerly talked with ministers and MPs. Parliament clubs had also arranged meetings with MPs in the afternoon.

The Youth Parliament announced the opening of a new website at www.nuorteneduskunta.fi. The site

was immediately used for real-time reporting on the session.

The website is intended for young people who are preparing to exercise their right to vote. It consists of three parts: Parliament, the Youth Parliament and pages for teachers. The site contains basic information on Parliament and democracy in Finland as well as supplementary sources and participation channels. The Youth Parliament also provides support services for Parliament clubs in schools and archives teaching materials. ■



The price of democracy: €18.10 per citizen

The change in Parliament's operational expenditure remained moderate throughout the electoral term. In 2010 the Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure amounted to €44.7 million. Money was saved by not filling vacant posts, among other things.

On the other hand the large-scale renovation of the Parliament buildings has increased the office's costs. In 2010 nearly €20 million was spent for this purpose.

Parliament's expenses totalled €97.3 million last year. This comes to €18.10 per citizen. The figure the year before was €16.52.

The Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure includes personnel, real estate and

information management costs. Parliament's total costs also include MPs, their assistants' and political groups' costs.

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

Office Commission

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

Parliament's expenses 2010
(total €97,3 million)



MPs, their assistants and parliamentary groups	€31,0 million
Staff expenses	€29,9 million
Renovation and estate expenses	€24,5 million
Information management expenses	€6,4 million
Other expenses	€5,5 million

MPs' costs declined

MPs' pay, compensation for expenses and domestic travel total about 20 million euros a year or 21 per cent of Parliament's budget.

In 2010 these costs fell by 1.3 per cent, although MPs' pay was increased by 1.6 per cent at the beginning of November.

"Money was saved particularly on domestic travel. Flight costs were reduced by making greater use of negotiated-rate and special-price tickets," relates

Perti J. Rosila, who is the head of the Accounts Office.

MPs' starting pay is currently 5,948 euros a month. After three terms the figure rises by a little over 400 euros. The Speaker receives 10,962 euros a month. This is taxable income.

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

metropolitan area.

MPs are not paid extra for attending committee meetings or late evening or weekend sessions.

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



An underground corridor connects Parliament House and the Little Parliament annex. It is decorated by Markku Arantila's 54-metre mural entitled "Travellers".

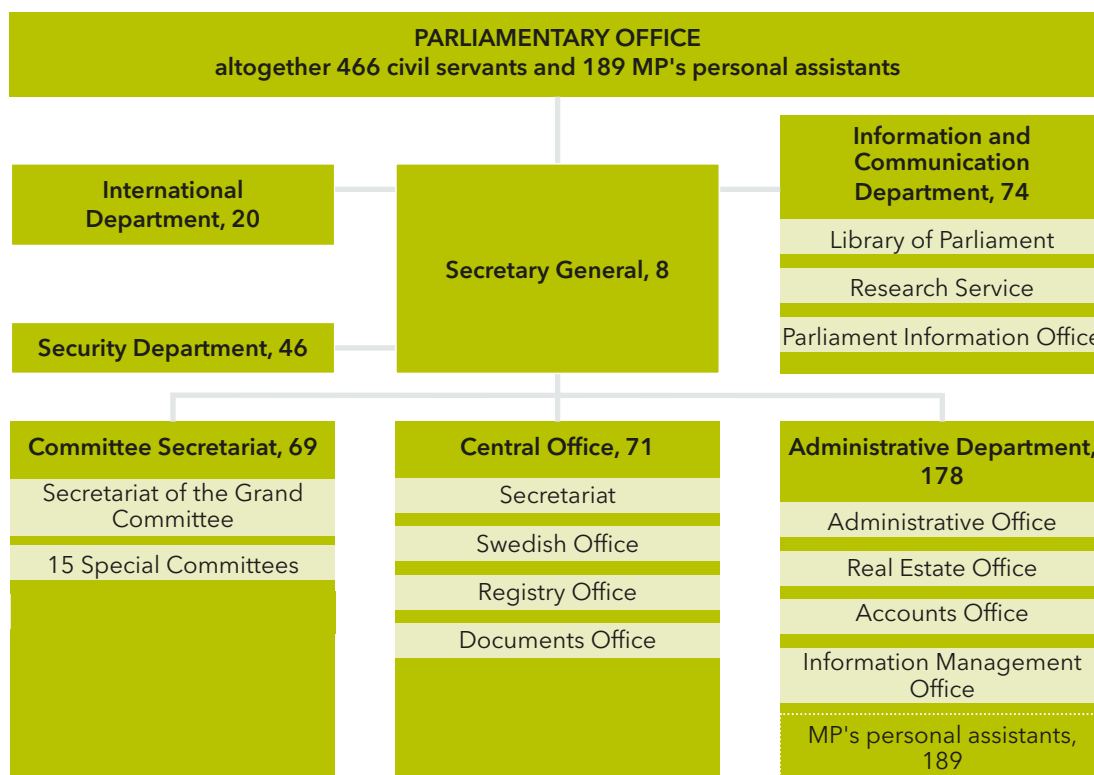
officials and resolves significant matters regarding Parliament's administration and financial management.

In 2010 the Office Commission included Speaker Sauli Niinistö, Deputy Speakers Seppo Kääriäinen and Tarja Filatov and MPs Tuomo Hänninen (Centre Party), Merja Kyllönen (Left Alliance), Petteri Orpo (National Coalition Party) and Matti Ahde (Social Democratic Party). Deputy members were Erkki Pulliainen (Greens), Mikaela Nylander (Swedish People's Party), Kari Kärkkäinen (Christian Democratic Party) and Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner (True Finns Party).

The Parliamentary Office,

which is subordinate to the Office Commission, is responsible for creating the proper conditions for Parliament to carry out its tasks as an organ of state. The Parliamentary Office comprises the Central Office, the Committee Secretariat, the Administrative Department, the International Department, the Information and Communication Department and the Security Department. The Parliamentary Office is headed by the Secretary General of Parliament.

The Central Office plans and prepares Parliament's plenary sessions, records minutes of sessions and is responsible for producing, publishing and distributing parliamentary documents and





translating them into Swedish. The Committee Secretariat takes care of preparing committee meetings and documents that are needed for decision-making in plenary session.

The Information and Communication Department includes the Library of Parliament, the Research Service and the Parliament Information Office. The International Department takes care of relations with international organizations and other parliaments.

The Administrative Department is responsible for administrative matters such as finances, real estate, information technology and personnel administration as well as the preparation of matters for the

Office Commission.

The Security Department's most visible task is security checks for persons visiting Parliament, but it is also responsible for the functioning and development of Parliament's security system as a whole.

The Parliamentary Office had 655 full-time employees at the end of the year. Two-thirds of these were permanent. Among temporary personnel (237) MPs' assistants numbered 189.

Personnel included 410 women and 265 men. Employees' average age was 44.5 years.

Roughly one-third of employees are experts. Employees performing practical tasks, such as custodians, cleaners and persons doing general

office work, form the largest category of personnel.

Real estate and facilities

The Parliament Buildings consist of Parliament House (1931), an expansion that was completed in 1978, an office building that dates from the 1950s and the Little Parliament annex, which was completed in 2004.

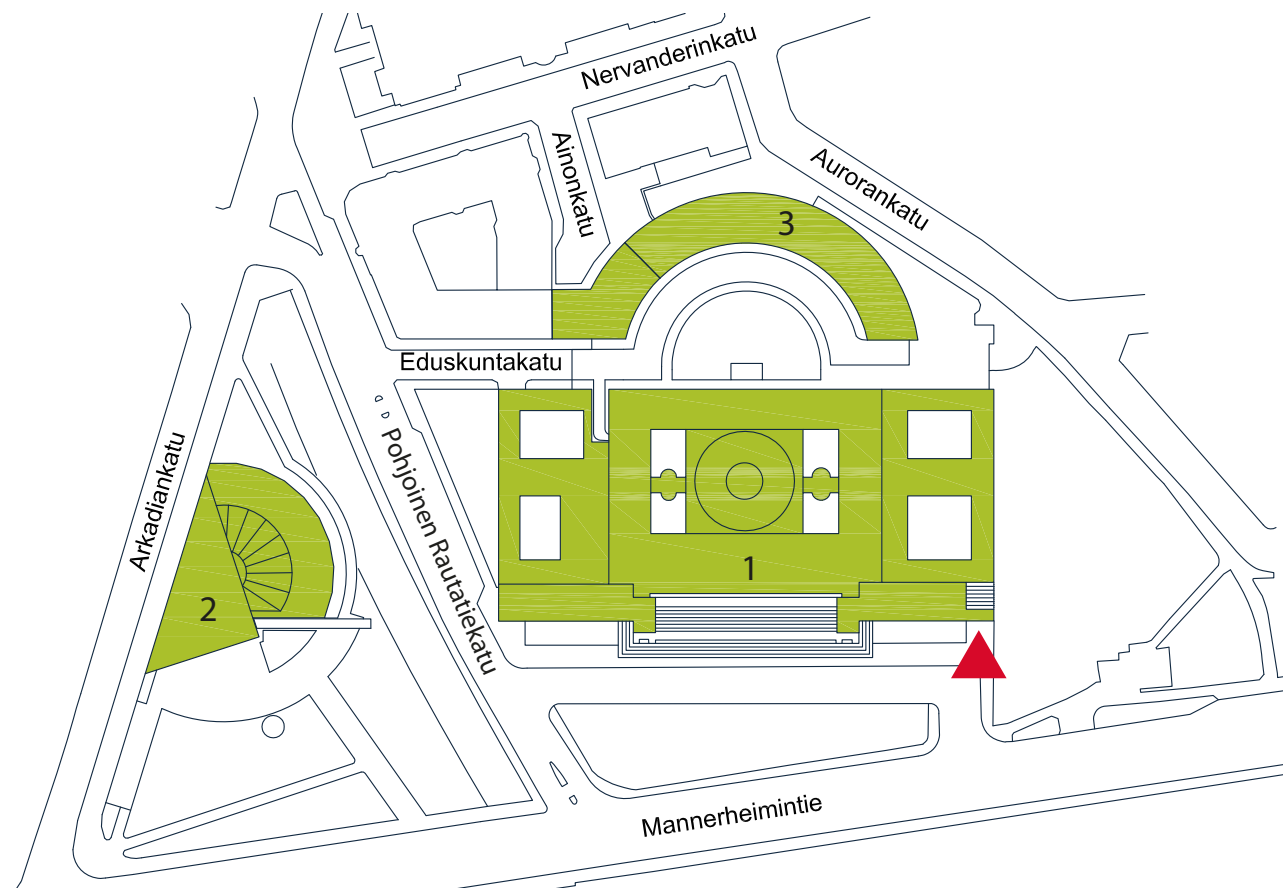
These buildings have a gross floor area of nearly 58,500 square metres. Cleaners must attend to 47,100 square metres of this total. A small number of parliamentary officials work in rented premises in the state office building at Antinkatu 1. ■

Assistants in the Central Office take care of collecting, distributing and storing plenary session documents, maintaining the sound system, recording sessions and monitoring the quality of webcasts. Here Raija Väre and Markus Puttonen search for information concerning a parliamentary document at the request of an MP. In the background is Matti Hirvonen.





Welcome to Parliament of Finland



1. Parliament building



Visitors' entrance

Plenary sessions are open to the public.

Entrance is opened 15 minutes before each plenary session.

2. Little Parliament, Parliament Annex

- Visitors' Centre

Opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.,
Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Parliamentary Ombudsman

Website www.oikeusasiamies.fi

3. Library of Parliament

Website lib.eduskunta.fi

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Back cover:
Parliament House, built in 1926-1931, is going through an extensive renovation. In 2010 workers began repairing the southern wing of the main building.

