

ENGLISH

PARLIAMENT  
*of* FINLAND  
2013



Parliament convened for the first plenary session of the spring term on 4 February 2013. *Eero Heinäluoma* (Social Democratic Party) was re-elected as Speaker, *Pekka Ravi* (National Coalition Party) as First Deputy Speaker and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* (The Finns Party) as Second Deputy Speaker.

The opening ceremonies took place on 5 February, when President of the Republic *Sauli Niinistö* opened Parliament for the first time following his election in 2012.

Parliament's opening discussion took place on 12 February on the basis of a Prime Minister's announcement. The first part of the discussion was reserved for a debate between Prime Minister *Jyrki Katainen* (National Coalition Party) and opposition leaders *Timo Soini* (The Finns Party) and *Juha Sipilä* (Centre Party). The opposition leaders demanded answers from the Prime Minister concerning local government reform, the reform of social and health services, the fate of hospital districts, saving the shipbuilding industry and reforming provisions on healthcare provided by relatives. The discussion continued with other MPs joining in the debate.

### Security and defence policy and structural reform in the spotlight

Last year Parliament considered seven reports submitted by the Government: the 2012 Government Report on Finnish Security and Defence Policy, reports on the delivery and implementation of the regional adminis-

tration reform, national energy and climate strategy, the spending limits for 2014–2017, food security in 2013–2017 and EU policy in 2013, and the Future Foresight.

Parliament received four Prime Minister's announcements. These dealt with the Government's policies in 2013 and key proposals to Parliament, the progress of the reform of social and health services, structural reforms and Arctic strategy.

Government statements to Parliament dealt with the extension of government guarantees to support the acquisition of funds for the European Financial Stability Facility and the implementation of the structural policy programme.

The opposition submitted four interpellations. These concerned the Government's economic and industrial policy, ensuring reasonably priced housing, support for Cyprus in connection with the eurozone crisis and support for home care. Each interpellation ended in a vote to determine whether the Government enjoyed Parliament's confidence. The six parties in the Government clearly outnumber the opposition, and in each vote the Government received the backing of a majority of MPs.

During the spring term Parliament approved an amendment of the Election Act that cut the number of electoral districts in mainland Finland from 14 to 12. Parliament also amended the Language Act and the Act on Local Authority Boundaries, which was renamed the Municipal Structure Act.

The economy was a key theme throughout the year.



*Citizens attending question time on 13 December 2013 watch Ministers respond to MPs' questions.*

Parliament considered several amendments to tax legislation, and the reform of corporate and dividend taxes especially stimulated broad debate. The 2014 budget was approved at the end of December. The budget totals about 54.1 billion euros, including 35.3 million euros that Parliament added to the Government's proposal.

In EU matters Parliament focused on issues related to the future of the Union and Finland's role in this development. The Government submitted its EU policy report in summer 2013. The Grand Committee and the special committees considered the report during the autumn. Building a banking union also played a key role in EU decision-making. The banking union is intended to ensure economic stability in the EU and prevent financial crises more effectively.

### First citizens' initiatives submitted to Parliament

Since March 2012 Finland has had a new procedure that allows citizens to participate in decision-making at the national level, namely citizens' initiatives. At least 50,000 Finnish citizens who are entitled to vote have the right to submit an initiative to Parliament for the enactment or drafting of legislation. Citizens' initiatives can also con-

cern the amendment or revoking of existing legislation.

The first citizens' initiative taken up by Parliament called for an end to fur farming. It was submitted to Parliament on 5 March 2013 and was considered at length. After a preliminary debate the initiative was referred to the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, which conducted public hearings and also asked the Constitutional Law Committee for a statement on the matter. Once the committee had completed its report, the matter went back to the plenary session. Parliament voted on the initiative just before Midsummer, at which time it was supported by 36 MPs and opposed by 146.

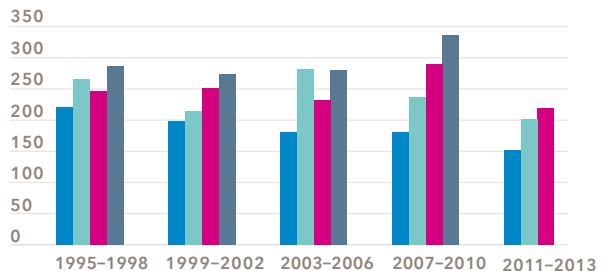
During the autumn term Parliament received two citizens' initiatives: "A reasonable Copyright Act" and "Amending the Marriage Act, the Act on Registered Partnerships and the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals". These initiatives were taken up by Parliament in early 2014.

### 150 years of regular legislative work

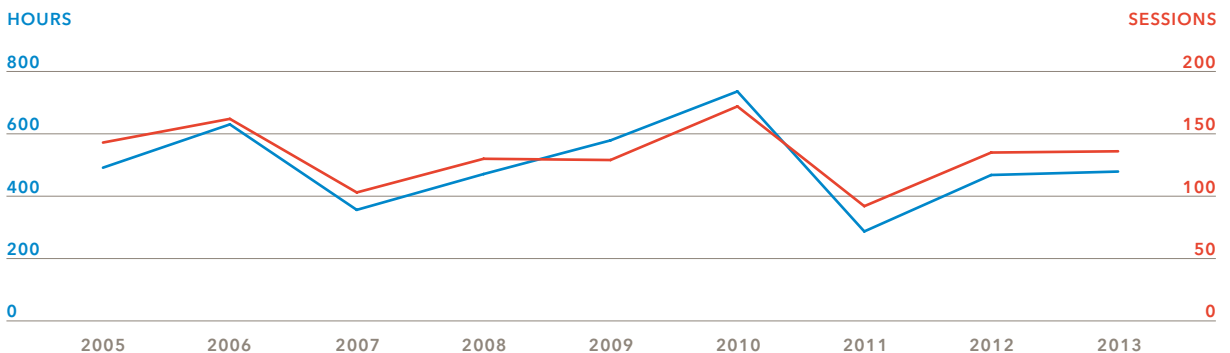
Finland is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 1863 Diet from summer 2013 through spring 2014. The slogan is "Law, work, peace, light - 150 years of regular

### GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS 1995-2013

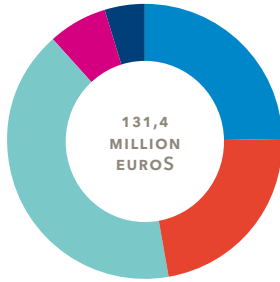
- The first annual session of the electoral period
- The second annual session of the electoral period
- The third annual session of the electoral period
- The fourth annual session of the electoral period



### TOTAL NUMBER OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND THEIR TOTAL DURATION 2005-2013



## PARLIAMENT'S EXPENSES 2013 (MILLION EUROS)



● MPs, their assistants and parliamentary groups	32.5
● Staff expenses	29.7
● Renovation and estate expenses	54.2
● Information management expenses	9.0
● Other expenses	6.0

Parliament's expenses 2013: total 131,4 million euros

legislative work in Finland". During this period over a hundred events will be arranged by Parliament, in cooperation with other organizations.

Parliament held a jubilee session on 18 September 2013 to mark the anniversary. On this occasion Parliament resolved to establish a new fund to support studies in Russian language and culture particularly among young people.

The Library of Parliament had its own jubilee year, as 30 April 2013 marked the 100th anniversary of its evolution from a strictly internal organ to a public specialist library open to everyone.

### Changes in the composition of Parliament and the Government

At the beginning of the autumn term MP *Astrid Thors* (Swedish People's Party) was released from duties following her appointment as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. She was replaced by *Jörn Donner* (Swedish People's Party), who took his seat on 5 September 2013.

Upon leaving the Finns Party in October, MP *James Hirvisaari* established a new one-member parliamentary group, Change 2011.

Several ministerial changes took place during the year. On 24 May 2013 the President of the Republic appointed MP *Susanna Huovinen* (Social Democratic Party) as Minister of Health and Social Services and MP *Pia Viitanen* (Social Democratic Party) as Minister of Housing and Communications. The latter replaced *Krista Kiuru* (Social Democratic Party), who was appointed Minister of Education. At the same time the President of the Republic released MP *Jukka Gustafsson* (Social Democratic Party) from the post of Minister of Education and MP *Maria Guzenina-Richardson* (Social

Democratic Party) from the post of Minister of Health and Social Services.

In October MP *Heidi Hautala* (Greens) resigned from her post as Minister for International Development, and on 17 October 2013 MP *Pekka Haavisto* (Greens) was appointed to replace her.

### Parliament budget totals 131 million

Parliament's expenses totalled €131.4 million in 2013, of which 54,2 millions was spent on renovations and construction.

The Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure includes personnel, real estate and information management costs, among other things. 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 affiliation with Parliament (the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Human Rights Centre, the National Audit Office and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs).

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

At the end of 2013 the Office Commission consisted of Speaker *Eero Heinäluoma*, Deputy Speakers *Pekka Ravi* and *Anssi Joutsenlahti* and MPs *Jouni Backman* (Social Democratic Party), *Pietari Jääskeläinen* (The Finns Party), *Timo Kalli* (Centre Party) and *Petteri Orpo* (National Coalition Party). Deputy members were *Johanna Karimäki* (Greens), *Mikaela Nylander* (Swedish People's Party), *Aino-Kaisa Pekonen* (Left Alliance) and *Leena Rauhala* (Christian Democratic Party). >

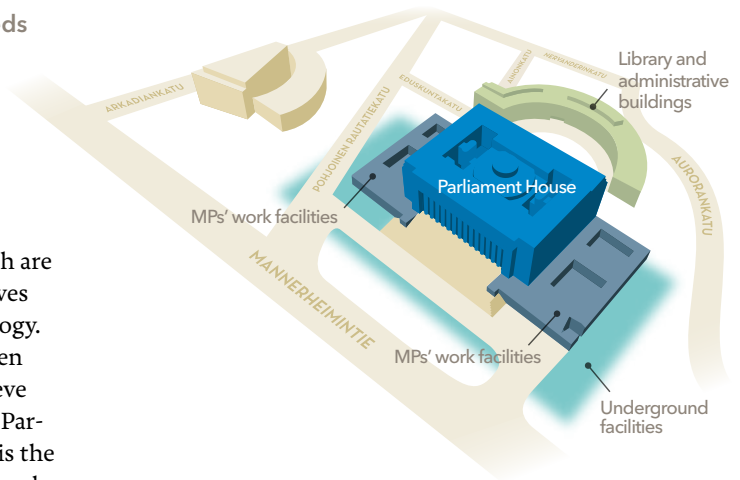
## ➤ Renovation of the Parliament buildings proceeds

All of Parliament's buildings, except for the Little Parliament annex, will be renovated in 2007–2017. The project is now past the half-way point.

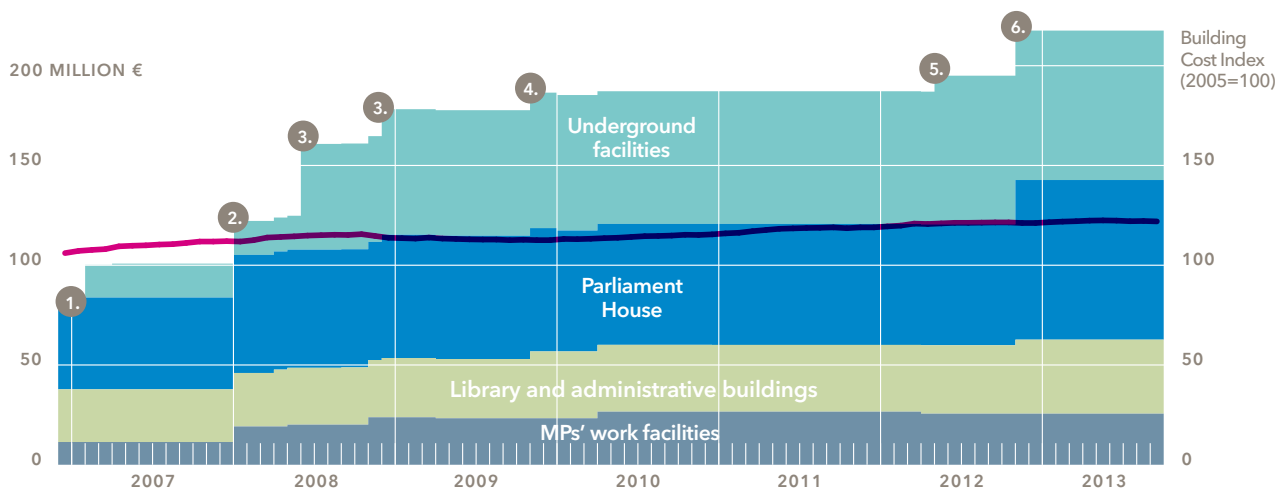
### Cost of renovating the Parliament buildings

The renovation of the Parliament buildings, which are protected as a national historic monument, involves practically all aspects of building services technology. In planning and carrying out the project it has been necessary to find novel solutions in order to achieve objectives concerning conservation and ensuring Parliament's smooth operation. A concrete example is the shifting of building services technology, logistics and maintenance functions to new underground facilities. These facilities along with the access tunnel leading to them were not included in the original feasibility studies (and proposals) that were presented in 2006.

During the course of the project the original renovation proposals turned out to be inadequate, and total



costs have consequently risen. The essential thing is that Parliament has been aware of the cost level when decisions were made concerning the project and that costs have remained within this framework.



1. The first cost estimate was based on the need to renovate existing facilities.
2. The project plan for above-ground facilities is completed.
3. The project plan for underground facilities is completed, with options selected in two stages. An essential change is the greater use of rock resources (i.e. additional construction) in a way that makes it possible to shift logistics and waste management underground and to ensure Parliament's operation in exceptional circumstances.
4. The decision is made to build a new underground access tunnel. The selected solution is more expensive than other options that were studied, but in the end it is the only one that is possible technically and from a planning viewpoint.
5. Tenders for interior construction work are more costly than anticipated.
6. The technical challenges presented by the Parliament Building are clarified, and solutions are added to improve security in all the Parliament buildings, among other things.



## TYPE OF THE MATTER / YEAR

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Government proposals	289	336	151	205	221
Government statements	2	2	2	3	2
Government reports	9	11	2	6	7
Prime Minister's announcements	2	5	2	1	4
Legislative motions	127	140	60	91	80
Petitionary motions	91	149	30	51	60
Budgetary motions	1,109	1,147	551	602	576
Supplementary budgetary motions	84	130	1	99	80
Interpellations	3	6	2	8	4
Written questions	1,119	1,436	499	1,057	1,232
Union matters	90	73	84	82	92

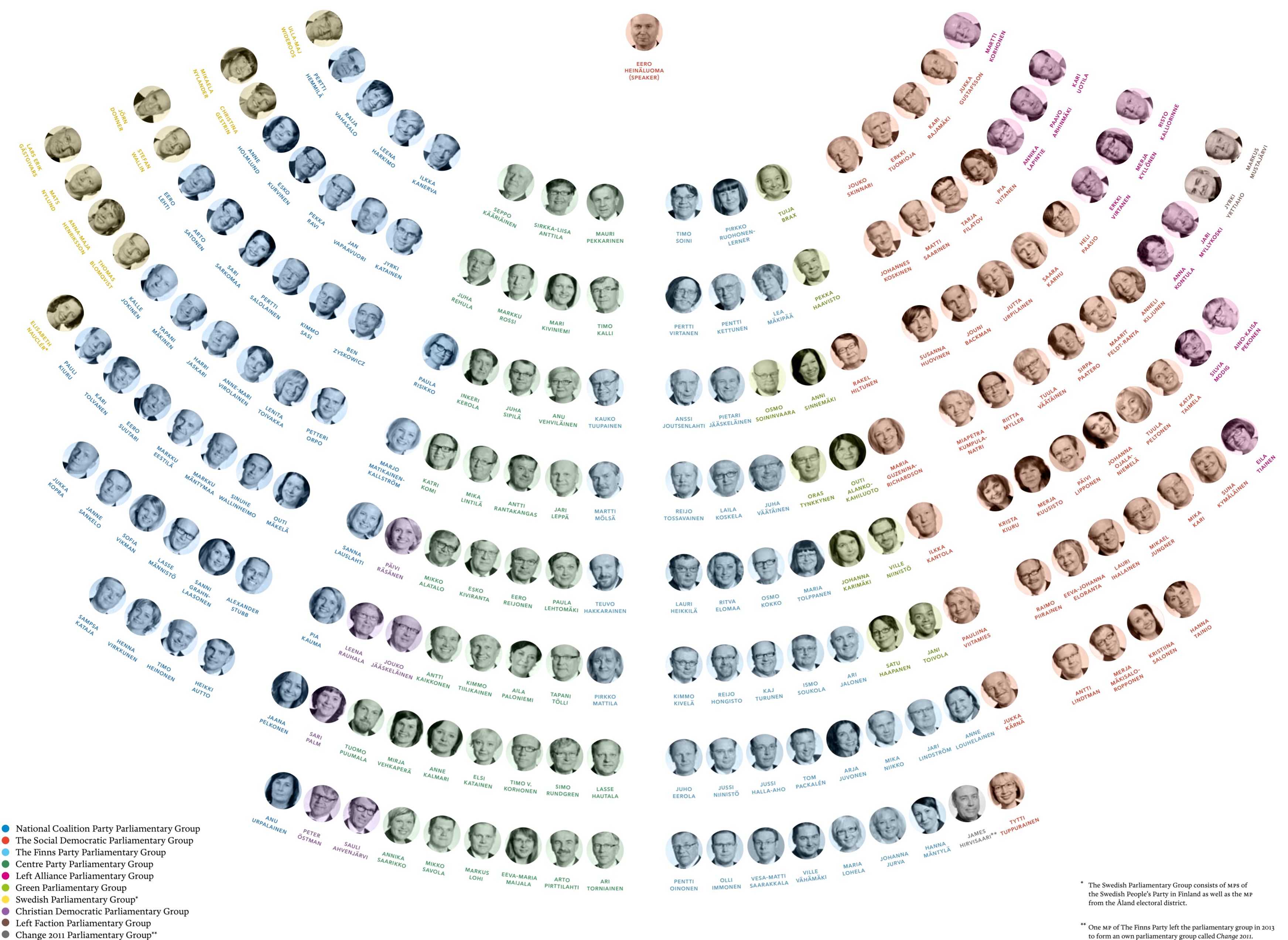
## THE COMMITTEES HELD THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF MEETINGS

### AND DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF REPORTS AND STATEMENTS IN THE 2013 SESSION

	MEETINGS	REPORTS	STATEMENTS
Grand Committee	61	1	1
Constitutional Law Committee	108	7	43
Foreign Affairs Committee	98	8	9
Finance Committee*	54	35	8
Audit Committee	72	10	8
Administration Committee	102	26	30
Legal Affairs Committee	85	18	27
Transport and Communications Committee	87	19	31
Agriculture and Forestry Committee	108	22	37
Defence Committee	62	2	12
Education and Culture Committee	96	16	25
Social Affairs and Health Committee	83	30	23
Commerce Committee	117	38	44
Committee for the Future	39	0	4
Employment and Equality Committee	79	11	17
Environment Committee	85	10	33
Total (including subcommittees)	1,336	253	352

\* The Finance Committee generally prepares matters in eight subcommittees. These held the following number of meetings: Administration and Security Subcommittee 37, Tax Subcommittee 64, Education and Science Subcommittee 23, Agriculture Subcommittee 29, Communications Subcommittee 35, Employment and the Economy Subcommittee 28, Municipal and Health Affairs Subcommittee 26, Housing and Environment Subcommittee 28. The total number of subcommittees' meetings was 268.

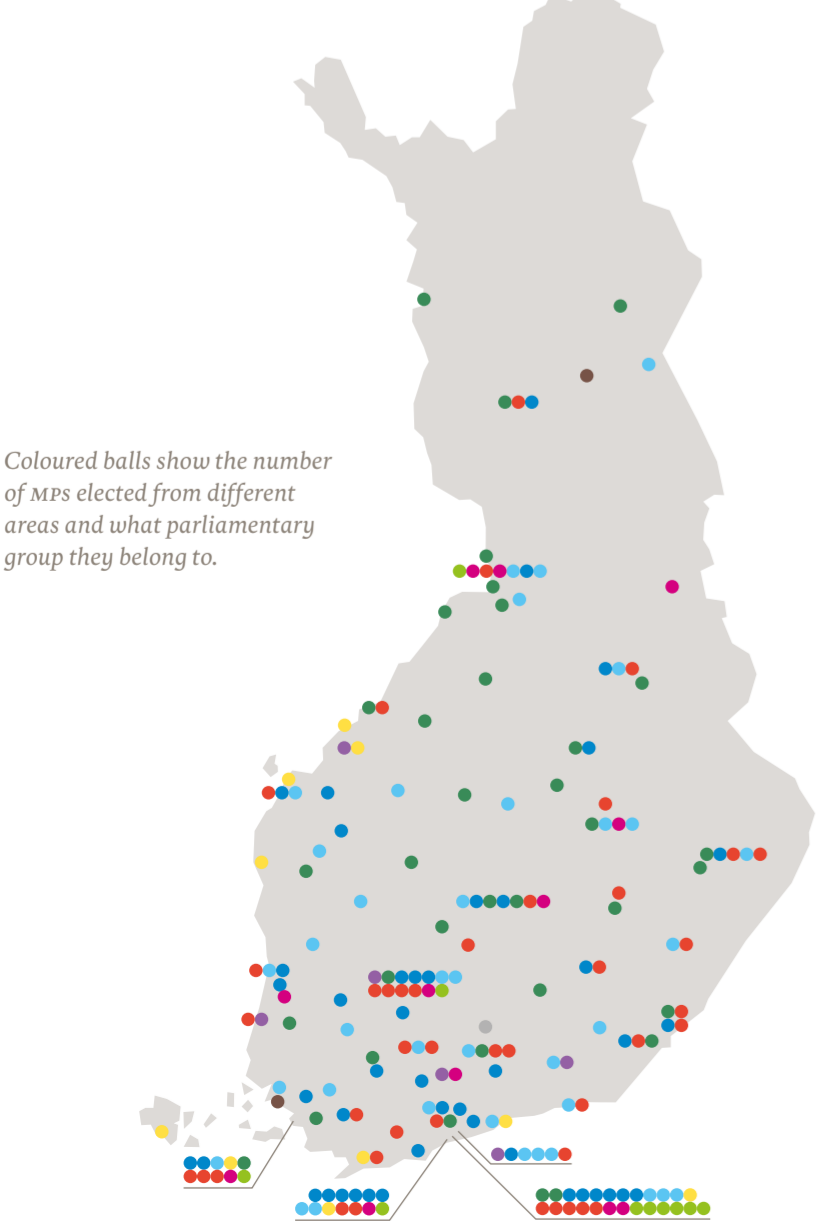




- National Coalition Party Parliamentary Group
- The Social Democratic Parliamentary Group
- The Finns Party Parliamentary Group
- Centre Party Parliamentary Group
- Left Alliance Parliamentary Group
- Green Parliamentary Group
- Swedish Parliamentary Group\*
- Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group
- Left Faction Parliamentary Group
- Change 2011 Parliamentary Group\*\*

\* The Swedish Parliamentary Group consists of MPs of the Swedish People's Party in Finland as well as the MP from the Åland electoral district.  
 \*\* One MP of The Finns Party left the parliamentary group in 2013 to form an own parliamentary group called Change 2011.

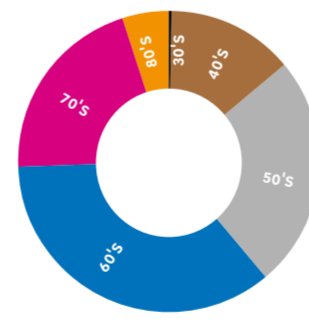
MPS' HOME MUNICIPALITIES



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

MPS' AGE DISTRIBUTION

- 1 MP was born in 1930-1939 (0.5%)
- 27 MPs were born in 1940-1949 (13.5%)
- 50 MPs were born in 1950-1959 (25.0%)
- 71 MPs were born in 1960-1969 (35.5%)
- 41 MPs were born in 1970-1979 (20.5%)
- 10 MPs were born in 1980-1989 (5.0%)



**51**

MPs' average age is 51. The oldest MP is Jörn Donner (born 1933) and the youngest is Olli Immonen (born 1986).

MPS' SALARIES

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

**6335**

MPs' pay is 6,335 euros a month.

In addition MPs receive taxfree compensation for expenses ranging from 987 to 1,809 euros a month, depending on where they live and whether they have a second home in the Helsinki metropolitan area.

A three-person remuneration committee appointed by the Speaker decides on MPs' pay. The chair was Jouni Eklari, with Riitta-Leena Paunio and Erkki Kurikka serving as members.

LONGEST-SERVING MPS / YEARS IN PARLIAMENT

Ilkka Kanerva (National Coalition Party)	39
Mauri Pekkarinen (Centre Party)	35
Pertti Salolainen (National Coalition Party)	35
Ben Zyskowitz (National Coalition Party)	35
Jouko Skinnari (Social Democratic Party)	34
Erkki Tuomioja (Social Democratic Party)	33
Kari Rajamäki (Social Democratic Party)	31
Kimmo Sasi (National Coalition Party)	31
Sirkka-Liisa Anttila (Centre Party)	29
Jukka Gustafsson (Social Democratic Party)	27
Seppo Kääriäinen (Centre Party)	27
Jouni Backman (Social Democratic Party)	23
Timo Kalli (Centre Party)	23
Martti Korhonen (Left Alliance)	23
Johannes Koskinen (Social Democratic Party)	23
Matti Saarinen (Social Democratic Party)	23

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

**10/44/1**

There are ten parliamentary groups in Parliament, with 44 members in the largest and 1 in the smallest.

MPS BY GENDER

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

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

**43**

43 per cent of MPs are women.

SEATS IN THE PARLIAMENT BY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

National Coalition Party Parliamentary Group	44
The Social Democratic Parliamentary Group	42
The Finns Party Parliamentary Group	38*
Centre Party Parliamentary Group	35
Left Alliance Parliamentary Group	12
Green Parliamentary Group	10
Swedish Parliamentary Group	10**
Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group	6
Left Faction Parliamentary Group	2
Change 2011 Parliamentary Group	1

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

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

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

