Committee for the Future
Parliament of Finland

https://www.eduskunta.fi/EN/lakiensaataminen/valiokunnat/tulevaisuusvaliokunta/Pages/default.aspx

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Core message

Committee for the Future enables parliamentary futures dialogue that extends beyond the 4-year governmental period
Committee for the Future

One of the Parliament’s 16 permanent committees

Committees consist of 17 MPs, reflecting the relative strengths of the parliamentary groups

Most of the 16 committees are counterparts to their respective ministries

Committee for the Future ↔ Prime Minister’s office
A brief history

Early 1990s: futures studies approach was adopted in many ministries, regional councils, research institutes and private organizations

→ Economic crisis of early 1990s
→ 1992: An initiative by Parliament, calling on the Government to present strategies for Finland’s future

Since 1993, the Government has – at least once during its term of office - issued a report on long-term future prospects and the Government’ targets and submitted it to Parliament

Committee for the Future was established to prepare Parliament’s reports (responses) to be discussed in the plenary session, and – further on – in Government

Committee for the Future was first established as a temporary unit. It became a permanent Committee in 2001
Tasks of Committee for the Future

- **Responding to the Government’s** Future reports and Agenda2030 implementation plans
- **Issuing statements to other committees** (regarding governmental bills, legislative initiatives, etc.)
- Organizing and coordinating **parliamentary Technology Assessment (TA)**
- **Keeping up to date with research** and development in future’s studies and foresight
- **Own projects**: research, studies
- Developing **futures policy dialogue** with the Government and with society at large
Dialogue on the future:
Government’s and Parliament’s Future Reports

National and regional foresight networks: participation, collaboration, empowerment and crowdsourcing
Hearings of the Committee: drawing on a broad array of experts

Professor Juha Siltala presenting for the Committee for the Future on the "psycho-history of work".
Extending beyond governmental periods: resolutions

• As Committee for the Future responds to Government’s Future reports and Agenda2030 implementation plans, it can put forward resolutions that legally bind the government(s) until the Parliament decides that the resolution is fulfilled

Examples

• Agenda 2030: indicators for measuring wellbeing to go beyond GDP

• Future report: The Government should divide its reporting in two parts to enhance parliamentary dialogue during the governmental period

• Future report: The Government should act to remove “bureaucracy traps” hindering self-employment
Futures Dialog between Government and Parliament\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>An Enabling State – Experimenting Finland (VNS 7/2013 – TuVM 1/2014)</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Demographic development, demographic policy and making provision for a change in the age structure – ”A good society of people of all ages” (VNS 8/2004 – TuVM 1/2005)</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>An initiative of taking action in setting population policy targets (TPA 215/2000 – TuVM 1/2001)</td>
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\(^1\) Search for documents by using the badge in the brackets. Note. the document of 2014 is also available in English language, see ”Latest publications in English” on the English language main site of the Committee for the Future.
Committee for the Future also functions as a parliamentary body for Technology Assessment

A second update is forthcoming in 2018


www.eptanetwork.org
Recent Research Commissions

- **100 Radical technologies** (2013; update 2016; second update forthcoming in spring 2018)
- **Dialectic future studies and radical technologies** (forthcoming 2018)
- **Sharing (platform) economy** (forthcoming 2018)
- **Modes of expertize i.e. counter-knowledge** (2017)
- **Methods of arts** (2016)
- **Education export** (2016)
Broader context for foresight in Finland:

**Parliamentary foresight**
- Committee for the Future

**Government Foresight Group**

**Foresight in different ministries**
- The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
- Foresight by Regional Councils & Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

**Regional foresight**

**Academic Futures Studies**
- Finland Futures Research Centre (research & international Master’s programme)
- Finland Futures Academy (teaching in 10 universities)
- Futures studies competences in civil society
- Finnish Society for Futures Studies

**Applied & sectoral foresight in sectoral research institutes**
- e.g. VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd

Prime Minister’s Office has appointed Foresight Steering Group to coordinate the Finnish National Foresight Network
Thank You!