



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

2007





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Detail from Tuula Närhinen's Xyloteque, which is located in ten meeting rooms in the Little Parliament annex. The work was unveiled on 7 February 2007.

Photo on front cover:
At the beginning of June Kaisa Salmi decorated the steps in front of Parliament with tens of thousands of gerberas.

Finland held its centennial parliamentary elections on 18 March 2007. A record number of women (84) were elected to the 35th Parliament and the number of first-time MPs rose to 61, in addition to which 11 persons who had served as MPs in past years returned to Parliament after a break. The voter turnout fell from 69.7% in 2003 to 67.9%. In comparison the turnout in Finland's first parliamentary elections 100 years earlier was 70.7%.

Parliament's Rules of Procedure were changed at the end of 2006 so that Parliament can reorganize a committee after the Government has been formed following elections, on the proposal of the Speaker's Council. This allowed the adoption of new organizational procedures after elections and the shift to a practice in which the election of other organs besides the committees and the Chancellery Committee as a rule only takes place after the Government has been appointed.

Another new feature with regard to organization was that the parliamentary groups reached agreement on the chairs of committees and other organs in order of group size in practice. As a result, the chairmanship of six committees is now in the hands of a different party compared with the previous electoral period, including for the first time in decades the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Social Affairs and Health Committee.

The process of forming a Government started immediately after the elections in March, and the new Government was appoint-



ed on 19 April 2007. During the spring term discussion in plenary session focused on timely topics such as the Government Programme, which was submitted to Parliament immediately after the Government was appointed, and a Government white paper on revised budget frameworks for 2008–2011.

During the autumn term Parliament concentrated on the 2008 budget and related legislation. Significant legislative projects that were approved in the autumn included amendments to the Inheritance and Gift Tax Act, the State Shareholdings and Ownership Steering Act, the Conscription Act and the Non-Military Service Act. A legislative package concerning the

establishment of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy was handled speedily, allowing the new ministry to go into operation at the beginning of 2008. The handling of a Government proposal aimed at ensuring patient safety during a nurses' strike received a great deal of publicity, partly because the preparation of legislation in committee took place over the course of a weekend.

The reorganization of the parliamentary oversight of public finances was brought to completion during the spring term. The new Parliament approved a constitutional amendment allowing the establishment of an Audit Committee to replace the Parliamentary State Auditors, and this legislation went into force on 1 June 2007. The Parliamentary State Auditors and the Office of the Parliamentary State Auditors, which were created in 1919, were abolished and staff were reassigned to new task in the Parliamentary Office. In contrast with other committees, the Audit Committee has the right to handle any matter that falls within its sphere of competence and prepare a report on it for the plenary session. The new committee went into full swing at the beginning of the autumn term. The parliamentary oversight of public finances will no doubt be strengthened through the work of the Audit Committee.

Performance indicators describing the committees' activities did not differ substantially

from the corresponding figures for the first year of the previous electoral period. The number of committee meetings (777) was lower than in 2003 (814). On the other hand the number of reports (168) and statements (205) was slightly higher than four years ago (162 and 183).

Basic provisions concerning the committees in the Constitution and in Parliament's Rules of Procedure are supplemented by the guidelines in the committee manual. The first version of the manual appeared in the late 1970s and since then it has been revised and expanded from time to time. In December 2007 the Speaker's Council approved the latest revision of the committee manual, which came into effect at the beginning of the 2008 session of Parliament. The new manual concerns the Grand Committee as well as the special committees. A significant part of the changes in the new manual are due to the fact that provisions in Parliament's Rules of Procedure regarding the handling of matters in committee were amended as of the beginning of the 2006 session of Parliament. The manual has from the start significantly harmonized and strengthened committee work.

Parliament's international activities remained lively. Parliamentary delegations took part in the activities of ten international cooperation bodies. Parliament arranged training sessions for MPs from developing countries in cooperation with the World Bank

Institute and also participated in training sessions abroad together with the World Bank and other parliaments and organizations that cooperate with it. In October 2007 Parliament also arranged a seminar on parliamentarism, good governance and reducing poverty that was attended by 24 MPs and civil servants from eight African countries.

The final step in Parliament's information reform involved changes in guided tours that were made in 2007. Key elements in guided tours are now meeting MPs and learning more about democracy and Parliament's activities and history. Last year 35,500 visitors took guided tours, compared with 24,500 in 2006.

Last year's elections increased the media's and citizens' interest in Parliament. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice Parliament conducted a campaign to get out the vote for the centennial elections. After the elections online and printed materials were updated at a fast pace.

Key matters in security activities in 2007 included security specifications for the planning of renovation work and the completion of a new gate at the rear of Parliament. The systematic development of security continued, while respecting open Nordic democracy. Officials prepared a proposal for legislation intended to provide a basis for the necessary security measures in Parliament.

The renovation of the Parliament Buildings, which has been in preparation for several years, began with the kitchens, dining room and cafe in the main building. All in all the renovation project is expected to take about eight years.

In October 2007 the Chancellery Committee decided to launch a project to study the need to develop Parliament's administration and the best way to go about this, with the assistance of a consulting firm.

Parliament's centennial celebration continued and came to a close in 2007. The second centennial session was held on 23 May 2007 and marked the 100th anniversary of the first plenary session of Finland's unicameral Parliament. Over 300 former MPs, war veterans and representatives of women's and youth organizations were invited to this session. In honour of the 90th anniversary of Finnish independence, Parliament also held a special session on 5 December 2007 on the theme of "Independent Finland marching towards 100 years".

Seppo Tiitinen

CHANCELLERY COMMISSION

The Chancellery Commission directs, supervises and develops Parliament's administration and financial management. With the exception of the Secretary General it appoints the strategic staff of the Parliamentary Office and resolves significant matters regarding Parliament's administration and financial management.

The Chancellery Commission includes the Speaker and Deputy Speakers as well as four MPs who are elected at the beginning of the

electoral period with deputies. The Chancellery Commission's composition in 2007 was as follows: Speaker Sauli Niinistö, First Deputy Speaker Seppo Kääriäinen, Second Deputy Speaker Johannes Koskinen and MPs Tuomo Hänninen, Merja Kyllönen, Petteri Orpo and Heli Paasio. Deputy members were MPs Kari Kärkkäinen, Mikaela Nylander, Erkki Pulliainen and Pirkko Ruuhonen-Lerner.

The Chancellery Commission generally meets on alternate Thursdays during sessions.



The Chancellery Commission meets every other week in the Speaker's Council's room.

Standing (left to right):

MPs Mikaela Nylander, Heli Paasio, Erkki Pulliainen, Tuomo Hänninen, Pirkko Ruuhonen-Lerner and Petteri Orpo. Seated: First Deputy Speaker Seppo Kääriäinen, Speaker Sauli Niinistö and Second Deputy Speaker Johannes Koskinen.

MPs Merja Kyllönen and Kari Kärkkäinen are missing from the picture.



LEGISLATIVE WORK IN THE 2007 SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

General

The 2007 session of Parliament was the first in the electoral period. The number of matters handled by Parliament was accordingly smaller than average, with the Government getting settled. Matters initiated in the session are presented in the table on page 9. (Further information on European Union matters and their role in parliamentary work is presented in the section “Work in committees”.)

According to a proposal put forward by the Speaker’s Council, a new procedure for reporting absences and having them approved was introduced at the beginning of the elector-

al period. The official monitoring of absences ended, along with the need to have absences approved, and this matter was left more clearly to MPs’ own discretion. Roll calls are still made at the beginning of each plenary session, and in addition to absences the minutes contain information on MPs who are absent because of some task associated with parliamentary work or because of illness or maternity or paternity leave. Statistics concerning absences will still be kept and will be available on Parliament’s website. Experience with the new system has been good and the objective of reducing the role of absence matters in parliamentary work was achieved.

MPs congratulated Matti Vanhanen after his election as Prime Minister at the plenary session on 17 April 2007.





Parliament's composition and activities

After the general election on 18 March 2007, the first session of the electoral period was opened on 28 March 2007. The opening opera was Aulis Sallinen's "The Red Line" at the Finnish National Opera. The last plenary session was held on Friday, 21 December 2007.

The parliamentary groups were organized as follows:

- Finnish Centre Party 51 MPs
- National Coalition Party 50 MPs
- Social Democratic Parliamentary Group 45 MPs
- Left Alliance 17 MPs
- Green Parliamentary Group 15 MPs
- Swedish Parliamentary Group 10 MPs
- Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group 7 MPs and
- True Finns Party 5 MPs.

Parliament held its first plenary session after the general election on Tuesday, 27 March 2007. As the senior MP in terms of age, Claes Andersson (Left Alliance) held the chair until Parliament elected a Speaker and two Deputy Speakers from among its Members. Timo Kalli (Centre Party) was elected Speaker, Ilkka Kanerva (National Coalition Party) First Deputy Speaker and Johannes Koskinen (Social Democratic Party) Second Deputy Speaker. After

Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen's second Cabinet was appointed on 19 April 2007, Speaker Kalli and First Deputy Speaker Kanerva asked to be released from duties. On 24 April 2007 Sauli Niinistö (National Coalition Party) was elected Speaker and Seppo Kääriäinen (Centre Party) First Deputy Speaker. Johannes Koskinen continued as Second Deputy Speaker.

The following change took place in the composition of Parliament during the session: MP Tuula Haatainen (Social Democratic Party) was released from duties at her request as of 11 September 2007 after she was elected to the post of Deputy Mayor for Cultural and Personnel Affairs in Helsinki. She was replaced by Jacob Söderman (Social Democratic Party), who took his seat on 12 September 2007.

Parliament held 43 plenary sessions during the spring term from 28 March to 20 June and 58 plenary sessions during the autumn term from 11 September to 21 December 2007. Plenary sessions lasted a total of 356 hours, and session days totalled 100. There were 19 question hours.

The Speaker's Council

The Speaker's Council, which directs and plans legislative work, includes the committee chairs as well as the Speaker and Deputy Speakers. The Speaker's Council meets before each plenary session to discuss the agenda for the day and approve proposals concerning the referral of matters to committees and the

Acting Deputy Chancellor of Justice Nils Wirtanen (left) and Deputy Chancellor of Justice Jaakko Jonkka (second from left) checked the mandates of new and reelected MPs on 26 March 2007.

tabling of reports. It also decides on the procedures to be followed in debates and approves the plenary session plans that are the basis of parliamentary work.

The Speaker's Council met 89 times during the 2007 session. The Speaker's Council also held an evening meeting on 20 November 2007. A variety of subjects were discussed at this time, including the scheduling of parliamentary work, the importance of planning and predictability, developing debate culture in plenary sessions and the political leadership of parliamentary work. The evening meeting was considered a success and the practice will no doubt be continued during the electoral period.

The composition of the Speaker's Council at the end of the session was as follows: Speaker Sauli Niinistö, Deputy Speakers Seppo Kääriäinen and Johannes Koskinen and committee chairs Erkki Tuomioja (Grand Committee),



Kimmo Sasi (Constitutional Law Committee), Pertti Salolainen (Foreign Affairs Committee), Hannes Manninen (Finance Committee), Matti Ahde (Audit Committee), Tapani Tölli (Administration Committee), Heidi Hautala (Legal Affairs Committee), Martti Korhonen (Transport and Communications Committee), Jari Leppä (Committee for Agriculture and Forestry), Juha Korkeaoja (Defence Committee), Raija Vahasalo (Committee for Education

The Speakers on the dais in the Plenary Hall: Second Deputy Speaker Johannes Koskinen (left), Speaker Sauli Niinistö (centre) and First Deputy Speaker Seppo Kääriäinen (right).

Type of matter / Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Government proposals	181	282	232	280	181
Government white papers	5	8	6	8	3
Government statements	2				1
Interpellations	3	4	5	7	1
Prime Minister's announcements	3	3	3	4	4
Union matters	70	79	53	80	52
Legislative motions	166	152	161	186	145
Petitionary motions	97	118	118	167	64
Budgetary motions	908	1069	1269	1580	1069
Supplementary budgetary motions	65	58	69	126	40
Written questions	723	1068	1101	1206	637



and Culture), Juha Rehula (Social Affairs and Health Committee), Jouko Skinnari (Commerce Committee, Marja Tiura (Committee for the Future), Arto Satonen (Employment and Equality Committee) and Susanna Huovinen (Environment Committee).

The Central Office prepared most of the matters that were discussed in the Speaker's Council, such as plenary session plans, procedural matters and proposals by the Speaker's Council.

Matters handled by Parliament

Government proposals and other submissions

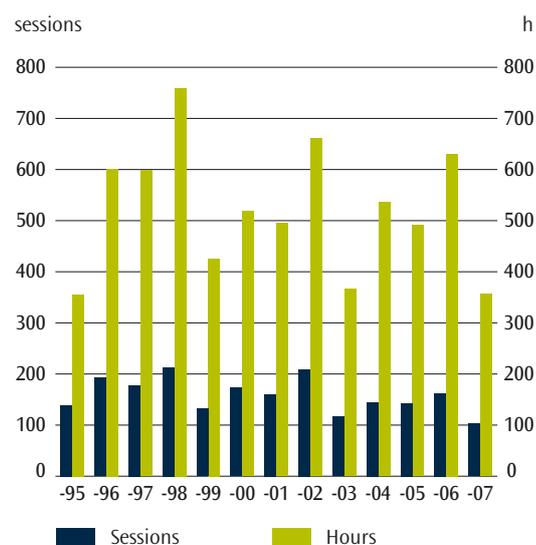
The Government submitted 179 proposals and Parliament continued handling 3 proposals concerning international matters according to a decision that was made at the end of the previous electoral period. All in all Parliament finished handling 182 proposals, of which 152 were approved, including two that were left in abeyance. Two proposals were withdrawn by the Government.

Among the proposals that were handled during the spring term was an amendment to the Constitution that had been left in abeyance, which strengthened parliamentary oversight of public finances by establishing a new Audit Committee. Also approved on a single reading was another amendment to the Constitution

that had been left in abeyance, which allows the enactment of legislation concerning the extradition or surrender of a citizen against his/her will to another country on the basis of a crime, for trial or to implement a decision concerning child maintenance or care. The Constitution was amended to bring it in line with Finland's international obligations and European Community law.

At its centennial session Parliament approved the Act on State Aid for Certain Women's Organizations. The Act calls for

Total number of plenary sessions and their total duration in hours 1995–2007



Government negotiations got under way on 29 March 2007, when the parliamentary groups met in the Speaker's reception rooms. The Government was formed by the Centre Party, the National Coalition Party, the Greens and the Swedish People's Party on 19 April 2007.

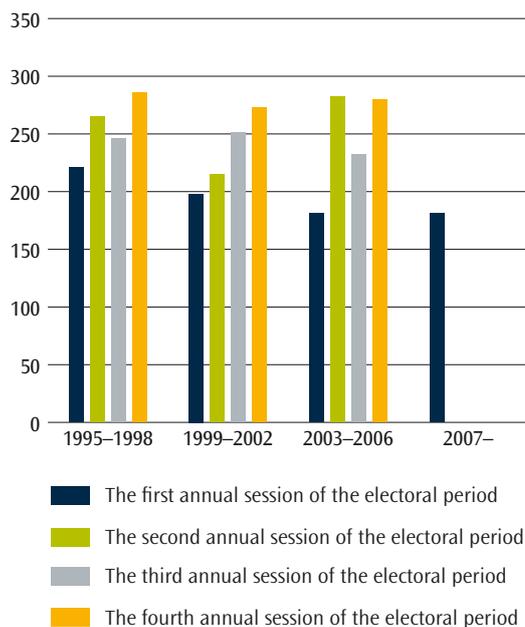
annual appropriations in the state budget for the activities of women's organizations (the National Council of Women of Finland and the Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations). During the spring term Parliament also discussed an amendment to the Police Administration Act aimed at abolishing the police information management centre and establishing in its place an IT centre for the Ministry of the Interior's administrative sector.

In the autumn term Parliament handled reforms of the Conscription Act and the Non-

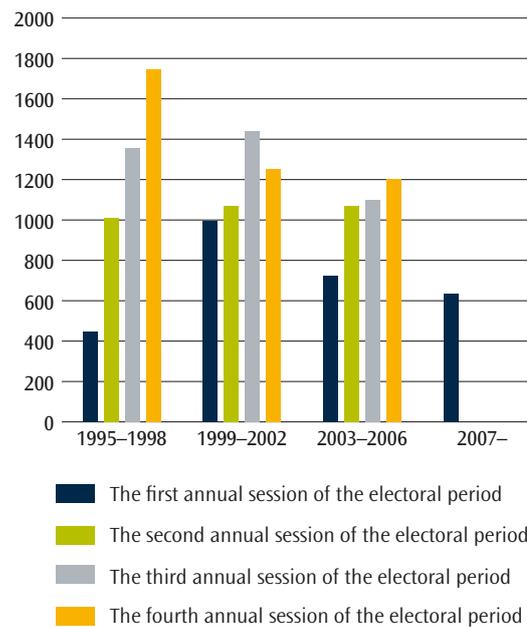
Military Service Act. The Conscription Act brought to a close the reform of legislation related to defence, which included the Act on the Defence Forces, the Non-Military Service Act and the Act on Voluntary Defence. The non-military service period was shortened and applications are now approved without questioning personal conviction.

A legislative package concerning the establishment of the new Ministry of Employment and the Economy stimulated brisk debate. The package was handled speedily, however,

Government proposals 1995–2007



Written questions 1995–2007





allowing the new ministry to go into operation at the turn of the year. The reform abolished the Immigration Policy Unit in the Ministry of Labour's Policy Department and the Immigration and Work Permit Unit in the Enforcement Unit, and the Office of the Minority Ombudsman and the National Discrimination Tribunal were shifted to the Ministry of the Interior.

The reform of the Inheritance and Gift Tax Act led to an extensive debate concerning tax policy. The reform raised the threshold for inheritance tax from 3,400 euros to 20,000 euros. The deductions for a surviving spouse and for a minor child were also substantially increased. Broad debate concerning alcohol policy surrounded the reform of the Act on Excise Duty on Alcohol and Alcoholic Beverages, which raised taxes on alcoholic beverages by 11.5% on average. The State Shareholdings and Ownership Steering Act aroused plenty of discussion concerning the state's ownership policy. This Act draws the line between the legislative power that is wielded by Parliament and the executive power that is wielded by the Government and lays down general principles concerning the management and transfer of national assets. Lively debate was also stimulated by amendments to the Motor Vehicle Tax Act and the Car Tax Act. As a result of the reform basic car tax is now based on carbon dioxide emissions. During the autumn term Parliament also approved the extension of the Act on Job Alternation Leave up to the end of 2009.

A long and extensive debate touching on fundamental rights took place in public forums as well as Parliament with regard to a Government proposal aimed at ensuring patient safety in the event of a nurses' strike. The resulting Act contained provisions that would have kept some nurses at work on an emergency basis in the case of industrial action by the Union of Health and Social Care Professionals. The Act would have allowed the state provincial offices to order health care personnel to come to work at a municipal health care unit in special situations where patients' lives or health would be seriously endangered because of the strike. Numerous MPs contemplated the effects of the Act and the justification for it in a lengthy debate that took place on a Friday evening in November. The application of the Act was tied to the start of the threatened strike. The negotiating parties were able to reach an agreement before the Act could be applied.

The 2008 budget proposal was submitted on 13 September and the preliminary debate was conducted on 13–19 September. The final debate was conducted on 17–21 December. The budget included 47 Government proposals. A total of 1,069 budgetary motions were presented, of which 7 were approved and 1,062 were rejected. The final debate followed a new practice that was adopted the year before, according to which a time was set for discussion regarding each main division. This made it possible to ensure that interested MPs and the appropriate ministers were on hand for debate.

The Government submitted 4 supplementary budget proposals along with one supplementary proposal. Parliament rejected all 40 budgetary motions made by MPs.

The opening debate of the session took place on 20 April 2007 on the basis of a Government statement. The Government submitted three white papers to Parliament in 2007. A Government white paper on revised budget frameworks for 2008–2011 was handled in the spring term. During the autumn term Parliament discussed a Government white paper on Finland’s participation in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, Finland’s participation in the EU military crisis management operation in Chad and the Central African Republic and the placing of a Finnish detachment on high readiness as part of the standby period of an EU battle group formed by Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Ireland and Norway from 1 January to 30 June 2008. The handling of a Government white paper on the reform of emergency response centres began in the autumn and continued in 2008.

In the autumn Parliament discussed four announcements by the Prime Minister. The first of these concerned the results of the Lisbon Intergovernmental Conference. The second concerned climate change and the progress of the international agreement process. In connection with a threatened nurses’ strike the Prime Minister gave an announcement on ensuring patient safety in the event of a strike. During the final debate on the budget for 2008, on the presentation of Minister of

Finance Jyrki Katainen, Parliament discussed an announcement by the Prime Minister on the revision of Finland’s Stability Programme and challenges for fiscal policy.

A total of 16 reports were submitted to Parliament by the Government and organs set up by Parliament or operating in connection with Parliament.

Members’ initiatives

The Government answered one interpellation in 2007. This concerned the quality of health care and ensuring skilled personnel (Tarja Filatov and others, 28 January 2007).

A total of 637 written questions were submitted to members of the Government. A total of 124 issues were discussed during question hours. MPs made 9 debate proposals during the session, and on this basis four topical debates were held. Ensuring the forest industries’ operating conditions was the theme of a topical debate on 13 June. Developing education and research was discussed by the plenary session on 10 October and Finland’s development policy on 14 November. Parliament held a special session on 5 December 2007 in the form of a topical debate. The theme was “Independent Finland marching towards 100 years”.

Members presented 145 legislative motions. One of these was approved and 22 were rejected. Members made 64 petitionary motions, of which 8 were rejected and 56 are still pending.

WORK IN COMMITTEES

General

The spring term of the first session of the 35th Parliament was spent organizing the committees and getting down to work. This included a number of new features. The committees were elected on 3 April after the general election, but for the first time each committee was elected from a single list of candidates. The final organization of the committees took place in two stages, in accordance with a change in Parliament's Rules of Procedure that was approved at the end of 2006. On the proposal of the Speaker's Council, committees were reorganized after the appointment of Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen's second Cabinet. This took place on 3 May.

A new Audit Committee was elected on 1 June, when a constitutional amendment establishing the committee came into force.

The new committee went into full swing during the autumn, when it prepared its first report on the report on the final central government accounts and the National Audit Office's annual report for 2006.

Another new feature with regard to organization was that the parliamentary groups agreed to fill committee chairs in order of group size in practice. As a result, the chairmanship of six committees is now in the hands of a different party compared with the previous electoral period. It is worth mentioning that the Foreign Affairs Committee is now chaired by someone besides a Social Democrat for the first time since 1931. Twelve of the 16 committee chairs are new to the job, although five of these have served as ministers in the past. Altogether nine committee chairs have experience as Cabinet members.

Parliament established a new committee in spring 2007. The Audit Committee is responsible for the parliamentary oversight of public finances.



On 11 December the Speaker's Council approved a new committee manual, which will be applied in 2008.

Meetings, reports and statements

The total number of committee meetings (777) was somewhat lower than in the first session of the previous electoral period (814). The number of reports and statements (373) was higher than four years earlier (345), however. The corresponding figures were naturally considerably higher in 2006, which was the last session of the electoral period, when the committees met 1,502 times and issued 796 reports and statements.

Matters are prepared in committee before decisions are made in plenary session. Parliament generally refers a matter to a single committee for a report. The special committees completed 168 reports for the plenary session, which decided all these matters in accordance with committees' proposals. The number of reports was about the same as in the first session of the previous electoral period (162) but considerably lower than the year before (361).

The Finance Committee and the Social Affairs and Health Committee again drafted the largest numbers of reports.

At the end of the 2007 session, the special committees were still in the process of handling nine Government proposals, one report and one Government white paper. When the 2007

session came to a close, 18 Government proposals had not yet been referred to committees, so a fairly large load awaited the committees at the beginning of the 2008 session.

The special committees issue statements to one another and also to the Grand Committee on EU matters. The Grand Committee can in turn issue statements to the Government on these matters.

The special committees can also take the initiative and ask the Government or a ministry for information on matters within their competence ("O matters") and issue statements to the Government or a ministry on the basis of information received from them. The special committees handled a number of such matters, though in most cases this does not lead to the issuing of a statement. Various timely issues were involved. Many special committees follow a practice in which a ministry representative is invited to present matters that are on the agenda of the Council of the European Union in advance whenever these concern the committee.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has the right to be kept informed and to issue statements with regard to the foreign and security policy of the EU and Finland. The Foreign Affairs Committee handled 34 foreign and security policy matters, including 14 that concerned Finland's general foreign and security policy. The committee's only statement on such a matter concerned the Government report on Finland's Development Policy Programme in 2007.

On 14–17 January 2007 the Committee for the Future hosted the Fifth General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology. The Finnif Sámi folk music group "The Angelis" performed on this occasion.

The committees issued 205 statements during the 2007 session. This was somewhat higher than in the first session of the previous electoral period (183) but clearly lower than the year before (435).

The largest category consisted of statements made by the special committees to the Grand Committee or the Foreign Affairs Committee on European Union matters (121), which

made up nearly 60% of the total. The share of statements relating to European Union matters has been roughly the same for many years.

The Constitutional Law Committee, which is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Constitution in the parliamentary handling of matters, the Administration Committee, the Transport and Communications Committee and the Commerce Committee issued the larg-

The committees held the following number of meetings and drafted the following number of reports and statements in the 2007 session:

2007 parliamentary session	Meetings	Reports	Statements Total	To other committees	To GrC/FAC EU matters	To Gov/Min
Grand Committee (GrC)	37	0	1	0	0	1
Constitutional Law Committee (ConC)	54	8	23	18	4	1
Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC)	62	12	4	2	1	1
Finance Committee (FinC)	36	25	11	2	9	0
Audit Committee (AudC)	32	2	1	1	0	0
Administration Committee (AdmC)	64	16	30	3	26	1
Legal Affairs Committee (LegC)	47	10	16	3	12	1
Transport and Communications Committee (TCC)	51	17	20	5	14	1
Agricultural and Forestry Committee (AgFC)	54	10	17	3	14	0
Defence Committee (DefC)	36	1	6	5	0	1
Education and Culture Committee (EduC)	55	13	12	4	8	0
Social Affairs and Health Committee (SHC)	58	29	11	6	5	0
Commerce Committee (ComC)	63	12	20	5	15	0
Committee for the Future (FutC)	27	0	5	3	2	0
Employment and Equality Committee (EmpC)	54	9	10	8	2	0
Environment Committee (EnvC)	47	4	18	9	9	0
Total	777	168	205	77	121	7



est number of statements. Among the special committees, in addition to the Constitutional Law Committee, only the Audit Committee, the Defence Committee, the Social Affairs and Health Committee, the Committee for the Future and the Employment and Equality Committee issued more statements in national matters than in European Union matters. The Finance Committee, the Legal Affairs Committee, the Transport and Communications Committee and Commerce Committee issued the largest number of statements in European Union matters.

The Finance Committee prepares matters in eight subcommittees. These held the following number of meetings: Subcommittee for Administration and Security 39, Subcommittee for Tax Affairs 38, Subcommittee for Education and Science 22, Agriculture Subcommittee 23, Communications Subcommittee 23, Subcommittee for Trade and Industry 20, Subcommittee for Social and Labour Affairs 22, Housing and Environment Subcommittee 19. The subcommittees held a total of 206 meetings.

European Union matters

The Grand Committee handled 52 new U matters and 137 E matters. U matters are proposed statutes, treaties or other measures that are decided in the European Union but would otherwise fall within Parliament's competence under the Constitution. E matters are matters being prepared at the EU level that fall within

the scope of Parliament's right to receive information. The corresponding figures were 70 and 103 in the first session of the previous electoral period and 75 and 171 in the 2006 session.

The Grand Committee received reports from the Government on 82 meetings of the Council of the European Union. The corresponding figures were 101 in the 2003 session and 124 in the 2006 session. The Grand Committee approved 148 statements to the Government on European Union matters. It also issued one statement to the Government concerning Finland's positions on discussions regarding the EU's constitutional treaty during the German presidency. The special committees issued 121 statements to the Grand Committee on U and E matters. This was roughly the same as in the first session of the previous electoral period (114) but clearly lower than the year before (244).

The number of matters handled by the Grand Committee was influenced by the approaching general election and by negotiations on the reform of the EU's treaties, which continued up to the autumn and put a curb on Union organs' activities.

The handling of matters in the European Union typically takes longer than one session, and around 700 U and E matters were under consideration in the Grand Committee, which handled them on the basis of further information supplied by the Government or reports on Council meetings. This figure has remained about the same for several years.

Of the 34 foreign and security policy matters handled by the Foreign Affairs Committee, 20 concerned the EU's common foreign and security policy.

Travel

Nearly all the committees took a trip to a neighbouring country as part of starting work at the beginning of the electoral period. The purpose of these trips is to orient committee members and let them get to know one another better. The committee took twelve orientation trips, to St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Riga, Warsaw, Stockholm (4), Oslo (2), Copenhagen, and Brussels and Luxembourg.

Committee delegations also made study tours, in addition to which individual committee members attended seminars and conferences abroad. (The figures in brackets indicate the number of MPs plus the number of officials). Several committees made study tours in Finland particularly during the summer break.

On the basis of a discussion that was conducted by the Chancellery Commission on 14 June, the committees followed new principles concerning the number of trips made by delegations during the electoral period, the maximum costs of individual trips and the annual breakdown of travel costs between different types of trips.

Trips by committee delegations:

- Romania, Hungary (AgFC, 9+1), Slovenia, Hungary (FinC chairs, 10+3), Vienna (FAC, 8+2)
- New York, Washington, D.C. (FAC, 8+2)
- China, India (ComC, 9+1), Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong (FutC, 9+1)

EU-related trips:

- Brussels, orientation trip for new MPs (4 trips), FAC, DefC (2+2), Speaker (+5+1), FinC (1+1), GrC (7+1, 6+1, 4+1), AdmC (1+1), LegC (3+1), AudC (1+2)
- Berlin, DefC (1+1), AdmC (1+1), FAC (6+2), AgFC (1+1)
- Estoril, GrC (6+1), Lisbon, GrC (1+1), AdmC (1+1), Speaker (+1), FAC (1+1)
- Ljubljana, GrC (6+1)
- Perm, GrC (1+1)

Other seminar and conference trips:

- Athens, FutC (1), Geneva, ConC (1+1), EmpC (3+1), Haugesund, FAC (1+1), Macedonia, FAC (1), Malmö, FAC (1+1), Paris, ComC (1), Pau, EnvC (1), Tallinn, DefC (17+3), Tartu, GrC (1), Travemünde, TCC, FinC, EmpC, SHC (21+3), Hungary, FutC (1)
- Nairobi, EnvC (1)
- Bali, EnvC (1+1), Hong Kong, LegC (1), Seoul, TCC (1), Tokyo, EduC (1)

PARLIAMENT'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Speakers' conferences

The Nordic Speakers held their annual meeting in Uppsala in August and met again in Oslo during the Nordic Council session in November. Discussion topics included cooperation between the Speakers of the Nordic and Baltic countries (the NB8 group), who visited Georgia in the autumn. The purpose of this visit was to support democratic institutions and the position of the opposition. The Speakers decided to continue preparations for a visit to Moscow. A project aimed at developing the Finnish Parliament's administration was also presented to the other Speakers.

The Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments was held in Bratislava in May and focused on the reform of the EU's treaties.

Visits

Speakers from about 50 countries visited Finland in 2006 in connection with Parliament's centennial, and as a result the number of visits in 2007 was exceptionally low. The Speakers of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia and Lithuania came to Finland in July for the premiere of a specially commissioned opera entitled "Daddy's Girl" in Savonlinna. Vice-chairman Li Zhaozhuo of the Chinese People's

The King and Queen of Norway visited Parliament on 5 June 2007. Speaker Sauli Niinistö (second from right) accompanies the visitors down Parliament's main steps.





Political Consultative Conference visited Finland from 29 October to 1 November 2007.

Speaker Paavo Lipponen visited Poland, Norway, Morocco, Slovenia and Croatia. Deputy Speaker Johannes Koskinen paid a visit to Hungary and took part in the centennial celebration of the Philippine Congress in Manila. Speaker Sauli Niinistö's programme included visits to Sweden, Portugal, Estonia and Norway.

Parliament received a number of other high-level visitors such as the Presidents of Chile, Brazil, Georgia and Armenia and the King of Norway.

International organizations

Nordic Council

Globalization was on the top of the agenda in the activities of the Nordic Council and Nordic cooperation in 2007. The Presidium set up a working group on globalization, which coordinated and refined globalization initiatives presented by different committees and arranged a two-day seminar on the challenges of globalization in March 2007. The working group's proposals were presented at the Nordic Prime Ministers' summer meeting in Punkaharju.

The Prime Ministers agreed on several concrete projects that are intended to strengthen the Nordic countries' position in a globalized world. The projects concern climate, the environment and energy, research and innovation,

removing border obstacles and raising the Nordic countries' international profile.

The working group on globalization completed its task in 2007 and responsibility for monitoring and preparing globalization issues was shifted to the Presidium.

The Nordic Council is busy getting ready for the UN climate summit that will be held in Copenhagen in 2009 and preparing joint positions. The Nordic Council will also strive to emphasize the parliamentary dimension at the summit. Another goal is to encourage the participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the summit.

In addition to globalization, the Nordic Council has continued to focus on removing border obstacles. At the 2007 session a new forum was established for this purpose, partly on the initiative of the Council. Free movement between the Nordic countries and the possibility to live and work freely in another Nordic country are important matters for citizens and require the Council's constant attention.

The position and role of autonomous territories in Nordic cooperation received considerable attention, and the possibility of full membership for autonomous territories was discussed at length. The result was the approval of a position paper that was prepared by the cooperation ministers, called the Åland Document, which is intended to strengthen autonomous territories' participation in Nordic cooperation.

As in previous years the Nordic Council actively participated in parliamentary coopera-

tion in the Arctic and Baltic regions. The Finnish delegation to the Nordic Council arranged the third Barents Parliamentary Conference in June. The EU's revised Northern Dimension policy formed the key framework for regional cooperation, and the Council's efforts to strengthen the parliamentary aspect of the Northern Dimension continued. Cooperation with the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference also remained active.

Also worth mentioning is the Council's participation in the Nordic cooperation budget process and the national anchoring of cooperation, for example by developing cooperation between parliamentary committees in different countries.

The Nordic Council's committees addressed environmental problems in the Baltic Sea as well as energy and climate issues. Human trafficking, violence within the family and immigration were among the main topics in cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Council's committees. Presentations and recommendations concerning psychiatric care and the recruiting of health care personnel are also worth mentioning. Cultural cooperation and new structures in this area likewise stimulated discussion in the Council.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The reports that were published by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

in 2007 focused strongly on issues concerning human rights and democracy. The Parliamentary Assembly has considered that in this age of change it is important to evaluate the state of human rights and democracy regularly in every part of Europe. In April it arranged the first special debate on human rights and democracy in the member states and new challenges facing Europe.

During the year positions and recommendations were also prepared concerning the functioning of the Council of Europe's human rights mechanisms, the state of democracy and the ensuring of fundamental human rights in Europe. The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments also evaluated the state of democracy in certain member states. Evaluating the state of democracy also included international election monitoring. The Parliamentary Assembly sent observers to monitor six elections.

Dialogue between cultures has been an important theme in many international organizations. In the Council of Europe the subject has been discussed in the Committee of Ministers as well as the Parliamentary Assembly. Violence against women is wide-spread in Europe. The Council of Europe Summit in 2005 decided to tackle this problem and arrange a pan-European campaign to combat violence against women in 2006–2008.

One of the Council of Europe's main tasks is to create legal norms. In 2007 the Parliamentary Assembly discussed what kinds of

norms are needed to prevent cyber crime or children's sexual abuse, for example.

Belarus is the only European nation with which the Council of Europe does not have official relations. The possibility of strengthening cooperation with Belarus at the parliamentary level has been discussed as a means of supporting the country's democratic development.

The Finnish delegation to the Council of Europe considered its operational plan for the electoral period as well as priorities, which include challenges involving the Baltic Sea.

The Council of Europe and the European Union signed a memorandum aimed at reinforcing cooperation in 2007.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is formally independent but works together with the Ministerial Council and the OSCE's other organs such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), special representatives and field offices. The question of the relation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE's intergovernmental organs as well as the Parliamentary Assembly's position in the organization as a whole has also received attention is discussion concerning the reform of the organization, which is aimed at giving the OSCE a legal personality. The Parliamentary Assembly has wanted clearer recognition for its activities in the OSCE's basic document. At the operational level tension has been visible

before election monitoring, which internally has become an important issue and a significant means to draw international attention to the state of democracy in member states. Last year the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored elections in Serbia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

The theme of the 2007 annual session was the implementation of OSCE commitments. The final document contains resolutions approved by the organization's three committees as well as resolutions on ten additional subjects. Human rights in Belarus stimulated the liveliest discussion.

The Parliamentary Assembly regularly deals with a number of regional issues such as Belarus, Moldova – Trans-Dniester, Georgia – Abkhazia – South Ossetia, the situation in southeastern Europe, the Mediterranean area and Central Asia. The Parliamentary Assembly also has ad hoc committees on Belarus, Abkhazia and Trans-Dniester.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Finnish Group to the Inter-Parliamentary Union attended both IPU Assemblies in 2007. The larger spring Assembly took place in Nusa Dua, Bali, where the agenda included peaceful coexistence among different religions and cultures in a globalized world, employment security in the era of globalization, and promoting diversity and democratic rights. As an emergency item the Assembly discussed inter-

national cooperation to combat terrorism and the root causes of terrorism.

The autumn Assembly in Geneva had as its special theme the situation in Burma/Myanmar. It also discussed the nature and structure of cooperation between the IPU and the UN at length.

In 2007 the IPU focused on subjects revolving around terrorism and globalization and set priorities in line with the UN. The IPU has a Committee on United Nations Affairs that strives to enhance cooperation between the IPU and the UN. Finland chaired the Finno-Ugric Group in the IPU in 2007 and in this capacity Parliament hosted a conference in Mikkeli.

MP Katri Komi again took part in the work of the IPU Executive Committee in 2007. Under the Executive Committee's leadership the IPU continued to reform its structures and focuses as well as cooperation with other international organizations such as the UN and the WTO.

Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

A permanent delegation appointed by the Speaker's Council represents Finland at the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, which is held every other year. It includes the Nordic countries, Canada, Russia,

Speaker Samuel Sitta of Tanzania visited Parliament on 3 October 2007 to attend a seminar on parliamentary reform in Africa. Secretary General Seppo Tiitinen showed him the Speaker's dais.



the United States and the European Parliament. Indigenous peoples are also permanent participants. Between conferences activities are directed by the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, on which Finland has a seat.

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference includes representatives from all the Baltic Sea states as well as Norway and Iceland, autonomous territories in the Nordic region, regional

parliaments in northern Germany and the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly. The European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the OSCE also have the right to participate. The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference promotes the development of cooperation among its members and keeps parliamentarians informed of measures taken by governments and NGOs regarding the Baltic Sea.

In 2007 attention was focused on eutrophication in the Baltic Sea, the environmental impacts of energy production and the need to facilitate the movement of labour in the Baltic Sea region.

Speakers from the Nordic and Baltic countries attended the premiere of Parliament's centennial opera in Savonlinna on 7 July 2007.



Assembly of the Western European Union

Finland participates in the Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU) as an observer. In addition to the two regular sessions, Parliament sent representatives to conferences on security and defence policy as well as a joint meeting of the Assembly, the WEU Council and NATO. Activities focused on monitoring decisions regarding the EU's security and defence policy and strengthening the parliamentary dimension of European security and defence policy. A total of 39 European countries participate in the WEU.

Other international cooperation

Parliament continued its close cooperation with the World Bank. Parliament arranges training sessions for MPs from developing countries in cooperation with the World Bank Institute (WBI) and also participates in training sessions arranged by the World Bank and cooperating parliaments and organizations abroad. In October 2007 Parliament hosted a training session in Helsinki on the themes of parliamentarism, good governance and reducing poverty. This was attended by 24 parliamentarians and officials from eight African countries. In connection with the seminar a book entitled "The Role of Parliaments in Conflict-Affected Countries" was published



on the basis of previous seminars arranged by Parliament and the WBI.

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank held its seventh annual conference in Cape Town on 15–18 March. The main topics were the situation in Africa, strengthening parliaments in developing countries and climate change. In 2007 the Network arranged field visits to Haiti, Kampuchea and Niger, where parliamentarians from developing countries and donor countries learned more about the World Bank's activities. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supports this work.

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves of Estonia (left) visited Parliament on 14 March 2007. Speaker Paavo Lipponen showed him around the Plenary Hall.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

More visitors

The updating of Parliament's information activities, which began in the previous electoral period, was brought to completion. The final step was improving services for visitors. New guidelines in this area were introduced on 1 April 2007. According to a working group proposal, as many visiting groups as possible now meet with an MP. Groups are also accompanied by a guide.

The programme during visits draws attention to Parliament's activities, MPs' work, civic participation and history. Tours are tailored to groups' interests. Special tours are arranged for children, school groups and people who are interested in architecture and art, as well as tours

in simple Finnish and Swedish. Evening tours were expanded and are now arranged for groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4.15–8pm when Parliament is in session. Tours on Saturdays were also increased. Plans were made to improve reception facilities for visiting groups during the renovation of Parliament.

Over 35,000 people took guided tours of Parliament in 2007, compared with 24,500 the year before. Once again the busiest month was May, when lots of school groups came. Staff were able to serve visitors better and more flexibly on the basis of the new guidelines.

Open House in the main building and the Little Parliament annex attracted numerous visitors in August. In June artist Kaisa Salmi decorated the steps in front of Parliament with

Visitors can take guided tours of Parliament. Plenary sessions are also open to the public.



Parliament held Open House in the main building on 20 August and in the Little Parliament annex on 21 August 2007.



a sea of flowers. On the Night of the Arts the steps were filled with spectators who came to see an international circus event that was part of the Helsinki Festival.

Civic organizations were given a chance to arrange occasions together with an MP in the Visitor's Centre. Over 16,000 people dropped by and 70 occasions were arranged for the public.

Young people encouraged to vote

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice Parliament conducted a campaign to get out the vote especially among people aged 18–29. The campaign included web pages, media ads and printed materials.

After the general election Parliament revised all its presentation materials. In many cases this simply involved updating information, since brochures with a new visual look and content had been produced only a couple of years before.

The traditional MP calendar was produced along with a calendar that provides information on MPs and parliamentary organs, a review of the previous electoral period and reviews of the spring and autumn terms.

The Parliament Information Office expanded its activities to include publications. The goal is to create an efficient, economical and visually consistent procedure for producing publications.

Good feedback on revised web pages

Maintaining and developing Parliament's web service became more clearly the task of the Parliament Information Office. The revised web pages that were introduced at the end of 2006 received good feedback from users. News, pages in Swedish and search functions received special praise.

News on the website increased considerably with daily releases on major decisions and debates in plenary session, committee reports, international cooperation and seminars.

Special pages on Parliament's centennial brought together information on the celebration and events. Separate pages were also produced on Parliament's renovation and internally on the reform of the pay system.

Live webcasts of plenary sessions are expected to start in autumn 2008. The start had to be postponed because the new Plenary Hall system will be ready a year later than planned. The Finnish Broadcasting Company renewed its camera systems in Parliament and was able to begin trial broadcasts in February 2008.

At the beginning of the electoral period, the Finnish Broadcasting Company started broadcasting all question hours live on TV1.

Media training for new MPs

The orientation programme for new MPs included an extensive media segment. The Asso-



ciation of Political Journalists helped arrange a seminar on political journalism during the past 40 years, which was webcast live.

The number of accredited journalists (130) and photographers (70) was roughly the same as in previous years. Many regional media organized new national political news departments, whose staff were accredited. Parliament also attracted greater interest from journalist who specialize in other areas besides politics.

Cooperation with the Association of Political Journalists remained good. Journalists' working conditions in Parliament were improved after new rules were agreed at the beginning of the electoral period.

Subjects that stimulated a lot of discussion in the media included the general election, new MPs, the election of the Prime Minister, the formation of the Government and the preparation of the Government Programme, the state budget, the Patient Safety Act, military crisis management, the restructuring of municipalities and services, taxation, environmental issues, and education and health issues. The media focused critical attention on Parliament's administration and finances.

The Parliament Information Office developed services for journalists by providing more information on the committees, broadening advance information on parliamentary work and improving text message and telephone services.

In spring 2007 the third training programme for journalists was conducted. This was again a success and attracted 35 journalists from different parts of Finland. MPs and parliamentary officials led discussions.

The Parliament Information Office published an in-house newsletter once a week. Briefings were also arranged on personnel and development matters for staff.

Communication and research service strategies

After the completion of development projects, the Parliament Information Office began preparing a new communication strategy. Actual strategy work will begin in spring 2008.

The Research Service continued preparing its own short-term strategy. Priorities include the development of research and analysis services as well as online services.

The Library of Parliament placed emphasis on training related to its new web pages in 2007. Library staff made visits to ten regional libraries to show personnel and customers how to make the best use of online services. Staff also participated actively in other forms of information management training.

The Library of Parliament will publish its own annual report for 2007.

◀ The Library of Parliament has a collection of books concerning parliamentary work and politics that have been written by MPs.

▶ The first step in improving security during renovation work was the completion of a new gate at the rear of Parliament.



SECURITY

The Security Department's main projects in 2007 included security specifications for the planning of renovation work and the completion of a new gate at the rear of Parliament. Security arrangements and environmental matters are important aspects of the renovation. According to studies and proposals, coordinating changes in functions and renovation work and the joint planning and utilization of facilities above ground and below ground are key factors influencing security.

Improving security

The systematic development of security continued, while respecting open Nordic democracy.

New guidelines concerning visitors were introduced and groups visiting Parliament are now accompanied by a guide. An online visitor and booking system was also created. This will be placed in use in early 2008. These measures will improve security substantially.

An environmental programme is being prepared for Parliament as part of the development of security. A working group is also producing environmental information for the renovation. Parliament intends to set a good example in taking environmental matters and sustainable development into consideration in the renovation project.

Security personnel's competence

Officials prepared a proposal for a new Act on Parliamentary Security, which will be introduced in early 2008.

The key content of the new Act concerns the defining of security personnel's competence. In this connection the entire staff of the Security Department has completed a basic examination so as to ensure the proper performance of security tasks.

Security cooperation

Different actors and authorities who are involved in security continued to work closely together to keep a correct picture of the situation.

The Security Department cooperated with educational institutions to provide training. Parliament has strived to set an example in planning the content of security training.

PARLIAMENT'S CENTENNIAL

Celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of Finland's parliamentary reform continued in 2007. Numerous events were arranged in Parliament and around the country. The centennial exhibition was on display at Finnish libraries and abroad.

The calendar of events included the following:

- 5.2. Seminar on "Living Bilingualism"**
The seminar was hosted by Parliament in cooperation with the Swedish Parliamentary Group. The programme featured Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages as well as the Chancellor of Justice, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the President of the Supreme Administrative Court.

- 9.3. Seminar on sport and health in Lahti**
The seminar was held in connection with the Salpausselkä Games. The City of Lahti and the Finnish Ski Association assisted in preparing the seminar. The programme featured the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the chairman of the Finnish Sports Federation.

- 18.3. Centennial elections**

- 22.5. Laying of wreaths on the graves of former Speakers**
Deceased Speakers of Parliament were remembered by laying wreaths on their graves the day before Parliament's centennial session.

- 22.5. Svinhufvud seminar**
The P.E. Svinhufvud Memorial Foundation hosted a seminar in the Little Parliament annex.

- 23.5. Second centennial session and reception**
At the session Parliament approved the Act on State Aid for Certain Women's Organizations, which established public funding for two women's organizations.

The session was followed by a reception in the Hall of State, hosted by the Speaker.

Women won 84 seats in the centennial elections last spring, an all-time high.





29.5. Arkadia Collection launched

The Arkadia Collection includes books on politics and parliamentary work that have been written by MPs since 1907. The list was assembled by the Library of Parliament.

7.6. Seminar on political journalism during the past 40 years

The seminar was arranged by the Association of Political Journalists and the Parliament Information Office. The programme featured the President of the Republic, the Speaker of Parliament and the chairman of the Association of Political Journalists. A panel also discussed how political journalism has changed over the years.

11.6. Centennial meeting of the Constitutional Law Committee

12.6. Opening of an exhibition of portraits of former Speakers

Portraits of former Speakers of Parliament were placed on display at the National Museum. The exhibition was opened by the Speaker of Parliament and the director of the National Museum and remained on view throughout the summer.

13.6. Publication of two volumes in book series

Parliament published volumes VII and X of a 12-volume series of books dealing with its own history.

7.7. Centennial opera in Savonlinna

Parliament participated in the premiere of a specially commissioned opera entitled “Daddy’s Girl” in Savonlinna. The Speakers and Secretary Generals of the Nordic and Baltic Parliaments were invited to attend.

20.–21.8. Open House

Open House in the main building and the Little Parliament annex attracted 2,240 visitors.

28.11. Publication of two volumes in book series

Parliament published volumes V and XI of a 12-volume series of books dealing with its own history.

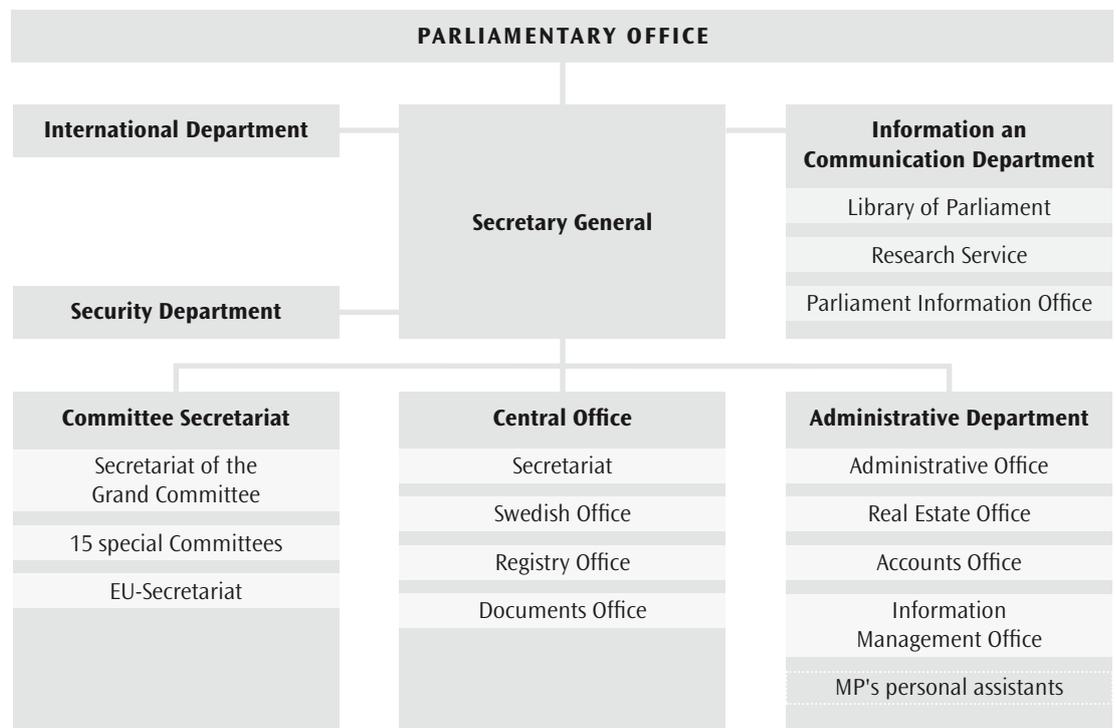
Organization and tasks of the Parliamentary Office

The Parliamentary Office, which is subordinate to the Chancellery Commission, is responsible for creating the proper conditions for Parliament to carry out its tasks as an organ of state. The Parliamentary Office is divided into the Central Office and the Administrative Department. It also includes the Committee Secretariat, the International Department, the Information and Communication Department

and Security Department. The Parliamentary Office is headed by the Secretary General of Parliament.

The Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the National Audit Office and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs also operate in connection with Parliament.

The Central Office takes care of preparatory, execution and service tasks related to plenary sessions of Parliament, the preparation and publication of parliamentary documents and registers and the distribution and storing



of documents. The Central Office includes the Registry Office, the Swedish Office and the Documents Office. The Central Office is headed by the Director of Legislation.

The task of the Committee Secretariat is to take care of secretarial services required by the committees, the preparation of matters to be discussed by the committees and the arrangement of related supporting activities. The Committee Secretariat is headed by the Deputy Secretary General of Parliament.

The EU Secretariat's main task is to coordinate Parliament's links with the EU. The EU Secretariat includes the secretariats of the Grand Committee and the Foreign Affairs

Committee and a special expert in Brussels, who reports regularly on EU decision-making affecting Parliament.

The Administrative Department takes care of preparing meetings of the Chancellery Commission and implementing the decisions made at these meetings. It handles matters involving Parliament's budget and financial management as well as the planning of activities and finances, facilities and furnishings, data processing and personnel administration. It also handles other administrative matters which are not taken care of by other units. The Administrative Department comprises the Administrative Office, the Accounts Office,

The renovation of the Parliament Buildings began with the kitchen in the main building. A topping-out party was held on 15 November 2007.





Office Assistant Markus Puttonen (left), Senior Office Assistant Jorma Heikkinen and Office Assistant Christian Backmansson distribute documents to MPs' desks before a plenary session.

the Real Estate Office and the Information Management Office. The department is headed by the Administrative Director.

The Parliamentary Office also includes the International Department, Security Department and the Information and Communication Department. The Information and Communication Department includes the Library of Parliament, Research Service and the Parliament Information Office.

Organizationally MPs' personal assistants come mainly under the Administrative Department. Personal assistants are employed by the Parliamentary Office and employment contracts are signed by the Administrative Director.

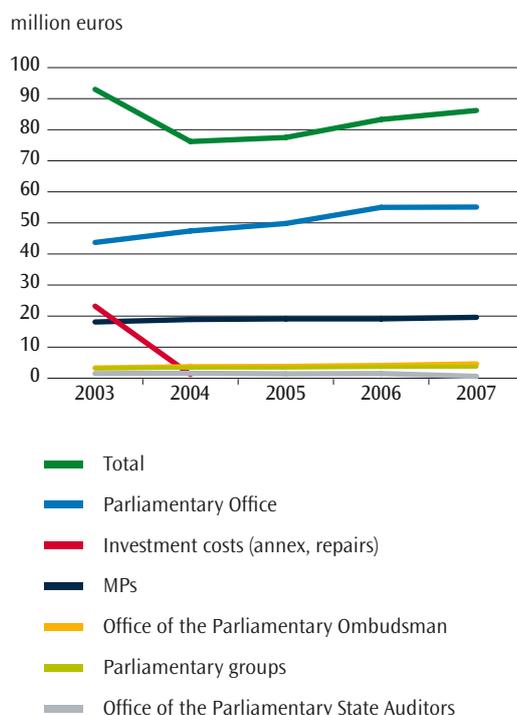
Management of Parliament's finances

In the state budget Parliament's expenses include MPs, the Parliamentary Office, the Parliamentary State Auditors, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, the National Audit Office and Parliament's other expenses, including group office funds for the parliamentary groups. The Annual Report of the Parliamentary Office does not cover the National Audit Office or the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, which are separate agencies that prepare their own annual reports and financial statements. Consequently their costs are not included in Parliament's financial statements. On the other hand funds spent by the Parliamentary State

Auditors and the Parliamentary Ombudsman are included, because they are part of Parliament's accounts.

Parliament's expenses totalled €91.1 million in 2007. This was 3.6% more than the year before. Expenditure was €6.7 million less than budgeted. The budget implementation rate was 93%. Expenses were increased by the renovation project that started in 2007.

Parliament's expenses 2003–2007



Including operational and renovation expenses, as a legislative body Parliament cost €16.20 per citizen in 2007. The figure in 2006 was €15.50. Parliament accounted for about 0.25% of the Finnish state's total costs, as in previous years.

MPs' pay together with compensation for expenses and travel in Finland totalled €19.6 million in 2007. This was 2.8% more than in 2006. The increase was due to a pay rise on 1 April 2007.

The direct costs of MPs' personal assistants in 2007 totalled €6.4 million, which was 2.7% more than the year before.

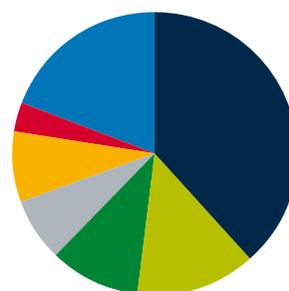
The biggest expenditure item was the Parliamentary Office's operational expenditure, which amounted to €55.2 million. This was 0.4% more than the year before.

The parliamentary group offices spent €3.6 million, up 2.2% over the year before. The average monthly subsidy for the parliamentary groups was €1,534 per MP, compared with €1,501 in 2006. The parliamentary groups used subsidies to pay staff and to cover other expenses.

In addition to MPs and the Parliamentary Office, Parliament's financial statements also include funds spent by the Parliamentary State Auditors and the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Office of the Parliamentary State Auditors was abolished on 1 July 2007. A new Audit Committee was established and most of the office's personnel were shifted to its staff. Other personnel were placed in the different units of the Parliamentary Office.

The Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman spent nearly €4.6 million in 2007, up 11.1% compared with the year before. The exceptionally large increase was due to a ruling by the Labour Court according to which so-called new employees working 7 hours 15 minutes a day are entitled to the same 19.9% compensation as old employees who extended their working hours from 6 hours a day. As in previous

Parliamentary Office's expenses 2007
(total €62.6 million)



million euros	
■ Civil servants' pay	24,1
■ Information management expenses	8,5
■ MPs' personal assistants	6,4
■ Taxes (VAT and real estate)	4,6
■ Renovation and real estate expenses	5,0
■ Travel expenses	2,1
■ Other expenses	11,9

Art Amanuensis Inka Laine supervises the installation of a mural in the corridor between Parliament House and the Little Parliament annex. Markku Arantila's "Travellers" was unveiled on 17 April 2007.

years fixed-term, temporary personnel were hired to handle the backlog of complaints. The Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman had 54 permanent posts plus four fixed-term posts on average.

Personnel

Last year 8 new permanent posts were established in the Parliamentary Office: two committee counsellors, one recording secretary

in the Central Office, one international affairs secretary in the International Department, one information officer and two information secretaries in the Information and Communication Department, and one security planner in the Security Department.

The following posts were abolished in the Parliamentary Office last year: head of cleaning in the Administrative Office, administrative assistant in the International Department and supervisor in the Security Department.

Permanent and fixed-term posts were filled in the different units of the Parliamentary Office as follows at the end of 2003–2007:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Central Office	67	67	69	70	70
Committees	56	57	62	63	70
Administrative Department	195	216	181	176	181
International Department	19	21	20	21	22
Information and Communication Department	76	74	75	74	81
Security Department*			42	44	43
Other**	7	7	8	8	9
Total	420	442	457	456	476***

* The Security Department went into operation at the beginning of 2005, bringing together personnel mainly from the Administrative Office and the Real Estate Office.

** Includes personnel working directly under the Secretary General.

*** Includes personnel (15) shifted from the Office of the Parliamentary State Auditors to the Parliamentary Office, in addition to which 8 new posts were established and 3 posts were abolished.

MPs' personal assistants, who totalled 185 at the end of 2007, are not included in the above table.



Real estate and facilities

The Parliament Buildings consist of Parliament House (1931), a three-part expansion that was completed in 1978, an office building that dates from the 1950s and was acquired in the 1980s, and a new annex that was completed in 2004. These buildings have a total volume of 289,500 cubic metres and a gross floor space of 72,820 square metres on lots covering 18,400 square metres. Cleaners must attend to 43,520 square metres of floor space. The National Audit Office and the Audit Committee occupy rented premises in the state office building at Antinkatu 1.

Major repairs and alterations last year included the construction of a new back-up power plant and the renovation of the lifts in the main foyer, which now go down one floor more so as to improve accessibility. Traffic arrangements at the rear of Parliament, including a new gate, street heating and the renewal of pavements and street lighting, were completed in the summer. An equipment room was built and cables were installed for the new Plenary Hall system. The roof of the main building was painted and gutters were replaced.

Planning for the renovation of the main building, older annexes and underground facilities got under way with a project plan. A commission chaired by Deputy Speaker Sirkka-Liisa Anttila, which had been appointed to set operational objectives for the project, submitted its report as the basis for the project plan. A build-

ing commission consisting of representatives of the parliamentary groups was appointed with Speaker Sauli Niinistö as chairman, along with an executive group consisting of civil servants. An architect (Helin & Co) and technical engineers were selected for the project. Renovation work started in the autumn with the kitchen in the main building.

Parliament takes care of its own cleaning, building and HVAC maintenance and minor repair tasks. Renovation and alteration projects as well as special equipment maintenance are also put out to tender and contracted.

Real estate operating and repair costs, excluding pay, totalled €4.1 million in 2007. An additional €2.6 million was reserved for renovation and €2.1 million of this was spent.

Information management

Development work with regard to information management has focused mainly on creating a new sound, voting and monitoring system for the Plenary Hall, solving problems that have arisen in this process and conducting tests. Only compulsory updates and changes were made in information systems at the beginning of the electoral period.

Maintaining hardware and software requires more and more work each year in order to ensure that systems work properly and are reliable. According to a survey, users of information management services are very satisfied with the service they receive.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

	1.1.–31.12.2007		1.1.–31.12.2006	
Operational income				
Income from paid activities	150,576.21		130,676.00	
Rents and user charges	66,796.68		70,183.15	
Other operational income	<u>67,735.58</u>	285,108.47	<u>20,759.58</u>	221,618.73
Operational expenses				
Materials, supplies and goods				
Purchases during the year	-3,115,192.25		-3,507,390.75	
Personnel expenses	-52,506,192.48		-50,945,697.61	
Rents	-293,709.48		-350,300.41	
Purchased services	-13,921,983.55		-13,320,490.92	
Other expenses	-5,144,668.84		-6,522,464.79	
Production for own use	1,271,114.93			
Depreciation	<u>-3,923,666.92</u>	<u>-77,634,298.59</u>	<u>-3,501,900.54</u>	<u>-78,148,245.02</u>
Deficit I		-77,349,190.12		-77,926,626.29
Financial income and expenses				
Financial income	57.15		109.57	
Financial expenses	<u>-854.61</u>	-797.46	<u>-371.32</u>	-261.75
Extraordinary income and expenses				
Extraordinary income	6,536.84		833.99	
Extraordinary expenses	<u>-9,800.72</u>	<u>-3,263.88</u>	<u>-1,021.00</u>	<u>-187.01</u>
Deficit II		-77,353,251.46		-77,927,075.05
Transferred income and expenses				
Transferred expenses	-4,180,640.00		-3,602,880.00	
Transferred expenses abroad	-751,204.25		-705,262.90	
Other expenses	<u>-201,470.00</u>	<u>-5,133,314.25</u>	<u>-124,200.00</u>	<u>-4,432,342.90</u>
Deficit III		-82,486,565.71		-82,359,417.95
Income and expenses from taxes and other compulsory charges				
VAT collected	5,093.18			
VAT paid	<u>-4,825,425.07</u>	<u>-4,820,331.89</u>	<u>-4,188,750.80</u>	<u>-4,188,750.80</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		<u>-87,306,897.60</u>		<u>-86,548,168.75</u>

BALANCE SHEET

	31.12.2007		31.12.2006	
ASSETS				
NATIONAL ASSETS				
Building land and water areas	11,691,953.55		11,691,953.55	
Buildings	29,679,598.04		28,689,209.05	
Other national assets	<u>976,270.40</u>	42,347,821.99	<u>755,805.32</u>	41,136,967.92
FIXED ASSETS AND OTHER LONG-TERM EXPENDITURE				
Immaterial assets				
Immaterial rights	199,570.57		426,351.40	
Other long-term expenditure	1,080,324.29		212,848.49	
Advance payments and ongoing procurements	<u>2,573,280.37</u>	3,853,175.23	<u>2,024,600.69</u>	2,663,800.58
Material assets				
Building land and water assets	8,952,374.94		8,952,374.94	
Buildings	37,874,305.42		38,905,991.59	
Machinery and equipment	4,156,809.04		4,365,089.14	
Furnishings	3,724,894.62		4,160,361.68	
Other material assets	135,465.42		125,741.93	
Advance payments and ongoing procurements	<u>3,372,804.20</u>	58,216,653.64	<u>429,958.57</u>	56,939,517.85
INVENTORIES AND FINANCIAL ASSETS				
Current receivables				
Accounts receivable	4,074.14		2,435.42	
Receivables carried forward	23,405.56		43,689.43	
Other current receivables	575.29		105.11	
Advance payments	<u>18,307.60</u>	46,362.59	<u>29,020.00</u>	75,249.96
Cash, bank receivables and other financial assets				
Cash accounts	<u>11,848.60</u>	11,848.60	<u>17,035.95</u>	17,035.95
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>104,475,862.05</u>		<u>100,832,572.26</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
EQUITY				
State's equity at 1.1.1998	37,598,686.23		37,598,686.23	
Change in equity in previous years	51,551,666.90		52,922,235.12	
Equity transfers	90,888,104.10		85,177,600.53	
Deficit for the year	<u>-87,306,897.60</u>	92,731,559.63	<u>-86,548,168.75</u>	89,150,353.13
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Accounts payable	3,132,963.26		3,987,909.37	
Inter-office payments	1,347,599.60		1,255,857.81	
Items to be forwarded	994,595.40		924,103.58	
Accrued expenses	<u>6,269,144.16</u>	11,744,302.42	<u>5,514,348.37</u>	11,682,219.13
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		<u>104,475,862.05</u>		<u>100,832,572.26</u>

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT 1.1.–31.12.2007

	Budget 2007	Actual 2007	Actual- budget Larger (+) Smaller (-)	Actual 2006
INCOME ACCOUNTS				
11.04.01 VAT income	5,093.18	5,093.18	0.00	0.00
12.39.10 Miscellaneous income	330,330.65	330,330.65	0.00	321,624.97
TOTAL INCOME ACCOUNTS	335,423.83	335,423.83	0.00	321,624.97
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS				
Members of Parliament				
21.01.21 Operational expenditure	21,775,000.00	19,613,703.10	-2,161,296.90	19,072,974.51
Parliamentary Office				
21.02.21 Operational expenditure	59,107,000.00	55,163,917.24	-3,943,082.76	54,959,459.73
21.02.29 VAT expenditure	5,200,000.00	4,825,425.07	-374,574.93	4,185,880.87
21.02.74 Renovation of Parliament buildings	2,600,000.00	2,600,000.00	0.00	
State Auditors				
21.09.21 Operational expenditure	630,000.00	630,000.00	0.00	1,458,719.79
Parliamentary Ombudsman				
21.14.21 Operational expenditure	4,778,000.00	4,571,950.58	-206,049.42	4,115,643.79
Other expenditure by Parliament				
21.99.21 Operating funds for parl. groups	3,681,000.00	3,680,640.00	-360.00	3,602,880.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS	97,771,000.00	91,085,635.99	-6,685,364.01	87,395,558.69
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		<u>-90,750,212.16</u>		<u>-87,073,933.72</u>
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD				
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2008				
Renovation of Parliament buildings in 2007 (deferrable appropriation 3 years)		495,335.54		

The financial statements have been prepared in the manner prescribed in sections 44–48 of Parliament’s accounting regulations and according to the State Treasury’s guidelines for 2007.

Real estate classified as national property has been evaluated according to tax values used in the levying of 1997 real estate tax. National property includes Parliament’s land areas, Parliament House, Buildings A and B, Building C together with storage, civil defence and parking facilities, and Building D. Buildings’ balance sheet value rose by €990,389 as the result of the construction of a new gate at the rear of Parliament. Construction costs were added to the balance sheet value of Building D. Depreciation has not been calculated on national property, since this constitutes long-term state assets in which the emphasis is on preserving and protecting assets. The Balance Sheet does not include art works classifiable as national property which were purchased before 1 January 1998.

In the Balance Sheet, buildings include the value of the Little Parliament annex, which was completed in 2004. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over a period of 40 years. Buildings also include the value of a sauna at Palolampi, which was completed in 2002. For this building depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over a period of 20 years.

In the Balance Sheet, building land includes the lot acquired from the City of Helsinki for the Little Parliament annex. Its value is €8,952,374.94. This is the same as in the Balance Sheet for 2004 and is based on estimates for corresponding lots in the area plus connection charges.

In the Balance Sheet, advance payments and ongoing procurements include €2,405,742.24 in expenditure on the Plenary Hall 2007 project plus €2,101,689 for procurements of fixed assets. The

project was scheduled for completion by summer 2007, but owing to technical problems the new system will be introduced a year later than planned. As a result of problems in the Balance Sheet, accounts payable include €629,685.07 in bills concerning the Plenary Hall 2007 project that await the Chancellery Commission’s decision.

Depreciation has been booked according to plan. Depreciation according to plan has been calculated on a straight-line basis. The depreciation period is three years for computer software and hardware, five years for office machinery and equipment, and seven years for other machinery and equipment.

Under operational income, income from paid activities includes income from the Library of Parliament’s remote lending and other activities, postal services, printing services and card sales. Rents and user charges include rent and other charges from five dwellings and a civil defence shelter. Other operational income includes the sale of assets no longer in use.

Under operational expenses, personnel expenses include MPs’ pay together with compensation for expenses, parliamentary employees’ salaries, holiday pay, experts’ fees, fringe benefits, pension costs and side costs. Other expenses include travel expenses, Finnish and international membership fees and real estate taxes. Production for own use concerns the Plenary Hall 2007 project.

Transferred expenses include subsidies for parliamentary group offices, membership fees paid to the Nordic Council and subsidies for clubs and activity groups.

Under current liabilities, accrued expenses include holiday pay liabilities.

Accounting in Parliament is on an accrual basis. The annual accounts have been corrected on a payment basis.

Helsinki, 29 February 2008

Kari T. Ahonen
Administrative Director

Pertti J. Rosila
Head of Office

In the manner prescribed by section 19 paragraph 1 of Parliament's accounting regulations we have audited the financial statements, accounts and administration of Parliament during the financial period 1 January - 31 December 2007. The financial statements include the year-end accounts and the notes stipulated in section 47 of the accounting regulations. On the basis of our audit we issue our opinion on the financial statements, the annual review of activities and administration.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Finnish auditing standards. The accounts and the annual review of activities, accounting principles and the content and presentation of the financial statements have been examined to the extent required to determine that the financial statements and the annual review of activities

do not contain essential mistakes or deficiencies. In the auditing of administration we have determined that the actions of the Chancellery Commission and the Parliamentary Office have been in conformance with the law.

In our opinion the financial statements and the annual review of activities have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations regarding the preparation of Parliament's accounts and annual review of activities. The financial statements and the annual review of activities give a true and adequate view of Parliament's finances and their development during the financial period as prescribed in the accounting regulations. We do not have any comments on Parliament's 2007 financial statements, annual review of activities, accounts or administration.

Helsinki, 25 April 2008



Matti Saarinen
Chairman



Timo Korhonen



Petri Salo



Eero Suomela

Photo on back cover:
The 2004 Parliament annex,
named Little Parliament,
by architects Pekka Helin & Co.



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