

**POSITION PAPER – FINLAND**

**Istanbul Pan-Atlantic Student Summit 2004**  
**NATO diplomacy simulation with 37 NATO-member countries**

**Introduction**

Finland has a long tradition as a producer of security, stability and multinational initiatives. Finland is one of the largest per capita contributors in crisis management operations in Europe, and the nation is committed to performing these activities in the future as well. Finland has participated in numerous operations under the UN flag since the Suez operation in the 1950's, under the NATO flag since the Bosnian operation in the 1990's, and under the European Union flag since the operation in Macedonia in 2003.

Finland took a long anticipated step in its security and defence policy in 2005 – with the other previously non-allied/neutral European states Austria, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland – to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. This step has been less influential for the issue areas of security and decision-making and more influential for our national identity, which has now taken the final step to the value based democratic security community.

In the present era of stability and security in Europe, Finland maintains its traditional and successful defence doctrine based on a combination of conscription and professional elements. Our conscription has been maintained at a comprehensive level (60-80% of the yearly age class), and professional components have been created and trained for special, high intensity and high technology operations. This balance has made it possible for our nation to keep our applied national territorial defence obligations and a wide-ranging participation in international peace- and stabilisation operations from rescue and humanitarian operations to intense peace enforcement, and article V common defence. The conscription system has contributed an impressive amount of able and skilful international crisis management personnel (in peacekeeping and low intensity operations). Conscription is going to be maintained also in the future, but lowered down to 40-60% making it able to direct more resources to the professional elements and research, development and acquisitions. We oppose any developments that would seriously undermine and constrain our ability to organise our national defence according to these guidelines.

A well-functioning EU-NATO link is needed and Finland considers the consensus between EU and NATO a priority, and sees the Berlin+ agreement as a step in the right direction.

Finland considers NATO a central producer of stability and security. NATO's obligations are not confined to the Euro-Atlantic area, but span the entire globe. Finland is supportive of NATO's engagement in out-of-area operations. Such operations should however always have the wide support of the international community, and they must include plans on how to deal with the situation ensuing after an operation in the operation area. Out-of-area operations should always have either a clear exit strategy, or a solid post-conflict stabilisation strategy.

Finland supports a comprehensive approach to deal with the terrorist challenge, where all resources are used in synchronisation and co-ordination. The War on Terrorism is fought against extremist

groups whose goals are solely to create massive destruction and fear, and to destabilise economic and societal systems, in pursuit of their own fundamentalist political goals. This conflict is not a clash of civilisations, and not a war against any religion or culture. This conflict is not a military conflict by definition. The first priority of the international community is to prevent crises before they erupt. Through humanitarian interventions the international community can influence processes that otherwise might lead to conflict, as well as conflicts that have already erupted and which threaten to spread to other regions. Military actions are not the first and foremost means in preventing new security threats, actions should also focus on the underlying reasons for the new threats. Military action is however called for if all other means fail, and NATO is the actor best equipped to handle such operations.

### **Legal implications**

Any international operation, committed by a multinational organisation, involving military elements, needs to have legitimacy, which can be gained only by a broad consensus in the international community. It is Finland's view that any such operation involving the Alliance should have approval granted by the UN Security Council. There might be cases where the UNSC is blocked by difference of opinion spilling over from other policy areas. In these cases, if the conditions of extreme urgency are met, legitimation can be alternatively acquired from unanimous decisions by NATO, the EU or the OSCE. Even under these circumstances, serious work should be done to regain the consensus on UN level.

In order for the UNSC to be effective and capable of fulfilling this goal, Finland supports a restructuring of the UNSC. All cases of unilateral or coalitions of the willing based use of force in international relations are opposed or at least strongly suspected by Finland.

Finland also promotes the International Criminal Court, and wishes all Alliance operations to be under the ICC jurisdiction, including all operation personnel.

### **Defence Planning Committee**

Finland has a very renowned and accomplished defence industry, which is to be promoted and safeguarded in this forum. We can offer communications solutions and specific arms systems of high quality and performance to allied nations and beyond.

Finland could contribute to alliance development and training by creating a NATO crisis management training and education centre in Finland. The centre could deal with the training and exercise of the newly established Caucasus Stabilisation Battalion, Central Asian Stabilisation Battalion, and the North African Partner Peacekeeping Battalion.

Finland also proposes a research and development centre on Communications technology, testing and exercise centre in Finland.

*Goals for NATO operation in Kosovo:* Finland wishes to create initial guidelines for ending the operation in 2010. The KFOR operation would end and be substituted by a lesser scale EU operation. With the decrease of military elements an increase in civil engagement and elements by UN, OSCE, and various GOs and NGOs would follow, and continue well beyond the 2015 timeline.

## **Military Committee**

Finland is ready to make its contribution to NATO's common force structures by making available capabilities that fall within its area of special expertise, such as intelligence, C3, special training, naval mine warfare, administration skills, units specialised in arctic warfare. Finland also considers making available a number of its F-18 fighters for joint air operations and exercises of defensive nature. Our nation maintains the level of forces signed for NATO/EU/UN crisis management operations, and proposes a communications platform, mine clearance expert team and staff elements to the NRF.

## **Reforming NATO**

Finland's position is that NATO should maintain in its basic role as a collective defence structure, but at the same time it should modernise this structure to adapt it to a wider range of new missions and operations to counter, manage, contain and/or prevent the contemporary threats. NATO should reform itself to meet the new security threats of terrorism, failed and rogue states, international crime, human trafficking, social unrest and proliferation of WMD. We warmly welcome the joint efforts by Norway and the US to find ways to restrain the negative consequences of NATO operations to human trafficking and prostitution in operation areas.

We strongly recommend that a joint working group be established for the restructuring of defence and security policy co-operation arrangements between the allies. The working group should address the question of distribution of labour between the EU and the US in regional issues, and crisis management in the near abroad. Also co-operation arrangements concerning early warning, crisis prevention, crisis management and peace enforcement, and the post-conflict stabilisation and possible nation building phase. A possible outcome could be a new organisation called GADD, the Global Alliance for the Defence of Democracy. The GADD would have regional Article V type arrangements, common crisis management planning and command capability, and mutual dialogue and co-operation cells with non-members.

NATO should create a more flexible co-operation structure with other organisations dealing with civil security. Civil and military crises have many common features, and should therefore be addressed with a common approach where civil and military authorities assist each other. The concept of Civil Emergency Planning is of central importance in this regard, and should be developed further. The Finnish total defence concept might be of help in creating this type of concepts and approaches. In today's integrated environment threatened by confuse and multifaceted threats, a more comprehensive approach integrating different levels of global, regional, and national institutions is important.

## **Political Affairs Committee**

Finland wants by its presence in NATO to promote the transatlantic link and to help the Alliance revitalise.

Finland also welcomes Russia's role in NATO, and supports its efforts to restructure its military and to participate also in the most demanding operations of the Alliance. We welcome the new transparency that the Russian military has showed since its joining the Alliance. Finland also makes it clear that it sits in the decision-making table as equal to Russia, and wants to share the same level of influence and attention to Baltic Sea Region and Nordic Region issues as Russia.

The threats of today are not coming from a defined geographical area or country as they did in the Cold War. Modern threats come from a wider area, and they are not defined by struggles between countries, but more by struggles within countries as well as local conflicts which might spill over to other areas and become regional or even global.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is still a major source of instability in the Middle-Eastern area. USA, EU, UN and Russia are trying to find a conclusion for the crisis. NATO should participate in this extremely important project by enhancing the regional Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern Dialogue programs. Building trust and creating co-operative and consultation frameworks is extremely important.

Finland expects the Allies to be fully engaged and supportive of these designs. Any attempt to diminish the capability of the Alliance to fulfil its tasks is seen as counterproductive to the international security cooperation as a whole, and endangers the fundamental values that the Alliance was formed to protect.

Finland supports the creation of NATO-China Council for dialogue, consultation and co-operation for the wider Euro-Asian area. Also the possibilities for enhanced joint operations in the field of crisis management and missile defence against threat coming from rogue states could be addressed.