



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

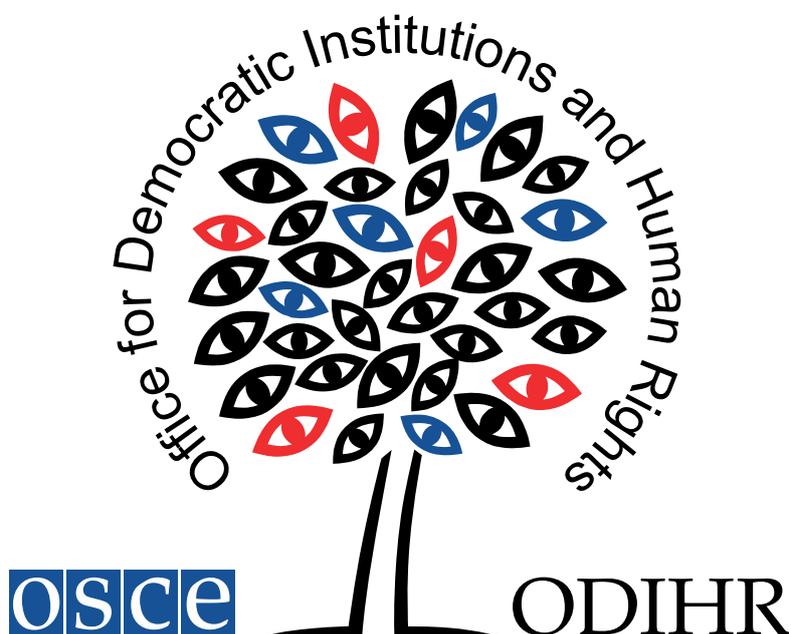
# REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

## PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

19 April 2015

### OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

10-12 February 2015



Warsaw  
27 February 2015

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**REPUBLIC OF FINLAND  
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS  
19 April 2015**

**OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Following an invitation from the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE to observe the 19 April 2015 parliamentary elections and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 10 to 12 February. The NAM included Ms. Tatyana Bogussevich, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser, Mr. Vladimir Misev, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser, and Ms. Tamara Otiashvili, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and preparations for the parliamentary elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM should recommend whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming elections, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Administrative Court, the National Audit Office, the Population Register Centre, and the Council for Mass Media, as well as with representatives of political parties, media, and civil society. A list of meetings is included as an annex to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its assistance and cooperation in organizing the NAM. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM and to share their views.

**II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 19 April, voters will elect 200 members of parliament for a 4-year term in 13 electoral districts. There is no nationwide threshold for entry into the parliament. The 2000 amendments to the Constitution enhanced the role of the parliament and the prime minister.

In 2014, the appointment of a new prime minister and the departure of two parties from the governing coalition impacted the political environment. This, however, did not influence government's majority in the parliament.

A number of amendments have been introduced to the Election Act in 2013. In line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, the law now contains explicit provisions for election observation and observers have access to the entire electoral process. Other notable changes include revision of the number of electoral districts and provisions on restricting access to certain personal data in voter registers for reasons of data protection. However, some prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations remain to be addressed, particularly in respect of the right to stand for those holding military office, as well as a limited right to appeal before election day to cases related to voting rights. Nevertheless, all OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the legal framework as a solid basis for conducting democratic elections. They also noted that consultations aimed at addressing the remaining OSCE/ODIHR recommendations are ongoing.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is the supreme election authority, which oversees the organization of elections and has overall responsibility for their conduct. Election-related tasks are shared with 13 Electoral District Committees, 317 Municipal Central Election Committees and 2,142 polling stations. All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a high level of confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election administration.

All citizens over 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Voter registration is passive and voter information is extracted from the Population Information System maintained by the Population Register Centre. There are some 4.4 million registered voters. Apart from casting ballots in polling stations, voters are also provided with alternative voting mechanisms, including advance, out-of-country and homebound voting. Interlocutors met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expressed trust in the voter register and did not signal concerns with its accuracy.

Candidates are nominated by political parties, registered with the MoJ, and by constituency associations formed by a minimum of 100 voters. There are no legal requirements for gender representation on candidate lists, although parties generally apply internal party policies to promote women. Some also encourage participation of minority candidates. All political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expressed full confidence in the candidate registration process.

The campaign is expected to focus on economic issues, future reforms, national security, as well as foreign policy and NATO integration. Along with traditional means of campaigning, all political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM highlighted the importance of campaigning online, including the extensive use of social media.

Public funding is provided to all political parties that have at least one representative in the parliament. Campaigns can also be funded from private contributions and there are no limits on cash donations. While there are no requirements for interim reporting, electoral contestants may choose to voluntarily report. Those elected to the parliament have to submit reports on campaign income and expenditure to the National Audit Office, which is tasked with oversight of political party and campaign finance. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors were supportive of the current campaign finance legislation as a means of enhancing the transparency of elections. Consultations are underway to reform the system further to ensure greater transparency.

The media environment offers a pluralistic and diverse range of views through a variety of media outlets. The public broadcaster YLE (*Yleisradio*) initiated a number of electoral programmes to give all contestants equitable conditions for campaign, including an opportunity for each candidate to record a four-minute interview. Media digitalization has led to various changes in newsrooms. The Internet has become an important source of information, with traditional media, electronic and print, investing considerable efforts into the development of online content. The Council for Mass Media developed guidelines for journalists with the aim of supporting the responsible use of freedom of speech in mass communication, including online. Media and journalists that have declared affiliation with the Council and accepted the principles promoted by it are bound by the Council's decisions.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a high level of confidence in all the aspects of the electoral process. Authorities have given careful consideration and followed-up on findings in previous OSCE/ODIHR reports. Some measures aimed at addressing earlier recommendations have been introduced, while others are pending consideration and adoption. No new issues pertaining to the conduct of elections that would have benefited from review by the OSCE/ODIHR have been identified. Based on this, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM does not recommend deploying an election-related activity for the 19 April parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR stands ready to engage

in a follow-up process soon after the elections, and encourages the authorities to also consider issues raised by interlocutors during the course of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM, including with regard to the complaints and appeals mechanism, campaign financing, and participation of voters with disabilities.

### III. FINDINGS

#### A. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Finland is a parliamentary republic with legislative powers vested in a 200-member unicameral parliament (*Eduskunta*). The 2000 amendments to the Constitution enhanced the role of the parliament and the prime minister. Among other duties, the parliament was vested with the mandate to amend the Constitution, initiate the resignation of the parliament and override presidential vetoes. The president maintained his role in foreign affairs.

The last parliamentary elections were held on 17 April 2011, and resulted in a six-party coalition government comprising the National Coalition Party, Social Democratic Party, Green Party, Swedish People's Party, Left Alliance and Christian Democrats, holding 124 seats in the parliament together.<sup>1</sup> Jyrki Katainen, chair of the National Coalition Party was appointed as a prime minister. The Finns Party has become the largest opposition party with 37 seats, followed by the Centre Party with 36 seats. Following the elections, two members of parliament formed the Left parliamentary group after leaving the Centre Party, and one member joined the Change 2011 party after separating from the Finns Party.

In 2014, a range of issues impacted the political environment. In March, the Left Alliance quit the government in protest against austerity measures. This was followed by the Green Party leaving the coalition after the parliament approved plans for a new nuclear reactor. Four parties remained in the governing coalition, which maintained an absolute majority in the parliament. In the meantime, the prime minister announced his resignation, which resulted in the newly-elected chairperson of the National Coalition Party, Alexander Stubb, becoming Finland's new head of government.

The OSCE/ODIHR deployed an Election Assessment Mission for the 17 April 2011 parliamentary elections, which found that elections "were professionally administered, commanding high levels of stakeholder confidence. The campaign was dynamic and conducted in full respect for fundamental freedom."<sup>2</sup> The OSCE/ODIHR undertook Needs Assessment Missions for the 2007 parliamentary elections and the 2012 presidential election, but did not recommend any election-related activity.

#### B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework governing parliamentary elections primarily comprises the Constitution and the Election Act. Other relevant laws include the Act on Candidate's Election Funding and the Act on Political Parties. These are supplemented by decisions and instructions of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The Constitutional Law Committee in the parliament oversees the constitutionality of laws

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<sup>1</sup> National Coalition Party won 44 seats, Social Democratic Party – 42 seats, Green Party – 10, Swedish People's Party – 10, Left Alliance – 12, and Christian Democrats – 6. There are 73 women members in the outgoing 2011 parliament.

<sup>2</sup> See [all previous OSCE/ODIHR reports on Finland](#).

and legal acts.<sup>3</sup> All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the legal framework as a solid basis for conducting democratic elections.

The Election Act was adopted in 1998, but has been amended a few times since then, most recently in 2013. In a positive development, and in line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the law now contains explicit provisions for election observation and observers have access to the entire electoral process. Other notable changes include the revision of the number of electoral districts and provisions on restricting access to certain personal data in voter registers for reasons of data protection. Other changes provide adjusted deadlines for advance voting, as well as for tabulation and recount processes.

Some prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations remain to be addressed. The restriction on the right to stand in elections for individuals holding military office remains in place. Interlocutors the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with noted that a change in respect of this provision necessitates amendment of the Constitution, a process which requires a vote by two consecutive parliaments. The legal framework also limits the right to appeal before election day to cases related to voting rights. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that in the event a complaint on any other issue is filed, it is dealt with under the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged that this may not provide timely and effective remedy, as court proceedings under regular timeframes are lengthy and are unlikely to provide the necessary redress before the end of an electoral process. The right to appeal against election results is extended to each eligible voter and provides for an effective means of redress. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that consultations are underway in the parliament aimed at addressing the remaining OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.

Finland has signed but has not yet ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that legal changes are necessary prior to the ratification of the convention and that the discussions are ongoing in this respect. In response to the recommendations made during the Universal Periodic Review, conducted on 23 May 2012, the government has noted that a “cross-sectoral working group, including disability representative organisations, is preparing the supporting documentation for proposing the ratification, with special attention to the need to create a well-functioning and efficient national monitoring system.”<sup>4</sup>

### C. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The parliament is elected for a four-year term under a regional proportional representation system with no legal threshold. For the purpose of these elections, the country is divided into twelve multi-member districts, each returning a different number of elected members, and one single-member electoral district.<sup>5</sup> In addition, before each election, the State Council determines the number of seats in each district in proportion to the number of voters, based on the data obtained from the Population Information System (PIS). While these numbers change for each election, the district of Åland always elects one representative.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The Committee issues statements on the constitutionality of legislative proposals, as well as on their compliance with international human rights treaties.

<sup>4</sup> See [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic review](#).

<sup>5</sup> Helsinki electoral district returns 22 members of parliament, Uusimaa – 35, Varsinais-Suomi – 17, Satakunta – 8, Häme – 14, Pirkanmaa – 19, Southeast – 17, Savo-Karelia – 16, Vaasa – 16, Central Finland – 10, Oulu – 18, Lapland – 7, and Åland – 1.

<sup>6</sup> The Åland Islands maintain the special constitutional status, regulated by the Act on the Autonomy of the Åland Islands.

The purpose of reviewing the distribution of parliamentary seats to electoral districts is to ensure vote equality and this is done ahead of each election. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors commented positively on the inclusivity of discussions and of the seat redistribution process that has taken place. However, some voiced concerns that there is still a deviation in the size of two electoral districts that may undermine the equality of the vote and favour bigger parties.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, all are in accord that under the current constitutional arrangement, where the number of electoral districts is enshrined in the Constitution, no further review is possible.<sup>8</sup> The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that consultations are ongoing on possible constitutional amendments in this respect, but that they would not be in place for these elections.

#### **D. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

The MoJ is the supreme electoral authority, which oversees the organization of elections and has overall responsibility for their conduct. In addition to administering elections on the central level, the MoJ issues instructions to lower-level administration on various aspects of the electoral process and implements a number of voter education projects. This includes advertisements in social media, videos on television and distribution of easy-to-read brochures.

The MoJ supervises 13 Electoral District Committees (EDCs) established in each of the 13 electoral districts, and 317 Municipal Central Election Committees (MECs) in each municipal council. These are permanent bodies appointed for a four-year term by provincial offices and local councils in each of the electoral districts and municipal councils, respectively. The EDCs are mainly in charge of candidate registration, while MECs are responsible for most of the technical preparations for elections. In addition, 2,142 polling stations will be operating on election day, including 500 for advance voting, as well as 233 aboard in 89 different locations. While there are no specific legal requirements for gender representation in the election administration, gender balance is observed as per the Act on Equality between Women and Men, which requires that there be at least 40 per cent of each gender in all public institutions.

Electoral bodies at district and polling-station levels are formed based on nominations from political parties represented in the parliament. MEC members are nominated by groups of voters, who nominated candidates in the municipality in previous elections. Generally, electoral bodies at all levels consist of a chairperson, deputy, three members and their substitutes. However, for the purpose of counting and sorting of ballots, additional counting staff may be appointed. In addition, as in previous elections, all electoral contestants are entitled to have one representative and a deputy in each electoral district and parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM indicated their intention to send such representatives.

The Election Act contains provisions facilitating universal suffrage through various methods of voting. This includes voting on election day, voting in advance, homebound, voting in prisons, and out-of-country voting. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that traditionally over 45 per cent of voters vote in advance, while the number of voters voting abroad is decreasing. In addition, special provisions are in place supporting the participation of voters with disabilities. This, combined with various voter education projects and measures undertaken by the MoJ facilitates access and participation of different groups of voters. However, a number of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors

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<sup>7</sup> The OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors mentioned the districts of Lapland and Satakunta.

<sup>8</sup> Section 25 of the Constitution provides that country is divided into “at least twelve and at most eighteen constituencies.” Current proposal is to set the number of constituencies from 8 to 12.

noted that more efforts should be made to further improve the conditions for the effective exercise of the right to vote by disadvantaged voters. This particularly relates to wheelchair access to polling stations. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that current arrangements for voting in prisons could also be improved, in particular with regard to voting hours. Nevertheless, all interlocutors met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expressed high confidence in the election administration and its ability to organize elections professionally.

## **E. VOTER RIGHTS AND REGISTRATION**

The Constitution guarantees the voting right of every citizen who has reached 18 years of age by election day. For the 2015 parliamentary elections, there are approximately 4.4 million eligible voters.

Voter registration is passive and voter information is extracted prior to each election from the PIS, maintained by the Population Register Centre (PRC). Following the 2013 amendments to the Election Act, each voter is entitled to request non-disclosure of personal information in the voter register. The voter register becomes public 41 days prior to elections. Any person can get voter information from the local register offices either by phone or in the form of extracts, and request corrections, if needed. Each voter receives a notification by post 24 days before election day, which includes information on voting arrangements and the polling station in which a voter is entitled to vote.

Complaints regarding the voter register can be submitted to the Civic Administration and further appealed to the Regional Administration Court and to the Supreme Administrative Court, as the last instance. The voter register is closed for any amendments 12 days before election day and amendments after this deadline are only permissible based on court decisions. Courts are obliged to notify the PRC of any such decision, which ensures timely updates in the system. Interlocutors met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expressed trust in the voter register and did not signal concerns with its accuracy.

## **F. CANDIDATE RIGHTS AND REGISTRATION**

Every citizen with a voting right can stand for parliamentary elections, with the exception of those who are under guardianship, and who hold military office. Several categories of official also cannot run for elections without first resigning from their office.<sup>9</sup>

Candidates are nominated by political parties which are registered with the MoJ, and by constituency associations, established by at least 100 voters.<sup>10</sup> Each political party may nominate at most 14 candidates in each electoral district or not more than the number of candidates being elected. Political parties can also run in coalition, but the number of candidates nominated by such coalitions may not exceed the maximum for a single party. While candidates are not bound to their constituencies, they can be nominated in only one electoral district. There are no legal requirements for gender representation on candidate lists, although parties apply internal party policies to promote women candidates. A number of political parties, met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM also said that they are promoting the participation of minority candidates.

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<sup>9</sup> This includes the Chancellor of Justice of the Government, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, a Justice of the Supreme Court or the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Prosecutor-General.

<sup>10</sup> Political party registration is conducted by the MoJ upon submission of at least 5,000 support signatures from eligible voters. A party failing to gain seats in two consecutive parliamentary elections is de-registered but may re-apply for registration at any time.

Political parties and constituency associations are required to submit their candidate lists to respective EDCs before 10 March. After reviewing the lists, each EDC will confirm them and will randomly assign numbers on the ballot by 19 March. All political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expressed full confidence in the candidate registration process.

## G. CAMPAIGN

Campaigning is largely unregulated and is allowed up to and on election day, except in the vicinity of polling stations. Although the campaign was not yet visible, interlocutors met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expected it to intensify closer to election day. Some parties linked this to the intention to spend less for the campaign, largely due to the current economic situation. In general, electoral contestants intend to convey their campaign messages to voters via debates organized by the public broadcaster, political advertising in print media, as well as on posters and billboards. All political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM also highlighted the importance of campaigning online and their intention to make extensive use of social media.

The campaign will likely focus on economic issues, future reforms, national security, foreign policy and NATO integration. No OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutor raised concern about the ability to campaign freely; however, some were alarmed by the use of inflammatory language, mostly targeting various minorities and immigrant communities, especially in the social media.

## H. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Campaign finance regulations are contained in the Act on Candidate's Election Funding and the Act on Political Parties. Both acts were amended in 2010 in response to recommendations from the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). These changes include the introduction of reporting on campaign contributions and expenditures and the ban on anonymous donations. GRECO's Evaluation Report notes that "Finland has shown remarkable progress...it has now in place a new legal framework which aims at providing transparency of financing of election candidates, political parties as well as other entities linked to political parties."<sup>11</sup>

Public funding is provided to all political parties that have at least one representative in the parliament in proportion to the number of seats held. Campaigns can also be funded from candidates' own resources, loans and contributions received from individuals and legal entities.<sup>12</sup> All contributions received from the same donor should not exceed EUR 6,000 for a candidate and EUR 30,000 for a political party. In addition, each individual campaign contribution and its donor must be disclosed separately, if the value of such a contribution exceeds EUR 1,500.<sup>13</sup>

In the absence of a ceiling on cash donations, the OSCE/ODIHR has previously recommended introducing such limits to ensure greater transparency. The majority of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not have critical views on this issue, noting that it does not affect equality among candidates. While some expressed concern that parliamentary parties are receiving greater state support compared to other parties, most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors were supportive of the current campaign finance legislation as a means of enhancing the transparency of elections.

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<sup>11</sup> See [GRECO Compliance Report on Finland](#), 6 December 2011.

<sup>12</sup> Voluntary work and free services are not counted as contributions and therefore not subject to reporting.

<sup>13</sup> Consent for disclosure is required for donations below EUR 1,500.

The National Audit office (NAO) is tasked with oversight of political party and campaign financing. Within a month of election day, all political parties and candidates elected to parliament are obliged to submit detailed financial reports to the NAO. The NAO is vested with sanctioning powers in situations where required documents or information are not submitted, corrected or completed, despite reminders to do so. The NAO publishes all financial reports online and reports to the parliament annually. While there are no requirements for interim reporting, electoral contestants may choose to voluntarily report. Making this mandatory, combined with NAO's recommendation to have a dedicated bank account for campaign purposes, is under consideration by the parliamentary working group which seeks to further improve campaign finance regulations.

## I. MEDIA

Finland topped the world press freedom index in 2014, a standing that was recognized by all OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors.<sup>14</sup> The media environment offers a pluralistic and diverse range of views with a variety of public and private television channels and radio stations, as well as a range of daily and weekly newspapers. While print media circulation rates are declining due to digital media and Internet-based news services growing in popularity, they are still very high.<sup>15</sup> *Helsingin Sanomat* remains the largest and most popular daily nationwide.

The public broadcaster, YLE (*Yleisradio*), plays an important role in providing political information to voters. The traditional media landscape is also dominated by a number of private nationwide television channels. The radio sector includes four public-service channels, a commercial station *Radio Nova*, and a large number of local stations. Most programming in all media is in Finnish, but there are also extensive broadcasts in Swedish and some in Sámi.

There are no legal regulations on the media coverage of the campaign. Media is largely self-regulated, with the only rule concerning elections stemming from the Act on Political Parties, according to which "state institutions should treat all parties equally." It also gives discretion to YLE to choose an appropriate way of implementing this obligation in its programming. In this regard, in response to past criticism by non-parliamentary political parties and in line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, YLE initiated a number of electoral programmes to give all contestants equitable conditions for campaigning. As a novelty in these elections, each candidate will be given the opportunity to record a four-minute interview in the language of his/her choice to be posted on YLE's website. All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors positively commented on this opportunity. YLE also plans organizing various television debates with the participation of parliamentary and non-parliamentary parties in separate programmes.

In addition, digitalization has led to various changes in newsrooms and the Internet has become an important source of information during elections. Voting advice applications and 'election machines,' which help voters identify candidates most close to their policy preferences, have become popular digital tools. Similarly, *Helsingin Sanomat* has its own software, which assesses quantitatively the coverage provided to political parties in online media.

The Council for Mass Media is a self-regulating independent body, which promotes good journalistic practice and considers complaints on breaches of professional ethics.<sup>16</sup> It is comprised of a

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<sup>14</sup> See [World Press Freedom Index 2014](#).

<sup>15</sup> As per the [statistics](#) published on 6 November 2014, 86 per cent of the population uses the Internet. The 2014 [statistics](#) also shows that 53 per cent of the population are subscribed to daily newspapers.

<sup>16</sup> In 2014, the Council for Mass Media has received over 350 complaints, and issued 114 decisions, on those that were in its jurisdiction.

chairperson and thirteen members appointed for a three-year term. The chairperson is appointed by the Managing Group of the Council for Mass Media. Eight members represent areas of expertise in the field of media and five are recruited through open competition. The Council is tasked to interpret good professional practice and defend the freedom of speech and publication. It developed guidelines for journalists with the aim of supporting the responsible use of freedom of speech in mass communication, including online.<sup>17</sup> Media and journalists that have declared affiliation with the Council and accepted the principles promoted by it are bound by the Council's decisions.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a high level of confidence in all the aspects of the electoral process. Authorities have given careful consideration and followed-up on findings in previous OSCE/ODIHR reports. Some measures aimed at addressing earlier recommendations have been introduced, while others are pending consideration and adoption. No new issues pertaining to the conduct of elections that would have benefited from review by the OSCE/ODIHR have been identified. Based on this, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM does not recommend deploying an election-related activity for the 19 April parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR stands ready to engage in a follow-up process soon after the elections, and encourages the authorities to also consider issues raised by interlocutors during the course of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM, including with regard to the complaints and appeals mechanism, campaign financing, and participation of voters with disabilities.

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<sup>17</sup> [Guidelines](#) came into force on 1 January, 2014.

## **ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

Mikko Kinnunen, Director, Unit for Security Policy and Crisis Management  
Merja Lahtinen, Desk officer, the OSCE's Human Dimension and Council of Europe, Unit for Human Rights Policy  
Karita Tammi-Kortelainen, Desk Officer, Elections, International Official and Legal Assistance, Unit for Consular Assistance  
Hanna Rantala, Legal Officer, Unit for Consular Assistance  
Toni Sandell, OSCE Desk officer, First Secretary, Unit for Security Policy and Crisis Management  
Johanna Antila, Trainee, Unit for Security Policy and Crisis Management

### **Ministry of Justice**

Arto Jääskeläinen, Director, Electoral Administration  
Johanna Suurpää, Director, Democracy and Language Affairs Unit  
Jussi Aaltonen, Ministerial Adviser

### **The Supreme Administrative Court**

Outi Suviranta, Justice  
Alice Guimaraes-Purokoski, Justice

### **National Audit Office**

Jaakko Eskola, Director of Financial Audit  
Kaj Von Hertzen, Senior Legal Expert

### **Population Registration Centre**

Timo Salovaara, Manager, Information Services  
Pauli Pekkanen, Project Manager

### **Political Parties**

Ilka Kanerva, National Coalition Party, Chair of the Finish Delegation of the OSCE, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly  
Wille Rydman, National Coalition Party  
Jukka Manninen, National Coalition Party  
Johannes Lampinen, Social Democratic Party  
Tuula Lampinen, Social Democratic Party  
Kirsi Airio, Social Democratic Party  
Samuli Virtanen, Finns Party  
Jukka Jasula, Finns Party  
Kimmo Tiilikainen, Centre Party of Finland  
Jari Haapiainen, Centre Party of Finland  
Christina Gestrin, Swedish Parliamentary Group  
Erik Munsterhjelm, Swedish Parliamentary Group  
Elisabeth Naucclér, Swedish Parliamentary Group  
Esa Eravallo, Swedish Parliamentary Group  
Lasse Mierrinen, Green Party of Finland  
Esa Eravallo, Christian Democratic Party  
James Hirvisaari, Change 2011

### **Council for Mass Media**

Risto Uimonen, Chairperson

Ilkka Vanttinen, General Secretary  
Nenne Hallman, Member

**The Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE (*Yleisradio*)**

Riikka Uosukainen, Head of Electoral Production, Senior Political Correspondent  
Timo Huovinen, Executive Producer  
Juho Salminen, Online Journalism Producer  
Anne Suominen, News Reporter at *Svenska* YLE

**Helsinki Sanomat**

Marko Junkkari, Editor of Business and Politics News Desk

**The Finnish League for Human Rights**

Päivi Mattila, Secretary-General  
Milla Aaltonen, Head of Research Unit  
Aki Tetri, Project Consultant