



PS

PERUS-SUOMALAINEN

Political Magazine • April 2014 • 3 € • Voice of the Finns Party



EU ELECTIONS

THE CANDIDATES



The Party Leadership Has Strong Faith in the EU Elections

Come join us, we have a party for you

- The Finns Party is once again the only choice. Party Chairman Timo Soini and Party Secretary Riikka Slunga-Poutsalo emphasize that cooperation has already been formed with media channels, partners and other groups throughout Europe.

THIS spring's EU election will be historic – it will be a definite measure of the public support for the EU policies of the present Finnish government. Voters will be able to turn these policies to a new direction – a similar movement can happen throughout Europe. The Finns Party is mounting an active campaign in the whole country.

All Issues In the EU Can Be Influenced and Changed

What issues in the EU can be changed with the elections, Chairman **Timo Soini**?

- The position and power of the EU-Parliament is strong - it can have an influence on just about everything concerning the EU, Soini says. Soini notes that those elected must find good assistants and make connections with others via 'good networking!' His own experience and contacts can help find good people.

Our most important mission is to open the doors to change.. We have already set the groundwork for cooperation with various media channels, partners and other groups – as well as having a multinational

staff – says Soini.

- Soini notes that the Party can increase the knowledge and skills of EU officials, MEPs and the Finnish Parliament with active participation and diligent work – the result can be the learning and applications of new ideas and possibilities.

- The Party is in a good situation in Europe – there is a desire to join with us. We also are the best known Finnish party in the EU.

Take it easy – respect your colleagues

Soini emphasizes that candidates must commit to the Party's program as well as their own program.

The candidates are indeed the Party's candidates. Candidates should not be distracted by other parties – and not to concentrate on what they perceive of as shortcomings in other Party's candidates. Rather, let's all move forward TOGETHER!

Candidates should refrain from questionable remarks - such remarks result in an unwanted disruption of where we are to go. Words must be chosen intelligent-

Party Secretary Riikka Slunga and Party Chairman Timo Soini stress the importance of the Euro-elections:
- Not voting is silent approval of the EU's present bail-out policy.



ly - candidates should do their best to organize and work together with the group leadership.

Three seats are coming

Soini: there are two possibilities – the message gets across and we win – or the voters stay home.

- The Finns Party is again the only choice. Last time one could choose Timo Soini or stay home. Now the possibilities are to choose among 20 candidates or staying home. Our policy is, we believe, impressive: we've been consistent and we've kept our promises, Soini emphasizes.. Soini predicts that three candidates will win and a large, similarly-minded group will succeed throughout Europe. This larger coalition will give a better than before possibility for improved co-operation and subsequent influence on issues. The Europarlament is able to function as a relatively free body as there is no executive that can shackle the parliamentary influence.



A group can surely be found

Soini believes that Euroskeptics can form an effective group - to which the Finn Party can join and have an active voice.

- Last time I went to Brussels alone and was able to work with **Neil Farage** on the foundations of the EFD, says Soini. He praises **Sampo Terho** in diligently continuing Soini's work so that the frameworks of co-operation have been not only maintained but developed.

- Sampo has been a conscientious and well-respected parliamentary member, says an appreciative Soini.

The Euro-revolt must be brought to a conclusion

Soini stresses that it is the citizens that decide who is chosen. It's most important to go full speed into the elections and come to a solution: the Party stayed out of the government because of EU-policy. Voters strongly supported the Finns Party in

the Finnish Parliamentary elections; we look to similar support in the Euro-elections. This is very likely as the Euro-policy of the Finns Party has the backing of the majority - including the rejection of the bailout program.

- Soini says the Party has the possibility to significantly influence the direction of the Finnish government's Euro-policy. Success of the Finns Party in the coming elections can affect general Finnish government policy as well and thusly the position of the present government becomes more difficult. If the government's Euro-candidates do badly, it could lead to a collapse of the government, Soini notes - with reference to the Social Democrat Party's decline.

Election work - always worth it

Practical election work is done from the ground up - through local election districts and is supervised by the party secretary - **Riikka Slunga-Poutsalo**. She assures that proper resources are available for electoral success. Motivation is also important. There has

been talk of just boycotting the election because simply there should be no EU. But with discussion of what elections can accomplish and how we can influence the Euro-parliament, it was clear election work was definitely worth the effort. The voice of Euroskeptics should be heard, Slunga-Poutsalo emphasizes. Information about the Euro-elections were distributed since the beginning of last year. Election district members were trained following local communal elections.

For me, Slunga-Poutsalo says, election work means a lot of speaking and being on the scene itself - with and advising the Party members and candidates - not just on the market squares and among the potential voters. The election work has begun very well, notes Slunga-Poutsalo, and she predicts she will be many days in the field during the spring.

TEXT VELI-PEKKA LESKELÄ
PHOTO BY MATTI MATIKAINEN

Buzz on the Election Stage

The Finns Party Euro-election candidates travel eagerly around Finland. Election work is done happily and with great heart – and help comes from hard-working supporters.

HELSINKI



THE FINNS PARTY Women' organized an event at the Kampi Narinkka Market Square in Helsinki. The picture shows candidates Piritta Poikonen, Sampo Terho, Pirkko Ruuhonen-Lerner, Johanna Jurva, Anne Louhelainen, and Laura Huhtasaari as well as Kike Elomaa (front).

HELSINKI

THE TENT at Helsinki's Narinkka Market Square is humming with Euro-Parliament candidates – among them Laura Huhtasaari and Piritta Poikonen.



NIVALA



THE FINNS PARTY set up a Euro-election event and was attended by candidates Maria Lohela, Marko Kulpakko and Pirkko Mattila.

TURKU



'THE FINNS PARTY WOMEN' had its own stand with a continual crowd at the Turku Fair. The picture shows MEP candidates Maria Lohela and Piritta Poikonen, Finnish Parliament member Kike Elomaa as well as Mira Katajamäki and Leila Hannula.

LOHJA



MEP CANDIDATES Mauno Vanhala, Ilkka Matinpalo, Piritta Poikonen, Erkki Havansi and Sampo Terho and the 'Election Cart' – known from the communal elections.

KEMPELE



MARKO KULPAKKO (left) got warm hugs in Kempele.

VAASA



EURO-PARLIAMENT candidate Maria Tolppanen at the Vaasa Autumn Fair

LOHJA

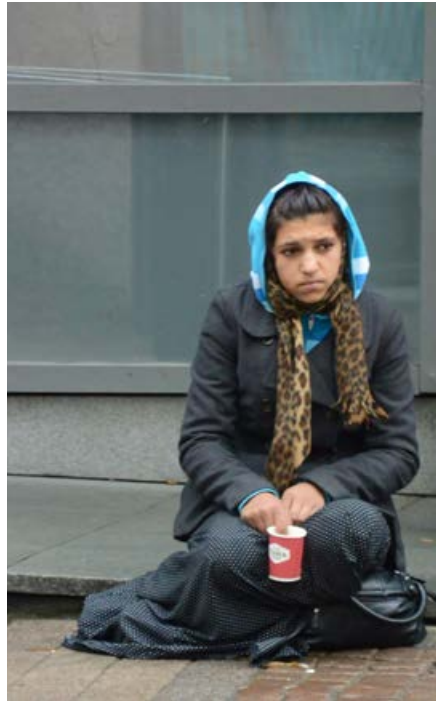


MEP CANDIDATE Piritta Pokonen Euro at the Lohja Market surrounded with support by Election Coordinator Pekka M. Sinisalo and Party Secretary Riikka Slunga-Poutsalo.

KUOPIO



JANUARY MARKET shivers but MEP candidates Kimmo Kivelä and Pirikko Mattila are pleased with the election atmosphere.



The road to a better Europe

The EU is experiencing the biggest crisis in its history. At the same time as the elite is trying to centralize power in Brussels, there are critical voices growing throughout Europe against that centralization. The question to be answered by the Euro-elections of 2014 is which direction will be chosen.

SOME of the Euroskeptical parties want to disengage completely from the EU while others believe the EU can still be saved. All parties are dissatisfied with the present situation. Which is the way to go? To continue the current policies with people resisting the central power of a federal government? Or should there be an opening of new paths towards something else?

What Federal State?

The development of a federal state means a centralization of power in Brussels.

This results from a transfer of financial resources and powers from the member states. In practice this means a member

state loses the ability to decide on the use of its own funds, create operational legislation and even not being able to effectively oppose bad decisions by a centralized government.

It's difficult to understand how even an extreme dreamer can see how this central state development can be in Finland's favor. If we give these powers to such a central government – when we have in the Euro-parliament a mere 2 % of the representative voting power – it's clear that Finland can no longer decide its own financial and legislative affairs. This basically means the death of the Finnish nation-state as such. Economically it means the milking of other cows for Finland – or at least a bold act of mercy.

The Finns Party is the only party in the Finnish parliament that has consistently opposed the centralization of the EU. We don't accept the non-democratic nature of the supervision and control by the Commission – as it narrows the scope of Finnish independence. We also do not approve of the common financial responsibility and liability – which also has a definite moral difficulty as those that cause the problem do not have to bear the consequences.

From the centralization of power to decentralization

For the past two decades the EU has, through complex constitutional arrangements, accumulated more central power than many would want to give and even that many don't realize it has. This development has only accelerated during these recent crises. Studies show that less than ten percent of Finns want the EU to be a federal state.

Finnish politicians – realizing the general opinion of the Finnish voters – refrain from talking about this 'federal state.' They call



conversations and mentioning of federalism to be fear-mongering in spite of there being open mention in the Europarliament of the EU being the United States of Europe. Finland's current six-party coalition supports a federal state in practice but is hesitant to say it directly.

How can a distant central power – even in theory – develop Finland for Finns better than Finland can do for itself? A central power does not have the time, interest or ability. The more issues decided in Brussels, the less authority Finland has to affect these decisions. Every step toward a federal state weakens the basis of Finnish democracy.

A federal state also means an increase in financial transfers and responsibility as poorer countries with larger populations get to decide on use of our tax resources. Annual transfers from Finland are already at the level of 600 million Euros.

Only independence guarantees that Finns can decide on how the results of their own work are used. The Finns Party stands strong on the principle that no EU member should be taking responsibility for another

member's debts.

Which Way? Britain or Germany?

The idea of a reduction in EU power centralization has begun to spread throughout Europe. Recently the Dutch government announced that the time of continuing EU integration is now over. An even stronger view is coming from the traditionally Euro-skeptic Britain. The UK is demanding a re-evaluation of its EU membership and wants renegotiation by 2017. The UK's prime minister **David Cameron** has said the EU should be less centralized. On the other hand, Germany's **Angela Merkel** has said the present policies of centralization should continue – a path which would be difficult to picture other than the formation of a European federal state. Here are thus clear choices: following Britain with the concept of more independent states – or German leadership toward a more integrated union? Merkel's view is in strange contrast with discussions among Finnish government politicians who are in public denial of the whole idea of a European federation.

In respect of democracy

The only force that has changed the present Finnish government's EU policy was the Finn Party's success in the Finnish parliament elections – and the only force that can disrupt any continuation of bad policies is success of the Finns Party in the Euro-elections. Finland, with the leadership of the Finns Party, can steer away from a federal state and join with the UK's Euroskeptics in a direction to a renewed and reformed EU. Finland's benefit comes from a looser, less centralized union where rules and restrictions are decreased, authority is limited and where commerce is the main concern. The goal is to thusly reform the EU and return decision-making to a more local level. Europe should be built and developed for the needs of Europeans – not for the needs of a European union.

TEXT SAMPO TERHO
PHOTOS BY LEHTIKUVA

Finnish MP, Finns Party
3rd Vic Chairman

Juho
Eerola



Former Finnish MP and
Minister

Toimi
Kankaan-
niemi



Finns Party Youth
- Chairman

Simon
Elo



Provost, Finnish MP

Kimmo
Kivelä



Finnish MP, Ph.D.

Jussi
Halla-aho



HVAC Installer

Jani
Kolehmainen



Law Professor Emeritus

Erkki
Havansi



Factory Worker

Marko
Kulpakko



Teacher

Laura
Huhtasaari



Finnish MP,
Project Leader

Maria
Lohela



-election candidates 2014

Finnish MP, Supervisor

Anne Louhelainen



Finnish MP

Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner



Corporate Executive, M.Sc.

Ilkka Matinpalo



MEP, Researcher

Sampo Terho



Finnish MP, M.Sc.

Pirkko Mattila



Finnish MP, Journalist

Maria Tolppanen



Lawyer

Piritta Poikonen



Medical Doctor

Mauno Vanhala



Researcher, Ph.D.

Sakari Puisto



Finnish MP, Exercise Counsellor

Juha Väätäinen



Juho Eerola

The EU should be a free trade area

- The EU has been partially successful and I don't want Finland to leave – but the development towards a federal state must stop, Budget-making and decision making must be returned to the member states – says Finnish Parliament member Juho Eerola



JUHO EEROLA, Finnish Parliament member from Kotka, has a wide variety of skills in many fields and recognized achievements in politics. Specifically he has worked in Kotka's immigration center during 1999-2005 and with the immigrant translation services 2005-2012. Juho Eerola joined the Finns Party in 2006.

Eerola said that both the Kymi and South Savo districts supported him for the Euro-elections and he took this as a personal mandate that he couldn't refuse. A very important question for South-east Finland is the coming EU visa-free agreement with Russia whether we like it or not. Kotka is about 200 kilometers from St. Petersburg, where more people live than in the whole of Finland.

This visa-free situation will affect South-east Finland – both favourably and unfavourably - more than anywhere else in Fin-

land and the EU must cover all resulting costs.

No common liability for immigration costs

Eerola is also opposed to the southern Europe common immigration policy. Finland should not be contributing the costs of immigration in these countries as there are already many ways of funding them.

The EU has been partially successful and I am not in favour of Finland leaving – but the development toward a federal state must stop. Budget-making and decision making must be returned to the member states. I want the EU to be primarily a free trade area – and that's the goal I would fight for.

Eerola is not only a politician but also a singer and lyricist for the band 'Great Un-

known'. This past autumn the band released its first album which was an immediate success in its first week – getting to be 28th on the official Finnish album-list. The rocker politician intends to have the same success as he's had in previous elections.

Eerola says that since the 2007 election he has kept on a constant low-speed election campaign and does not intend to set up a sudden surge or sprint type of campaign just before the election – he believes that success comes with a steady application of effort.

”The EU must participate in the costs that result from visa-free travel from Russia.”

WHO?

Name: Juho Eerola • **Date of birth:** 02/24/1975 • **Residence:** Kotka
Occupation: Member of Parliament, entrepreneur, Translation Coordinator
Education: College graduate – 1994, practical nurse training - 1998 (Kotka Care and Service School) • **Tasks in Parliament:** The Grand Committee, 2011, Education and Culture Committee (member), 2011, Social Affairs and Health Committee (member), 2011, the Nordic Council – Finnish Delegation (Free Pohjola Group Chairman), 2011.
Public position of trust: the Kotka City (3rd Vice President)
Other positions of trust: the The Finns Party 3rd Vice-President, Council of Europe's local and regional parliament
Website: www.eerolaeurooppaan.fi

Simon Elo

The development towards a federal state needs Euro-critics' opposition

A realization of the federal state will cause the EU to collapse. I think the Euro is a bigger problem for the Finnish economy, says the Finns Party Youth's chairman Simon Elo.

ESPOO'S Simon Elo – Social Sciences degree, city council member – has been the chairman of the Finns Party Youth for four years.

It came as a surprise to me in the Espoo City Council that I was the only member of any political party from the large area of northern Espoo, says Elo. I also found that according to Helsingin Sanomat, Finland's largest newspaper, that I was considered the most conservative of all the council members – that tells a lot about my life values, Elo notes.

Elo got involved in politics and joined the Finns Party because of his own criticism of what EU policy should be and seeing the way the Finnish government was setting policy.

- As chairman of the Youth part of the Finns Party I have put strong emphasis on the themes of EU criticism, Elo says. In my opinion there should be a critical approach

in the Euro-parliament but there are only members who are in favour of developing a federal state.

It's especially important to have young candidates in the Euro-elections because research shows only one fifth of young people are sure to vote in the Euro-elections, says Elo who is the Finns Party's only candidate under 30 years old.

Euro is a bigger problem for the Finnish economy

In the Euro-parliament Elo wants to support advantages for Finland and promote the interests of Finnish voters. Especially he wants to halt the development towards a federal state by working in co-operation with other EU critics.

- A realization of the federal state will result in the EU's collapse. I think the Euro is a bigger problem for the Finnish economy,

says the Finns Party Youth's chairman Simon Elo. In my opinion, Greece and Cyprus – and other similar nations – should be expelled from the Euro area. If the EU continues to offer bail-out programs, which are against the EU's basic agreement, then Finland should get out of the Euro zone, Elo says.

In his free time, Elo reads, writes, travels and plays floorball. Elo intends to travel during his election campaign from Rovaniemi to Hanko – with emphasis on Uusimaa. He intends to stress his opposition to the federal state development as well as removing many restrictions and directives.

Finland must also retain the authority to regulate Immigration.

- I intend to also stir up pensioners as there have been rumblings in Brussels to create a unified pension system which would weaken the position of Finnish citizens.



”As chairman of the Youth part of the Finns Party I have put strong emphasis on the themes of EU criticism.”

WHO?

Name: Simon Elo

Date of Birth: 08/07/1986

Place of residence: Espoo, Finland

Education: Bachelor of Science

Family: Wife, Mia and the dog, Sammy

Interests: Floorball, history, video games, Premier League, travelling.

Positions of trust: Municipal Council (Espoo, Finland), Association of Finnish Culture and Identity, (Board of Directors), Chairman of the Finns Party Youth

Website: www.simonelo.fi

Finnish MP, Ph.D.

Jussi Halla-aho

The EU is already a
federal state.

Uncontrolled 'standard of living' migration from the south of the Mediterranean threatens all western European societies – their economic durability and their social frameworks, notes Finnish parliamentary member Jussi Halla-aho.



MANY people feel that what happens in the EU is irrelevant to their lives.

Nevertheless, most of the current Finnish legislation originates in Brussels in the form of regulations and directives. Voters in Euro-elections tend to be those who support increased federal development and centralized decision-making. This situation results, of course, in a huge majority of federalists in the Euro-parliament. Thus, quite logically, not voting is not an effective protest, says researcher and Finnish Parliament member **Jussi Halla-aho**.

One reason for voter passivity is how people can imagine 13 representatives having any weight among 750 Euro-parliament members. The Finns party is not alone in these respects – others in Europe have noticed that the EU is becoming a loan and revenue transfer union where the innocent pay for others mistakes and irresponsibility. - I want to defend national, independent

legislative authority and oppose centralized super-national institutions. I want to keep in view those concerns I have outlined in the domestic policies I've supported. Uncontrolled 'standard of living' migration from south of the Mediterranean threatens all western European societies – their economic durability and their social frameworks, notes Finnish parliamentary member Jussi Halla-aho.

The direction must be changed now

Halla-aho says the question of whether Europe is on the way to being a federal state is incorrect because it is already a federal state!

- The question is only how far it will go in this centralization. If one wants to change directions, it has to happen in these elections – it is probably impossible in 2019.

In Halla-aho's free time he engages in a wide variety of shooting sports. He enjoys travel and is accompanied by his family of a wife and four children. He'll be getting out on the election campaign trails around the country.

Halla-aho says he attends as many Finns Party events as time allows. He emphasizes that what happens between elections is most important – in other words, hard work in the field of policy-making. Voters should view with suspicion those politicians that one hears from and about during the six months before the election – and only silence from and about them the rest of the time.

”Thus, quite logically, not voting is not an effective protest.”

WHO?

Name: Jussi Halla-aho • **Date of birth:** 27/04/1971 • **Residence:** Helsinki

Occupation: Doctor of Philosophy • **Education:** Master's Degree in 2000 (University of Helsinki), Ph.D., 2006 (University of Helsinki)

Tasks in Parliament: The Grand Committee (member), 2011, Administrative Committee, 2011, (Chair) 2011-2012, the Council of Finland Delegation (member), 2013, International Affairs Forum 2011, the Finns Party Parliamentary Group, Working Committee (member), 2011.

Public positions of trust: Helsinki City Government, Helsinki City Council, Board of Education of Helsinki, Helsinki City Zoo, Board of Governors, Uusimaa Regional Council

Website: www.halla-aho.com

www.halla-aho.com

Erkki Havansi

Now we are deciding on Finland's rights of self-determination

- Finland has given away so much of its independence that in many ways it has less voice in its own affairs than the individual states of the USA, says law professor Erkki Havansi.

ERKKI HAVANSI, law professor from Kerava, is a Finns Party Euro-parliament candidate for the second time. Havansi's strengths include interest in parliamentary and international affairs, legal training and proficient language skills. He firmly opposes federalization and wants to reduce the growing 'law jungle.' Finland has given away so much of its independence that in many ways it has less voice in its own affairs than the individual states of the USA. Another nail in the coffin of Finnish self-determination will be if broad powers are given to a fiscal union, says law professor Erkki Havansi.

Havansi wants to be an influence on bringing an end to the present flood of EU laws and such regulations as the 'Cauliflower Cold Storage' directive. The EU is breaking its own policy of respecting local determination by interfering with details about which Finns know better. Another

rule which the EU is letting slip is that EU members are not to take responsibility for debts of other members. Finland has now made loans to Greece which will soon have to be forgiven.

EU now needs the productivity program

In Havansi's opinion, the EU now needs the same kind of 'productivity program' which Finland used during 2007-2011 to cut back bureaucracy.

- The union Finland joined in 1995 was completely different. The EU has since then developed continuously into a federal state where Germany, the Commission and to some degree France, have told what 'model student' Finland should do. Present EU policies and activities should be corrected so they revert to the accepted original ideas.

Havansi's family consists of his wife and three grown children as well as four own grandchildren and seven of his wife's. In addition to caring for the grandchildren, Havansi enjoys chess, tennis and learning languages. He speaks fluently Swedish, German, English and reasonably well, French, Spanish and Estonian. He can also somewhat manage Russian, Italian, Danish and Norwegian and he has the beginnings of Karelia, Dutch and Polish in hand.

- I've been very active in the election tents. Together with Euro-parliament candidate **Mauno Vanhala**, we've been doing a Finns Party 'professor tour' with Vanhala's themes being health and social care and mine being law and justice, says Havansi.



"The EU is breaking its own policy of respecting local determination by interfering with details about which Finns know better."

WHO?

Name: Erkki Havansi • **Date of birth:** 11/07/1941 • **Residence:** Kerava

Occupation: Retired professor, the Finns Party parliamentary group legal expert

Education: Law professor, Master of Laws

Positions of trust: Member of Parliament, Deputy, constituency of Uusimaa 2011 -, Kerava City Council, the Finns Party Council, Chair, Kerava City Group, member, Suomen Perusta Foundation, member of the board

Publications: 18 law books, one chess book, numerous law and legal policy articles in the field, a number of 'Finns Party policy' newspaper articles

Website: www.erkkihavansi.fi

Teacher

Laura Huhtasaari



The concentration of power bypasses Finland

Success of the Euro was based on loans and now the crisis is to be handled with more loans. The result is that the debts of crisis countries as well as the assisting countries only grow, says special needs teacher Laura Huhtasaari.



THE European Union is living during critical times and **Laura Huhtasaari**, a special needs teacher from Pori, has been highly concerned as she views developments.

- We are heading for an increasingly integrated Europe where power is concentrated in the EU bureaucracy. The centralization of power inevitably results in bypassing the citizens of small nations. The threat is that Finland, as a welfare state, will be set back 50 years, says Huhtasaari.

Huhtasaari was born in Pirkanmaa – and her roots are now deep in Satakunta. She's a teacher's daughter and wanted to be one as well. She was both a university student in Finland and the USA. She's been a teacher for eight years. She joined the Finns Party because the party combined her understanding of justice and sound policies with Finland's well-being.

- I can say the party confirms my own

strong opinions. Similarly minded people find each other, says Huhtasaari.

The EU direction can still be changed

Huhtasaari believes that some member states have more decision-making control and fewer of the kind of directives that have made Finland less competitive.

- There is a determined centralization into a federal state. Hopeless attempts are being made to save the Euro with support packages which are against the wishes of the people and will damage Finland and other countries similar to Finland. Success of the Euro was based on loans and now the crisis is to be handled with more loans. The result is that the debts of crisis countries as well as the assisting countries only grow, says Laura Huhtasaari.

- Finland needs Europarliament members that are generally for Finland and know how to defend Finland's interests. Positive development of the EU is still possible but there has to be co-operation among the Euroskeptic parties throughout Europe.

Currently Laura Huhtasaari uses all her free time on political matters and no time is left for other interests as she wants to spend time with her family as well. That family consists of two princesses, a wonderful husband and a couple of dogs. Laura says she will do her election work getting out among people – speaking to them directly and listening to their opinions.

“The centralization of power inevitably results in the bypassing of the citizens of small nations.”

WHO?

Name: Laura Huhtasaari • **Date of birth:** 30/03/1979 • **Residence:** Pori

Occupation: Special Education Teacher

Education: Master of Education

Positions of Trust: The Finns Party – Pori District (board member) Satakunta District Vice Chairman, Satakunta's Finns Party Women (Chairman), The Finns Party Women (board member), a member of the National Executive.

Public Positions of Trust: City of Pori, Pori City Council, Board of Environmental Planning, Environmental Health Division, Satakunta Hospital District Board of Directors (alternate); Regional Council of Satakunta council.

Website: www.laurahuhtasaari.fi

www.laurahuhtasaari.fi

Former Finnish MP and Minister

Toimi Kankaanniemi

The Euro pressures Finland

The Euro monetary union should be disbanded even if it results in the disintegration of the EU. It should then be replaced by a loose, Europe-wide free trade area, says the veteran politician Toimi Kankaanniemi.

FINNISH Parliament veteran Toimi Kankaanniemi has had 24 years of experience as a parliament member in the years 1987-2011. Kankaanniemi was a Minister, 1991-1994, and was chairman of the Finnish Christian-Democrat Party, 1989-1995.

- My own values and position have not changed but the Christian-Democrat Party's policies towards the EU, local governments and constitutional issues changed to the degree that it was necessary to resign in 2011, Kankaanniemi says. In the communal elections, Kankaanniemi was asked to get on the 5 party list in Uurainen but to him the only correct choice was the Finns Party.

- As a party member I am very satisfied with the policies of the Finns Party because these follow my own views. I am extremely opposed to the development of an EU federal state. I would wish that the Finns party would take a very strong stand

against the monetary union. Finland should get out of the Euro zone even if it means getting out of the EU.

In place of the EU there should be a loose, European free trade area which assures a barrier-free trade area on the whole continent. Presently the EU and the Euro harass Finland when they actually should be working to Finland's benefit.

- It's nonsense, as the only Nordic country, to shovel billions of our Euros to Greece where it goes straight to the German banks, Kankaanniemi emphasizes.

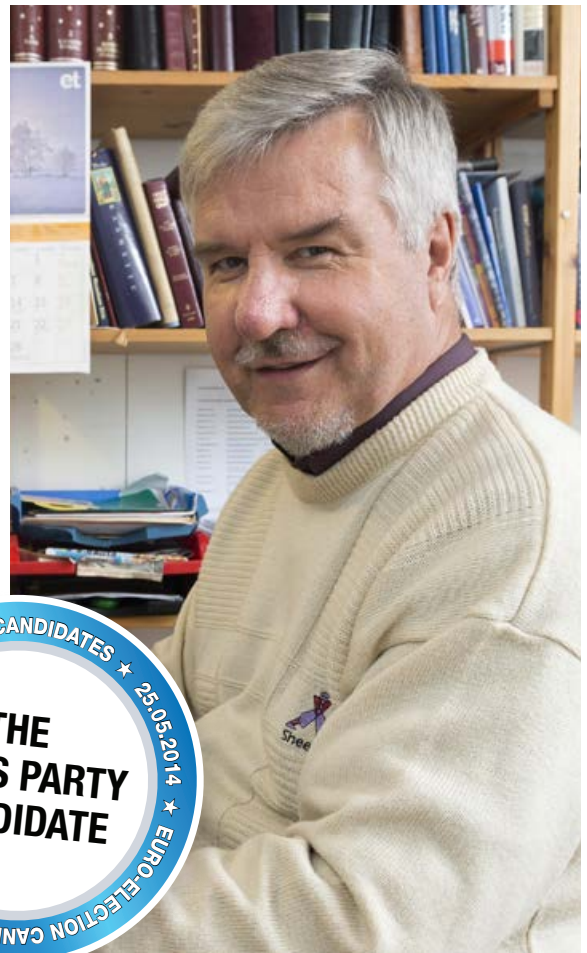
As such, the EU will collapse

- Kankaanniemi's big mission is to oppose the move to a federal state. He sees himself working for the provincial communes – not forgetting the cities. Economic and employment policies go hand in hand: the pruning tool must be aimed at the Brus-

sels bureaucracy. Finland's contributions to the EU must be decreased and above all, the support packages to the south must be stopped.

- I hope that common sense prevails and we begin to slowly and deliberately dismantle the EU in a well-planned manner. If it happens with no control there will be disastrous consequences for everyone. When Kankaanniemi's hectic routines in the parliament ended in 2011, there was a large life-change as he was to find himself in a small country commune. The veteran politician spent the biggest part of time with communal affairs and influencing numerous issues in a position of trust.

- I am married with two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren which visit often and bring great joy to a grandfather's life, Kankaanniemi smiles.



“It's nonsense, as the only Nordic country, to shovel billions of our Euros to Greece.”

WHO?

Name: Toimi Kankaanniemi • **Date of Birth:** 02/26/1950

Registered office: Uurainen

Education: University student, municipal government degree (University of Tampere)

Occupation: Former Member of Parliament / Minister

Positions of trust: Uurainen Communal Council, Finland

The Association's Board of Directors, Central Finland Health Care District

Board of Directors, Member of the Central Finland Regional Council,

Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes Member of the Board

Blog: <http://toimi-kankaanniemi.blogspot.fi>

<http://toimi-kankaanniemi.blogspot.fi>

Kimmo Kivelä

The EU is now a place of conflict

- The EU is in many respects secretive and bureaucratic and primarily a field for political juggling and bartering. The EU elite is pushing federalization - which the Finns Party is fighting against, says MP Kimmo Kivelä.

KIMMO KIVELÄ, Finnish Parliament member and provost, worked as a Lutheran minister for 25 years in prominent positions. Kivelä was interested in politics already as a youth and joined the Finnish Rural party (a forerunner of the Finns Party) as a 15 year old.

- I was asked by the Finns Party to be in the Euro-elections which are extremely important for both the party and for Finland's future, says Kivelä.

Decision-making power is to be returned to the independent nations

Kivelä's interest is to reform and renew the EU - to return democracy to the decision-making process with emphasis on the nation-state. He hopes for intensified cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments.

- I am Europe-minded but very much a Euroskeptic. European values are Greek democracy, Roman justice and Christian values. This I believe myself but the EU in its present situation seems to be everything else but in respect of those principles. The EU is in many respects secretive and bureaucratic and primarily a field for political juggling and bartering. The EU elite is pushing federalization which the Finns Party is fighting against. For Kivelä it would be enough for the EU to be a free trade and customs area - decision-making should be returned to the independent states.

- The support and bail-out programs are against EU's own decisions, policies and rules - and only later made to be legitimate. For the ordinary poor, these aid packages mean nothing - it is the elite and banks which are benefitting - and for Fin-

land it becomes extremely expensive with no end in sight. Everything that is sent to southern Europe is reduced from Finland's own welfare.

Kivelä listens and plays music in his free time. Other hobbies include exercise, boating and winter swimming. Kivelä has two daughters, 21 and 25 years old, both out in the world.

- As for election work, I don't intend to make any large financial investments as I don't believe money will affect results very much. 'Footwork' and word of mouth with the help of the party are my tools - I trust these ways more than costly advertising. Kivelä says.



"The Euro-parliament elections have never been so important for Finland's future."

WHO?

Name: Kimmo Kivelä • **Date of birth:** 10/05/1961 • **Residence:** Kuopio

Occupation: Provost, Master of Theology

Family: Two daughters (1988: Raisa, 1993: Wendy)

Interests: Music, sports, boating, winter swimming, reading, history

Position of Trust: The Constitutional Law Committee, Education and Culture Committee, the OSCE Parliament member, Finnish Delegation to the General Assembly (vj.), the Finnish Broadcasting Supervisory Board, Board of Directors of the Library of Parliament (vj.), Kuopio city council council group (Chairman), North Savo Regional Government (Vice Chairman), Board of Cooperative PeeÄssä

Website: www.kimmokivela.fi

Jani Kolehmainen

Only jobs can save Finland

- The free-trade area within which the goods moves without customs duties, is in itself a good thing, but one way or another, independent nations must be able to control population movements, emphasizes pipe-fitter, Jani Kolehmainen.



JANI KOLEHMAINEN is a 37 year old pipe-fitter and father whose had a long, continuous career of work that began at the age of 13. Kolehmainen has passed the examination in food production and subsequently worked in the restaurant field. He's also been a lorry and bus driver and is now in his eighth year as a pipe-fitter.

- I'm an ordinary worker who's familiar with the daily problems in Finland. I believe in the freedom to work and hard work as well – characteristics which come naturally to Finns. That's the attitude I would like to bring to Brussels – to tell them who we are in Finland, says Kolehmainen.

Federalization of the EU must stop

As a Euro-parliament candidate, Kolehmainen is concerned about Finland's future.

He sees these problems every day as a construction worker – problems brought by the free movement of labor with no means to address them.

- EU federalization is to be stopped by whatever means. Brussels' 'rubber stamp' bureaucratic policy must be halted as well. The free-trade area within which the goods move without customs duties, is in itself a good thing, but one way or another, independent nations must be able to control population movements.

- I shouldn't want Finland to leave the Euro straight away but to study what such separation would mean and what our situation would have been if we had not adopted the Euro, says Kolehmainen. He is especially interested in the trade union movement in Europe which he believes is also beneficial for entrepreneurs. Kolehmainen is familiar with many small and me-

dium sized business owners and knows that if the business' affairs are in order, these owners have nothing against trade unions.

- I see the EU as a free trade area in the future - not as a federal state. In that regard, the present situation doesn't look good as there are aggressive forces pushing federalization, Kolehmainen says.

Kolehmainen is thankful to be leading a happy family life – one that offers him energy and support. His election work will be done by social media and blogs as well as getting out into the field to meet voters – particularly in the districts of eastern Finland.

"I see the EU as a free trade area in the future - not as a federal state."

WHO?

Name: Jani Kolehmainen

Date of Birth: 09/03/1976

Residence: Siilinjärvi

Occupation: Pipe-fitter / HVAC installer

Family: Wife and two daughters – 6 and 11 years old

Interests: boxing, fishing, swimming, indoor hockey

Positions of Trust: Municipal Council (Siilinjärvi), Siilinjärven education board, member of Siilinjärvi Finns Party (chairman), North Savo Finns Party (district board member)

Website: www.putkijani.com

Marko Kulpakko

Finland must obtain jobs

- Many countries are already suffering economic degeneration and are on the verge of default. My own view is that the entire system will fall from its own impossibility, says factory worker Marko Kulpakko.

MARKO KULPAKKO, born in Sweden, has extensive experience and competence in both industry and politics. He has been chief shop steward, health and safety representative and department chairman – as well as deputy chairman of the Kaustinen communal council since 2008. At that time he was a candidate in the Chemical Workers Union and had the seventh highest vote count in Finland. Kulpakko's main issue for the Euro-elections is the task of getting jobs for Finland.

- Decisions in Brussels have been bad for Finland and in the last five years Finland has already lost 130,000 jobs. Above all I want to work for Finnish jobs and enterprise, says Kulpakko.

The poor pay for the mistakes of the big banks

- Kulpakko also believes it is important to end the bail-out programs for Greece and other distressed countries. Burning money for the sake of the mistakes of the big banks must stop.

- The unsuccessful carbon emissions trade program is to be ended. During the whole time of it being in existence the emissions have only continually increased while the competitiveness of the EU area has weakened. Energy regulations must be looked at aggressively – a good example is how Finland's competitive position has been hurt significantly by the sulfur directive.

- Of course we are all Europeans but the present situation of the EU and Euro put

the whole future at stake. Many nations are in bad shape and on the verge of bankruptcy. The future of the Euro doesn't look very bright. Personally, I see the whole system falling by its own impossibility, says Kulpakko.

- Politics and Kulpakko's positions of trust take up most of his free time – so he's had to spend less time with hobbies – for example, he's had to stop roller skating. Family is, of course, important and on the campaign trail as well – there's his wife, four children, a dog and a cat.

- The election campaign is wide and varied. I travel around Finland as much as possible – there are some 105,000 eligible Finnish voters in Sweden – of course I can't get everywhere, Kulpakko says.



”In the last five years, Finland has lost 130,000 jobs.”

WHO?

Name: Marko Kulpakko

Date of Birth: 09/27/1971

Residence: Kaustinen

Occupation: Factory Worker

Positions of trust: Kaustinen city council (1st Vice Chairman), Central Ostrobothnia Regional Council, the Finns Party delegate, the Industrial Union Board of Governors, Central Ostrobothnia District Court juror

Special: 25 years of experience in the industrial sector

Website: www.markokulpakko.fi

Finnish MP, Project Leader

Maria Lohela

Finland plays the role of payer

- If the deeper visions of EU integration are realized, Finland will pay even more, says Maria Lohela, Finnish Parliament member.

MARIA LOHELA, Finnish Parliament member from Turku, has gotten into international affairs via her education and work experience. In the Finnish Parliament Lohela is on the Foreign Affairs committee and is a deputy member of the Finance committee. She is also the chairman of the Finnish Parliament's board for the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The international IPU meetings have been educational and most interesting.

- I've always been interested in societal issues as well as their international aspects and actively follow world politics. With my background and the present situation, I would want very much to get involved more in international affairs.

Co-operation must be intensified

- If Lohela is chosen to the Euro-parliament she'd wish to be involved in foreign

affairs as well as international commerce. Co-operation among Euro-parliament and Finnish Parliament members, and the Finns Party should be intensified.

- The EU has progressed by leaps and bounds with harmonization of legislation. We see already how difficult it is to get quite different operational models to work under the same roof.

- There are ideas to further integrate social insurance, immigration and financial debt programs among EU countries. As a more prosperous country, Finland consequently will have its role as a payer continually increased. Lohela notes.

As a diversion from politics Lohela enjoys films and does fitness boxing. Walking and geocaching are also hobbies. Her family consists of a partner – he works in IT - and two cats. Lohela doesn't have many relatives but they are close – a brother, parents and aunt - as well as being devoted to her

86 year old grandmom.

The strength of the Finns Party is in the canvassing, on the market place and on the streets. Being in the party's tent and footwork has always been a positive activity for Lohela and she intends to continue that as a Euro-parliament candidate.

- In the group there is strength. I hope to be able to fit as much election work as I can into my schedule. Visibility on the internet and in social media is part of the day. Newspaper ads also have a place – the details will get worked out with the election campaign budget.



"There are ideas to further integrate social insurance, immigration and financial debt programs among EU countries."

WHO?

Name: Maria Lohela • **Date of birth:** 11/06/1978 • **Residence:** Turku
Occupation: Project Manager • **Education:** Bachelor of Arts
Tasks in Parliament: Committee on Foreign Affairs 2011, the Finance Committee (member), 2012, taxes, purchasing, 2012, Local Government and Health Section, 2012, Housing and Environment Subcommittee 2012, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Finnish Group (Chairman), 2011, the Finns Party Parliamentary Group 1st Vice Chairman 2014
Other positions of trust: Finnfund management board, 2013
Website: www.marialohela.fi

www.marialohela.fi

Finnish MP, Supervisor

Anne Louhelainen

The EU's direction to be settled now

- There is now in the EU a struggle for power among the Commission, the European Council and the Parliament. The member states are the pawns and if matters don't change they get only the leftovers, says Finnish parliament member Anne Louhelainen.

ANNE LOUHELAINEN, Finnish member of Parliament, is on the Grand Committee and has gotten to see only too well how matters come in from Brussels prepared far too much. Finns should have much more possibility to affect and influence these matters during the preparation time.

- I've noticed that people are getting rather fed up with the EU. Here we have a big opportunity and challenge to get people to understand how the EU is now involved in every aspect of our daily lives and in the future will be even more so if we don't even try to get change, says Louhelainen.

Louhelainen notes that the first priority must be Finnish citizens. That doesn't seem to be the case for many Finnish MEPs. She gives as an example the support given to the Sulfur Directive for environmental and health reasons.

- One can question how many Finns' health conditions will remain untreated when the economic situation in Finland worsens as the industrial competitiveness weakens, companies go out of business and unemployment increases. The resulting tax revenue decrease will lower the provision of health services, Louhelainen says. Environmental considerations were not especially well-based as more expensive ocean transport results in more road traffic where the pollution emissions are fifteen times greater.

The EU budget should be cut

- There is now in the EU a struggle for power among the Commission, the European Council and the Parliament. The member states are the pawns and if mat-

ters don't change they get only the leftovers, says Finnish parliament member Anne Louhelainen. This spring, the Euro-elections should result in getting critical and constructive MEPs for Finland as well as the rest of Europe – they can thus cooperate to simplify the structure and organization of the EU with the additional result of cutting the budget.

Louhelainen is a family-centered person – and her family consists of a partner, two children 20 and 22 years old that have are now out in the world – and two dogs. Close by are her parents – a 90 year old father and 70 year old mother. Electoral work will include enthusiastic footwork.

- I feel that it is most important that I defend the interests of Finland. Finnish issues should have priority and the rest of the world saved after that.



"This spring, the Euro-elections should result in getting critical and constructive MEPs for Finland as well as the rest of Europe."

WHO?

Name: Anne Louhelainen • **Date of birth:** 01/08/1965 • **Residence:** Hollola
Occupation: Telecommunications installation and fault repair supervisor, commercial college graduate • **Education:** University student exam, 1984, Business College Graduate, Secretary training 1986 (Lahti Business School), law degree in 2001 (MJK Institute) • **Parliamentary tasks:** The Grand Committee, 2011, the Legal Affairs Committee (member) in 2011, Committee for the Future (member), 2011, the Nordic Council of Finland delegation, 2011.
Public position of trust: Hollola city council 2009, Hollola municipal government (Vice President), 2013.
Website: www.annelouhelainen.net

www.annelouhelainen.net

Corporate Executive, M.Sc.

Ilkka Matinpalo

We cannot change
things alone

-The EU makes extremely important decisions which greatly affect Finland. I would like to remove EU bureaucracy which is detrimental to commercial activity, says Ilkka Matinpalo, Master of Business Administration

ILKKA MATINPALO has earned his spurs by working as managing director of technological and industrial firms throughout Europe since 1988. For the last six years he has been with the Continental Tire concern.

Whether we like it or not, the EU makes extremely important decisions which greatly affect Finland. I would like to influence these decisions and to participate in dismantling bureaucracy and decisions that are detrimental to business activity. Matinpalo notes that the important issues that the Finns Party would like to realize require wide co-operation across national and political borders - individual MEPs have limited influence.

- For example, the Finns Party delegation should co-operate with similar MEPs from the UK, Sweden and Denmark- as well as joining with any other like minded countries and groups. I don't accept that the

afore-mentioned countries are often dismissed out of hand because they don't favor federalization nor are members of the Euro zone.

Decisions should be made on a national level

Matinpalo emphasizes that the EU's role must be sharpened and narrowed. The idea of decision-making at local levels has become a dead letter issue as far as principles are involved. All decisions which don't require being made at an EU level for very basic reasons, should be made on a national level.

- The EU does make many decisions which do require moving to a global level - such as environmental issues where national decisions are not sufficient. A good example is the unsuccessful carbon trade

idea which resulted in important industry shifting activity outside the EU - and we ended up with even worse environmental effects. The EU has taken on too much power and responsibility; now is the time for reform and looking at these matters again with consideration for both national and global perspectives, Matinpalo says.

Matinpalo's are music, sports, boating and cottage-life. His family consists of a wife, two teen-aged children and a dog.

- I've always relied on face-to-face contact in the business world and so I trust in fieldwork for the election campaign. Citizens' opinions on what the EU should be gives me an important basis for my coming Euro-parliament work, Matinpalo believes.



**"The EU has taken
on too much power
and responsibility.
It's now time to
thoroughly review
this situation."**

WHO?

Name: Ilkka Matinpalo

Date of Birth: 28/03/1966

Residence: Helsinki

Education: Master of Business Administration

Occupation: "Dude Director for Europe"

Duties: Worked 20 years throughout Europe, mm. Managing Director of a number of international technology and industrial companies (Germany, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland)

Website: www.ilkkamatinpalo.fi

www.ilkkamatinpalo.fi

Finnish MP, M.Sc

Pirkko Mattila

Europe is a prisoner of the EU

- The European economic crisis is a very complex problem but creating a federal state is not the solution, says Finnish Parliament member Pirkko Mattila.

PIRKKO MATTILA, now a member of the Finnish Parliament, has been a nurse, teacher, homemaker, agriculture journalist, swimming instructor and has participated with the Red Cross in earthquake relief work in Haiti. She's also an enthusiastic geographer and very interested in regional policy.

- I have had many life experiences in a wide variety of fields. When I got interested in politics, the Finns Party was the only choice because of its Euroskeptical policies – and my being a Euro-parliament candidate is a logical consequence, says Mattila.

Elitist bureaucracy

EU policies do not represent democratic decision-making – only the elitist bureaucracy which has ridden on the back of the peace process. This process has failed completely.

- The peace process itself is fine but Europe has remained a prisoner of the EU and the peace process. Mattila is particularly interested in EU agriculture and forest management policies – above all the forest policies which should remain a national decision-making issue and not tied to environmental policies which has already occurred. Finland must be permitted to set its own economic policy.

- The EU is said to be a regional union but this is not noticed. Rather, Brussels is the region around which too many issues revolve. The Euro is in crisis which is partially due to faults in its formation: there cannot be a unified monetary policy when there are many different budgets and cultures in the mix. The Euro's future depends on how the crisis is attempted to be solved. If that solution involves more federalization, it won't work because the EU is being built piece by piece.

The European economic crisis is a very complex problem but creating a federal state is not the solution, says Mattila
- Voter participation in the Euro-elections must increase – previous elections have resulted in turnouts much too low. Can it be because people do not believe in democracy, at least at the level of the EU, Mattila asks.

Besides politics Mattila enjoys studying and fitness orienteering. Her family is a husband and three grown children.

- And three goats in the backyard with ear tags, which are required by the Brussels bureaucracy, Mattila laughs.



”The EU is said to be a regional union but this is not noticed. Rather, Brussels is the region around which too many issues revolve.”

WHO?

Name: Pirkko Mattila • **Date of birth:** 02/04/1964 • **Residence:** Muhos

Occupation: Master of Arts, Bachelor of nurse

Education: College university exam, 1983 Nursing degree 1988, Bachelor's degree, nursing 1995, Master of Arts, 2005, Teacher's pedagogical exam, 2010

Tasks in Parliament: The Speaker's Council, 2012, 2011 Administration Committee - (Chairman), 2012, Agriculture and Forestry Committee, 2011, Council of Europe Finnish Delegation, 2011, Social Insurance Institution (deputy member), 2011, Foreign Policy Institute Board of Directors, 2012.

Public position of trust: Muhos city council (Vice President)

Website: www.pirkkomattila.fi

www.pirkkomattila.fi

Lawyer

Piritta Poikonen

The lack of democracy is the EU's stumbling block

- Besides the interests of Finnish citizens, the financial success of Finland in global competition is also important, says lawyer Piritta Poikonen.

PIRITTA POIKONEN, a lawyer for the Federation of Finnish Financial Services from Lohja, is an expert in social and legal issues.

- Finland has many characteristics that should be defended in the EU. Among them are being hard-working and tough and being courageous workhorses. I have needed these attributes during my own career, says Poikonen.

Poikonen opposes the EU's development towards federalization and the follies of the Euro. Especially Poikonen is interested in the social dimension of the EU which is still in a developing phase

- Besides the interests of Finnish citizens, the financial success of Finland in global competition is also important. For example, equal treatment of banks has to be ensured in every country in any fiscal union. And still a larger concern than the Euro-crisis itself is the lack of democracy in

the EU decision-making process, Poikonen notes.

Paper-handling drudgery

- Poikonen believes the core of the EU to be lasting over many decades but the bureaucracy must be reduced and the deficit in democracy corrected. On the other hand the Euro will crumble in various places at the same time. Poikonen says that she has the ability to take hold of affairs, the courage to fight when the time is right and the vision to leave aside unnecessary and hopeless issues.

- I've been many times to Brussels for my work and I have an understanding of what a MEP's duties entail. It's surely not a glamorous job and one has to somehow put up with the drudgery of paper-handling, Poikonen says.

Piritta Poikonen enjoys going to the gym and running. After this more vigorous exercise, she likes handcrafts, berry picking and nail decorating. She's been married for 14 years and the family includes two adopted cats.

For the electoral work, Poikonen intends to travel around Finland as much as money and time allows.

We have a three person election team and a lot of ideas. I'm accustomed to putting facts first – thus I try to concentrate on quality and content even though it takes time. I don't know how smart that strategy is in the end but to me it's the natural one.



”Equal treatment of banks has to be ensured in every country in any fiscal union.”

WHO?

Name: Piritta Poikonen

Date of Birth: 04/01/1975

Residence: Lohja

Occupation: Lawyer and expert in the financial sector at the Federation of Finnish Financial Services

Positions of trust: Lohja City Council, HUS (Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa) certified, Lohja City Planning Board (Vice Chairman), Lohja region Family Caregiver Advisory Board (Vice Chairman)

Publications: (Books) Pension Saving (2010), Where does the money go? (2013)

Website: www.pirittapoikonen.com

www.pirittapoikonen.com

Researcher, Ph.D

Sakari Puisto

It's up to EU critics to change the course

- I'm opposed to common responsibility and a debt-fund union. After these elections, one will be able to envision the future form of the EU. Possible changes in direction do exist, believes Sakari Puisto, Ph.D.



SAKARI PUISTO, a 37 year old Ph.D. born in Tampere, wrote his university exam in 1997 and then left after military service for the UK to study natural science at Cambridge University.

He did his doctoral dissertation in 2004 with his Ph.D. advisor being **Sir David King** – King has also in time been chief advisor for Prime Ministers **Tony Blair** and **Gordon Brown**.

- I began my career in southern China in firms in Shenzhen and Hong Kong. This was an eye-opening experience as the only Westerner in the firm – I could get by with English at work but otherwise not - so it was necessary to learn to speak Mandarin Chinese. A couple of years later I decided to move back to Finland, Puisto tells. Currently Puisto is with Cambridge University as a

visiting researcher and divides his time between England and Finland.

The spring elections will plot the future of the EU

Puisto believes the Finns Party has good possibilities to influence EU policy in Brussels. Puisto, himself, is concerned especially with the EU's economic and financial policies together with the lack of democracy and the development into a federal state.

- I am opposed to common responsibility and a debt-fund union. The original idea of a Europe-wide free trade area and integration was a fine idea but present EU bureaucracy and the narcissistic federal 'project' would never win a Nobel Prize. (That prize should have been awarded to the re-

building of Europe after the Second World War.) After these elections, one will be able to envision the future form of the EU. Possible changes in direction do exist, Puisto assures.

The Euro was, in Puisto's mind, a hasty decision by Finland. Adopting the Euro ignored economic laws for the sake of a political project.

In his free time, Puisto jogs, skates, travels, reads and goes to cultural events. This spring's election work will take most of his time and, considering his family as well, there will be no time for hobbies.

- I intend to use my own money for the campaign though the budget will be modest. All resources will be used carefully.

"The spring elections will plot the future of the EU."

WHO?

Name: Sakari Puisto

Date of Birth: 12/19/1976

Residence: Tampere

Education: Doctor of Philosophy, University of Cambridge

Family: Wife

Hobbies: sports, reading, traveling

Other: Scientific articles and handled large-scale Tekes projects as Project Director

Blog: www.sakaripuisto.fi

www.sakaripuisto.fi

Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner



EU criticism increases

- I want to defend Finns and Finland's national interests. I oppose federal state development as well as taking common responsibility for other countries' debts, says Finnish Parliament member Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner.



PIRKKO RUOHONEN-LERNER has, since 1997, been in a primary position in the Finnish Parliament.

- The work of a member of parliament is demanding, responsible and interesting. Now I'm ready for a new challenge which awaits members of the Finns Party in the Euro-parliament, she says. For Ruohonen-Lerner the important concerns are economics, government, employment and equal rights. Also national basic services and environmental issues are close to her heart.

She notes that carefully handled economic policy creates a solid base for all public services.

- Finnish independence has been bought at a high price. Innumerable Finns – my late war veteran father included – had to defend the country with guns. Fortunately members of the Finns Party can defend our independence with peaceful means, states Ruohonen-Lerner.

Open transparent and good governance!

Finland is being stealthily moved in a direction toward a federal state together with joint responsibility for debts of other countries in the Euro zone. The Finns Party opposes this development.

- Finnish tax revenues are to be used for Finnish purposes. I want the Finnish national parliament to be the highest decision-making power in Finland.

- For me the highlight last year was the Finnish Supreme Court decision where the Finns Party parliamentary group succeeded in getting the agreement between Finland and the Greek banks publicly revealed. The Supreme Court decision is a clear victory for open, transparent and good governance – something we should cherish, says Ruohonen-Lerner. She also continues to say that its most important to decrease the inflated Brussels bureaucracy and similarly

reduce its expenditures. The EU's processes regarding finances must be tightened. Financial abuses, particularly in the public sector, have increased noticeably in the last years. These problems are known to Ruohonen-Lerner from her work on the Finnish Parliament's Audit Committee.

- I believe that systematic auditing of public sector expenditures by both the EU and Finland is the best medicine for addressing excesses. Those breaking the common rules should be subject to strict and strong punishments.

Euro-parliament elections will be on the 25th of May, 2014.

- I am a candidate that wants to defend Finnish interests in the EU. At the same time I want to decrease the massive bureaucracy and senseless expenditures. The May elections are important – all of the Finns Party should participate in the election events and vote!

“The bail-out program for Greece did not succeed. Nobody can seriously believe anymore that Greece will cope with its debts.”

WHO?

Name: Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner • **Born:** 06/02/1957 Hyvinkää

• **Residence:** Porvoo

Occupation: Journalist, Deputy Notary. Worked in finance, management and media positions until 2007.

Duties in Parliament: the Finns Party, parliamentary group chairman 2011-2014, Administration Committee 2007-2009, the Legal Affairs Committee 2007-2011, Constitutional Affairs Committee (member) 2011, Audit Committee, 2011, Environment Committee (member), 2011, Supervisory Council, 2011

Other positions of trust: Porvoo City Council in 1996

Website: www.pirkon.info

Sampo Terho

The Euro-elections can be won by hard work

- It's now important to get our own people into action. Without the Finns Party, the decisions default to the supporters of the federal state, emphasizes the present MEP Sampo Terho.

THE only Finns Party MEP at the present time, **Sampo Terho**, M.Sc., is one of the hardest working members.

- I have participated in over 20,000 votes and every time the issue of further federalization comes up, I have voted against it. I am also the the only MEP of the Finnish delegation that is a full member of the Economic Select Committee, says Terho.

The question of changing the direction of the EU's development into a federal state is in the hands of the EU citizens and voters.

- The size of the Euroskeptical group will surely grow as a result of the election. For us, in the Finns Party, the most important thing is to get our own members into action. No one should do any protesting by not voting! Doing so only increases power for the federalists as well as weakening our position in the elections for the Finnish parliament, Terho says.

Terho believes that the EU's present form

is now coming to an end.

- Now is the time to change the direction to one of a lighter and looser union or the EU will collapse from its own weight. Present leaders must be convinced that the time of the EU's continual integration is over. Member states have the ability to solve about 95% of the problems themselves.

A new referendum on EU membership

Terho is nevertheless hopeful that the EU and the Euro will survive but only if the present style changes.

- Finland doesn't need to now openly leave the Euro zone but it should prepare for the possibility that it might become necessary at some point. The position of the Finns Party is that we are not committed to the Euro but committed to Finland,



Terho emphasizes. He also believes that a new national referendum should be held in Finland on EU membership.

- The idea that for a new referendum is based on the fact it's now 20 years since the previous one – and the EU has changed into something quite different from the 1990's. Moreover a new generation of youth has come of voting age as Terho notes that he, himself, was too young to vote then.

Terho's election work will be around the whole country together with his supporters.

- All the candidates need solid and active support groups. An election victory will not happen without hard work. In the end, we are all working with the same theme and to the same result for the Finns Party. Every vote on our list is one more vote for an independent Finland, Terho says.

“The Finns Party's policy is that we are not committed to the Euro – but only to the interests of Finland”

WHO?

Name: Sampo Terho

Date of Birth: 20/09/1977

Residence: Helsinki

Occupation: politician, columnist, researcher

Tasks in the European Parliament: MEP, Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (member), Security and Defence (Member), Committee on Foreign Affairs (vice chairman), Employment and Social Affairs Committee (member), Delegation for relations with Canada (Member), relations with Australia and New Zealand Delegation (alternate)

Website: sampoterho.net

Finnish MP, Journalist

Maria Tolppanen



Brussels needs MEPs with knowledge, skill and courage

- Finland pays EU citizens family-benefits. A new directive guarantees that non-EU nationals coming to work in Finland should get Finnish social security payments after being in Finland for only four weeks. We simply cannot afford that, says Maria Tolppanen.



MARIA TOLPPANEN, Finnish Parliament member from Vaasa, has had a 33 year long career as a journalist with Finnish Broadcasting as well as free-lancing.

- Brussels needs MEPs with knowledge, skill and courage. My long career as a journalist and my time as a Finnish parliament member has given me the resources whereby I can find the significant and relevant concerns and then tackle those. The basic principle is caring and keeping the interests of people above that of simple financial concerns, Tolppanen says.

Unemployment is Europe's biggest problem

Unemployment, Tolppanen believes, is Europe's biggest problem and goes hand in hand with the financial crisis. The flow of tax revenue to tax havens must be halted and the resources used to put the em-

ployment and economic situation into condition.

- The EU's uncontrolled social policy must undergo reform. For example, Finland pays home care allowances to EU citizens working in Finland even if the families have never even been in Finland! A new directive guarantees that non-EU nationals coming to work in Finland should get Finnish social security payments after being in Finland for only four weeks. We simply cannot afford that, says Maria Tolppanen. The EU is trying to convert a resident place-based policy into a workplace-based one – which is definitely the wrong choice.

Tolppanen sees the EU crumbling in the future – and is not assured that the whole union even exists in 15 years.

- I'm afraid that EU will destroy itself with its plans for the fiscal union and a federal state.

Politics takes up most of Tolppanen's free

time but she does enjoy language learning and swimming. Tolppanen is now a widow with 3 children and four grandchildren which she sees every week. For election work, Tolppanen intends to continue in the same way as her campaigns for the Finnish Parliament – writing and speaking about the same issues – around the country with any possibilities her parliamentary work allows.

- I would like to visit places throughout the country, but I also understand one can't eat the whole cake. It must be remembered that the election is not a personal one but rather for the Finns Party as a whole. These elections will show whether Europe becomes a federal state and whether Finnish tax revenues are spread around Europe and even as currently happens, around the whole world.

” I'm afraid that EU will destroy itself with its plans for the fiscal union and a federal state. ”

WHO?

Name: Maria Tolppanen • **Date of birth:** 11/24/1952 • **Residence:** Vaasa

Occupation: Journalist

Family: Three children, four grandchildren

Interests: Languages, swimming, winter boots

Trust: The Grand Committee (deputy member), the Employment and Equality Committee, the Finnish Broadcasting Administrative Board, the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Assembly of the Finnish delegation, City of Vaasa government, Ostrobothnia government, Eskoo council, Åland committee, the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Foundation

Blog: mariatolppanen.blogaaja.fi

mariatolppanen.blogaaja.fi

Medical Doctor

Mauno Vanhala

Finland is threatened with the same fate as Greece

- How the Euro-crisis countries' future affects the Euro is still to be seen. It's very difficult for anyone to predict at this stage. I view the EU critically but not to the point of its dismantling, says Mauno Vanhala.



PROFESSOR Mauno Vanhala, medical doctor, has worked a long time in the health care field in Finland and is concerned about the direction of social and health care in the last decades.

- When Finland joined the EU in 1995, I assumed it keeps its own social and health policies. That doesn't seem to be the case. EU's internal market and competition rules have begun to affect visiting doctor activity. Moreover, large movements of capital from health care firms to tax havens raise many questions, Vanhala says. Finland has to be more proficient in acquiring research funds for studying diseases relevant to Finland – these applications need proper medical knowledge and not just the background of engineers and economists.

Generation of young people facing social exclusion

Vanhala would not break up the EU but would halt the development towards federalization and the fiscal union.

- How the Euro-crisis countries' future affects the Euro is still to be seen, says Vanhala - it's very difficult for anyone to predict at this stage. I view the EU critically but not to the point of its dismantling. I would give priority to citizens' basic needs and oppose 'dangerous' directives. I should want to put effort into the large public health concerns. Other important matters include how the consequences of youth unemployment marginalize a whole generation – and bring huge problems.

- the EU has pushed for public sector costs to be cut. For Finland that means some two billion Euros of communal budgets and everyone working at the communal level knows this is a significant reduction. Greece has been forced earlier into a deplorable state and now Finland is threatened with the same fate as industry leaves and Euros no longer invested. Vanhala will be on the campaign trail together with Euro-parliament candidate **Erkki Havansi** - on what could be called a 'professor tour'.

Vanhala enjoys bicycle touring and hunting as well as driving trotters – something he's done since 1972. His family consists of his wife and children already 'out in the world'.

“Resources escape from the Finnish health care system to tax havens.”

WHO?

Name: Mauno Vanhala
Date of Birth: 25/06/1949
Residence: Jyväskylä
Occupation: Doctor of Medicine, Professor
Positions of trust: Jyväskylä Basic Care Board (Chairman)
Website: www.maunovanhala.net

www.maunovanhala.net

Juha Väättäinen

The Euro is destroying the Finnish economy

- Salaries are being driven down. Southern Europe is full of numerous examples what this development leads to. The EU is the road to destruction and I am thoroughly against it, says Finnish Parliament member Juho Väättäinen.

JUHA VÄÄTTÄINEN, member of the Finnish Parliament and national hero, considers himself a very useful MEP – not only for Finland but for Europe as well. I'm a good resource for the Finns Party: Finland-minded and Europe-minded but solidly against the EU. The EU must be totally reformed. I don't accept the EU in the form it has developed into. I'm opposed to the Euro because it is the vehicle for converting the EU to a federal state - a travesty of democracy. I am opposed to common financial responsibility, we don't need a fiscal union, we can't integrate taxation nor social policy, lists Väättäinen.

Väättäinen emphasizes that budgetary policy belongs to each independent nation's parliament. The slippery slope to federalism in Finland has already happened - with power transferred from the Finnish Parliament to Brussels. This development must stop.

- Salaries are being driven down. Southern Europe is full of numerous examples what this development leads to. The EU is the road to destruction and I am thoroughly against it – and I am certainly my own party's severest Eurocritic. The EU should be dismantled for the most part and the Euro renewed because neither one works as they are.

Finland's natural resources to Europe

Väättäinen sees the EU in also a favorable light. The original idea of the EU as a free trade area and customs union - and maintaining its competitiveness – is still an excellent idea and we should get back to it.

- My own interest in Brussels is in developing the transport infrastructure, says Väättäinen. Finland, a country of long distances, has many resources including ore,

minerals and wood that would benefit the whole of Europe, investments into the road network of Finland by the EU would be worthwhile for Europe. This needs to be told to Europeans – that's my job! Väättäinen is a legendary runner who won the European championship in both the 5000 and 10000 meter races. He is by profession a teacher and artist. Exercise counsellor Väättäinen prefers to holiday in Spain and has other outside interests than politics when time can be found.

- I am work-oriented – awakening at 5:30 and finishing work at ten in the evening. My family has been my salvation – Liiisani has been my wife for 40 years and we have 2 children and two grandchildren. In his election campaign Väättäinen intends to visit 200 communes.



”I do not approve the EU in the form into which it has developed”

WHO?

Name: Juha Väättäinen • **Date of birth :** 12/07/1941 • **Residence:** Helsinki • **Education:** College graduate, 1961, primary school teacher, 1964 - 1968, exercise education stipend 1967 (USA) , business agent degree, 1984, drama degree, 1994, preaching license degree, 1994, organization consultant degree, 1995, English and German export and import education, 1996, painter, 2002
Occupation: Teacher, painter, sports counsellor • **Tasks in Parliament:** Finance Committee (member) 2011, Transport Division, 2011, Labor and Commerce Subcommittee, 2011, Housing and Environment Subcommittee (Chairman) , 2011, Environment Committee 2011, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Finnish Delegation 2011 • **Other positions of trust :** Land Tenants Association (Chairman) , 2010, Residents' Association's Board of Directors 2010, Housing Price Decrease (AHA) , Board 2010, Joint Parish Council 2011; Herttoniemen Parish 2011
Website: www.juhavaatainen.info

The Candidates Answer

Should there be a referendum on Finland's EU membership?

Finland joined the EU in 1995. Many now think a new referendum should be held.

Finland held in 1994 a national advisory referendum on the question of Finland joining the European Union – membership then followed in 1995. We have asked the Finns Party candidates for their opinion on whether there should be a new referendum.

YES – there should be a new referendum. The vote in 1994 did not concern the creation of a federal state, a transfer of revenues nor especially the Euro. There was no mention of these issues. A new vote would give a whole new generation the chance to decide.

■ Juho Eerola

FINNS have not voted to approve the development of an EU federal state. Referendums should take place in the member states. It's now decision time – and citizens should decide. Finnish independence is not some kind of commercial item which would be offered anymore to a 'new liberal' than to a socialist fantasy.

■ Simon Elo

THE 1994 referendum gave the possibility to take Finland into a European framework which no one could predict at that time. Yes – a new EU referendum should be held.

■ Jussi Halla-aho

MORE relevant than a referendum on Finnish membership in the EU would be a referendum on the Euro. A national vote on EU membership would be relevant if the 'six pack' coalition parties continue to give away Finnish independence to Brussels.

■ Erkki Havansi

KUN Suomi liittyi EU:hun periaatteena oli, että päätökset tulisi tehdä mahdollisimman lähellä kansalaisia. Tästä periaatteesta on luovuttu ja EU:ta ajetaan kohti liittovaltiota. Olisi kohtuullista järjestää EU:sta avoin kansäänestys. On väärin viedä Suomi pienin askelin kohti totaalista liittovaltiota ja sitten selittää, että prosessia ei voi enää peruuttaa.

■ Laura Huhtasaari

THE QUESTION of Finnish voters' opinion of possible accession to the EU in 1994 was about an entirely different EU than what now exists. The voters were scammed. Now there is a treacherous development towards a federal state which leaves Finland's independence in shreds. The truth should be told to the people and an honest referendum held.

■ Toimi Kankaanniemi



YES – there should be a referendum – the EU is not the same as when the previous referendum took place.

■ **Kimmo Kivelä**

YES – a referendum – I, for example, didn't get a chance to vote on EU membership!

■ **Jani Kolehmainen**

YES – there should be an advisory referendum concerning a departure from the EU – based on the Lisbon Agreement, article 50 – and join an EFTA common market – such as Norway and Switzerland.

■ **Marko Kulpakko**

A REFERENDUM in Finland is only advisory and the challenge is to activate people to vote. A binding vote would give much more motivation to actually vote. Voting should be seen not only as a right but an obligation.

■ **Maria Lohela**

THERE'S been a whole new generation that's grown up since Finland joined the EU – included my own child. At the same time Finland has 'given' funds to South Europe via so-called 'loans'. Leaders should have the possibility to tell their opinion about the EU. It's good that there is already the chance to answer this spring in the Euro-elections – "Vote and influence the future direction of the EU!"

■ **Anne Louhelainen**

YES – there should be a referendum. There should always be referendums when the EU's basic agreement and 'contract' has been changed. Such votes should be held throughout the EU and in so doing, the present lack of democracy can be lessened. Also the awareness of referendums taking place will improve the preparation of treaties and other legislation by the politicians.

■ **Ilkka Matinpalo**

IT DEPENDS, of course, on what is asked – disengage from the Euro or get out of the EU completely? Or just stop the federalization of the EU? But I would want a referendum in any case.

■ **Pirkko Mattila**

YES – a fascinating idea – especially as a big part of the media got behind a favorable vote last time. Nowadays a similar proposal would not go through. Nevertheless, a better idea is to vote for the European Parliament and Finnish Parliament candidates – that want to and know how to prevent the EU from getting more power.

■ **Piritta Poikonen**

YES – there should be a referendum as the EU requires accountability. Finland should increase the use of referendums in any case – much the same way as Switzerland. This would keep politicians on their toes and help to prevent strange and obfuscated decisions at the national as well as EU level.

■ **Sakari Puisto**

IN 1994, the advisory referendum concerned a different EU than the one we live with today. A new referendum would be able to deal with the federalization development as well as the issue of the common responsibility towards national debt.

■ **Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner**

A NEW referendum on the EU is well founded, because there exists a whole new generation since the previous vote. The EU during these decades has changed to be quite something different from the time in the 90's when Finland voted.

■ **Sampo Terho**

NATIONAL referendums are truly big events which divide opinions. Correct information will help everyone make thoughtful decisions.

■ **Maria Tolppanen**

IF THE EU stays as it is, no referendum is needed. If it is on its way to a fiscal union or a federal state then it's need to ask the people if they want that development.

■ **Mauno Vanhala**

OF COURSE there should be a referendum. Finland went to the Euro without any national vote – quite differently than Sweden which today is successful with its own currency. Finland was put onto the end of the EU leash with no possibility to have any influence. Break up the EU and renew the Euro, free Finland! Decision-making should be returned to the Finnish Parliament, a process now taken over by the EU Commission with the possibility to grow its own bureaucracy. Power has leaked excessively to the wrong and unskilled hands.

■ **Juha Vätäinen**



PS PERUSSUOMALAINEN

Editor-in-chief Matias Turkki
Managing editor Kristiina Ovaskainen
Layout Macart / Jorma Remsu

Publisher Perussuomalaiset – Sannfinländarna rp
Editorial Perussuomalainen,
Yrjönkatu 8-10 B 25, 00120 Helsinki
Tel: 020 7430 800
toimitus@perussuomalaiset.fi

You get what you ask for.

