

(Tulevaisuusnainen tietoiheen) Wellcome tulijoiden nimi

The Parliament of Finland Committee for the Future = A Finnish Social Innovation

Foto

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PARLIAMENT
OF FINLAND

15.9.2011

Committee for the Future

Tasks:

- developing futures policy dialogue with the Government and with society at large
- evaluating and replying to the Government's reports
- organizing and coordinating Technology Assessment (TA) of the Parliament
- following up the results of research and development work in the field of future's studies and foresight
- COUNTERPART= PRIME MINISTER's office

Parliamentary think tank

Traditionally, future studies have been carried out by ministries and research institutes (=sectoral approach) or private think tanks

Since 1993, Committee for the Future has functioned in the Parliament as a think tank of MP's.

Since 1993, the Government has issued, once during its term of office, *a report on long-term future prospects and the Government's targets* (=horizontal approach) and submitted it to Parliament

Starting point 1: a major economic crisis in the early 1990s

Starting point 2: An initiative made in Parliament in 1992 calling on the Government to present strategies for Finland's future

6 Government's proposal-reports and 6 Parliament's answer-reports

1993: Finland and its relationship to changes in its operating environment

1996: The future of Finland and Europe

1997: Finland's economy

2001: Regional development

2005: Finland's demographic trends, population policy and preparation for changes in the age structure

2010: Climate and energy

Formal process in the plenary etc

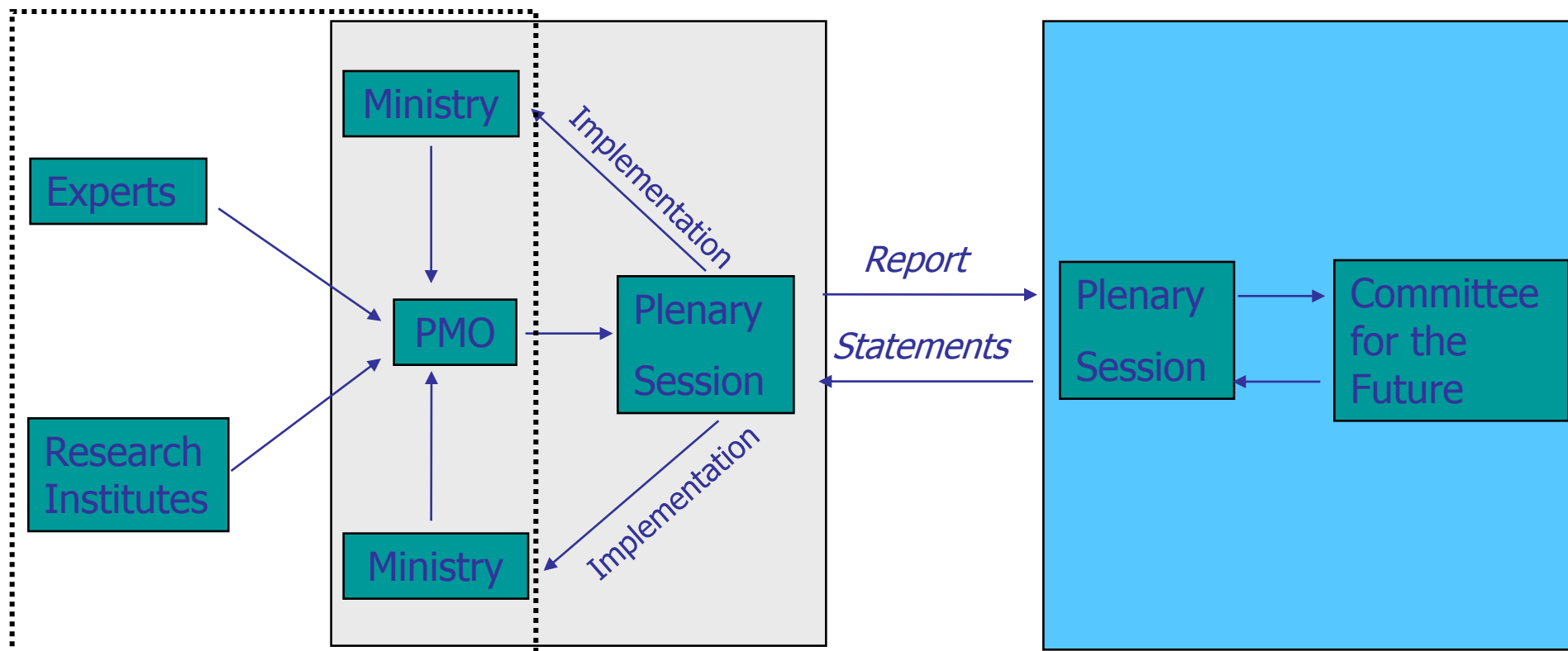
ALL OTHER PROJECTS ARE MADE BY OWN INITIATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE

Dialogue on the future - 6 Government-Parliament Future Reports

Preperation

Government

Parliament



Regional Future Forums

Themes and Projects

Committee for the Future Themes
2003-2007 and 2007-2011



2003-2007

Challenges of the Finnish Information Society

The Futures of the Finnish Health Care

Regional Innovative Environments

Democracy and the Futures

Russia 2017

2007-2011

Culture; metropol, life skills in the future

Welfare Society Model; taboos and black points

Biopolicy; forests, wood and water

Russia 2030

Life Skills of Our Time: Perspectives on Creative Economy

- culture is an ambiguous concept and needs to be addressed on a large-scale.
- cultural competence and expertise is similarly understood in its wide sense
 - all the human abilities and organizational factors that enable us to make good use of our cultural and social capital
 - in the interaction between individuals and
 - in all activities of production.

- features of contemporary culture elaborated by portraying metropolitan mentalities and the challenges of globalization and immaterial economy
- societies continue shifting towards technology, research, development and the internet, creative economy in public debate.
- we talk about the knowledge economy, the experience economy, the intangible economy, the hybrid economy
- today, creativity and innovations are acknowledged resources
- human capital is the key engine of economic growth and development
- still the main question of our age is how we live our lives

- Georg Simmel: the deepest problems of modern life derive from the claim of the individual
 - to preserve his existence in the face of overwhelming economical, social and cultural forces,
 - and of the technique of life
- as various economic changes have shifted more emphasis onto creativity and ideas
- empowering human capital has become crucial in order to end up with a better future
- the cultural competence that we are looking for is the ability to live and orientate in a modern, multicultural world
- it consists of several different areas of expertise

Main components are:

1. Values and virtues
2. Realizing potential
3. Global networking
4. Self-knowledge and the ability to create meanings

The future of welfare state in Finland

Taboos, black points

2007-2011

"Black points" of the Finnish welfare society

Globalisation and the Knowledge society

impose big challenges to the traditional equality oriented welfare state model of Finland

Increasing income differences

between the richest 1% or 5% and the main population as well as the especially slow increase in the incomes of the poorest 10% are "black points" of the development

In many public services a risk

of the division of the traditionally egalitarian services to the much better services to well-offs and poor basic services for those who are not able to pay

2007-2011

The challenges

Trade offs between demographic change, competitiveness and equality result in significant tensions for the welfare state institutions.

In order to find win win win – solutions, sufficient attention should be devoted for adaptive efficiency aimed at providing high productivity and better governance.

Themes investigated and Questions asked

Public economy – How to finance?

Institutions and their change – How to reform?

Legal framework – How to govern?

Politics – How to shift the agenda from risks to chances

Well-being – How to assess subjective well-being?

Innovation – How to innovate?

There are not easy answers!

2007-2011

Forests, food and water and the global challenges of the climate change

=Voyages of Exploration into Biopolicy



Scale, mechanization

Two crops in the same year without irrigation

Harvesting (soybeans) and sowing (corn) in the same day

The main **approach**: alternative uses of land for bioproduction - forests, food or biofuels and their impacts on the climate change

Criterion for efficient global ways **to avoid carbon dioxide emissions**: cost less than 10\$/ avoided CO2 ton

Analysis focused on **Brazil**, the big biopower of 2030

Agribusiness/monoculture or **small** labor intensive multiculture **plantations**

Forests in many roles/tasks the special focus

The structural change in the global forest sector

The role of forests in the climate change:
carbon uptake and the source of bioenergy

Electronics and paper as substitutes and
complements

Pulp and timber production in tropical countries
competing with the traditional production in
the north

Forests, food plants, energy plants and animals
as competitors in the land use especially in
tropical countries

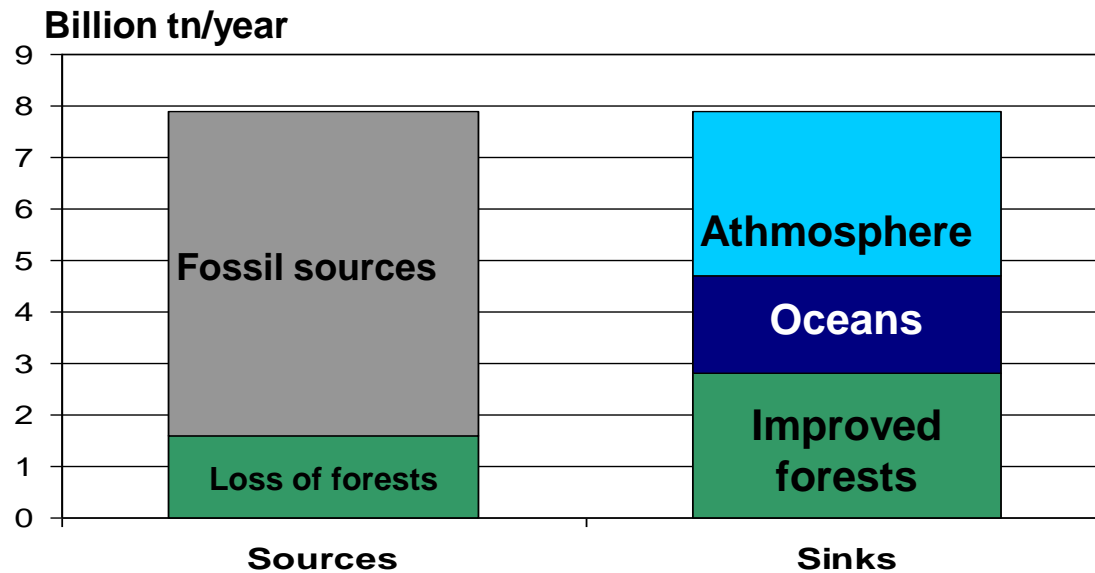
Forests and the challenges of the climate change

Very controversial evaluations concerning the role of forests in the climate change

In materials of IPCC in 2007 the range of shares was 6 % - 18 %.

Prof Pekka Kauppi (2007) has even considered that the net impact would have been even negative

Sources and sinks of carbon



Source: Kauppi 2008

2007-2011

Economic Scenarios of Russia to 2030



Fall and rapid recovery but structural problems remain

The Russian economy, which had been growing rapidly for the past decade, came to a sudden stop in 2009. Still Russia produced more oil than Saudi Arabia in 2009

Russia's large gold and foreign currency reserves have served well as buffers against the recession, too. 2009. Foreign debt represented only 3.6% of GDP.

"Keynesian policy" e.g. the raising the basic employment pension by 30% on 1.12.2009. The poor's share of the population would have been 17.4% instead of 14 % at the end of 2009, so without the stimulus measures Unemployment growth was only a couple of percent in 2009

Russia 2017 report (2007): Three possible social and economic developments in Russia

1. Planned development towards true democracy based on big diversifying energy companies controlled by the strong government ("Gazprom", compare chaebols in Korea , keiretsus in Japan)
2. Middle class dominated permissive society developing towards genuine democracy. Innovative use of ICT in a society actively looking for international investments.
3. Elite with power secures its power and privileges using nationalistic rhetoric. No genuine democracy.

Russia 2017 (2007) Scenario framework

Economic development	Energy export capacity +, diversification	Energy export capacity -, diversification	Energy export capacity same or less, no diversification
Social development			
Planned development based on big diversifying companies	1. INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL ACTOR BASED ON ENERGY EXPERTISE		
Society of middle class and networks		2. PERMISSIVE MOSAIC RUSSIA	
Elite with power secures its power			3. POWER ELITES' RUSSIA

The fourth scenario

The three earlier scenarios are still relevant for the futures map of the Russian economy

A development resembling the **RUSSIA OF CONTRACTS** scenario - a prerequisite for a development of the kind outlined in the earlier modernization scenarios **INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL ACTOR BASED ON ENERGY EXPERTISE** and **PERMISSIVE MOSAIC RUSSIA**

The names given to the development of this kind are in the new scenario framework **A RUSSIA AS AN INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL PLAYER WITH MODERN BIG COMPANIES** and **A MODERNISED MOSAIC RUSSIA**.

New scenario framework

<p>Modernisation of the economy</p> <p>Social development</p>	<p>The big “systemic” companies of the economy renew themselves internally and set up innovative subsidiaries that diversify the economy</p>	<p>Practices that renew the economy are adopted by borrowing them from abroad (“catching up”). First companies outside the core of the economy</p>	<p>Authoritarian or nationalistic practices and/or corruption have a withering effect on essential investments and renewal</p>
<p>A centrally and authoritarianly directed state, administration and big companies</p>	<p>A RUSSIA OF ENLIGHTENED AUTOCRACY (Interim state)</p>	<p>A RUSSIA OF SMALL RENEWING STREAMS</p>	<p>A RUSSIA OF THE CONCENTRATED POWER OF THE STRONG + RUN</p>
<p>Unambiguous legal provisions that are complied with, scrupulous adherence to written contracts, dismantling authoritarian practices</p>	<p>A RUSSIA AS AN INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL PLAYER WITH MODERN BIG COMPANIES</p>	<p>A MODERNISED MOSAIC RUSSIA</p>	<p>Not possible</p>
	<p>A RUSSIA OF CONTRACTS</p>		
<p>Centralised political exercise of power weakens, but a state-directed contractual society does not function</p>	<p>A RUSSIA OF BIG-COMPANY POWER (Interim state)</p>	<p>A RUSSIA OF UNOFFICIAL NETWORKS (RUN)</p>	<p>A RUSSIA OF DIFFUSED POWER OF THE STRONG + RUN</p>

Main economic features of the RUSSIA OF CONTRACTS

Russia will not be a great power in 2030 without a modern economy

Both Medvedev and Putin have realized that

“There will be changes. They will be gradual, considered, stepwise. But inevitable and consistent” (Medvedev 2009)

Some principles:

The legislation formally in force has to correspond generally accepted practices

Strict adherence to written contracts after the transit period in 2010s

Building a new kind of corporate culture

Instead of an authoritarian command culture, initiative must be favoured and dissenting views tolerated

Beside cultural changes in “systemic companies” their new ventures and imitation based modernization A RUSSIA OF SMALL RENEWING STREAMS

Framework for building neighbourly relations: Who and from where?

Nation/identity/neighbourly relations	<i>From where?</i>			
	Within	The outside	Above	Below
<i>Who?</i>				
We alone	1	2	3	4
We with them	5	6	7	8
They alone	9	10	11	12
They with us	13	14	15	16

Foresight Methods used by Committee for the Future

***Futures mapping methods:**

Multi-phase scenario building- vision, megatrends, weak signals, scenarios, strategy: The Future of work (2000)

Argument Delphi method: Gerontechnology (2001), Energy 2010 (2001), Human genome and stem cells (2003), Futures of the Finnish health care system (2006)

Morphological Matrixes: Gerontechnology (2001)

Scenarios of visionaries: Finnish information society (2004), Future of Democracy (2006), Russia 2030 (2010),

Voyages of Exploration into Biopolicy(2010)

•Decision models:

•Weighted decision trees: Gerontechnology (2001)

***Participatory foresight:**

Futures workshops: especially in Knowledge management (2001), Regional innovation systems - many local seminars (2002-2005), Russia 2017 – scenarios based on many small papers of experts (2007), Climate change (2010)





Technology Assessment

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (TA)

One task of the Committee for the Future is:

- to function as a parliamentary body for assessing technological development and its consequences for society.

TA in a parliamentary context means appraisal of the effects on society of using the results of scientific research and technology

TA generally encompasses broader sectors of science and technology, such as biotechnology, mass communications, transport, energy, etc.

TA

The need for TA in the Parliament of Finland can be justified in two ways

The accelerating development of science and technology is having substantial effects on society, economic development and the life of the individual. TA helps parliamentarians understand these influences better and take them into account in political decision making

The other justifying factor relates to the Parliament's tasks and democracy. When legislative and budgetary proposals of significant import for society are submitted for its consideration, the Parliament must, if it is to be able to exercise oversight of the Government's actions, already have a good enough foundation of knowledge on which to assess these proposals