



VALTIONEUVOSTON KANSLIA
STATSRÅDETS KANSLI



FINNISH SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY 2009

Government Report VNS X/2009



Comprehensive security as the basis for the Report

- A comprehensive concept of security encompasses security issues which, if exacerbated, could turn into threats that would jeopardise or seriously harm Finland and its population.
- In addition to military threats, security challenges and threats often constitute widespread cross-border threats in an interdependent and globalised world. It is impossible to address them through traditional security policy or military means alone.
- Such threats include questions associated with the environment, nuclear safety, organised crime and the narcotics trade, trafficking in human beings as well as infectious diseases. They also include issues linked to terrorism, network interference or the extreme forces of nature.



Comprehensive Security as the Basis for the Report (2)

- Since the 2004 Security and Defence Report, the tsunami in Southeast Asia, floods in Bangladesh as well as earthquakes in Pakistan and China, to name a few, have demonstrated the destructive force of nature.
- Climate change and the danger of an influenza pandemic serve as examples of serious global security threats.
- Access to energy and natural resources or a food crisis may also turn into serious security threats.
- The global financial crisis has shaken the very foundations of the global economy.



Comprehensive Security as the Basis for the Report (3)

- Rapid and unpredictable changes characterise the development of the security environment.
- Military threats remain relevant as well. The crises in Afghanistan and Iraq, the conflict in Gaza as well as several crisis hotspots in Africa continue to fundamentally impact global security.
- The use of military force in Georgia affects security thinking in Finland's neighbouring areas too.
- Finland does not expect to face the prospect of military pressure or armed aggression outside the context of a wider international conflict.



Guidelines

- External and internal security are more closely interlinked than before.
- The significance of preventative diplomacy as well as comprehensive national and international networks and collaborative mechanisms are increasingly emphasised.
- Finland addresses security threats through a national foreign policy, as a member of key European and global collaborative structures and organisations as well as by maintaining national preparedness and a credible defence.
- Finland increases participation in international crisis management in order to promote peace and security as well as the development of and respect for human rights.
- Finland monitors developments in Russia, the most important factor in Finland's security environment. Finland aims to increase trade with Russia as well as tourism and investments while countering negative phenomena, such as crime and threats linked to maritime transports. Finland continues to advance its Russia-expertise.
- Finland works actively to strengthen human rights, democracy and respect for the rule of law all over the world.



Guidelines (2)

The European Union

- The European Union is an important venue for Finland as regards combating many key security threats.
- An internationally strong Union, capable of action, also serves Finland's interests.
- Membership of the Union is a fundamental security policy choice for Finland.
- The EU's solidarity clause and the mutual assistance obligation strengthen solidarity among the Member States.
- As a Member State of the Union Finland belongs to a close-knit political alliance, the members of which share a strong sense of togetherness and the will to act in unison. Finland is strongly committed to this alliance.
- In addition to foreign and security policy, the Union is a key actor in several other fields which directly affect security, such as energy, transport and infectious diseases.



Guidelines (3)

The NATO option is preserved

- Finland regards NATO as the most important military security cooperation organisation. NATO's objectives, tasks and obligations are analogous with the foreign and security policy goals of Finland and the EU.
- As a member, Finland could fully participate in the Alliance's decision-making. However, as a NATO nation Finland would face increasing political expectations on the grounds of general burden sharing and solidarity.
- The Government states that there will continue to be a strong case for considering Finland's membership of NATO in the future as well.
- As regards a decision on possible membership, broad political consensus is essential and public opinion must also be taken into consideration.



Guidelines (4)

International crisis management

- Finland contributes to crisis and conflict prevention, especially, by means of development, human rights and arms control policies, and by participating in international crisis management.
- Through a coherent development policy Finland helps societies respond to the needs of their citizens, eliminate the root causes of threats and advance stability, security and sustainable development.
- Crisis management is Finland's key foreign policy instrument through which it aims to promote the stability of crisis areas in the world. At the same time it improves Finland's own security and contributes to national defence and international interoperability.
- Finland promotes coherent crisis management, development cooperation and humanitarian aid in line with the EU's security and development policies. The aim is to bring about a comprehensive approach in preventing and controlling conflicts as well as in post-conflict management.
- To retain present level of activities in military crisis management, annual appropriations must gradually be increased to EUR 150 million.
- When it comes to civilian crisis management, the objective is to significantly raise the number of Finns serving in different operations.



The defence of Finland

- Finland's defence is based on a successful foreign and security policy. However, the foundation of defence is the fact that the possibility of armed aggression against Finland or the threat thereof cannot be categorically excluded.
- Finland prepares to prevent and repel any use of military force against it as well as counter the threat of such.
- Finland's defence is based on territorial defence, general conscription and a large reserve. It is also built on a steadfast will to defend the country as well as on international defence cooperation. Relying on regional troops and nationally deployable mobile troops, the defence system covers the entire territory of the nation.
- Finland maintains a credible national defence which is appropriately scaled to its operating environment.
- The goals of maintaining, improving and employing the defence capability presented in the Security and Defence Policy Report can be achieved with the 2008 real term level defence appropriations, revised according to cost increases of defence materiel. Barring any organisational changes, this requires full compensation for annual price and cost increases as well as an annual 2% increase in defence appropriations as of 2011.
- Participation in international military crisis management bolsters Finland's security and strengthens the national defence.