

## PREFACE

The Advisory Board for Defence Information, ABDI, (*Maanpuolustustiedotuksen suunnittelukunta, MTS*) commissioned this survey to ascertain the opinions of Finns on Finnish foreign and security policy and on defence policy. The survey also includes questions regarding Finland-NATO cooperation and the relationship between Finland and NATO. In addition, citizens were asked to provide their views on how they feel security will develop over the next five years and to assess the factors which affect their feeling of security.

The survey also polled citizens' views on preparedness for various threats, Finland's participation in the EU's rapid response force and in the NATO Response Force as well as in peace support and crisis management tasks in war zones. Altogether thirty questions were asked, nine of which were completely new. The survey was done by *Taloustutkimus Oy* from 5 November to 22 November 2007. Fifty-two pollsters trained by *Taloustutkimus* conducted the interviews. The polling data were processed by *Taloustutkimus'* hardware and software.

The target group was Finland's population of 15- to 79-year-olds, with the exception of the Åland Islands. Altogether 988 persons were interviewed. The sample was formed by quota sampling, in which the target group's quotas were the distribution of age, gender, province and municipality. Interviews were conducted at 94 locations, 54 of which were cities and 46 were other municipality types. The sample is weighted according to the target group.

The weighted numbers correspond to Finland's population of 15- to 79-year-olds. When analysing the results, it must be taken into account that the data representing the supporters of larger political parties are more reliable compared to those of smaller parties, whose supporters are numerically fewer in the sample. The following question was asked in the survey: "Which party would you vote for, if parliamentary elections were held now?" Of all of the respondents, 71.5 % (724 persons) revealed their party affiliation and 28.5 % (264 persons) declined to do so. The error of margin is  $\pm$  3.2 percentage points.

The report comprises a text section and illustrating figures that also present the time sequence of the previously asked questions. The illustrations were produced at *Taloustutkimus* and some of the questions represent a continuous sequence since 1964. The ABDI work branch, including the working group consisting of Docent Erkki Teikari, Lieutenant Colonel Risto Mäkelä, Head of Unit Timo Kantola and Head of Government Security Timo Härkönen, was responsible for drawing up the questions. The research division compiled the report. This report, along with the other survey reports since 2000, is available on the ABDI web page: [www.defmin.fi](http://www.defmin.fi) ->hyperlink the Advisory Board of Defence Information-> bulletins and reports. The web page also lists the questions asked in the 1964–2005 surveys, conducted by the Advisory Board of Psychological Defence<sup>1</sup> and the Advisory Board of Defence Information.

The data from this survey, as with the previous surveys, are deposited in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive ([www.fsd.uta.fi](http://www.fsd.uta.fi)), University of Tampere.

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<sup>1</sup> *Henkisen maanpuolustuksen suunnittelukunta, HMS*, the predecessor of ABDI

## INDEX

PREFACE.....	1
Support and disapproval of NATO membership remains steady .....	3
Finland should not join NATO because.....	3
Finland should join NATO because.....	3
Sweden's NATO membership has little bearing on Finland's willingness to join NATO.....	4
Support for NATO cooperation has increased; Finnish participation in NRF exercises is approved .	4
Participation in the NATO Response Force (NRF) divides opinions.....	4
Finnish participation in the EU's rapid reaction force (battle groups) is approved of .....	5
Support for military non-alignment remains steady .....	5
If we decide to align ourselves militarily, should we select NATO or the EU? .....	6
People have confidence in the way Finnish foreign policy is conducted .....	6
Finnish external relations are run well.....	6
The EU conducts its foreign policy reasonably well .....	7
Finnish defence policy is run well .....	7
The willingness to defend the nation remains at a high level.....	7
A credible defence consists of several components.....	8
Why should Finland be defended?.....	8
The present level of the defence budget is approved of. Support for increased defence spending also exists.....	8
General conscription has strong backing .....	9
Should selective service be introduced, individual willingness to serve is emphasized.....	9
Support for Defence Forces participation in military tasks at home and abroad .....	9
The future seems increasingly insecure .....	10
EU-provided security has increased.....	10
The UN and the EU increase Finland's security .....	10
Situation stable in Finland's near environs .....	11
The use of the Earth's natural resources and global warming cause the most concern.....	11
Good preparedness for epidemics, worse preparedness for climate change .....	11
Finland's participation in peace support and crisis management tasks in war zones .....	12

Figures

ABDI Research Branch and Chairs 2007-2011

## **Support and disapproval of NATO membership remains steady**

Over two thirds of citizens, 69 per cent, are of the opinion that Finland should not seek NATO membership (67 % in 2006). Seventy (68 %) per cent of men and sixty-seven (65 %) per cent of women share this opinion. Ninety-seven (69 %) per cent of Left Alliance supporters are against NATO membership and the corresponding numbers for the other parties' supporters are as follows: Greens 77 per cent (87 %), Social Democratic Party (SDP) 75 per cent (61 %), Centre Party 67 per cent (72 %) and National Coalition (conservatives) 38 per cent (44 %).

A quarter of citizens, 26 per cent (26 % in 2006), believe that Finland should seek NATO membership. Fifty-five (51 %) per cent of National Coalition supporters agree and the corresponding numbers for the other parties' supporters are as follows: Centre Party 28 per cent (21 %), SDP 21 per cent (32 %), Greens 19 per cent (6 %) and Left Alliance 3 per cent (20 %). (*Figures 1 and 2*)

## **Finland should not join NATO because...**

This was the first time the respondents were asked to assess the reasons for or against NATO membership. Half of the respondents answered a multiple-choice question and the other half filled in an open question.

The most important (48 %) reason for remaining outside NATO is to prevent Finnish troops from having to fight foreign wars. The second most important (46 %) reason is that Finland should not be involved in great power conflicts. The third (43 %) reason is the disproportionate dominance of the United States in NATO. The fourth most often (40 %) cited reason was that Finland's NATO membership could increase the threat of Russia against Finland.

As for the open answers, the reasons were analogous. The most often used arguments against military alignment were that NATO membership was thought to increase the threat of Russia against Finland (N=68) and that Finnish "sons and grandsons" would be forced to fight foreign wars (N=51). The justifications also included increased insecurity (N=32), expenses (N=32), the irrelevance of NATO (N=30), the importance of maintaining independence and sovereignty (N=22) as well as the superiority of non-alignment (N=27). *Figure 3*

## **Finland should join NATO because...**

The most important reason for backing NATO membership was that the Finnish Defence Forces were not considered capable of defending Finland on their own (53 %), followed by obtaining military security against Russia (45 %), benefits from participating in western organizations (40%) as well as the opportunity to participate in decision-making with regard to NATO operations (38 %). *Figure 3*

The open answers brought increased security (N=78) to the forefront, followed by obtaining support if Finland were attacked (N=53) and the increased threat of Russia (N=32). Even here, the most often used caveat was that Finland should not seek membership in NATO (N=99).

## **Sweden's NATO membership has little bearing on Finland's willingness to join NATO**

The survey also polled the question whether Finland should join NATO if Sweden decided to do so. Almost two thirds, 62 per cent, believe that even in such an instance Finland should not seek membership in NATO. Sixty-six per cent of men and fifty-nine per cent of women think this way. This opinion is shared by 85 per cent of Left Alliance supporters and 65 per cent of SDP, 62 per cent of Centre Party and Greens as well as 38 per cent of National Coalition supporters concur.

A third of citizens, 32 per cent, believe that Finland should seek membership in NATO if Sweden decided to join the Alliance. Fifty-seven per cent of National Coalition supporters hold this opinion and 35 per cent of Centre Party, 31 per cent of SDP, 30 per cent of Greens and 12 per cent of Left Alliance supporters share the opinion. *Figure 4*

## **Support for NATO cooperation has increased; Finnish participation in NRF exercises is approved**

Since 2004, ABDI has polled opinions regarding Finland-NATO cooperation. The new question involves Finnish participation in NATO Response Force (NRF) exercises. Sixty-eight per cent of citizens have a favourable opinion: 72 per cent of men and 64 per cent of women. Of National Coalition supporters, 81 per cent have a positive opinion and 74 per cent of Centre Party, 72 per cent of SDP, 57 per cent of Greens and 40 per cent of Left Alliance supporters concur.

Twenty-seven per cent of citizens disagree: 25 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women. Fifty-six per cent of Left Alliance have a negative opinion on participation in NRF exercises and 38 per cent of Greens, 25 per cent of SDP, 21 per cent of Centre Party and 14 per cent of National Coalition supporters agree with them. *Figure 5*

Support for NATO cooperation has increased from 2006. Over half of the citizens, 60 per cent (50 % in 2006), support Finland's participation in NATO-led crisis management operations. Sixty-two percent (55 %) of men and fifty-nine percent (44 %) of women think so. A third of the population, 34 per cent (44 %), oppose this participation. Thirty-five per cent (46%) of women and thirty-four per cent (41 %) of men hold this opinion.

Seventy-two per cent (67 % in 2006) have a favourable view of participation and 68 per cent (54 %) of Centre Party, 67 per cent (54 %) of SDP, 52 per cent (46 %) of Greens and 22 per cent (22%) of Left Alliance supporters are of this opinion.

Sixty-seven per cent (62 % in 2006) of citizens support NATO interoperability of the Defence Forces' weaponry and command systems, whereas 27 per cent (31 %) oppose it. The positive view is shared by seventy-three per cent (70 %) of men and sixty-one per cent (54 %) of women, whereas thirty-two per cent (35 %) of women and twenty-two per cent (27 %) of men disagree. *Figures 6, 7 and 8*

## **Participation in the NATO Response Force (NRF) divides opinions**

Finnish participation in the NATO Response Force (NRF) was polled as a new question. Half of the population, 49 per cent, have a favourable view, whereas a little less than half, 45 per cent, have a

negative opinion. The positive view is shared by fifty-three per cent of men and forty-six per cent of women, whereas forty-five per cent of women and forty-four per cent of men disagree.

Sixty-two per cent of National Coalition supporters have a positive view and 58 percent of Centre Party, 49 per cent of SDP, 38 per cent of Greens and 23 per cent of Left Alliance supporters concur.

Seventy-seven per cent of Left Alliance supporters have a negative view and 53 per cent of Greens, 45 per cent of SDP, 39 per cent of Centre Party and 29 per cent of National Coalition supporters agree with them. *Figure 9*

### **Finnish participation in the EU's rapid reaction force (battle groups) is approved of**

Since 2005, the survey has polled opinions on Finnish participation in the European Union's rapid reaction force (battle groups). Seventy-five per cent (68 % in 2006) of the population approve of it, i.e. 78 per cent (74 %) of men and 72 per cent (62 %) of women.

Eighty-four per cent (78 % in 2006) of National Coalition supporters approve of the participation and 80 per cent (75 %) of Centre Party, 78 per cent (76 %) of SDP, 72 per cent (61 %) of Greens and 54 per cent (70 %) of Left Alliance supporters concur.

A fifth of the population, 20 per cent (25 % in 2006) opposes the participation, 22 per cent (29 %) of women and 18 per cent (21 %) of men. Forty per cent (26 %) of Left Alliance supporters oppose the participation and 22 per cent (29%) of Greens, 19 per cent (18 %) of SDP, 15 per cent (24 %) of Centre Party and 9 per cent (12 %) of National Coalition supporters hold the same view. *Figures 10 and 11*

### **Support for military non-alignment remains steady**

Three separate questions were polled regarding citizens' views on Finland's military non-alignment and alignment as well as the preferred alignment option.

Half of the respondents were asked the following question (polled since 1996): "Should Finland remain militarily non-aligned or should Finland try to ally itself militarily?"

Over two thirds, sixty-nine per cent (67 % in 2006), think that Finland should remain militarily non-aligned. This view is shared by seventy per cent (68 %) of men and sixty-eight per cent (65 %) of women. Twenty-seven per cent (26 %) of men and twenty-seven per cent (25 %) of women are in favour of military alignment.

Ninety-five per cent (97 % in 2006) of Left Alliance supporters back military non-alignment and 75 per cent (65 %) of SDP, 74 per cent (69 %) of Centre Party, 70 per cent (77 %) of Greens and 43 per cent (56 %) of National Coalition supporters hold the same view.

Fifty-four per cent (42 % in 2006) of National Coalition supporters are in favour of military alignment and 25 per cent of Centre Party and Greens (28 % and 21 %), 20 per cent (24 %) of SDP and 5 per cent (3 %) of Left Alliance supporters concur. *Figures 12 and 13*

The other half of the respondents answered the question pertaining to Finland's military alignment including various alignment options. This question has not been asked previously.

With regard to this question half of the citizens, 50 per cent, consider that Finland should remain militarily nonaligned. A little less than a fifth of the population, 18 per cent, think that Finland should seek NATO membership with the caveat that there be no other states' troops or bases in Finland during peacetime. Seventeen per cent deem that Finland should aim to develop the EU into a defence alliance, seven per cent want to establish a defence alliance with Sweden and six per cent of citizens regard NATO membership with other NATO countries' troops and bases in Finland during peacetime as the best option.

### **If we decide to align ourselves militarily, should we select NATO or the EU?**

This year the preferred military alignment option was polled. The choices included NATO, the EU and a defence alliance with Sweden. The same choices were presented in the 2002 survey, whereas the defence alliance with Sweden was not included as an option in the 2003-06 surveys.

A little less than half, 42 per cent, of the citizens think that the best option is to develop the European Union into a military alliance in which Finland would participate. A third, 33 per cent (44%), regard NATO membership with no other NATO countries' troops or NATO bases in Finland during peacetime as the best option, 10 per cent (20 %) would establish a defence alliance with Sweden and eight per cent (6 %) of citizens would join NATO with the caveat that there be NATO countries' troops and bases in Finland during peacetime.

### **People have confidence in the way Finnish foreign policy is conducted**

Eighty-four per cent (81 % in 2006) of citizens consider the conduct of Finnish foreign policy during the past few years as "excellent" or "good". Eighty-six per cent (84 %) of women and 84 per cent (77 %) of men hold this view. Ninety-two per cent (92 %) of Centre Party supporters and 90 per cent (89 %) of Greens, 84 per cent of SDP and National Coalition (88 % and 67 %) and 75 per cent (89 %) of Left Alliance supporters concur.

Thirteen per cent (14 % in 2006) of citizens think that Finnish foreign policy is badly run. Fifteen per cent (18 %) of men and twelve per cent (10 %) of women think so. Twenty-five per cent (5 %) of left Alliance supporters have this view and 14 per cent (11 %) of SDP, 14 per cent (22 %) of National Coalition, 6 per cent (7 %) of Centre Party and 7 per cent (6 %) of Greens supporters share the same view.

### **Finnish external relations are run well**

This year's survey also included a question on the conduct of Finland's external relations. The countries involved were Sweden, the other Nordic countries, Russia, Estonia, the other Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania), Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, China (new item) and developing countries. The previous time this question was polled was in the 2003 survey.

Ninety-two per cent (90 % in 2003) of citizens give an "excellent" or "good" mark to the conduct of Finland's external relations with Sweden. Ninety-one per cent (89 %) give the same marks with

regard to the other Nordic countries, 88 per cent (88 %) with regard to Estonia, 84 per cent (84 %) with regard to Germany, 74 per cent (77 %) with regard to France, 73 per cent (78 %) with regard to the United Kingdom, 71 per cent (78 %) with regard to Russia, 68 % (71 %) with regard to the other Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania), 67 per cent (73 %) with regard to the United States, 67 per cent with regard to China and 53 per cent (60 %) with regard to developing countries.

### **The EU conducts its foreign policy reasonably well**

Since 2001, ABDI has polled the conduct of the EU's foreign and security policy. This year the question's passive voice "has been conducted" was changed into the active voice "has conducted". Nevertheless, the updated form bears comparison with the past formulation. The previous time this question was polled was in the 2005 survey.

Sixty-two per cent (65 % in 2005) of citizens think that the EU has conducted its foreign policy well. Sixty-five per cent (64 %) of women and 60 per cent (64 %) of men hold this opinion. Seventy per cent (76 %) of Greens supporters share this view and 69 per cent (67 %) of Centre Party, 65 per cent (66 %) of SDP, 62 per cent (67 %) of National Coalition and 50 per cent (56 %) of Left Alliance supporters concur. *Figures 21 and 22*

### **Finnish defence policy is run well**

Four fifths of the population, 83 per cent (83 % in 2006) consider Finnish defence policy to have been run well in the past few years. Eighty-three per cent (83 %) of women and eighty-two per cent (82 %) of men hold this view. Roughly one sixth, 15 per cent (12 %), of the population considers the defence policy badly run. Thirteen per cent (10 %) of women and seventeen per cent (15 %) of men think this way.

Ninety-four per cent (90 % in 2006) of Centre Party supporters think that the defence policy has been run well and 85 per cent (87 %) of SDP, 79 per cent (74 %) of National Coalition and 74 per cent of Greens and Left Alliance (90 % and 83 %) supporters concur. *Figures 23 and 24*

### **The willingness to defend the nation remains at a high level**

Seventy-seven per cent (77 % in 2006) of citizens think that Finns must defend themselves militarily in all situations, even if the outcome were uncertain. Eighty-two per cent (84 %) of men and seventy-three per cent (70 %) of women hold this view. The defence will among older generations is higher compared to younger people. In the 50-79 age group 81 per cent (83 %) would take up arms to defend Finland whereas 80 per cent (79 %) in the 35-49 age group, 73 per cent (76 %) in the 25-34 age group and 70 per cent (62 %) in the 15-24 age group think that Finns must defend themselves militarily in all situations. This view is shared by 83 per cent (85 %) of Centre Party supporters as well as 77 per cent (83 %) of National Coalition, 76 per cent (78 %) of SDP, 71 per cent (78 %) of Left Alliance and 59 per cent (55 %) of Greens supporters.

A fifth, 19 per cent (20 % in 2006), of the population believes that Finns should not defend themselves militarily in all situations. Twenty-three per cent (25 %) of women and fifteen per cent (14 %) of men hold this view. This view is shared by 36 per cent (41 %) of Greens supporters and 29 per cent (11 %) of Left Alliance, 20 per cent (21 %) of SDP, 17 per cent (17 %) of National Coalition and 16 per cent (14 %) of Centre Party supporters share the same opinion.

## **A credible defence consists of several components**

This was the first time in survey history when a question related to credible defence was polled. The question listed 13 factors. Respondents were requested to assess each factor according to its respective significance to a credible defence.

With regard to a credible defence, good relations with neighbouring countries were considered the most important (95%). This was followed by the defence of the entire territory of the nation as well as the quantity, quality and maintainability of defence materiel (92 %), modern weapon systems (91%), citizens' will to defend the nation and the level of defence appropriations (90 %), conscription for men (87 %), the size of the reserve (78 %), regular refresher exercises (68 %), Finland's participation in peace support and crisis management operations (60 %), participation in the EU's battle groups (59 %), NATO interoperability of the weaponry and command systems as well as women's voluntary service (49 %). *Figure 27*

## **Why should Finland be defended?**

For the first time since 1974, respondents were asked why Finland should be defended. The question included nine factors, up to three of which could be selected.

The most important factors were Finland's independence and sovereignty (83 %). The second most important was territorial integrity (74 %). Finnish democracy was the third (38 %) most important factor and Finnishness came in fourth (36). These were followed by equality (15 %), welfare services (11 %), social insurance and pensions (9 %) and religion (3 %). *Figure 28*

## **The present level of the defence budget is approved of. Support for increased defence spending also exists**

Almost half of the citizens, 47 per cent (45 % in 2006) would keep defence spending at its present level. Whereas thirty-nine per cent (44 %) think the defence budget should be increased considerably or moderately, twelve per cent (8 %) are in favour of cutting defence spending.

Sixty per cent (47 % in 2006) of Centre Party supporters are happy with the present level of defence appropriations and 52 per cent (48 %) of SDP, 48 per cent (50 %) of Greens, 42 per cent (42 %) of left Alliance and 38 per cent of National Coalition supporters share the same opinion.

Thirty-three per cent (40 % in 2006) of women are in favour of increasing the defence budget and forty-five per cent (48 %) of men concur. Fifty-five per cent (56 %) of National Coalition supporters are in favour of raising defence appropriations and 38 per cent (45 %) of SDP, 36 per cent (48 %) of Centre Party, 36 per cent (37 %) of Left Alliance and 17 per cent (35 %) of Greens supporters concur.

Thirty-five per cent (14 % in 2006) of Greens supporters are in favour of cutting defence appropriations, 22 per cent (20 %) of Left Alliance, 9 per cent (7 %) of SDP, 7 per cent (6 %) of National Coalition and 4 per cent (6 %) of Centre Party supporters share the same opinion. *Figures 29 and 30*



## **General conscription has strong backing**

Seventy-three per cent (71 % in 2006) support present-style general conscription for men. Seventy-nine per cent (72 %) of women and 68 per cent (71 %) of men are of this opinion. The view is shared by 88 per cent (84 %) of Centre party supporters, 80 per cent (77 %) of SDP, 73 per cent (60 %) of Left Alliance, 65 per cent (66 %) of National Coalition and 49 per cent (59 %) of Greens supporters.

Roughly one fifth, 17 per cent (19 % in 2005) of the population supports a selective reduction of military training. Twelve per cent (19 %) of women and 22 per cent (18 %) of men concur. This view is shared by 34 per cent (29 %) of Greens supporters, 27 per cent (21 %) of National Coalition, 22 per cent (21 %) of Left Alliance, 12 per cent (21 %) of SDP and 6 per cent (5 %) of Centre Party supporters.

Nine per cent (10 % in 2006) of citizens view that Finland should abandon general conscription and, instead, create a fully professional military. Nine per cent (10 %) of men and eight per cent (7 %) of women think this way. Seventeen per cent (11 %) of Greens supporters hold the same view and 8 per cent (2 %) of SDP, 7 per cent (13 %) of National Coalition and 5 per cent of Left Alliance and Centre Party (19 % and 5 %) supporters agree with this opinion.

## **Should selective service be introduced, individual willingness to serve is emphasized**

A new question polled respondents' views on selection criteria for national service, should the size of the annual conscript intake be reduced. The question included six multiple choices as well as an option to add some other criterion. The respondent was allowed to pick the two most important selection criteria.

The conscript's own willingness / motivation to serve became the most popular criterion (72 %). The second most often selected criterion was physical and mental fitness, based on tests (60 %), followed by voluntariness (32 %) and a balanced geographical representation (20 %). Lottery, comprehensive school or upper secondary school diplomas were not considered important (2 %).

*Figure 33*

## **Support for Defence Forces participation in military tasks at home and abroad**

Almost all Finns, 98 per cent (98 % in 2006), are of the opinion that the Defence Forces' task is to defend the territorial integrity of the nation. The question was first polled in 2004 and the result has been the same ever since.

Two thirds of citizens, 68 per cent (63 % in 2006), are of the opinion that one of the military tasks of the Finnish Defence Forces is to participate in the defence of the European Union. A little less than one third, 28 per cent (31 %), of the population disagrees. There is no gender gap whatsoever with regard to this question.

Half of the citizens, 50 per cent (46 % in 2006), consider participation in crisis and threat prevention in various parts of the world a military task for the Defence Forces. A little less than one half, 47 per cent (49 %), disagree.

## **The future seems increasingly insecure**

Almost half of the citizens, 46 per cent (47 % in 2006), believe that Finland and Finns will live in a less secure world during the next five years. Fifty-three per cent (57 %) of women and 40 per cent (37%) of men think so. This opinion is shared by 56 per cent (39 %) in the 25-34 age group, 49 per cent (53 %) in the 35-49 age group, 43 per cent (36 %) in the 15-24 age group and by 42 per cent (50 %) in the 50-79 age group.

Conversely, twenty-four per cent (20 % in 2006) of citizens believe that Finland and Finns will live in a more secure world during the next five years. A little less than one third, 29 per cent (31 %), of the population see no difference from the present. *Figures 36 and 37*

## **EU-provided security has increased**

The most favoured security-building factor was Finland's participation in the European common defence, 69 per cent (55 % in 2006). This was followed by the EU's counter-terrorist activities, 64 per cent (48 %); Finland's membership in the EU, 60 per cent (49 %); Finnish participation in the EU's battle groups, 50 per cent (36 %); Finland's increased international business activities, 48 per cent (43 %) and Finland's military non-alignment, 45 per cent (42 %). Thirty-seven per cent (31 %) of the respondents consider that Finland's possible NATO membership will increase security, whereas 35 per cent (31 %) of the respondents believe that it will decrease security.

The most often cited security-decreasing factors included the war against terrorism declared by the United States and Russia, 48 per cent (50 % in 2006); the increase of foreign ownership in the Finnish economy, 45 per cent (43 %); as well as Turkey's possible membership in the European Union, 37 per cent (41%).

Factors considered insignificant to the security of Finland included Sweden's military non-alignment, 65 per cent (67% in 2006); Sweden's possible NATO membership, 51 per cent (62 %); the potential NATO membership of the Ukraine, 62 per cent (63 %), as well as the NATO memberships of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, 59 per cent (60 %). *Figures 38, 39, 40 and 41*

## **The UN and the EU increase Finland's security**

A new question polled the influence of the UN, the EU, NATO, the OSCE, Russia, the USA and China on Finnish security. Respondents could choose between positive effect, negative effect or both positive and negative.

Seventy-two per cent of citizens think that the UN has a positive influence on Finland's security. One fifth, 20 per cent, believes that the UN is irrelevant to Finland's security and seven per cent estimated the UN's influence to be both positive and negative. One per cent regarded the UN as negative.

Over half, 59 per cent, of citizens think that the EU has a positive influence on Finland's security. Twenty per cent estimate the EU's influence as both positive and negative and 15 per cent regard the EU as irrelevant to Finland's security. Five per cent view the EU as a negative influence on Finland's security.

A little less than half of the citizens, 46 per cent, estimate that the OSCE has a positive influence on Finland's security. Twenty-nine per cent think that it is irrelevant, 14 per cent as both positive and negative and two per cent as a negative influence.

Whereas 23 per cent of citizens consider NATO as a positive influence on Finland's security, 28 per cent believe it is negative. Twenty-three per cent regard NATO's effect as both positive and negative and 22 per cent consider it irrelevant to Finland's security.

Eleven per cent of citizens consider the influence of the United States as positive on Finland's security and 23 per cent deem it negative. Thirty-one per cent regard it both positive and negative and 33 per cent consider it irrelevant to Finland's security.

Eleven per cent of citizens consider Russia's influence as positive on Finland's security and 34 per cent deem it negative. Thirty-four per cent regard it both positive and negative and 19 per cent consider it irrelevant to Finland's security.

Half of the citizens, 50 per cent, consider China irrelevant to Finland's security. Nine per cent believe that China's influence is positive, 14 per cent negative and 23 per cent judge it to be both positive and negative. *Figure 41*

### **Situation stable in Finland's near environs**

Two thirds of the population, 68 per cent (70% in 2006), believe that the military situation in Finland's near environs will remain the same during the next ten years. Roughly one fifth, 22 per cent (17 %), think it will be more threatening. Twenty-four per cent (21 %) of women and nineteen per cent (14 %) of men think this way. Nine per cent (10 %), consider the situation as less threatening. Thirteen per cent (14 %) of men and six per cent (6 %) of women share this opinion.

### **The use of the Earth's natural resources and global warming cause the most concern**

The most often cited causes for concern of the multiple choices are the use of the Earth's natural resources, 96 per cent (84 % in 2006); global warming, 87 per cent (73 %); international terrorism, 89 per cent (83%); nuclear weapons, 86 per cent (83%); the use of nuclear power in Russia, 81 per cent (74 %) and international organized crime, 78 per cent (73 %). *Figures 44, 45 and 46*

### **Good preparedness for epidemics, worse preparedness for climate change**

A new question polled Finland's preparedness against various threats. The question listed eleven threat scenarios and respondents were asked to provide their opinion on how well or how badly Finland had prepared against the potential threats.

Citizens believe that Finnish preparedness against the following is either excellent or fairly good: Contagious diseases and epidemics (86 %); disasters (79 %); problems in energy supply (78 %); armed attack (74 %); uncontrollable migration (68 %); various environmental threats such as floods, oil spills and transport of dangerous goods (67 %); international crime (62 %); political pressure (59 %); terrorism (56 %); cyber-attacks (56 %) and climate change (49 %). *Figure 47*

## **Finland's participation in peace support and crisis management tasks in war zones**

ABDI polled Finnish participation in peace support and crisis management tasks in war zones for the first time in 2003. This year the question was repeated.

Half of the citizens, 52 per cent (64 % in 2003), think that Finland should participate in peace support and crisis management tasks in war zones. Fifty-two per cent (67 %) of women and fifty-one per cent (61 %) of men think so. This opinion is shared by 69 per cent (69 %) of Greens supporters, 60 per cent (60 %) of National Coalition, 55 per cent (67 %) of Centre Party, 48 per cent (58 %) of SDP and by 45 per cent (56 %) of Left Alliance supporters.

A little less than half, 43 per cent (30 % in 2003), of the population thinks that Finland should not participate in peace support and crisis management tasks in war zones. This opinion is shared by 45 per cent (35 %) of men and 41 per cent (25 %) of women. Fifty-two per cent (42 %) of Left Alliance supporters hold this view and, 47 per cent (38 %) of SDP, 41 per cent (27 %) of Centre Party, 33 per cent (36 %) of National Coalition and 29 per cent (27 %) of Greens supporters concur.

## **ABDI Research Branch 2007- 2011**

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