

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY

The opinions of Finns about the foreign, security and defence policy of Finland and the reform of the Defence Forces were studied in an interview survey that was commissioned by the Advisory Board of Defence Information, ABDI. There were also questions about Finland's presence in Afghanistan, the factors that have an effect on Finland's security and the sense of security, the development of security in the five years to come and factors that cause concern. There were a total of 19 questions of which two were completely new.

The survey was done by the market research company Taloustutkimus Oy on commission by the ABDI, and it was conducted in interviews as part of an omnibus survey. A total of 965 persons were interviewed. The target group was the 15 to 79-year-old Finns except for the province of Åland. Age, sex, region and type of municipality represented the quotas in the sample. Interviews were conducted in 89 places, of which 46 were cities and 43 were other type of municipalities. The sample was weighed according to the target group with the weighed numbers corresponding to Finland's population of 15 to 79-year-olds in thousands (Official Statistics of Finland (OSF) 31.12.2010).

The interviews were conducted between 21.11. and 11.12.2011. The overall error of margin is  $\pm$  three point two (3.2) percentage points.

When interpreting background variables related to party affiliation, it must be taken into account that the error margin is smaller for large parties. As a result, more reliable data can be collected on them than on the small parties who have fewer supporters in the survey.

To find out about party affiliations, the respondents were asked, "If the general elections were held now, which party would get your vote?" 72% (694 people) revealed their political views and 28% (271 people) chose not to reveal it.

The report consists of text sections and illustrating figures which also show the time sequences of previous questions. The illustrations were prepared in Taloustutkimus Oy. Some of the questions form a comprehensive time sequence since 1964. The questions were drawn up by the Research Branch and the Work Branch of the Advisory Board of Defence Information. The report was drafted by the Research Branch.

The data from this survey, like the previous surveys, are stored in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive at the University of Tampere ([www.fsd.uta.fi](http://www.fsd.uta.fi)). The ABDI's survey reports are available in Finnish, Swedish and English on the home page of the Ministry of Defence, [www.defmin.fi/mts](http://www.defmin.fi/mts).

The results of the survey are public and accessible by all. When using the results it should be stated that they are from the survey of the Advisory Board of Defence Information.

## PREFACE

Compared to a similar survey conducted a year ago, the changes are relatively small. Finns place a lot of Confidence in the activities of the Defence Forces and the will to defend the country remains on a high level. The management of defence policy receives strong support.

The answers to the questions regarding the European Union show that criticism against it has increased. However, 53% think that Finland's membership in the EU is the single most important factor which has an effect on the security of Finland and Finns. In 2010, 71% were of this opinion.

The biggest concern for Finns are the economic outlook for Europe and the future of welfare services in Finland: 84 percent think that the economic situation Europe is the most worrying issue while for 75 percent of the respondents the welfare services are the most worrying issue in the future.

The Confidence of Finns in a more secure future has diminished and now less than one-fifth or 17 percent believe that Finland and Finns live in a more secure world in a five years' time. A year ago 27 percent were of this opinion.

There has been a lively discussion about the reform of the Defence Forces for some time now. It is stated in the Government programme that the Government will launch a large-scale reform of the Defence Forces. In addition, the implementation of planned savings requires that action be taken at the very beginning of the four-year parliamentary term to bring necessary savings.

What do citizens think about the planned changes, the targeting of savings and general conscription? At the beginning of 2011, the ABDI conducted a survey on these topics and the same questions were asked also in this survey. Possible changes are regarded with certain reservations; more than two-thirds or 71 percent thought that the size of the reserves should be kept on the current level.

Sixty-three percent of the respondents are in favour of the current defence system which is based on general conscription for men. Cutting the number of conscripts which means a more selective conscript service is supported by one-fourth or 26% of the respondents while nine percent are in favour of a professional army. The figures are the same as in 2010.

Participation in international peacekeeping and crisis-management tasks (45%), reservist training (29%), garrisons and exercise areas (20%), and defence materiel acquisitions and personnel (19%) are given as primary options where the Defence Forces could bring savings.

Strong support is given to military non-alignment (69%) while Finland's membership in Nato is supported by fewer respondents than before. One-fifth or 20 percent are in favour of Finland seeking membership in Nato whereas 70 percent are against it.

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### **Confidence in a more secure future has diminished**

Less than one-fifth or 17 percent believe that Finland and Finns will live a safer world in the next five years (27% in 2010): 21 percent of men (32%) and 13 percent (22%) of women are of this opinion.

Two-fifths or 42 percent (41% in 2010) believe that Finland and Finns will live in a less safe world in the next five years: 48 percent (48%) of women and 35 percent (35%) of men are of this opinion.

Forty percent (30% in 2010) think that the situation will not differ from the current situation: 42 percent (32%) of men and 38 percent (29%) of women share this view. (*Figures 1 and 2*)

### **Finland's membership in the European Union increases security**

Since 2004 the ABDI has put forward a question which lists various phenomena and factors and respondents are asked to assess their effect on the security of Finland and Finns on the scale 'increases security – has no effect on security – decreases security'. Each year Finland's membership in the European Union has been mentioned as the factor that most increases security. This year 53 percent of the respondents were of this opinion (71% in 2010). The percentage has alternated between 49 and 71. In 2004 it was 52% which comes close to the percentage this year. Now one-third or 34 percent believe that it has no significance (22%) and 10 percent believe that membership in the EU decreases security (5%).

The following are also mentioned as factors that increase security: Finland's participation in the common defence of the EU, 52 percent (69% in 2010); according to almost one-third or 31 percent it has no effect (22%) while 12 percent believe that it decreases security.

Forty-one percent believe that Finland's military non-alignment increases the security of Finland and Finns (41% in 2010); according to 34 percent (33%) it has no effect while 17 percent (20%) believe that it decreases security.

Thirty-nine percent (52% in 2010) believe that Finland's international trade relations increase security; 40 percent (37%) think that they have no effect while 16 percent (6%) believe that they decrease security.

One-third or 33 percent believe that membership in Nato would decrease the security of Finland and Finns (27% in 2010 when the formulation was *possible* membership); 29 percent (32%) do not believe it has any effect while 28 percent (35%) believe that it would increase security).

Growing foreign ownership in the Finnish economy is seen by 51 percent (43% in 2010) as the factor which most decreases security; over one-third or 36 percent (37%) do not believe it has any effect while eight percent (9%) believe that it increases security).

Seventy-two percent (62% in 2010) believe that the security of Finland and Finns is not influenced by Sweden's decision to abandon general conscription.

Almost one-half or 46 percent (40% in 2010) believe that Finland's participation in crisis-management tasks in war zones does not influence the security of Finland and Finns. Less than one-fifth or 17

percent (22%) believe that it will increase security and about one-third or 31 percent (32%) do not believe that it decreases security. (*Figures 3, 4 and 5*)

### **The economic outlook for Europe causes most concern**

Since 2004 the ABDI has put forward a question which lists various phenomena and factors and respondents are asked to assess the concern they cause on the scale 'a lot – to some extent – little – not at all'. Some of the phenomena and factors have been included all the time and in some parts the list has been reviewed. This year new factors included the economic outlook for Europe, income inequality in Finland, rising armament costs in Russia, and the social unrest in North Africa and the Middle East (the so-called Arab spring).

The factors that cause most concern are related to the following: the economic outlook for Europe; welfare services in Finland; the employment situation in Finland; the financial crisis; and the economic outlook for Finland. The factors that cause less concern are related to the following: social unrest in North Africa and the Middle East (the so-called Arab spring); the growing number of immigrants in Finland; a terrorist act in Finland; and rising armament costs in Russia.

The factors that cause most concern are the following: the economic outlook for Europe (84 percent); employment situation in Finland 75 percent (71% in 2010); welfare services in Finland 75 percent (78%); the financial crisis 74 percent (62%); the economic outlook for Finland 72 percent (60%); international organised crime 70 percent (79%); proliferation of weapons of mass destruction 69 percent (71%); sufficiency of natural resources 69 percent (76%); international terrorism 67 percent (70%); income inequality in Finland 64 percent; cyber crime 59 percent (60%); nuclear weapons 57 percent (60%); global warming 54 percent (63%); the situation in the Middle East 49 percent (46%); development in Russia 47 percent (49%); rising armament costs in Russia 43 percent; terrorist act in Finland 41 percent (45%); the growing number of immigrants in Finland 38 percent (51%); social unrest in North Africa and the Middle East (the so-called Arab spring) 37 percent. (*Figures 6,7,8,9 and 10*)

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

Four out of five respondents, 81 percent, consider that Finnish defence policy is well run (76% in 2010); 82 percent of men (76%) and 80 percent of women (76%) were of this opinion.

As to the supporters of the Centre Party, 94 percent (80% in 2010) were of this opinion; 88 percent (73%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 83 percent (89%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 82 percent (75%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 73 percent (77%) of the supporters of the Greens; and 69 percent (57%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance.

Eleven percent (19% in 2010) of the respondents believe that defence policy is badly run: 12 percent (21%) of men and 11 percent (18%) of women. As to the supporters of the Greens, 19 percent (22%) were of this opinion; 15 percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party and of the Left Alliance (24% and 40% respectively); 11 percent (11%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 6 percent (22%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 5 percent (17%) of the supporters of the Centre Party. (*Figures 11 and 12*)

### **The will to defend the country militarily is on a high level**

If Finland was attacked, should it defend itself militarily even if the outcome was uncertain? Seventy-six percent (74% in 2010) answered in the affirmative: 86 percent (79%) of men and 67 percent (70%) of women shared this view. Over the years the difference between men and women has varied between 9 and 19 percentage points. As to the age groups, 81 percent of the 50 to 79-year-olds answered in the affirmative (79%); 75 percent of the 15 to 24-year-olds and of the 35 to 49-year-olds (65% and 74% respectively); and 67 percent (71%) of the 25 to 35-year-olds.

Eighty-five percent of the supporters of the Centre Party and of the Coalition Party answered in the affirmative (79% and 86% respectively in 2010); 78 percent (81%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 77 percent (78%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 74 percent (66%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 65 percent (57%) of the supporters of the Greens.

Less than one-fifth or 18 percent (20% in 2010) answered in the negative; 24 percent (25%) of women and 12 percent (15%) of men. Twenty-nine percent (42%) of the supporters of the Greens; 20 percent (17%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 18 percent (28%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance; 17 percent (16%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 14 percent (15%) of the supporters of the Centre Party; and 11 percent (9) of the supporters of the Coalition Party hold this view. (*Figures 13 and 14*)

### **General conscription**

Sixty-three percent of the respondents (63% in 2010) support the general conscription system for men: 64 percent (66%) of women and 62 percent (59%) of men. The youngest age groups, the 15 to 24-year-olds offer the strongest support to the current system, 70 percent (63%); among the over 50-year-olds 66 percent (64%); among the 35 to 39-year-olds 63 percent (62%); and among the 25 to 34-year-olds 50 percent (61%) share this view.

As to the supporters of the Centre Party, 79 percent (63% in 2010) support to the current system; 63 percent (70%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 62 percent (64) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 61 percent (59%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 43 percent (53%) of the supporters of the Greens; and 35 percent (54%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance are of this opinion.

Cutting the number of conscripts in training which means a more selective conscript service is supported by one-fourth or 26% of the respondents (27% in 2010): 27 percent (28%) of men and 26 percent (26%) of women. Among the age groups the 25 to 34-year-olds are strongest in favour of selectiveness, 37 percent (24%); 28 percent (31%) of the over 50-year-olds; 25 percent (30%) of the 35 to 49-year-olds; and 15 percent (16%) of the 15 to 24-year-olds.

Forty-six percent (16% in 2010) of the supporters of the Left Alliance are in favour of increased selectiveness; 42 percent (41%) of the supporters of the Greens; 33 percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party and of the True Finns Party (31% and 28% respectively); 30 percent (24%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 17 percent (28%) of the supporters of Centre Party share this opinion.

Nine percent (9% in 2010) of the respondents are in favour of a professional arm: nine percent (12%) of men and eight percent (6%) of women. (*Figures 15 and 16*)

## **The reform of the Defence Forces**

In early 2011 polls were conducted on request by the ABDI about the Defence Forces' reform, defence appropriations and Afghanistan related questions. In this survey a number of same questions were asked in connection with the reform.

### ***The wartime troops or the size of the reserves (now 350 000 troops)***

Seventy-one percent (68% in March 2011) think that *the size of the reserves should be kept on the current level*: 73 percent of women (72%) and 68 percent of men (65%) were of this opinion.

Less than one-fifth or 17 percent (15% in March 2011) think that *the size of the reserves should be cut*: 22 percent of men (20%) and 13 percent of women (10%) were of this opinion.

Nine percent (12% in March 2011) think that *the size of the reserves should be increased*: ten percent of women (11%) and nine percent of men (13%) were of this opinion. (Figures 17 and 20)

### ***Participation in peacekeeping and crisis-management tasks***

Two-thirds or 65 percent think that *participation in peacekeeping and crisis-management tasks should be kept on the current level* (55% in March 2011): 67 percent (54%) of women and 63 percent (55%) of men were of this opinion.

One-fourth or 24 percent think that *participation in peacekeeping and crisis-management tasks should be decreased* (22% in March 2011): 27 percent (23%) of men and 21 percent (20%) of women were of this opinion.

Eight percent think that *participation in peacekeeping and crisis-management tasks should be increased* (22% in March 2011). There is no difference between men and women. (Figures 18 and 20)

### ***The conscription system***

The defence administration is currently preparing the Defence Forces' reform where the goal is to maintain a credible defence capability in a more cost-effective manner than today. In your opinion, what should be the basic premise for the reform? Which of the following describes best your opinion about the way the issue in question should be dealt with to implement the reform? The question differs from the ABDI's time sequence question regarding general conscription in that the introduction of conscript service on a voluntary basis is included.

Fifty-nine percent (51% in March 2011) think that *the current conscription system should be kept*: 60 percent of women (52%) and 58 percent of men (49%) were of this opinion.

Twenty-six percent are in favour of *cutting the number of conscripts in training which means a more selective conscript service*; the result was 21% in March 2011 with the formulation *a more selective conscript service*. 28 percent of men (21%) and 23 percent of women (22%) were of this opinion.

Six percent (17% in March 2011) are in favour of *introducing conscription service on a voluntary basis*. Eight percent of men (15%) and seven percent of women (19%) were of this opinion.

Seven percent of the respondents (nine percent in March 2011) support the *introduction of a professional army*. (Figures 19 and 20)

### **The criteria to maintain or abolish garrisons and military units**

In 2005 the ABDI inquired about the criteria to maintain or abolish garrisons and military units. Respondents were asked to choose two the most important ones out of six different criteria. The employment situation (17%) was included as the 7<sup>th</sup> criterion in 2011 and therefore the results between the survey in 2005 and 2011 cannot be fully compared.

The most important criteria to maintain or abolish garrisons and military units are the following:

National defence considerations 66 percent (72% in 2005); the need for military training 36 percent (46%); taking the different parts of Finland equally into consideration 31 percent (33%); regional policy matters 21 percent (10%); reasons related to state economy 17 percent (11%); and military traditions in the area 8 percent (4%). (Figure 21)

### **Cost savings to be found in international activities, the benefits of conscripts should not be targeted**

If defence appropriations are cut, how in your opinion should the cuts be targeted? This question was asked also in the survey of March 2011. The respondents were asked to choose between 0 and 3 principal targets and the following were chosen:

Participation in international peace-keeping and crisis-management tasks 45 percent (36% in March 2011); refresher training 29 percent (21%); garrisons and training areas 20 percent (19%); defence materiel acquisitions 19 percent (23%); the personnel of the Defence Forces 19 percent (15%); equipping the wartime troops or the reserves 17 percent (18%); exercises and maintaining readiness 11 percent (10%); daily allowances and social benefits of conscripts 6 percent (6%). (Figure 22)

### **Support to military non-alignment**

Sixty-nine percent of the respondents (68% in 2010) are in favour of Finland remaining a militarily non-aligned country: 72 percent of men (67%) and 66 percent of women (67%) support this.

As to the supporters of the Left Alliance, 88 percent (96% in 2010) are in favour of **military non-alignment**; 84 percent (65%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 77 percent (73%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 73 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party and the Greens (70% and 75% respectively); and 43 percent (49%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party share this opinion.

One-fifth or 21 percent support military alignment (27% in 2010): 22 percent (28%) of men and 21 percent (26%) of women. Fifty-one percent (46%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 21 percent (22%) of the supporters of the Greens; 20 percent (21%) of the supporters of the Centre Party; 15 percent (25%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 11 percent (31%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 10 percent (4%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance are in favour of military alignment.



Ten percent (6% in 2010) of the respondents had no opinion. (*Figures 23 and 24*)

### **Support to the membership in Nato has slightly decreased**

Two-thirds or 70 percent (68% in 2010) are of the opinion that Finland should not seek membership in Nato: 71 percent (66%) of men and 68 percent (70) of women.

One-fifth or 20 percent (25% in 2010) think that Finland should seek membership in Nato: 21 percent (28%) of men and 19 percent (22%) of women. Fifty-five percent (48%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 16 percent (15%) of the supporters of the Greens; 14 percent (22%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 12 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party and of the True Finns Party (15% and 27% respectively); and 7 percent (4%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance support this.

Ten percent (6% in 2010) of the respondents had no opinion.

The ABDI has asked about Finland's membership in Nato since 2005 and for this survey for the 7<sup>th</sup> time. Support to membership has varied between 20 and 28 percentage units and objection to it between 70 and 60 percentage units. In this survey objection to membership in Nato is at its strongest and support at its weakest. (*Figures 25 and 26*)

### **Satisfaction with the level of defence appropriations**

A half or 50 percent of citizens are satisfied with the current level of defence appropriations (45% in March 2011, 50% in 2010): 56 percent of women (54% in March 2011, 55% in 2010) and 44 percent of men (37% in March 2011, 44% in 2010).

Twenty-seven percent support increased defence appropriations (34% in March 2011, 31% in 2010): 32 percent of men (39% in March 2011, 35% in 2010) and 24 percent of women (28% in March 2011, 27% in 2010).

Nineteen percent support defence appropriations cuts (18% in March 2011, 17% in 2010): 21 percent of men (20% in March 2011, 19% in 2010) and 17 percent of women (15% in March 2011, 15% in 2010).

As to the supporters of the Coalition Party, 38 percent are in favour of increased defence appropriations (45% in March 2011, 48% in 2010); 36 percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party (47% in March 2011, 33% in 2010); 28 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party (31% in March 2011, 30% in 2010); 24 percent of the supporters of the Greens (25% in March 2011, 20% in 2010); 18 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party (32% in March 2011, 29% in 2010); and one percent of the supporters of the Left Alliance (7% in March 2011, 26% in 2010) are in favour of increased defence appropriations.

As to the supporters of the Greens, 42 percent support defence appropriations cuts (25% in March 2011, 24% in 2010); 40 percent of the supporters of the Left Alliance (46% in March 2011, 39% in 2010); 21 percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party (15% in March 2011, 16% in 2010); 20 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party (22% in March 2011, 17% in 2010); 17 percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party (13% in March 2011, 9% in 2010); and 9 percent of the

supporters of the Centre Party (11% in March 2011, 22% in 2010) are of this opinion. (*Figures 27 and 28*)

### **Good relations with neighbouring countries are central to credible defence**

Since 2007 the ABDI has put forward a question on credible defence. Various factors are listed and their effect on credible defence is assessed on the scale ‘very much or quite a lot – to some extent – very little or no effect’.

The following are seen to have very much or quite a lot of effect on credible defence:

Good relations with the neighbouring countries 97 percent (86% in 2010); defence of the entire country 90 percent (90%); the amount, quality and security of supply of defence materiel 90 percent (91%); the will of citizens to defend the country 87 percent (88%); modern weapon systems 87 percent (89%); general conscription for men 85 percent (85%); the level of defence appropriations 83 percent (87%); the size of the reserves 72 percent (77%); Finland’s participation in organising the common defence in the EU 75 percent (a new item); compatibility of command and weapon systems with Nato 49 percent (57%); conscript service for women on a voluntary basis 48 percent (46%). (*Figures 29, 30 and 31*)

### **The Defence Forces have military tasks in Finland and abroad**

Since autumn 2004 the ABDI has put forward a question on the military tasks of the Defence Forces. The question includes three different items: the defence of Finland’s territorial integrity; participation in the defence of the European Union; and participation in combating crises and security threats in different parts of the world. Each item is to be answered separately.

#### *The defence of Finland’s territorial integrity*

The defence of Finland’s territorial integrity is seen, clearly and unanimously, as the military task of the Defence Forces. Almost all of the respondents, 97 percent (97% in 2010) share this view. The result has varied between 95 and 98 percentage units.

#### *Participation in the defence of the European Union*

There are slightly divided views on the participation in the defence of the European Union. Sixty-one percent (69% in 2010) see it as one of the military tasks of the Defence Forces: 62 percent (71%) of women and 59 percent (67%) of men. The result has varied between 71 and 61 percentage units.

One-third or 32 percent (26% in 2010) are opposed to this: 35 percent (30%) of men and 29 percent (24%) of women. As to the supporters of the Centre Party, 53 percent (34%) do not think that participation in the defence of the European Union is one of the military tasks of the Defence Forces. Forty-five percent (25%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 38 percent (52%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance; 32 percent (15%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 30 percent (28%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 24 percent (16%) of the supporters of the Greens share this opinion.

*Participation in combating crises and security threats in different parts of the world*

Fifty-three percent (56% in 2010) think that participation in combating crises and security threats in different parts of the world is one of the military tasks of the Defence Forces: 60 percent (60%) of women and 47 percent (52%) of men. The result has varied between 56 and 46 percentage units. As to the supporters of the Greens, 71 percent (69%) are of this opinion; 58 percent (69%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 52 percent (49%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 45 percent (49%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 43 percent (45%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 41 percent (55%) of the supporters of the Centre Party share this view.

Less than a half or 40 percent (40% in 2010) are opposed to this view: 49 percent (45%) of men and 31 percent (35%) of women. Fifty-two percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party and of the Centre Party (41% and 49% respectively); 46 percent (52%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance; 42 percent (50%) of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 36 percent (28%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; and 29 percent (27%) of the supporters of the Greens are opposed. (*Figure 32*)

**The military situation in near-by areas is not thought to change**

The ABDI has put forward the question ‘How do you assess the situation in Finland’s neighbouring areas over the next ten years?’ in 2004, 2005 and 2007. Over two-thirds or 70 percent (68% in 2007) think that the military situation in Finland’s neighbouring areas remains the same over the next ten years: seventy-two percent (68%) of men and 67 percent (67%) of women.

One-fifth or 21 percent see the situation as more threatening (22% in 2007): twenty-four percent (24%) of women and 19 percent (19%) of men.

Seven percent (6% in 2007) see the situation as less threatening: six percent (6%) of women and 8 percent (13%) of men. (*Figures 33 and 34*)

**Confidence in the management of foreign policy**

Three-fourths or 76 percent think that in recent years Finland’s foreign policy has been run very well or rather well (80% in 2010): 77 percent (80%) of women and 75 percent (79%) of men.

Nineteen percent (15% in 2010) think that it is fairly badly or very badly run: 19 percent (14%) of women and 18 percent (16%) of men. Young people who are under 25 years take the most critical view: 64 percent (74%) think that foreign policy is well run while 23 percent (16%) think that it is badly run.

Eighty-four percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party and of the Greens think that foreign policy is well run (94% and 89% respectively); 79 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Left Alliance (83% and 70% respectively); 77 percent (77%) of the supporters of the Centre Party; and 68 percent (79%) of the supporters of the True Finns Party share this opinion.

Twenty-nine percent (20% in 2010) of the supporters of the True Finns Party think that foreign policy is badly run; 21 percent (18%) of the supporters of the Centre Party; 19 percent (13%) of the supporters of the Social democratic Party; 15 percent (5%) of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 14

percent (27%) of the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 10 percent (7%) of the supporters of the Greens share this view. (*Figures 35 and 36*)

### **Finland's military presence in Afghanistan**

In this survey there were three new questions relating to Afghanistan. Respondents were asked whether Finland's military presence in Afghanistan should be ended by the end of 2012 or 2014 or whether it should be continued for the time being.

Forty-three percent think that Finland's military presence in Afghanistan should be ended by the end of 2012: 43% of women and 42% of men. As to age groups, the strongest support (49%) to this is among the over 50-year-olds. Forty-four percent of the 35 to 49-year olds and one-third of the 15 to 24-year-olds and of the 25 to 34-year-olds share this view.

As to the supporters of the Left Alliance, 55 percent were of this opinion whereas 50 percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 49 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 45 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party; and 31 percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party share this opinion.

Twenty-two percent think that Finland should end military presence in Afghanistan by the end of 2014: twenty-two percent of men and 21 percent of women. Thirty-six percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 32 % of the supporters of the Greens; 23 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 21 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party; 19 percent of the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 15 percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party share this opinion.

Less than one-third or 30 percent think that Finland should continue its military presence for the time being: 31 percent of men and 29 percent of women. Thirty-three percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 32 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party; 27 percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 26 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 23 percent of the Greens; and 18 percent of the supporters of the Left Alliance support this. (*Figure 37*)

### **Support to Finland's participation in civilian crisis management and development cooperation tasks in Afghanistan**

When asked whether Finland should continue civilian crisis-management tasks in Afghanistan 70 percent answered in the affirmative: 71 percent of men and 68 percent of women.

Twenty-five percent take a negative view on continued civilian crisis management in Afghanistan: 26 percent of men and 25 percent of women. Thirty-eight percent of the supporters of the True Finns Party; 24 percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party and of the Social Democratic Party; 22 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party; 21 percent of the supporters of the Greens; and 17 percent of the supporters of the Left Alliance.

Eighty-four percent believe that Finland should continue development cooperation tasks in Afghanistan: 84 percent of women and 83 percent of men.

Thirteen percent of the respondents do not think that Finland should continue development cooperation tasks: 15 percent of men and 11 percent of women. Twenty-six percent of the supporters of the True

Finns Party; 13 percent of the supporters of the Coalition Party; 10 percent of the supporters of the Centre Party and of the Left Alliance; 9 percent of the supporters of the Social Democratic Party ; and 7 percent of the supporters of the Greens take this view. (*Figures 38 and 39*)

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