

The Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Adopted at the Work Branch meeting on 30 April 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI) acts as a parliamentary forum that organises dialogue on security policy, national defence and preparedness for crisis situations and emergencies among NGOs, decision-makers, authorities, the media and specialists. The ABDI monitors general preparedness for crisis situations and emergencies in society and studies the related needs with a special focus on communications.

While helping NGOs and the media to develop their expertise and competences in security policy, national defence and preparedness the ABDI surveys public attitudes towards security policy issues, national defence and general crisis awareness. It also carries out close cooperation at Nordic level, especially with partners in Norway and Sweden.

ABDI IN THE YEAR OF CHANGE 2023

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which has been on-going since February 2022, has had a fundamental impact on Finland's foreign and security policy and security environment. In the spring of the year under review, Finland joined NATO and there was a great deal of destabilising activity around the world and in Finland's neighbouring areas during the year.

The new Government appointed a new ABDI in September 2023. Until 7 September 2023, the ABDI was chaired by communications manager *Harri Järvinen* (SDP), with student *Asseri Kinnunen* (Finns Party) and MP *Sofia Vikman* (Coalition Party) as Deputy Chairs. The Government appointed MP *Jarno Limnell* (Coalition Party) as the Chair of the ABDI starting its work in September 2023. The ABDI elected parliamentary assistant *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party) and MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (SDP) as Deputy Chairs from among its members. The outgoing and new ABDI met in November at the traditional handover event.

The consequences of the coronavirus pandemic continued to have an impact on the manner in which the ABDI carries out its annual survey. As was done already in 2020, the 2023 survey was carried out in a combination of personal interviews and an internet panel. Before 2020, the survey was conducted only in the form of personal interviews. In a parliamentary election year, the ABDI publishes the survey results at the start of the year following the elections. For this reason, the results of the 2023 survey were published in 2024.

Until 7 September 2023, the ABDI had a Work Branch, Organisation Branch, Education Branch, Media Branch and Research Branch. The new ABDI reduced the number of branches by one by merging the Organisation Branch and the Education Branch into the Education and Organisation Branch.

Since early 2020, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, most of the ABDI's activities have been organised on the basis of the hybrid model, which means that participants have been able to attend meetings and seminars on site or via an online connection. The hybrid model has also impacted the ABDI's activities so that remote work has become a well-established alternative to office work for the secretariat.

SEMINARS

The ABDI arranged the following seminars in 2023:

Impact and role of surveys – research seminar at Ostrobothnia in Helsinki on 2 February 2023

The ABDI's Chair *Harri Järvinen* opened the event.

The discussions at the seminar were chaired by PhD *Riku Keski-Rauska*, Chair of the Research Branch, who also took part in them.

Iro Särkkä, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, gave a presentation on the theme *Playing fields of foreign and security policy – what is happening and where are we heading?*.

The following persons took part in the discussion on the theme *How surveys are used to gauge citizens' views and perspectives of the nation*:

- *Markus Sovala*, Director General, Statistics Finland
- *Juho Jyrkiäinen*, Senior Specialist, Prime Minister's Office
- *Sami Borg*, Research Manager, Foundation for Municipal Development

The following persons took part in the discussion on the theme *How opinions are surveyed now and in the future and how the comparability of the results can be ensured*:

- *Jari Pajunen*, Managing Director, Taloustutkimus
- *Sakari Nurmela*, Research Director, Kantar Public

The following persons took part in the panel discussion on the theme *Assessing the opinion research work carried out by ABDI*:

- MP *Jussi Halla-aho*, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- MP *Riitta Mäkinen*, Member of the Defence Committee
- Brigadier General *Tero Ylitalo*, Chief of Planning, Defence Command
- *Jarmo Pykälä*, Secretary General of the Committee of 100 in Finland
- Journalist *Niilo Simojoki*

About 65 persons attended the seminar on site at Ostrobothnia and the streaming was followed on nearly 30 terminal devices during the event. A total of nearly 100 persons attended the seminar.

Election seminar in the auditorium of the Finnish National Museum on 28 February 2023

The ABDI's Chair *Harri Järvinen* opened the event.

The opening of the seminar was followed by a *panel discussion of the chairs or representatives of the parties whose candidates have been elected to Parliament in the parliamentary elections*. The following persons took part in the discussion:

- Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade *Ville Skinnari*, Deputy Chair of the Social Democratic Party of Finland
- MP *Riikka Purra*, Chair of the Finns Party

- Chair of the Defence Committee *Antti Häkkänen*, Deputy Chair of the National Coalition Party
- MP and Member of the Defence Committee *Joonas Könttä*, Centre Party of Finland
- MP *Hanna Holopainen*, Deputy Chair of the Green League
- *Jussi Saramo*, Chair of the Left Alliance parliamentary group
- Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality, MP *Thomas Blomqvist*, Swedish People's Party of Finland
- MP *Peter Östman*, Deputy Chair of the Christian Democrats
- MP *Harry Harkimo*, Chair of the Movement Now

The closing words were given by *Harri Järvinen*, Chair of the ABDI.

The seminar was moderated by journalist *Pekka Ervasti*.

About 65 persons attended the seminar on site and the streaming of the event was followed on 85 terminal devices. The seminar was attended by a total of about 150 persons.

Seminars for journalists

The ABDI has traditionally arranged two one-day seminars for journalists each year, one in Helsinki and the other one outside the capital. Finland's security and defence policy, national defence, Russia, communications in crisis situations and internal security have been recurring themes at the events and topical issues have also been discussed. A separate event for the general public has often been organised after a seminar held regionally.

The journalist seminar of the first half of 2023 and an open event for the general public were held on 6 March in Mikkeli, and the journalist seminar for the second half of the year was held on 12 December in Helsinki.

Journalist seminar and a separate event for the general public in the city council meeting room of the Mikkeli City Hall on 6 March 2023

The *journalist seminar* was opened by *Harri Järvinen*, Chair of the ABDI. *Janne Kinnunen*, Mayor of Mikkeli, brought the greetings of the City of Mikkeli to the seminar.

The following persons gave presentations at the seminar:

- Major General *Jukka Jokinen*, Chief of Staff of the Finnish Army, on *topical matters regarding the Finnish Army*
- Lieutenant General *Arto Rätty* (ret), rapporteur of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Environment, on *wind power construction in eastern Finland*
- *Pentti Mäkinen*, County Governor, South Savo Regional Council, on *the vitality of the region and relevant security matters*
- Rear Admiral *Juha Vauhkonen*, Defence Command Chief of Intelligence, on *topical matters regarding military intelligence*
- Colonel *Mika Rytönen*, Commander of the Southeast Finland Border Guard District, on *topical matters regarding the Finnish Border Guard*

- Senior Economist *Heli Simola* from the Bank of Finland Institute for Emerging Economies (BOFIT), on *the Russian economy*
- *Mikko Kinnunen*, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group 2021-2022, on *the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine and European security*
- *Minna Salomäenpää*, Head of Yle Central Finland and South Savo, on *trust in the media*
- *Hanne Soininen*, Head of Research Group at South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences, on *the environmental safety outlook*

About 65 persons attended the seminar on site in the Mikkeli City Hall and the streaming of the seminar was followed by about 55 persons during the day. The seminar was attended by a total of about 120 persons.

After the seminar, the ABDI organised an open discussion on the foreign and security policy for the general public in the council room.

The event was opened by *Harri Järvinen*, Chair of the ABDI, and *Janne Kinnunen*, Mayor of Mikkeli, brought the greetings of the City of Mikkeli to the event.

The programme of the public event also included a *panel discussion on the foreign and security policy and national defence, in which the following Members of Parliament representing the Southeast Finland electoral district* took part:

- *Suna Kymäläinen* (SDP)
- *Sheikki Laakso* (Finns Party)
- *Antti Häkkänen* (Coalition Party)
- *Hanna Kosonen* (Centre Party)
- *Hanna Holopainen* (Greens)

Journalist *Jari Korkki* moderated the panel discussion.

About 70 people attended the event on site and the streaming was followed on about 50 terminal devices. The public event was attended by a total of about 120 persons. There was no pre-registration for the general public.

Journalist seminar at Ostrobotnia in Helsinki on 12 December 2023

The seminar was opened by MP *Jarno Limnell*, Chair of the ABDI.

This was followed by presentations given by the following persons:

- *Outi Holopainen*, Permanent State Under-Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs who gave a *review of the Finnish foreign and security policy*
- Minister of Defence *Antti Häkkänen* who gave a *review of topical matters*
- *Susanne Dahlgren*, Director of the Finnish Institute in the Middle East who gave an *assessment of developments in the Middle East*
- *Janne Känkänen*, Managing Director of the National Emergency Supply Agency who gave a presentation on the *protection of critical infrastructure*

- *Ari Evwaraye*, Head of Internal Security Strategy at the Ministry of the Interior who gave an *overview of internal security*
- *Teija Tiilikainen*, Director of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats who gave a presentation on *hybrid threats in the future*
- Senior Adviser *Laura Solanko* of the Bank of Finland Institute for Emerging Economies who gave a presentation on the *effects of sanctions on the Russian economy*
- Colonel *Pasi Hirvonen*, Head of the Department of Warfare in the National Defence University who gave a presentation on the *military outlook for the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine*
- Colonel *Antti Hauvala*, Deputy Head of the Defence Command Intelligence Division who gave a *review of topical developments in the field of military intelligence*
- Lieutenant General *Janne Jaakkola*, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategy of the Finnish Defence Forces, who gave a *presentation on Finland's NATO membership from the perspective of the Finnish Defence Forces*

About 120 people attended the seminar at Ostrobothnia during the day. A total of 102 persons followed the streaming of the event on terminal devices. About 222 people attended the seminar during the day.

The feedback requested and received from the participants shows that the seminars arranged by the ABDI have, for many years, been considered useful in terms of their contents and the participants have also been satisfied with the arrangements.

Material of the seminars arranged by the ABDI and their detailed programmes, presentation materials, photographs and recordings are available on the ABDI website (https://www.defmin.fi/en/the_advisory_board_for_defence_information_abdi/seminars#4e0318ff →)

THE ABDI SURVEY

The ABDI conducts an extensive annual survey, comprising the entire population, to investigate the opinions and attitudes of Finns towards security policy and the factors influencing them.

The survey was carried out by Taloustutkimus and commissioned by the ABDI. The 2023 survey was carried out in a combination of personal interviews and an internet panel, as was the case also in 2020, whereas previously it has been conducted solely in the form of personal interviews.

The 2023 survey contained a total of 21 questions of which two were new ones. The personal interviews for the survey were carried out between 8 and 26 November, and the responses for the panel section were collected between 15 and 28 November. The survey comprised 1,197 people between the ages of 15 and 79, with the exception of the Åland Islands.

In a parliamentary election year, the ABDI publishes the survey results at the start of the year following the elections. For this reason, the results of the 2023 survey were published in 2024.

The survey reports are available on the ABDI website (https://www.defmin.fi/en/the_advisory_board_for_defence_information_abdi/bulletins_and_report_#c5cf1236 →).

NORDIC COOPERATION

The ABDI is engaged in particularly close cooperation at Nordic level with its sister organisations in Sweden (Folk och Försvar) and Norway (Folk og Forsvar).

Heli Santala, Secretary General of the ABDI, took part in the annual national conference of Folk och Försvar held in Sälen between 8 and 11 January.

The annual Nordic conference of the FoF organisations and the ABDI has been held on a rotating basis. The 2023 conference was held between 9 and 11 May in Oslo. The conference discussed the *new NATO in the Nordic region, the European security policy and security of supply*.

The conference began in Stortinget (Norwegian Parliament) on *Tuesday 9 May* with the presentations by *Jorodd Asphjell* and *Sverre Myrli*, both Members of Norwegian Parliament, on *NATO and the Nordic region*.

After the presentations and discussions, the participants were given a guided tour in the Norwegian parliament building.

After the visit to Stortinget, the conference continued in the auditorium of the Armed Forces Museum in the Akershus Fortress where *Jon Kristiansen*, Chairman of the Norwegian Folk og Forsvar, gave the opening speech of the conference.

After the opening speech, the following persons gave presentations on the importance of NATO membership/enlargement to security:

- Brigadier General *Tomas Beck*, Norwegian Defence Forces
- *Mike Winnerstig*, Head of Department, Swedish Defence Research Agency
- *Heli Santala*, Secretary General, Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI)
- Rear Admiral (ret) *Torben Ørting Jørgensen*, Chairman, Folk og Sikkerhed (Denmark)

The presentations were followed by a thematic discussion and a question/answer session.

On *Wednesday 10 May*, the conference continued in the auditorium of the Armed Forces Museum in the Akershus Fortress where *Karsten Friis*, Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, gave a presentation on the *impact of the war in Ukraine on European security policy*.

After the presentation and a discussion, the conference programme continued with guided tours of the Armed Forces Museum and the Akershus Fortress.

They were followed by further presentations and a discussion on the *experiences of evacuating injured Ukrainian soldiers*. The presentations were given by

- Lieutenant Colonel *Håkon Asak*, medical manager for the aeromedical team of the Norwegian Defence Forces, and
- Chief Sergeant *Bjørn Eidissen*, first aid worker of the aeromedical team of the Norwegian Defence Forces

On *Thursday 11 May*, the conference continued in the headquarters of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association, where *Audun Halvorsen*, Executive Director of the organisation, gave a presentation on *maritime security and resilience*.

After this, the participants moved to the headquarters of the Norwegian Trade Union Confederation (LO) to hear presentations given by the following persons:

- *Sissel Solum*, Senior Vice President of Nammo, on *preparedness security from the perspective of sustainability*
- *Are Tomasgard*, Member of the Secretariat of the Norwegian Trade Union Confederation, on *energy security*

The ABDI delegation at the conference comprised Chair *Harri Järvinen*, following members of the Work Branch: *Johanna Kelhu*, *Harriet Lonka*, *Timo Perälä* and *Tuula Väätäinen*, Secretary General *Heli Santala* and Assistant Secretary General *Markus Kinkku*.

The first planning meeting of the 2024 conference, which will take place in Sweden, was held on 29 November between ABDI and the Swedish and Norwegian FoF organisations via a Teams connection. On the ABDI's side, the meeting was attended by Secretary General *Heli Santala* and Assistant Secretary General *Markus Kinkku*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Handover event in the function room Palmu of Lasipalatsi in Helsinki on 14 November 2023

The outgoing and the new ABDI met in November at the traditional *handover event*. The participants took a look back and in the future, and persons that were stepping down from the ABDI were also thanked at the event.

State Secretary *Lauri Tierala* addressed the event, and MP *Jarno Limnéll* (ABDI Chair) and *Harri Järvinen* (previous Chair) greeted the participants.

National Defence Courses

Each year, the ABDI submits a list of the journalists and representatives of the world of science whom it would like to invite to the National Defence Courses. The invitees to the course are approved by the Delegation of National Defence Education (MONK), where Chair *Harri Järvinen* represented the ABDI as a member and Secretary General *Heli Santala* as a deputy member.

Basic communications course

The ABDI recruits journalists and press officers who have not carried out military service to the basic communications course, organised annually by the Defence Command's Public Information Division. The 2023 course (no. 54) was held in the Defence Command and in the Coastal Brigade at Upinniemi between 9 and 12 October. It was attended by 21 journalists or communications specialists who had not done military service and who had been selected by the ABDI.

ABDI website and social media

The ABDI's website can be reached via the website of the Ministry of Defence www.defmin.fi/mts. The website offers information, photographs and recordings of the ABDI, including seminars and events. The ABDI's webpages, including its language versions, were downloaded a total of 3177

times in 2023. Surveys were downloaded from the Institutional Repository for the Government and from the website, language versions included, a total of 2000 times.

The ABDI opened its Twitter account @MTS_Suomi at the end of December 2015, The account is used especially in communications concerning ABDI events and opinion polls, but also in distributing other material on foreign and security policy and national defence.

Branches and meetings

Until 7 September 2023, the ABDI had the following branches: Work Branch, Organisation Branch, Education Branch, Media Branch and Research Branch. The new ABDI reduced the number of branches by one by merging the Organisation Branch and the Education Branch into the Education and Organisation Branch.

The Plenum or general meeting convened once in 2023. The Work Branch met four times, the Organisation Branch once, the Education and Organisation Branch once, the Education Branch twice, and the Media Branch three times. A total of 12 meetings were held during the year.

The following persons gave presentations at the ABDI's Plenum and at branch meetings during 2023:

- Brigadier General (ret) *Antti Lehtisalo*, Executive Director of the National Defence Training Association of Finland (MPK), gave a *review of current developments* (meeting of the Education Branch on 17 January, function room Topelius at Ostrobothnia and online connection)
- *Minna Laajava*, Director of the Unit for Security Policy and Crisis Management at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on *current security policy issues, including the background and objectives of the bilateral defence cooperation agreement between Finland and the United States under preparation and Finland's NATO membership process* (meeting of the Media Branch on 8 February, function room Chydenius at Ostrobothnia and online connection)
- Colonel *Jukka Nurmi* from the Defence Command, on *implementing the proposals of the parliamentary committee on general conscription* (meeting of the Organisation Branch on 12 April, function room Snellman at Ostrobothnia and online connection)
- Brigadier General *Sami Nurmi*, Director of Unit at the Ministry of Defence, gave a *review of current developments* (meeting of the Media Branch on 16 May, Katto Lounge at Radisson Blu Seaside Hotel)
- Major General (ret) *Jorma Ala-Sankila*, Chair of the Peacekeepers' Association Finland, gave a *review of current developments* (Meeting of the Education Branch on 30 May, Jaeger Room at Ostrobothnia)
- *Katri Pynnöniemi*, Associate Professor at the University of Helsinki and the National Defence University, and *Henri Vanhanen*, Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and member of the ABDI, gave *reviews of latest developments in Finland's foreign and security policy* (meeting of the Research Branch on 13 June, function room Tynell at Original Sokos Hotel Vaakuna)

- Brigadier General *Sami Nurmi*, Director of Unit at the Ministry of Defence, gave a *review of current developments* (meeting of the Work Branch on 27 October, function room Tervaleppä of the Pikkuparlamentti building and online connection)
- Senior Lecturer *Panu Moilanen* and Postdoctoral Researcher *Hilkka Grahn* from the University of Jyväskylä, on *cognitive security* (meeting of the Media Branch on 28 November, function room Topelius at Ostrobothnia and online connection)
- *Tuija Karanko*, Secretary General of the Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries PIA, on the *resources and needs of the defence industry*. (Meeting of the Education and Organisation Branch on 5 December, function room Tervaleppä of the Pikkuparlamentti building and online connection)

The ABDI's activities were prepared and reviews of topical events heard at the branch meetings. The Research Branch followed other opinion polls on the same topics that were carried out in Finland, Sweden and Norway.

COMPOSITION OF ABDI UNTIL 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 22 August 2019, the Government appointed the Advisory Board for Defence Information for the period starting on 1 September 2019 and ending on 7 September 2023, the start of term of the ABDI appointed after the 2023 parliamentary elections.

Until 7 September 2023, the ABDI had 17 members, 16 deputy members and 12 other members.

The ABDI was chaired by Communications Manager *Harri Järvinen* (SDP), and Student *Asseri Kinnunen* (Finns Party) and MP *Sofia Vikman* (Coalition Party) served as Deputy Chairs. *Matti Heinonen* (Finns Party) was the deputy member for *Asseri Kinnunen* and *Henri Vanhanen* (Coalition Party) for *Sofia Vikman*.

The other members and deputy members of the ABDI were as follows:

- MP *Riitta Mäkinen* (SDP), with Secretary General *Anni Lahtinen* (SDP) as deputy member
- MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (SDP), with MP *Eemeli Peltonen* (SDP) as deputy member
- Parliamentary assistant *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party), with entrepreneur *Samuli Voutilainen* (Finns Party) as deputy member
- MSc (Tech) *Kirsi Kallio* (Finns Party), with parliamentary assistant *Heikki Luoto* (Finns Party) as deputy member
- Director of Archives *Riku Keski-Rauska* (Coalition Party), with CEO *Esko Kurvinen* (Coalition Party) as deputy member
- MP *Mia Laiho* (Coalition Party), with EU and foreign policy expert *Matilda af Hällström* (Coalition Party) as deputy member
- MP *Joonas Könttä* (Centre Party), with Lieutenant Colonel (ret) *Tapio Huhtanen* (Centre Party) as deputy member
- RDI Specialist *Harriet Lonka* (Centre Party), with Executive Director *Olli Nyberg* (Centre Party) as deputy member

- Entrepreneur *Elina Lappalainen* (Centre Party), with political secretary *Helena Pakarinen* (Centre Party) as deputy member
- Secretary General *Tiina Kivinen* (Greens), with Special Adviser *Jeri Aalto* (Greens) as deputy member
- Senior Adviser *Timo Perälä* (Greens), with MSc (Tech) *Hannele Piitulainen* (Greens) as deputy member
- Political adviser *Johanna Kelhu* (Left Alliance), with journalist *Antero Eerola* (Left Alliance) as deputy member
- Brigadier General (ret), entrepreneur *Kari Salmi* (Swedish People's Party), with communications consultant *Elli Flén* (Swedish People's Party) as deputy member
- Executive director and author *Teuvo V. Riikonen* (Christian Democrats), with producer *Reija Taupila* (Christian Democrats) as deputy member
- Director of Communications *Mari-Kaisa Brander*, Ministry of Education and Culture
- Editor-in-Chief *Minna Holopainen*, Finnish News Agency
- Executive Producer *Petri Kejonen*, Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle)
- *Sirpa Kirjonen*, Marketing and Research Director, Finnish Media Federation
- Director of Communications *Eriikka Koistinen*, Ministry of the Interior
- Senior Researcher *Marko Lehti*, Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI)
- Lieutenant Colonel *Tuomas Liukko*, Director of Public Affairs, National Defence University
- *Juha Martelius*, Deputy Head of Department
- *Jyri Rantala*, Deputy Director General, Prime Minister's Office
- Master of Laws *Petri Savolainen*, Chief Negotiator at the Union of Journalists in Finland
- Captain *Johan Tillander*, Director of Communications, Finnish Defence Forces
- *Markus Teir*, Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Apart from Chair *Harri Järvinen* (SDP), Deputy Chairs *Asseri Kinnunen* (Finns Party) and *Sofia Vikman* (Coalition Party), the following were members in the Work Branch:

- MSc (Tech) *Kirsi Kallio* (Finns Party)
- Political adviser *Johanna Kelhu* (Left Alliance)
- PhD *Riku Keski-Rauska*, Director of Archives (Coalition Party)
- Entrepreneur *Elina Lappalainen* (Centre Party)
- PhD, RDI Specialist *Harriet Lonka* (Centre Party)
- Senior Inspector *Timo Perälä* (Greens)
- Executive Manager and author *Teuvo V. Riikonen* (Christian Democrats)
- Brigadier General (ret) and entrepreneur *Kari Salmi* (Swedish People's Party)

- MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (SDP)
- Defence Counsellor *Helena Partanen*, Ministry of Defence

The following persons served as Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the branches:

- Director of Archives *Riku Keski-Rauska* (Coalition Party), Chair of the Research Branch, *Timo Perälä* (Greens), Deputy Chair of the Research Branch
- PhD, RDI Specialist *Harriet Lonka* (Centre Party), Chair of the Media Branch, journalist *Antero Eerola* (Left Alliance), Deputy Chair of the Media Branch
- Parliamentary assistant *Marika Sorja* as Chair of the Education Branch; Secretary General *Tiina Kivinen* (Greens) as Deputy Chair
- MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (SDP) as Chair of the Organisation Branch; Executive Director and writer *Teuvo V. Riikonen* (Christian Democrats) as Deputy Chair

On proposal by the ABDI's branches and by decision of the Work Branch the following experts were invited:

- Education Branch:
 - *Suvi Manelius*, Chief of Public Affairs, Defence Command
- Media Branch:
 - *Katja Ahola*, Head of Communications at the National Emergency Supply Agency, continued as an expert after moving to the Service Sector Employers Palta
 - Journalist *Joonas Kuikka*, Lännen Media
 - Head of Feature Desk *Anssi Miettinen*, Helsingin Sanomat
 - Managing Director, *Stefan Möller*, RadioMedia
 - Political journalist *Anita Simola*
 - Producer *Heli Uusimaa*, MTV News
- Research Branch:
 - Professor *Teemu Tallberg*, National Defence University

COMPOSITION OF ABDI FROM 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 7 September 2023, the Government appointed the Advisory Board for Defence Information for the period starting on the same day and ending at the start of the term of the ABDI appointed after the next parliamentary elections.

From 7 September 2023, the ABDI had 18 members, 17 deputy members and 12 other members.

The ABDI was chaired by MP *Jarno Linnéll* (Coalition Party). Parliamentary assistant *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party) and MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (SDP) served as Deputy Chairs. Parliamentary assistant *Ismo Nöjd* (Finns Party) served as the deputy member for *Marika Sorja* and *Miia Järvi* (SDP) as the deputy member for *Tuula Väättäinen*.

The other members and deputy members of the ABDI were as follows:

- Director of Archives *Riku Keski-Rauska* (Coalition Party), with MP *Juha Hänninen* (Coalition Party) as deputy member

- Executive Director *Riikka Varila* (Coalition Party), with social media strategist *Janina Haapaniemi* (Coalition Party) as deputy member
- *Kristiina Kokko*, Party Secretary (Coalition Party), with employment specialist *Riitta Savukoski* (Coalition Party) as deputy member
- State Secretary *Teija Makkonen* (Finns Party), with committee specialist *Iiro Silvander* (Finns Party) as deputy member
- MP *Mikko Polvinen* (Finns Party), with organisation secretary *Heidi Pöykiö* (Finns Party) as deputy member
- MP *Tomi Immonen* (Finns Party), with Special Adviser to the Minister *Hannu Peurasaari* (Finns Party) as deputy member
- MP *Mika Kari* (SDP), with head of organisation *Pekka Tuuri* (SDP) as deputy member
- Editor-in-chief *Petri Korhonen* (SDP), with journalist *Harri Järvinen* (SDP) as deputy member
- Specialist *Ida-Susanna Pöllänen* (SDP), with *Vesa Mauriala*, head of civic participation (SDP) as deputy member
- PhD *Harriet Lonka* (Centre Party), with special teacher *Perttu Helin* (Centre Party) as deputy member
- Journalist *Joonas Immonen* (Centre Party), with political expert *Helena Pakarinen* (Centre Party) as deputy member
- Senior Officer *Timo Perälä* (Greens), with Secretary General *Tiina Kivinen* (Greens) as deputy member
- Political adviser *Johanna Kelhu* (Left Alliance), with journalist *Antero Eerola* (Left Alliance) as deputy member
- Brigadier General (ret) and CEO *Kari Salmi* (Swedish People's Party), with communications consultant *Ellie Flén* (Swedish People's Party) as deputy member
- Engineer *Matti Heikkinen* (Christian Democrats), with production manager *Reija Taupila* (Christian Democrats) as deputy member
- *Saara Jantunen*, Senior Specialist, Doctor of Military Sciences, Prime Minister's Office
- *Markus Teir*, Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- *Marikaisa Tiilikainen*, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Defence
- Head of Communications *Jaana Vaahtio*, Ministry of the Interior
- Director of Communications *Mari-Kaisa Brander*, Ministry of Education and Culture
- Captain *Johan Tillander*, Director of Communications, Defence Command
- Lieutenant Colonel *Tuomas Liukko*, Director of Public Affairs, National Defence University
- Research Director *Marko Lehti*, Peace Research Institute TAPRI
- Managing editor *Minna Asikainen*, Finnish Broadcasting Company

- Editor-in-Chief *Minna Holopainen*, Finnish News Agency STT
- *Sirpa Kirjonen*, Marketing and Research Director, Finnish Media Federation
- *Petri Savolainen*, Master of Laws, Manager of Trusteeship, Union of Journalists in Finland

In addition to *Jarno Limnell*, *Marika Sorja* and *Tuula Väättäin*, the following persons also served as members of the Work Branch:

- PhD *Riku Keski-Rauska*, Director of Archives (Coalition Party)
- MP *Mikko Polvinen* (Finns Party)
- MP *Mika Kari* (SDP)
- PhD *Harriet Lonka* (Centre Party)
- Senior Inspector *Timo Perälä* (Greens)
- Political adviser *Johanna Kelhu* (Left Alliance)
- Communications consultant *Elli Flén* (Swedish People's Party)
- Engineer *Matti Heikkinen* (Christian Democrats)
- *Marikaisa Tiilikainen*, Ministerial Adviser (Ministry of Defence)

The following persons served as Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the branches:

- Director of Archives *Riku Keski-Rauska* (Coalition Party), Chair of the Research Branch, Senior Inspector *Timo Perälä* (Greens), Deputy Chair of the Research Branch (from 25 October 2023)
- Editor-in-Chief *Petri Korhonen* (SDP), Chair of the Media Branch; Deputy Chair of the Media Branch was elected in 2024
- MP *Mikko Polvinen* (Finns Party), Chair of the Education and Organisation Branch; Deputy Chair of the Education Branch was elected in 2024

On proposal by the ABDI's branches and by decision of the Work Branch the following experts were invited:

- Education Branch:
 - *Suvi Manelius*, Chief of Public Affairs, Defence Command (from 15 December 2023)
- Research Branch:
 - *Katri Pynnöniemi*, Associate Professor at the University of Helsinki and the National Defence University, (from 15 December 2023)
 - *Miina Kaarkoski*, Postdoctoral Researcher, National Defence University (from 15 December 2023)
- Media Branch:
 - Details of the experts representing Helsingin Sanomat, Hufvudstadsbladet, National Emergency Supply Agency, Lännen Media, MTV News and RadioMedia were confirmed in 2024

FINANCES OF THE ABDI

The operating appropriation allocated to the ABDI for 2023 totalled EUR 137,000 of which EUR 111,037 (81%) was used. The amount used does not include meeting and seminar expenses invoiced through the handi service, which were paid by the Administration Unit of the Ministry of Defence.

Secretariat and office of the ABDI

During the year in review, the ABDI, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, operated under the auspices of the Ministry's Media and Communications Unit.

The ABDI has a Secretary General and an Assistant Secretary General. *Heli Santala*, Master of Social Sciences, served as the Secretary General and *Markus Kinkku*, Master of Political Science, as the Assistant Secretary General. Payment transactions were processed by Communications Secretary *Jaana Riihimaa*.

The ABDI's office is located on the second floor of the Ministry of Defence. The visiting address is Eteläinen Makasiinkatu 8, Helsinki.