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## THE HELSINKI GROUP PREPARING THE FINAL REPORT: FROM NEW DELHI TO NEW YORK, 26-28 APRIL

The high-level Helsinki Group had its third meeting in New Delhi, India, from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. The Helsinki Group was inspired by the role of the first Helsinki Process in the 1970s. During the Cold War era, the earlier Helsinki Process played a role in bridging the East and the West, and in placing human rights and security at the heart of the political agenda of the time. In this era of globalisation, the new Helsinki Process aims to bring together the North and the South, and place democracy, human rights, and the environment at the heart of the global agenda.

Preparing the final report on the Process, the Helsinki Group has taken the UN Millennium Declaration as its starting point. The Group has agreed that, in addition to the MDGs, we need to address the inter-connectedness of the five baskets of the Millennium Declaration: (1) peace and security, (2) governance, (3) poverty and development, (4) human rights and (5) the environment, and use this as a basis for looking beyond 2015. The Helsinki Group aims to mobilise political will and facilitate multi-stakeholder action in these fields of global problem-solving. The contents of the final report will be agreed on in the final meeting of the Group in New York, 26-27 April, and will be launched in June 2005.

## THE HELSINKI PROCESS AND THE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, 15 MARCH

On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2005, the International European Movement, together with the Helsinki Process and the Commission for Africa, organised a workshop at the European Parliament. The aim was to discuss the role of the European Union in facing the UN Millennium Challenge.

The co-chair of the Helsinki Group, Minister for Foreign Affairs Erkki Tuomioja (Finland) introduced the Helsinki Process. He pointed out that the Helsinki Process supports the aims of the UN Millennium Declaration and shares the aim of “effective multilateralism”, which is highlighted in the European Security Strategy. Mr Myles Wickstead from the DFID (UK) introduced the content of the report of the Commission for Africa, which was released on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

*Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy is in search of novel and empowering solutions to the dilemmas of global governance.*

*It offers a forum for dialogue between major stakeholders, governments, civil society and business. One of the aims is to promote democracy in North-South relations. Thus, the highlevel Helsinki Group is cochaired by the Foreign Ministers of Finland and Tanzania, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja and Mr. Jakaya Kikwete. Its recommendations will be presented at the next Helsinki Conference in 2005, 7-9 September. This eNews provides updates on the current issues of the Helsinki Process. You may subscribe to the eNews at [www.helsinkiprocess.fi](http://www.helsinkiprocess.fi)*



**26-28 April 2005:**  
Fourth Helsinki Group  
meeting, New York, USA.

**29-31 May 2005:**  
Helsinki Process at the G05  
event on Global Democracy,  
Canada, Montreal

**May 2005:**  
Helsinki Process  
at the OECD Forum, Paris

**June 2005:**  
Launch of the Helsinki  
Group Report

**7-9 September 2005:**  
Helsinki Conference

The reports from the thematic Tracks of the Helsinki Process, released on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, were also discussed. Preparing measures for promoting the achievement of the MDGs, the Tracks produced some 25 concrete, implementable policy proposals in their reports on global governance, development financing, and human security. The workshop in the European Parliament focused particularly on the proposals for anti-corruption, the engagement of parliamentarians in global issues, and the creation of a G20 summit of leaders from the North and South.

The President of GLOBE-EU, Swedish MEP Anders Wijkman, from the EPP-ED Group, emphasised the partnership of government, business, and civil society in addressing global problems, and called for a systemic view of global problems. Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group, Italian MEP Monica Frassoni stressed the MDG framework and the need to increase aid and reform trade. The Director of the European Policy Centre, Mr Fraser Cameron, called for a discussion on improving the EU's performance in the global arena, and on the priorities for the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The Secretary General of Aprodev, Mr Rob Van Drimmelen, commented on EU trade policies, gender equality, and the participation of civil society. The representative of the European Youth Forum called for action on the MDGs in co-operation with young people.

The Vice-President of the International European Movement, German MEP Jo Leinen from the PES Group, concluded with a message of hope that Britain and Finland will take the aims of the EU in solidarity forward to the world. He proposed that the British and Finnish EU Presidencies in the autumns of 2005 and 2006 could build a continuum for formulating the global policies of the EU.

## HELSINKI CONFERENCE, 7-9 SEPTEMBER, BUILDS MOMENTUM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS MAJOR EVENT

The UN major event to review progress in the worldwide achievement of the targets described in the Millennium Declaration is being held in September 2005. The UN Millennium Project, directed by Jeffrey Sachs, concluded that the opportunity to cut world poverty in half is very real and "all that is needed is action". The Helsinki Conference will attempt to answer this call to action by tackling the most difficult question of all: how?

The work of the Helsinki Process will be discussed and evaluated at the Helsinki Conference, to be held from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 2005. The Helsinki Conference will bring together the different stakeholders involved in globalisation on an equal footing for inclusive dialogue. As the title indicates, the primary aim will be to mobilise will to action behind the proposals.

This work clearly aims to support the proposals of the previous commissions, as well as commitments already made but not kept. It is necessary to think about new methods of decision making, of which the Helsinki Process multi-stakeholder dialogue has been one prime example. It is also time to look and develop a much longer-term development agenda and plan for its implementation. With the participation of a wide range of global decision makers and innovators, the Helsinki Conference is intended to highlight questions of how development targets are transformed into action.