

# Employment, Social Policy and Health



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# JOINT FOREWORD

The major challenge facing the European Union today is strengthening the Union's competitiveness and raising the employment rate. Finland does not feel that a strong competitive position and good social security are mutually exclusive. On the contrary, the system in place in Finland and in the other Nordic countries shows that a strong welfare state is, in fact, an element that promotes competitiveness. Globalisation should also be considered as an element that supports well-being and productivity. However, it also brings about challenges that can be reduced by investing in sustainable development. Adequate attention should be paid to the management of changes induced by globalisation.

The problems and challenges are highly similar in all Member States of the European Union. To respond actively to the challenges that globalisation, technological developments and the ageing population present we must work to make the employment, social and health policies tools that will support social change. Any single sector or Member State alone cannot provide a sufficient solution. To manage change, co-operation between governments, social partners and the civil society is essential.

Although the longer life expectancy is a major accomplishment for the European societies, the changes it inevitably involves require measures from the Member States that cover a range of issues from social reforms and equality policy to immigration issues.

We believe that extensive social security, comprehensive promotion and protection of health, as well as improvements in working life and caring for the disadvantaged will represent a key asset for the Union.

We would like to wish our colleagues in the employment, social policy and health sectors productive co-operation during our Presidency. It is only by working together that we can achieve results that will bring a better future for the European Union.



Tarja Filatov  
Minister of Labour



Tuula Haatainen  
Minister of Social Affairs and Health



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Minister of Health and Social Services

# EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

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## RESPONDING TO GLOBALISATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

One of the key themes during the Finnish Presidency of the European Union is Europe's success in global competition. In employment, social policy and health issues our key theme will be responding to the challenges of globalisation and demographic changes; this is the main theme of the informal meeting of the Ministers of Employment, Social Policy and Health to be held in Helsinki from 6 to 8 July 2006. Finland will exceptionally invite Ministers from three sectors to an informal meeting to discuss the same topic. All three sectors will be reviewed in such a way as to ensure that the gender perspective is mainstreamed in the discussions.

Finland is expecting a communication from the Commission concerning demographic challenges. To respond to the challenges, the Presidency wishes to promote the following important policy instruments:

» *Improvements in working life to raise labour productivity*

The welfare and wellbeing of our continent require sustainable and rapid economic growth, which in turn requires that the employment rate be raised. As the European population ages, more attention must be paid to labour productivity.

To improve labour productivity, more emphasis must be placed on improving the quality of working life. The quality of work will improve when employees are empowered to influence what they do. Other ways to improve the quality of work include developing working methods and the way work is organised in the workplace. The objective is to enhance job satisfaction and employee

commitment. Development measures will support employment and will encourage employees to remain longer in working life. This goal can be reached through co-operation in the Community, among member states and among the social partners.

It is also important to share best practices in order to make information on tried and tested development measures available to as many workplaces as possible.

» *Making work more attractive: a way to prolong working life*

Over the past ten years, the member states of the European Union have made extensive reforms of their legislations regarding the social income transfers and service systems. The purpose of these reforms is to prolong working life and to postpone retirement. At the same time, measures have been taken to ensure equal opportunities and rights for men and women in working life.

Some of the key measures aimed at postponing retirement are incentives included in the accrual of pension security and other forms of social security offered to individuals and organisations. Besides financial incentives, it is equally important to maintain and improve the work ability and functional capacity of personnel and to promote active ageing.

» *Better reconciliation of work and family life crucial*

Starting a family is a major turning point in life, and it is connected in two ways to the relationship between the individual and the labour market. On the one hand, the timing of starting a family depends on the nature of the individual's employment relationship, and on the other hand it determines the individual's attachment to the labour market. Co-operation between member states and the exchange of experiences should be utilised to offer people first and foremost the opportunity for starting a family as well as a favour-



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able environment for doing so. Furthermore, functional and individual care services should be created to enable career continuation. The reconciliation of work and family life should be more widely supported by means of various part-time and alternation solutions. Similar measures could serve as an incentive for employees to care for their ageing family members. Efforts should also be made to encourage men to participate in the everyday life of families as equal partners.



## EMPLOYMENT POLICY

In accordance with the decisions made by the European Council this spring, Finland aims during its Presidency to start a discussion on the productivity and quality of work. Finland will also continue the discussion started during the Austrian Presidency on the balance between flexibility and security in working life. The Presidency will emphasise improvements in the quality of working life as a means to raise the employment rate, to secure the availability of workforce, to promote adaptability in companies and to improve productivity. The objective is to consider ways of increasing productivity in different workplaces and to exchange experiences of measures planned or implemented by member states or social partners.

Global economic competition and the ageing of the population underline the significance of an active labour policy. It is increasingly important to promote the movement

of labour force from low productivity jobs to new, higher productivity jobs.

The productivity and quality of work will be discussed at the informal meeting of the Ministers of Employment, Social Policy and Health to be held in Helsinki between 6 and 8 July 2006 and the preceding meeting between the Social Partners and the Presidency Troika (Finland, Germany and Portugal) on 6 July. Elements being reviewed for their ability to promote labour productivity, employment rate and competitiveness include effective organisation of work and employee motivation, the significance of social innovations at the workplace for the introduction of new technologies, labour force skills development and active labour market policy.

These themes will also be discussed at the informal meeting of the Employment Committee and at the Towards Higher Productivity and Better Employment Conference to be held in Espoo between 16 and 17 October.

The conference will focus on identifying ways of utilising interaction between different policy sectors to improve the productivity and quality of work. Other matters to be discussed include the employment of groups that are underrepresented in the labour market and of low productivity workplaces. Even though raising productivity will create new employment in the long term, the short-term impact of the rise in productivity requirements is unemployment for those employees who cannot be re-employed in higher productivity jobs. Special attention should therefore be paid to this group. The differences, similarities and impacts of the employment strategies drawn up by the EU, OECD and ILO will also be discussed at the conference.



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In October 2006, the member states will submit their national reform programmes dealing with the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy on improving the competitiveness of the European Union and employment to the European Commission. During the autumn, the member states will review and discuss their reform programmes in the so-called Cambridge Review process. The Commission will approve its annual progress report before the end of December.

## GLOBALISATION FUND

It is Finland's objective to reach a decision that will ensure equal treatment of all member states regarding the establishment of the European Globalisation Fund, so that the fund would be available towards the beginning of 2007. The purpose of the Fund is to support the re-employment of employees who have lost their jobs as a result of globalisation.

## DECENT WORK

Decent working conditions offer the framework for increasing labour productivity and for innovations, also in the developing countries. Work carried out by the EU, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other international organisations offer the EU member states and Social Partners a channel for promoting decent working conditions, labour productivity, and innovations in low-productivity countries. Finland aims to start

a discussion regarding the ways in which the EU can promote decent work globally, basing it on the Commission Communication on decent work.

The accelerating change in the global division of labour has proved difficult to manage. It has become easier to relocate production from one country to another. Also production costs have decreased. But the benefits of this new flexibility are unevenly distributed. The majority of developing countries and an increasingly large number of developed industrial countries have been unable to adjust their competence and production in a way that would allow them to utilise the employment potential available in the global market. For the EU, the key issue is how to maintain competitiveness that relies on competence and innovation in a new situation, while all the time maintaining the quality of working life.

The positive interaction between decent work and labour productivity is also stressed in the International Labour Organisation's Employment Report for 2004–2005, and in the EU Commission's Communication on decent work. Decent work is also one of the issues discussed in the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation chaired by President of Finland, Tarja Halonen.

## LABOUR LAW

The key objective for Finland in terms of working life regulation is the revision of the Working Time Directive. As a part of the overall settlement, it is important to accept regulation that will contribute to ensuring the availability of doctors in member states.

During the Finnish Presidency, the Commission will issue a Green Paper on the future of labour law. The paper will deal with new working methods and flexicurity in the

labour markets. It is Finland's objective to provide the member states and European Social Partners with the opportunity to exchange views on this theme.

During the Finnish Presidency, the debate on the supervision of the terms of employment of posted workers will continue. The Commission issued guidance on the application of the Directive addressing the posting of workers in April this year.

To improve the position of temporary agency workers in Europe, Finland is prepared to start a discussion on a possible new proposal by the Commission for a directive on temporary agency work. The objective is to provide temporary agency workers with consistent protection in all member states.





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## HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

During the Finnish Presidency, the Proposal for a directive amending and simplifying procedures in existing health and safety directives will very likely be discussed. According to the Commission's draft proposal, the Member States should submit reports to the Commission every five years on the practical implementation of the framework Directive on health and safety at work and the special directives issued pursuant to it. Finland wants to promote simplified occupational health and safety legislation and wants to see rapid discussion and approval of the Proposal for a directive.

During the Presidency, the Commission will give a Communication on a new Community strategy on health and safety at work for 2007–2012. Finland is determined to actively pursue the preparation and implementation of the strategy.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

In March 2006, the EU Member States approved the streamlined operating model under the Open Method of Coordination for co-operation in the field of social protection and cohesion. Member states will submit a joint report on poverty and social exclusion, pensions as well as health and long-term care for 2006–2008 to the Commission by mid-September. Attention should be paid to implementing the Lisbon Strategy objectives and to identifying more efficient and effective working methods at the national level.

Equal attention should be paid to employment, financial and social policy issues in the national preparation of the Lisbon Strategy. Economic growth and public finances must have solid foundations to allow us to promote social cohesion. It should also be recognised that social cohesion supports economic growth. The promotion of social inclusion must remain one of the cornerstones of the Lisbon Strategy in the future, too.

During the Finnish Presidency, a high-level conference on social protection will be held between 9 and 10 November under the title “EU’s Evolving Social Policy and National Models – Seeking a New Balance”. The conference focuses on studying the opportunities and fringe conditions of European co-operation in the field of social policy, and on establishing a balance between the national models.

The Commission has designated 2006 a special theme year for mobility of workers. Measures to promote this topical theme during the Finnish Presidency of the European Union include removing legislative obstacles to free movement. Among the measures to be discussed are the co-ordination of social security systems and the portability of supplementary pension rights.

Council Regulation 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems will replace the existing co-ordination regulation 1408/71. The Commission issued its proposal

for an implementing Regulation on 31 January 2006. Titles I and II (General Provisions and the Determination of the legislation applicable) were discussed during the Austrian Presidency. During the Finnish Presidency, discussion will continue from Title III (Provisions related to benefits) and every effort will be made to have section IV (Pensions) discussed. The proposed Annex XI to Regulation 883/04 contains the special regulations for the application of Member States' legislations. Finland intends to continue the discussion of the proposal parallel with the implementing Regulation. Finland's objective is to establish a partial general approach at the EPSCO Council.

The Commission's Proposal for a Directive on the portability of supplementary pension rights concerns the retaining of pensions supplementing statutory pension schemes upon the termination of employment. The objective is to promote free movement of people by removing obstacles to mobility, which

current supplementary pension schemes may entail. Key issues remaining open were charted in the Presidency's progress report during the Austrian Presidency. Further work should focus on establishing a balance between employee rights and securing the functioning of supplementary pension schemes. Finland aims to find alternative solutions to the key issues that are currently open. The objective is to conduct a policy debate and possibly reach a political agreement in the EPSCO Council.

A specific programme for the prevention of violence (Daphne) has been set up within the proposal for the establishment of a General programme on "Fundamental Rights and Justice" for the period 2007–2013. This proposal for the anti-violence programme will be discussed during the Finnish Presidency as a social issue with the objective of finalising the discussion.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

The purpose of the EU action programme against social exclusion was to support co-operation between member states in their efforts to understand poverty and social exclusion, and to provide for the exchange of information and experts. Within the framework of Open Method of Co-ordination, peer assessment, research and seminars have been organised and various development projects have been supported. Both national and European organisations and their networks have given a significant input to the implementation of the programme.

A significant element of the action plan has been round table conferences organised annually together with the EU Presidency and the Commission. During the Finnish Presidency, the fifth European Round Table on Poverty and Exclusion will be held in Tampere between 16 and 17 October

2006, representing the final conference of the programme period. While eyes will already be turning to the upcoming Progress action programme period, the results achieved in the past period should be assessed.

## THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The formulation of the Services Directive has evoked a lively debate on social services. At the end of April, the Commission issued a Communication on social services of general interest, in which it attempted to define social services as well as financial and non-financial services of general interest, and to identify criteria for assessing services of general interest.

The Member States will not be presented with any legislative reforms; instead, the Commission offers them a framework for defining operations of general interest and financial activities in the light of the Union's objectives and legal practice. The



framework remains partly open and will be defined in more detail during consultations the Commission will hold with various stakeholders, service users and member states.

Finland feels it necessary to clarify the objectives of the discussion that is taking place in the European Union concerning social services of general interest. It would be important to clarify the relationship between the national decision-making powers and the Community law regarding social and health services, particularly as regards the application of the EC internal market regulations and competition legislation. Before agreeing on any further action, the concepts of social services must be clarified and the interrelationships between various initiatives must be explored.



# GENDER EQUALITY

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## WOMEN AND POWER

Raising women's employment rate is an essential component in implementing the Lisbon Strategy objectives and in improving Europe's competitiveness ability. In many European countries, women are underrepresented in the labour market and often work part-time. The ageing of the population is another factor causing pressure to include women more extensively in the labour force. To pursue these objectives, it is crucial that women are also represented in decision-making bodies in politics and economic life.

Finland's EU Presidency and the 100th anniversary of universal voting rights and eligibility for election in Finland coincide in 2006. Finland wants to celebrate this significant coincidence by organising an informal meeting of the EU Ministers responsible for gender equality in Helsinki between 6 and 7 October 2006 on the theme of "Women and Power". It is the Presidency's objective to bring new content to the debate at present in progress in the European Union regarding women's participation in political and financial decision-making. The subjects of debate include examples of national measures such as quotas that are designed to promote the equal participation of women and men in political decision-making, or the challenges and measures written into government programmes to promote women's participation in financial decision-making.

## MEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Men and gender equality represents a new theme in gender equality policy that is gaining significance in the 21st century. The relationship between men and gender equality is mainly understood within the context of reconciling work and family life. The conference will approach this theme from a wider angle. The main focus will be on policy, on what has been done and what should be done about men and gender equality. All equality policy issues can be assessed from the perspective of how they relate to men. The purpose of the conference is to advance discussion on the reconciliation of work and family life, health, violence and education segregation with reference to the key theme.

Finland will host an expert conference on the theme of "Men and Gender Equality" between 5 and 6 October 2006. The objective is to activate and broaden the equality policy discussion in the different member states and



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at the EU level to give more attention to men in the discussion. Focusing on the actions and attitudes of men will at the same time help to improve the position of women. Further attention should also be paid to problems that affect men in particular.

There are no broad policy guidelines on this topic at the EU level. It is the aim of the Finnish Presidency to produce Council Conclusions on the basis of the results of the conference.

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Promoting equality requires an extensive knowledge base and exchange of information between various parties. The European Institute for Gender Equality, currently being established, will provide support to EU bodies, especially to the Commission and to the member states, for promoting equality between men and women in areas falling within the competence of the Community. The establishment of the Institute will support the work of EU-level bodies to further gender equality and will also help to make work on the national level more effective.

The Institute is scheduled to launch activities in early 2007. Finland's objective is to adhere to the schedule provided.

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

The Beijing Platform for Action to improve the position of women will be monitored for its successful implementation with the help of equality indicators to be determined annually at EU level. In autumn 2006, Finland will develop indicators under the theme Equality and Institutional Mechanisms.

The objective is to develop indicators that are comparable and yield added value, and thereby advance the development and assessment of gender equality policy. The objective of the Presidency is to produce Council Conclusions on the theme.



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# HEALTH POLICY

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Horizontal discussion and a cross-sectoral approach are the common policy denominators during Finland's Presidency. This approach has produced good results in Finland's national health policy. The EU has a clear mandate to promote health and to take account of health impacts outside the health sector in accordance with Article 152 of the Treaty. For health promotion, it is crucial that different EU institutions work together efficiently and effectively.

Health is a value per se, but also an important engine of economic growth. It is time for the Ministers responsible for health to take part in the European discussion on the challenges brought by globalisation and demographic change. Health promotion contributes to improving working ability and the quality of working life, which are of key importance in prolonging the working life. The work environment has a major impact on an individual's wellbeing as well as on physical and mental health.

## HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

The Finnish Presidency will make the assessment of health impacts and the inclusion of health aspects in all Union decision-making key priorities in the public health area. Health in All Policies (HiAP) is an important approach because decisions made in various policy sectors will affect determinants of health and thereby the general health of the population. What makes this matter so important is that the risk factors for many major diseases are largely the same. Coherent action across sectors will allow us to improve population health in long term, often without additional investments. For example, decisions on alcohol can have an effect on consumption, which again will reflect on health and social issues.

During the Presidency, Finland will host a high-level conference on the theme "Health in All Policies". This conference will be held in Kuopio 20 and 21 September 2006. Based on the results of the conference, a proposal for Conclusions will be prepared for the EPSCO Council.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

In the public health and consumer policy areas the basis of Union's decision-making is to improve its citizens' competencies to make better decisions regarding their health and consumer behaviour. EU programmes in these areas aim to increase citizens' awareness regarding their health and consumer interests, and to take these interests into consideration in Community decision-making.



According to the Commission's proposal in 2005, the public health and consumer policy programmes were to be combined. However, in its statement the European Parliament proposed that two separate programmes should continue to exist. Furthermore, the programme will be implemented with much less funding than was originally planned. The Commission has therefore made an amended proposal for a Health and Consumer Protection Programme for 2007-2013. Three main objectives have been identified for the public health programme: improving the citizens' health and

safety, promoting health while supporting the growth of affluence and solidarity, and disseminating health information. The proposal emphasises the importance of addressing determinants of health rather than the disease-oriented approach. Reports and comparisons on health systems have been combined with other measures, and the intended financial support has been reduced in the process.

Finland aims to bring the first reading of the public health programme to a close and to reach political agreement in the Council.



## PREVENTING AND COMBATING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The World Health Assembly adopted the revised International Health Regulations in 2005, in order to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease. These regulations define the roles of WHO and member states when detecting and reporting a threat. One of the key elements of the reform was that the duty to report is not restricted to certain identified diseases.

Information on how to prepare for pandemics in the EU member states will continue to be exchanged with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. One of the topical co-operation issues is the possibility of setting up a joint European stockpile for anti-virals that would serve as a standby stockpile

supplementing the member states' own stockpiles in case of an epidemic outbreak. The EU will work in close co-operation with WHO to prevent pandemics.

The EU offers significant support for the continued fight against HIV/AIDS within the EU, in its neighbouring areas and globally. Finland will address this topic in several contexts such as the agenda of the ASEM6 Summit and in connection with the joint meeting of the social, health and policing sectors on drugs policy "Moving Forward Together" between 6 and 7 September 2006. The key priority in the drugs policy is to strengthen the co-operation with EU's Eastern neighbours.

## PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL DEVICES

The Finnish Presidency will continue to address legislative initiatives such as the Proposal for a Regulation on Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products and the revision of the Directive on Medical Devices.

The essential element of the Proposal for a Regulation on Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products is that human tissue engineered products would be included in addition to gene therapy and somatic cell therapy medicinal products in the medicines marketing authorisation process. Council Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices and the EPSCO Council will discuss the matter. The Finnish Presidency will pursue political agreement in the Council.

The purpose of the revision of directives on medical devices is to simplify the regulations and to increase the safety of devices by tightening the requirements for market entry. This proposal will make it necessary to consider restrictions concerning the proposal, especially with regard to materials of biological origin. The Finnish Presidency aims to have the Directive adopted in the Council's first reading.

Pharmaceutical Forum will convene during Finland's Presidency. The Forum will seek to define a strategic direction for the work carried out after the G 10 working group on pharmaceuticals and competitiveness. The Ministerial meeting to be held at the end of September will address further action for the G 10 process, investments in research, and patient information.

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLE (tobacco, alcohol, diet and physical activity recommendations)

Promoting a healthy diet and physical activity, preventing and combating the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco are key elements in the effort to establish healthier lifestyles in the EU member states. During its Presidency, Finland wants to actively further the discussion of these issues.

By issuing a Green Paper on Promoting healthy diets and physical activity, the Commission launched an open consultation process with the aim of clarifying the measures available to the Community to promote a healthy diet and physical activity. The Council and the Commission will explore suitable further action in the course of this year.

The Commission is also expected to issue a Communication this year on the EU Alcohol Strategy to combat the harmful

effects of alcohol. Alcohol is a question that affects the wellbeing of the whole of society in all member states.

The first Conference of the Parties enforcing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was held in Geneva in 2006. At the meeting, a decision was made to prepare additional protocols to stop illicit trade in tobacco products, to ban cross-border advertising and sales promotion, and to prepare instructions for the protection of involuntary exposure to cigarette smoke. An agreement was also reached on studying and measuring the ingredients in tobacco products and their combustion products. The next COP will be held in the first half of 2007. The Finnish Presidency will make every effort to further the implementation of the agreed targets. A decision will be made on the basis of the Commission's new proposal to expand the negotiations mandate.

## MENTAL HEALTH

During the Finnish Presidency in 1999, mental health was introduced in the Community's public health agenda. The Commission published a Green Paper on Mental Health in October 2005. It specifies a number of EU-level measures that can promote the mental health of the population. The publication launched an open consultation process as a result of which the Commission intends to publish a Communication on mental health during the Finnish Presidency. The aim is to submit a progress report to the EPSCO Council.



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# LIST OF EVENTS JULY–DECEMBER 2006

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser
<b>» COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>			
30 November – 1 December	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council	Brussels	MSAH, ML
<b>» INFORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS</b>			
6 – 8 July	Informal Meeting of Ministers of Employment, Social Affairs and Health	Helsinki	ML, MSAH, EUPS
6 – 7 October	Informal Meeting of Ministers of Gender Equality	Helsinki	MSAH, EUPS
<b>» SUMMIT MEETINGS</b>			
10 – 11 September	Asem 6 Summit (Asia – Europe Meeting)	Helsinki	PMO, MFA
20 October	Tripartite Social Summit	Lahti	PMO
20 October	Informal Meeting of Heads of State and Government	Lahti	PMO
14 – 15 December	European Council	Brussels	PMO
<b>» CONFERENCES</b>			
6 – 7 September	"Moving forward Together" EU Conference on Partnerships between Stakeholders at Frontline level Responding to Drug Problems	Turku	MSAH, MI, EUPS, STAKES, NBI, EC
20 – 21 September	Conference on Health in All Policies (HIAP)	Kuopio	MSAH, STAKES, NPFI, FIOH, WHO, EUPS, EC
5 – 6 October	Conference on Men and Gender Equality	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
16 – 17 October	Employment Conference "Towards Higher Productivity and Better Employment"	Espoo	ML, EC
16 – 17 October	Fifth European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion	Tampere	MSAH, STAKES, EAPN, FFSWH, EC
6 – 7 November	Taking the Steps: Education and Training 2010: Improving Lifelong Guidance Policies and Systems	Jyväskylä	ME, ML, EC
9 – 10 November	Expert Conference "EU's Evolving Social Policy and National Models – Seeking a New Balance"	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
16 – 17 November	European Social Fund Conference	Saariselkä	ML, EC, Polish ESF Administration Authority
22 or 23 November	Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility	Brussels	MTI, ML, EC

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser
» TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS			
6 – 7 July	Competent Authorities for Medical Devices	Tampere	NAM
4 – 5 September	Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP+CMD(v))	Helsinki	NAM
6 – 7 September	Heads of Medicines Agencies Meetings	Helsinki	NAM
13 – 15 September	International Design for All Conference	Rovaniemi	STAKES
14 – 15 September	Research Benefits for Ageing Population: Dissemination Conference for European Research Results	Helsinki	STAKES, EC
14 – 15 September	Nanotechnologies – Safety for Success	Espoo	MSAH, Technopolis Ventures Ltd.
22 – 23 September	Meeting of Chief Dental Officers (CECDO)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
25 – 26 September	Meeting of the High Level Group on Gender Equality	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
2 – 3 October	The Future of Employment in Social Care in Europe	Helsinki	FIOH, STAKES, European Foundation FF
4 October	Men and Families –pre seminar	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
10 – 11 October	Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP+COMP+CMD(h))	Helsinki	NAM
12 – 13 October	Meeting of Chief Nursing Officers (CNO)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
12 – 13 October	Meeting of Chief Medical Officers (CMO)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
12 – 13 October	MISSOC –Meeting (Mutual Information System on Social Protection)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
12 – 13 October	European Seminar – Healthy Ageing	Helsinki	Folkhälsans Förbund
17 – 18 October	Informal Employment Committee Meeting	Espoo	ML
17 – 18 October	Social Rights and Market Freedoms – Is Better Balance Possible?	Tampere	FFSWH, Social Platform, EAPN
18 – 21 October	WHO European Healthy Cities Network Meeting: Local Governments for Health and Equity	Turku	STAKES, City of Turku
23 – 24 October	Meeting of the Senior labour Inspectors' Committee (SLIC)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
25 – 26 October	High Level Committee on Health (HLCH)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser
6 – 7 November	MISEP-Correspondents Meeting ) (Mutual Information System on Employment Policies	Hämeenlinna	ML, EC
6 – 7 November	Conference on Methodological Workshop on Comparative EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions: Issues and Challenges	Helsinki	CSOF, Eurostat
8 November	Meeting of the Social Protection Committee (SPC)	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
21 November	Meeting of the Permanent Intergovernmental Group, L'Europe de l'Enfance	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
22 – 24 November	Joint Meeting of the Competent Authorities of the New and Existing Substances	Helsinki	MSAH, EC
23 – 24 November	Meeting of Directors of EU National Public Health Institutes	Helsinki	NPHI
29 – 30 November	Heads of Medicines Agencies Meetings	Helsinki	NAM
4 – 5 December	Directors-General for Employment	Lahti	ML, EC
4 – 5 December	Conference on Pensioner Poverty	Helsinki	STAKES, European Centre for Social Policy and Research, SIIF, PSC, EC
11 – 12 December	Restorative Justice in the European Judicial Area – Current Practice and Future Strengthening of Networking	Helsinki	MJ, MSAH, ACVOM
» Other events organised between 1 July and 31 December and a conference organised before the beginning of the Finnish EU Presidency 29 –30 June			
29 – 30 June	Health in the World of Work-conference	Espoo	MSAH, FIOH
3 – 5 July	UN Economic & Social Council High-Level Segment “Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”	Geneve	UN Economic and Social Council
3 – 5 September	ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting	Potsdam	Germany
29 September	Pharmaceutical Forum	Brussels	EC
13 – 14 November	EUROMED Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the role of Women in society	Istanbul	MFA, MSAH
30 November	The European Day of Patients' Rights	Brussels	Active Citizenship Network (ACN)
4 – 5 December	Conference on Decent Work	Brussels	EC
11 – 12 December	Closing Conference for the European Year of Workers' Mobility	Lille	EC, France
14 December	European Conference CPD Improving Health Care	Luxemburg	CPME



## Abbreviations

ACVOM = Advisory Committee for Victim Offender Mediation

CSOF = Central Statistical Office of Finland

EAPN = European Antipoverty Network

EC = European Commission

EUPS = EU Presidency Secretariat

FF = The Family Federation

FFSWH = Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health

FIOH = Finnish Institute of Occupational Health

ME = Ministry of Education

MFA = Ministry for Foreign Affairs

MI = Ministry of Interior

MJ = Ministry of Justice

ML = Ministry of Labour

MSAH = Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

MTI = Ministry of Trade and Industry

NAM = National Agency for Medicines

NBI = National Bureau of Investigation

NPHI = National Public Health Institute

PMO = Prime Minister's Office

PSC = Pension Security Centre

SIIF = The Social Insurance Institution of Finland

STAKES = National Research and Development Centre  
for Welfare and Health

WHO = World Health Organization

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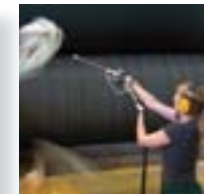
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