

FIIA 2/2016

NEWSLETTER

FIIA took part in organising the Kultaranta Talks which focused on Northern European security. FIIA leads a National Reflection Group of an EU-wide project on the future of Europe. Programme directors have been appointed for the period 2017–2019.

Kultaranta Talks

Northern European security and defence cooperation between Finland and Sweden were the main topics of this year's Kultaranta talks hosted by President of the Republic Sauli Niinistö on 19 and 20 June 2016.

Director **Teija Tiilikainen** took part in a discussion on **European security and future** as a panelist.

The event was organised by the Office of the President of Finland in cooperation with FIIA.



Senior Research Fellow **Kristi Raik**, Foreign Minister **Timo Soini** and Senior Analyst at EUISS **Roderick Parkes** discussed **Europe's multiple crises** on 20 May. Photo: **Mattias Lehtinen / FIIA**

New Pact for Europe

FIIA held the first meeting of the Finnish National Reflection Group of the **New Pact for Europe** project on 16 June. The project promotes EU-wide public debate about Europe's future and has been initiated and supported by an international consortium of European foundations. FIIA plans the project's activities in Finland.

A transnational dialogue with a Belgian reflection group and a seminar focusing on the state of the Union will take place in Helsinki in the autumn.

NATO evaluation

In accordance with the Government Programme, the effects of Finland's possible NATO membership were assessed in connection with the preparation of a Report on Finnish Foreign and Security Policy.

Director **Teija Tiilikainen** and member of the FIIA Board **René**

Nyberg took part in preparing the **evaluation** which was submitted to Minister for Foreign Affairs **Timo Soini** on 29 April 2016. Other experts appointed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs were Ambassador (ret.) **Mats Bergqvist** and **François Heisbourg**, Chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

Activities in 2016

By the end of May, FIIA researchers published 15 peer-reviewed academic articles (including in journals *International Affairs*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* and the *International Spectator*), two books, an edited journal issue and a total of 57 publications for professional audiences or the general public.

FIIA researchers gave ten oral and/or written statements to the parliamentary committees and 128

presentations at events which were not organised by FIIA.

Staff News

Dr Mika Aaltola (Global Security programme), **Dr Juha Jokela** (European Union programme) and **Arkady Moshes** (EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia programme) will continue in their current positions in the next 3-year period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

Leo Michel, an expert on US defence and security policy, will join FIIA's **Center on US Politics and Power** with **Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation** funding in late August for three months.

Ryhor Nizhnikau will join the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia programme in August. His research interests include EU policies in the post-Soviet area and Russia's foreign policy.

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs is an independent research institute that produces high level research to support political decision-making and public debate both nationally and internationally

Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs

The second issue of the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs in 2016 came out in late May and dealt with the politics of fear. Fear can alter the physiology of the human brain, and thus it can be a powerful political tool for both terrorists and politicians, Joonas Pörsti [writes in the Journal](#).

In addition, the Journal looked at how the loose talk of using nuclear weapons has dangerously lowered the nuclear threshold, and explores the common roots of Saudi Arabia and ISIS.

The journal is available both as a [printed journal](#) and as an e-paper at [lehtiluukku.fi](#). The next issue is due in mid-September.

Recent publications

All FIIA publications can be downloaded from the Institute's [website](#).

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Books

Tampere University Press

[Neopragmatismi ja kansainvälinen politiikka: Tutkielma Richard Rortyn pragmatismista ja sen vaikutuksista tieteenalan metateoriaan ja etiikkaan](#)
Juha Käpylä

Asia-Europe Journal, vol 14, no 2

[Goeconomics in the context of restive regional powers](#)
Mikael Mattlin & Mikael Wigell (eds.)

FIIA Reports 44–46

[After Rebalance: Vision for the future of US foreign policy and global role beyond 2016](#)
Mika Aaltola & Anna Kronlund (eds.)

[Fog of Falsehood: Russian Strategy of Deception and the Conflict in Ukraine](#)

Katri Pynnöniemi & András Rácz (eds.)

[Europe's New Political Engine: Germany's role in the EU's foreign and security policy](#)
Niklas Helwig (ed.)

FIIA Working Paper 91

[Geopolitics: An Overview of Concepts and Empirical Examples from International Relations](#)
Sören Scholvin

FIIA Briefing Papers 193–197

[Privileged partners? Italy should use its leverage for constructive policies towards Russia](#)
Marco Siddi

[Security in the Baltic Sea Region: activation of risk potential](#)
Katri Pynnöniemi & Charly Saloniemi-Pasternak

[Detour or Direction? The Europeanisation of France's policies towards Russia](#)
David Cadier

[Sticking to the Rules: The United States View on Strengthening the OSCE](#)
Michael Haltzel

[New horizons and internal reforms: The regional implications of China's military posture](#)
Elina Sinkkonen

FIIA Comments

[Committing to humanity? The World Humanitarian Summit offered a glimmer of hope among all the crises](#)
Katja Creutz & Marco Siddi

[Will Angela Merkel cope with the populist challenge?](#)
Niklas Helwig

[The problematic EU-Turkey refugee deal](#)
Toni Alaranta

[Aung San Suu Kyi's shadow presidency](#)
Bart Gaens

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