

NORDIC COOPERATION ON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY – **POTENTIAL UNUSED?**

On Tuesday 8 May, 2018, at 14:00–16:00
At the Seminar Hall
Arkadiankatu 23, entrance H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

Nordic cooperation on foreign and security policy has gained more attention in recent years. Changes in the Nordic states' immediate security environment after the Ukraine crisis as well as growing global uncertainty have turned foreign, security and defence policy into a key part of the Nordic agenda. Nordic countries have significant potential to obtain a stronger voice in international politics. However, there are considerable differences between the Nordic states in security political solutions, institutional affiliations, priorities and levels of commitment. These create dividing lines and constraints that are hard to overcome. What is currently taking place in Nordic foreign and security political cooperation? What are the prospects for deepening this cooperation?

The seminar marks the publication of the report *A stronger North? Nordic cooperation in foreign and security policy in a new security environment*. The report concludes the outcomes of a FIIA-led research project, entitled 'Stronger North? Developing Nordic cooperation on foreign and security policy', which is part of the implementation of the Government Plan for Analysis, Assessment and Research for 2017.

Speakers: **Jukka Salovaara**, Director General, Political Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Krister Bringéus, Ambassador, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Presentation of the report: **Tuomas Iso-Markku**, Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Comments: **Johan Strang**, Senior Research Fellow, University of Oslo

Charlotte Laursen, Ambassador of Denmark to Finland

Åge Grutle, Ambassador of Norway to Finland

Chair: **Teija Tiilikainen**, Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Biographies



Jukka Salovaara has served as Director General for Political Affairs since September 2015, a position in which he is closely involved in Nordic foreign and security policy cooperation. Before his current position Salovaara has acted as Director General for Europe. In addition, Salovaara has worked as State Under-Secretary for EU Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office and Counselor of the Foreign Affairs committee of Parliament.



Tuomas Iso-Markku is a Research Fellow in the European Union research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His research focuses on the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, the European Parliament and the interplay between domestic and EU-level politics. He also specializes in Finnish EU policy and German politics.



Krister Bringéus has a long career in Swedish foreign affairs. Currently he is the Swedish ambassador for the Arctic. Bringéus is the Swedish representative in the Nordic Committee for Cooperation. He has also acted as ambassador for Nordic Affairs, and in several representations over the world including, Washington D.C., London and Moscow. Previously he has been the head of the Swedish representation at OSCE in Vienna. Bringéus has been the member of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences since 2000.



Johan Strang works currently as a guest researcher at UiO:Nordic (University of Oslo). He has previously held a position as a university lecturer from 2015 to 2017 as well as a postdoctoral researcher from 2012 to 2015 at the Centre for Nordic Studies, University of Helsinki. From 2011 to 2012, Strang was a principal investigator and author of the report: Nordic communities (commissioned by the Nordic Council). He has also worked as a guest researcher at the Stein Rokkan Centre for Social Studies in Norway from 2008 to 2010.



Charlotte Laursen is the Ambassador of Denmark to Finland. Before that position she served as Danish Ambassador to Vietnam and Laos from 2015–2018. Previously she has been Deputy Head of Embassy in Vietnam and Secretary of Embassy at the Danish Embassy in Washington DC. From 2012 to 2015 she was the Head of Department for Strategy, Policy and Quality. She is a career diplomat and has worked for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1990 in a number of different areas, including development assistance and export promotion.



Åge Grutle is the ambassador of Norway to Finland. He was head of section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1992 to 1994, secretary for the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1999 and concurrently leader of the parliament's international department from 1997. From 1999 to 2004 he was director general of the Multilateral Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was Norwegian ambassador to Japan from 2004 to 2009 and from 2009 to 2015 Lord Chamberlain at the Norwegian Royal Court.



Teija Tiilikainen is the Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Previously, Dr. Tiilikainen was the Director of the Network of European Studies at the University of Helsinki (2003–2009). She has also served as Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland from 2007 to 2008. Dr. Tiilikainen was the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Finland in the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002–2003. Currently, she is also Editor-in-Chief of *Ulkopolitiikka* – the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs.