



Helsinki, 6 March 2015

Dear Mr La Via,

I wish to express my regret that due to the upcoming parliamentary elections in Finland we cannot attend the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting *From COP 21 Paris to 2050: a roadmap towards an innovative low-carbon, resource-efficient Europe* to be held in Brussels on 30 March 2015. Despite our absence we would like to contribute to the meeting by sharing the following information on the new Climate Change Act that the Parliament of Finland adopted today:

- The purpose of the Act is to create a legally binding framework for the planning and implementation of long-term and medium-term, systematic and cost-effective climate change policies, the present system being based on political programmes. The Act is a goal-oriented skeleton law applicable to state authorities, not ruling obligations applicable to citizens, industries, traffic or agriculture.
- The Act aims at underlining the importance of comprehensive, coherent climate policy, the role of the Parliament in making climate policy, improving transparency and predictability of the policy as well as active participation of the public.
- The Act sets a long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, minimum 80 % in 2050 compared to 1990 level, based on Finland's international treaties, the legislation of the European Union and political commitments.
- The Act ensures that not only planning but also monitoring of climate change policies is comprehensive and sufficient. Additionally, financial and social factors, as well as other essential factors for societal development, such as employment, are to be taken into account when drawing up the plans.
- Open preparation of the plans will be ensured by offering the public extensive opportunities to participate in the planning process.
- The Act does not in general apply to emissions within the scope of emissions trading. However, the long-term obligation to reduce emissions and the monitoring related to it will apply to all emissions.
- The Act includes provisions on long- (10 years) and medium term (4 years) climate change policy plans, the aim of which is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the scope of the Act and, in this regard, mitigate climate change. In addition, the Act also includes provisions of a plan for adaptation to climate change.



EDUSKUNTA

PARLIAMENT OF FINLAND

- The contribution of the Parliament to the formation of climate change policy will be ensured by a mandatory reporting procedure and through an annual climate change report submitted to the Parliament. The Parliament will monitor the implementation of the plans upon receiving the annual report on emission trends, the achievement of emissions reduction targets and the possible additional measures required to fulfil the goals.
- The Act aims at ensuring that climate change policy plans are based on extensive and diverse information. A scientific expert body, Finnish Climate Panel, will be appointed in order to secure the independent research data needed as background information for climate change policies.
- **The aim is to make climate policy planning legally binding, comprehensive, scientifically-based, more effective, transparent, as well as underline the role of the Parliament.**

I hope you find this contribution useful and wish a fruitful meeting!

Sincerely yours,

Martti Korhonen
Chairman of the Environment Committee
Parliament of Finland