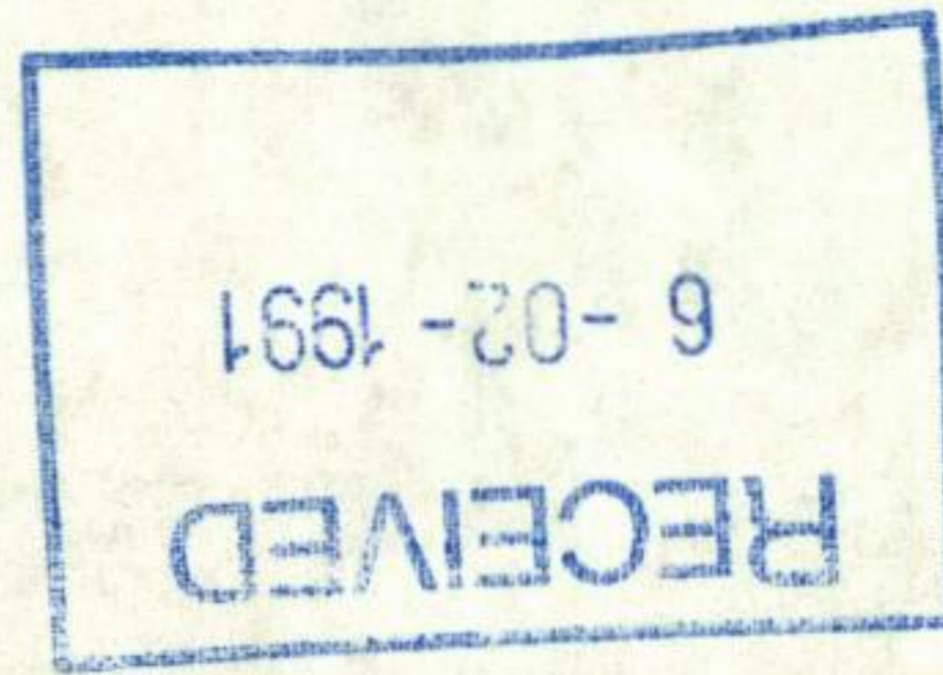


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Helsinki, January 1991

* Replaces Communist Party.

Dear Friends,

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The Left-Wing Alliance is a new Finnish red-green party. It was founded on 28-29th April 1990. At the same time, the Communist Party of Finland (SKP), the Finnish People's Democratic League (SKDL) and the Democratic League of Finnish Women (SNDL) decided to finish their separate political action and fuse **all their activities into the Left-Wing Alliance**, among other things their international activities.

The process with the goal of the establishment of a new Left-Wing Party was started in spring 1988. It was based on those positive experiences of co-operation of leftist and democratic forces collected, inter alia, during the presidential election campaign in the year 1988. A broad red-green party and civic movement was set as the goal.

On the background, there was an evaluation of a need to radically reform aims and working methods of the Left in a developed capitalist country. The traditional Labour movement acting in a society of "fordist" mass production was in crisis. A modern society demands a modern Left. Afterwards, the collapse of bureaucratic socialism in the Eastern Europe has proved our ideas of the need of a modern Left.

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The Left-Wing Alliance has a pluralistic tradition:

"Many of us base our ideology on humanism, with its belief in the possibilities offered by reason and its faith in man's ethical capacity. Most of us view this approach through the socialist ideals of the European labour movement. For many the point of departure is the marxist tradition. An ecological orientation aware of the limits of growth and an increasing consciousness of the position of women in the society also motivate a great number among us. These factors form the ideological foundation of the Left-Wing Alliance" (April Declaration by the Council of the Left Wing Alliance, 7th April 1990)

So, the goal of the party is not socialism (as economical or political system) although socialist ideals, the European workers' movement and Marxism play a key role in the ideological tradition.

In the focus of the programme of the Left-Wing Alliance is the goal of the **sustainable development**. The booklet "Programme of the Left-Wing Alliance: Sustainable development - a just society" enclosed, gives further information on the ideological points-of-departure of the Alliance.

THE ALLIANCES'S STRUCTURE AND ITS LEADING BODIES

The founding conference of the Left-Wing Alliance adopted the party rules, too. Both associations (basis organizations, municipal organizations, district organizations) and individuals can be party members. In addition, independent action groups are allowed to participate in alliance's activities and they have the right of initiative.

Until the end of the year 1990, the party will have in all 15 district organizations, 86 municipal organizations and about 1 600 basic organizations

or action groups and 34 000 individual members. The recruitment of members linked with the party's foundation and the setting up of the organizational structure are still going on.

The highest decision-making body of the Party is the **League Council** elected every third year. This council will be elected through a direct **member's ballot** in which each member has one vote. The Alliance does not hold congresses. Instead of these, main political issues will be discussed in **conferences** open for all party members and organized at least every third year.

The Council elects a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, a party secretary and the **Board** with 10 further members and 5 substitutes. At least one of members and one of the substitutes ought to be Swedish speaking. Both sexes ought to be represented at least by 40 %. The board is responsible for running the party's practical activities.

The Chairperson of the League is Mr **Claes Anderson**, MP, writer and psychiatrist; the vice-chairpersons are Mr **Kari Uotila**, Chief shop steward and Ms **Salme Kandolin**, MA. The post of the party secretary is carried out by Mr **Matti Viialainen**.

The members of the Board are Mr **Jan Otto Andersson**, Pol.Dr; Mr **Tapani Kaakkuriniemi**, researcher; Ms **Marja-Liisa Löyttyjärvi**, MP; Mr **Asko Mäki**, Secretary General; Ms **Maija Pietilä**, editor in chief; Mr **Mikko Raudaskoski**, teacher; Ms **Pirkko Rissanen**, bureau chief; Ms **Marja-Liisa Romppanen**, social worker; Ms **Leena Ruotsalainen**, chairperson; and the substitutes Mr **Risto Hynynen**, planner; Ms **Pia Hyötynen**, editor; Mr **Mikko Kuoppa**, truck driver; Ms **Pauliina Murto-Lehtinen**, information secretary and Ms **Katja Syvärinen**, student.

The next Council and party leadership will be elected by the end of 1991.

THE PARTY OFFICE

In January 1991, 13 secretaries and 9 technical assistants are working in the party's office. These secretaries are the following:

Ms Eeva Asikainen, Secretary for Working Life

Mr Sten Holmberg, Secretary for Swedish Minority

Ms Riitta Juntunen, Information Secretary

Ms Salme Kandolin, Vice-Chairperson responsible for instance for environmental and women's policy

Ms Sirkka-Liisa Mikkonen, Secretary for Environment and Consumer affairs

Mr Jouko Nuutinen, Co-ordinator for the parliamentary election campaign

Ms Ritva Paavonheimo, Secretary for Organization

Ms Lena Paju, Secretary for Women's policy

Mr Timo Roppola, Co-ordinator for the parliamentary election campaign (especially in trade union movement)

Mr Kari Uotila, Vice-Chairperson responsible for instance for the working life affairs

Mr Matti Viialainen, Party Secretary, head of the party office

Mr Ossi Viljakainen, Treasurer

In the international section the following persons are working:

Mr Rauno Merisaari, Secretary for International Affairs

Ms Sinikka Heikkilä, secretary.

In addition, the party office includes the headquarters of the solidarity organization INTERSOLID, **Ms Pirjo Aalto** as Secretary General.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

The next parliamentary election will be held in Finland on 17th March 1991.

The election will define the orientation of the Finnish policy in the 1990's.

The most important issues will be, inter alia:

- what will be Finland's policy regarding the European integration;
- whether the policy of welfare society will be continued or public services decreased and privatized.

The League Council adopted on 17 - 18th November 1990 the party's electoral programme headed "HUNDRED DIFFERENT WAYS TO APPRECIATE MAN AND CONSERVE NATURE". Enclosed you find the thesis concerning the foreign policy including the main goals of the party's international policy.

The parliamentary election is of very special importance for our Party. It is its first election. The goal is to gain as a strong position as possible in the Finnish society and among other things to promote a change in the politics of the present government formed by the Social Democrats and Conservatives. On behalf of the Alliance, the Chairperson **Claes Andersson** has proposed a government formed by the Left, Center and Greens as the best solution.

As result of the party members' ballot in October 1990, the full number of candidates were put up, 230 persons. 43 % of the candidates are female. According to their occupation, the candidates can be divided in following groups: 36 % higher clerical employees, 30 % workers, 23 % lower clerical employees, 4 % students, 4 % farmers, 2 % pensioners and 1,4 entrepreneurs. 12 % of all are at the age of under 30. 10 are Swedish speaking.

In the election 200 MPs will be elected. The goal of the Party is to gain over 20 seats in the parliament. The present parliamentary group consists of 20 MPs since the former parliamentary group of the Finnish People's Democratic League (16 seats) re-organized as the Left-Wing Alliance's parliamentary group. In addition, the Democratic Alternative Party decided to terminate its activities in June 1990 and its 4 MPs joined the Alliance's parliamentary group.

The opinion polls of Autumn 1990 predicted a support of 10 - 11 % for the **Left-Wing Alliance** (1987 the Finnish People's Democratic League gained

9,4 %). The corresponding figures of other big parties were: the Social Democrats about 23-24 % (24,1 %), The Center 21-22 % (17,6 %), the National Coalition Party (Conservatives) about 20 % (23.1 %) and the Greens about 6-9 % (4.0 %).

The opportunities for a better result are given by the fact that a small stalinist party, the Communist Party of Finland (Unity) won't put up its own list of candidates.

THE WOMEN'S POLICY

The extraordinary congress of the Democratic League of Finnish Women decided on April 29th 1990 to transfer its political activities to the Left-Wing Alliance. It also appealed to all its members to take their place in women's activities of the Alliance and in groups co-operating with the Alliance. A similar decision was also taken by the Women's Action Center.

In October in Jyväskylä, the **Left-Wing Women** were founded as an open nation-wide women's network. It is built up of regionally or thematically organized action groups. The Left-Wing Women are working in the frame of the Left-Wing Alliance. In the same time, it is an independent action group and open also to all women who do not want to join the Party. The Left-Wing Women is not a registered association. The link between the women is the magazine "**Pippuri/Pepper**" playing also the role of a membership register. The magazine is published four times a year.

The founding gathering of the Left-Wing Women adopted an Agreement on Action dealing with current actual issues of women's policy and femininity. The Agreement on Action strongly emphasizes women's right to decide on their own lives, eg. sexuality, motherhood and organization of very day life in a reasonable way. The Agreement is valid two next years, until the next nation-wide women's conference.

The decision-making body of the Left-Wing Women is the Women's Scepter with 20 members and three Spokeswomen elected for two years. In this two year period, the Spokeswomen of the Left-Wing Women are Ms **Ulla-Leena Alppi**, freelancer writer, Ms **Outi Ojala**, specially trained nurse and Ms **Mirja Ylitalo**, trade union lawyer.

The Left Wing-Women carries the tasks of a women's organization. The Secretary for Women's Policy is responsible for the practical actions in co-operation with the Women's Scepter. The Secretary for Women's Policy is Ms **Lena Paju**. In addition, in the party leadership vice-chairperson Ms **Salme Kandolin** is responsible for women's policy.

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The starting points of the Left-Wing Alliance's international relations are defined in the decision "International relations - in principle" you'll find enclosed. The goal of the Alliance is to promote the international co-operation between left wing parties and democratic civic movements.

The Left-Wing Alliance is neither part of a worldwide ideological movement, nor it has fraternal parties. The right to the national self-determination, the respect of human rights and fight against racism are moral principles of the Party's international activities.

The Council adopted on 17th November 1990 the main guidelines of the international activities in 1991. According to this decision, the focus will be in neighboring areas of Finland, i.e. the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries, the Arctic Area including the Northern parts of the Soviet Union, Finland, Sweden and Norway and the immediate neighborhood of the Soviet Union: Karelia and the Leningrad region.

The highlight of the co-operation with the left-wing parties of other Nordic countries - the Left Party from Sweden, the Socialist Left Party from

Norway and the Socialist People's Party from Denmark - is the party leader's meeting in February in Finland.

Emphasis is given to the co-operation in the Baltic area among other things through solidifying contacts with The Baltic Popular Fronts and left-wing parties.

A party delegation visited the Soviet Union and Russia in December and discussed with CPSU and other political forces on international situation and bilateral cooperation.

The Alliance aims to create functioning contacts with other parties of the European Left. The further development of the European security system and the process of integration are crucial issues in 1991. Since the Finnish left-wing parties - the Social Democrats and the Left-Wing Alliance - decided to postpone their initiative of the Forum for European, the Left-Wing Alliance aims to promote the co-operation of the entire Left foremost through bilateral contacts.

The Alliance wants to establish firm contacts with the Socialist International. The Alliance participated as guest in the Conference for Disarmament of the SI in September 1990.

Concerning global questions of development, the emphasis is given to exchange of information with parties and organizations of the Third World.

The Secretary of International Affairs is assisted by the Left-Wing Alliance's Secretariat for International Affairs. It coordinates the International Policy and Foreign Relations of the Party and every day work of the Unit of International Affairs. The members of the Secretariat are: **Mr Rauno Merisaari** (coordinator), **Ms Pirjo Aalto**, **Mr Sten Holmberg**, **Mr Arto Huovinen**, **Ms Mirjam Korhonen**, **Mr Hannu Ohvo**, **Mr Mauri Uusilehto**, and **Mr Markku Vainio**.

The Board of the Party, and among the Party Leadership the Party Secretary in particular, are responsible for the Strategy of Party's International Policy.

THE SOLIDARITY WORK

The Left-Wing Alliance organizes its solidarity and development co-operation activities through the INTERSOLID - an umbrella organization of several left-wing organizations. In co-operation with other Finnish civic movements the assistance is directed to NGOs of developing countries. The main target countries have been Nicaragua, Salvador, Southern Africa and Palestine. There has also been a broad political co-operation with parties and civic organizations of the Third World.

In addition to the traditional solidarity work, the problems of development has been getting more and more important. The action basis is given by the principles of the sustainable development. Openness, creativity and co-operation without prejudice open new perspectives to solve development problems. Also in the future, the focus in the material solidarity activities will be in joint projects improving women's and children's living conditions and promoting equality.

The representatives of the Alliance aim to contribute to the contents of the policy of the Finnish development assistance so that this co-operation could help developing countries in their efforts to achieve the economic independence. The international trade, customs and credit policy plays here the most important role.

TO THE CONCLUSION

Especially, a broad co-operation of different political movements and parties is required in order to solve the global problems of environment, development and armament. The Left-Wing Alliance is ready to open

co-operation without prejudice. We are ready, among other things, to exchange information and to establish contacts of various kinds.

With this letter

we want to wish you a Happy New Year, too!

With best regards



Rauno Merisaari

Secretary for International Affairs

The Left-Wing Alliance