



The Finns Party The Finnish Parliament Elections of 2015

THE FINNS PARTY'S IMMIGRATION POLICY

Europe is presently undergoing unprecedented migration from Africa and the Middle East - a migration partially resulting from the current wars and crises but mostly because of the difference in living standards between Europe and these areas. Europe, especially in its northern part, has the world's most generous social welfare programs. It's also an attractive destination for migrants who lack necessary skills for employment as well as for those with religious and cultural reasons that are not willing to accept basic European concepts and principles of equality and freedom of speech.

The basic freedom of movement within the European Union allows migrants crossing the Mediterranean to choose the EU member state they would like to apply to for asylum. This possibility, combined with the social welfare generosity of the northern member states, results in the overwhelming majority of migrants seeking asylum to head northwards.

The asylum procedure was initiated to help people that were fleeing persecution but it has become the most important modus operandi for the present stream of migrants - many of which have questionable backgrounds as to whether persecution is the real issue. Extremely high unemployment, already existing throughout much of the EU, together with the present public sector austerity programs make the integration and absorption of a huge number of migrants prohibitive. Immigration will change, irreversibly, the host country's population profile, disrupt social cohesion, overburden public services and economic resources, lead to the formation of ghettos, promote religious radicalism and its consequences, and foster ethnic conflicts. Actual outcomes of these factors can be seen in the many riots, brutal events, and the formation of violent gangs in a number of large European cities.

Immigration must be handled in its component parts – not as a single issue. Policy related to refugees and genuine asylum issues is quite a different matter than migration policy connected to labour and employment management where a large number of migrants come to work and contribute to the building and development of Finland. The purpose of immigration policy and associated legislation, from a Finnish perspective, is to provide beneficial, or at least neutral, results from immigration and to prevent it from causing economic or other societal damage to Finland. Immigration and migration should not be seen as part of a naïve “save the world” project. It should be especially realized, during these difficult economic times, that the taxpayer’s sense of justice is tested by the growing

appropriations for migrants. At the same time, the questionable use of the 'employment route' by asylum, refugee and family unification migrants - so that they get considered for benefits not really meant for them - starts to erode support for all such programs by ordinary citizens.

Finland's immigration problems and costs are still relatively low – but this is not because Finland has succeeded in integration of these migrant populations better than other countries but rather that 'humanitarian migration' is still a rather new phenomenon. This movement can be said to have started with the transfer of Somali students from the defunct Soviet Union to Finland in the early 1990's. It can still be possible to avoid the immigration disasters of Sweden, France and the United Kingdom but it will require a determined policy and clear legislation. Up until now, Finland's policy in these matters has been raising hands in frustration and "hoping for the best." This method must stop – and quickly! Migrant populations have grown quickly in Finland – and the increase has been faster than in other west European countries. Moreover, it is concentrating in several of the largest cities.

Presently, Finland has a population of about 300,000 of foreign origin, which is 5.5 % of the total population. Over the last 10 years, this number has increased by about 20,000 per year – while at the same time, there has been no recognizable changes in policies. If this migration continues with similar or higher numbers, it is clear that Finland will not be able to successfully integrate these populations and guarantee the maintenance of societal peace in the country.

Immigration policy should have the goal of a return to the net migration statistics of the 1990's. The lowering of migrant numbers will allow resources to be freed and better used for integration – especially in regard to challenging situations. When migration numbers are under control, the support for immigration policies from the main population will increase.

Family reunification policies - Reform

Family reunification is one of the important causes of migration. Immigration researchers and politicians have assured that family reunification advances the process of migration integration. There is, however, no evidence supporting this idea that those migrants entering on humanitarian grounds have been successful at integration. Indeed, for migrants in Sweden and Finland - which have been permitting family reunification - the results have been miserable.

Many European countries, such as Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, have put significant restrictions into their family reunification legislation in recent years to prevent family members abroad from receiving welfare benefits. Finland should be taking lessons from these countries on how to develop similar policies rather than copying Sweden which has decided on 'open door' family reunification policies.

The 'Family Reunification' policy is also used to lure those who would use the routes across the Mediterranean to Europe. Migration and the problematic consequences (including danger to life itself) can be reduced very effectively by decreasing and/or eliminating these incentives.

There should be economic support requirements for the family member that acts as a sponsor for the reunification - except where they have been given definite 'refugee' status. We think it's reasonable to require that a person be able to support themselves before they can invite other family members to Finland. Such requirements will not only reduce detrimental migration from Finland's standpoint but also be a good incentive for those already here to find employment - or to perhaps seek retraining.

The requirement to be able to support themselves might also be made to apply to a Finnish citizen that would be wishing to sponsor migrants. Such a rule would help to prevent so-called 'marriages of convenience' - a reference rule would be the Danish one where a person must show they have not received public support for two years before such a marriage. Similarly a higher age than the usual minimum age for marriage might be set for the foreign partner of a possible arranged marriage.

The refugee quota system – A Reassessment

In Europe, and even globally, there is only a handful of countries having a refugee system with quotas. Since Finland is attracting an ever-increasing number of spontaneous asylum seekers, there should be an evaluation of whether the quota system is any longer meaningful for us. In any case, the number of refugees should conform to the economic situation. If there is a governmental budgetary deficit, expenditures are paid by additional debt and the level of basic public services is being decreased, then we must consider cutting refugee quotas.

Employment-related Immigration - Control

Work force migration to Finland from outside the EU/ETA area should be continued to be kept closed for the most part - labor mobility and availability in the EU is sufficient to handle needs in the Finnish labour market. The EU 'Blue Card' system already allows people with special skills to work throughout most of the EU and so it is not necessary for Finland to initiate any of its own programs in this regard. Finnish employers should put effort into hiring presently unemployed Finns and migrant youth already living in Finland and not be looking for workers outside our borders.

Ghettoisation - An Unwelcome phenomenon

Migrants entering from the refugee and asylum arrangements are usually living in the larger cities in Finland - similarly as to what is happening in the rest of Europe. And because the living places are usually provided from the public sector, the migrants end up being concentrated in particular areas of the city. When this is combined with local schools promoting multicultural diversity, the result is that the population with higher incomes are moving out. The consequence is that we get 'migrant ghettos' which greatly isolate the inhabitants from interaction with the rest of the society and these neighbourhoods can be germinators for such things as religious radicalism, gangs, etc.

The concentration of migrants in certain areas - which inhibits integration and can result in other negative characteristics - also aggravates the housing shortage. Families of employed persons with low and middle-sized incomes are finding it difficult to locate reasonably priced living places - particularly in Helsinki. A continuation of this trend will find

taxpayers leaving Helsinki and only unemployed migrants left. This, of course, has a devastating effect on local government finances.

The goal should be to decrease the migrants coming to Finland to a small enough number so we can be assured that societal integration will succeed with a reasonable amount of financial resources. Immigration should also be directed to lower-cost locations throughout Finland - a process which will also help budgetary constraints as well as avoiding high concentrations and subsequent ghettoisation - and make integration more likely. If public support is to be used, migrants must locate where they are directed - if they are to use their own resources, they then, of course, can live where they wish.

Multiculturalism - An Artificial 'shoring up'

Politics that binds itself to multiculturalism emphasizes the preservation of the migrants' own identity, culture, religion and exceptionalism and promotes societal support - for example, financial subsidies for various migrant organizations. We believe that society and taxpayers do not have the responsibility, voluntarily or otherwise, to give support to migrants' feelings of identity, culture or religious practices.

The Finnish government and municipalities have built a framework of advisors, consultants, coordinators and varied researchers that live off the problems of migrants. This structure must be cut down drastically.

The Finnish education system is for serving Finland and Finns

Finnish universities are attracting low-income foreign students with free tuition - as well as, very often, teaching subjects in English. This 'internationalization' has the goal of raising the competitiveness of Finland and also increasing the quality level of university research.

The world's most prestigious universities do not attract highly talented students with free tuition but rather with quality teaching, guidance and research. The maintenance of equality requires financial support which is often gotten through high tuition fees - the Finns Party believes that students coming from outside the EU should have to pay these fees.

Finland's free higher education is paid for by Finns - and therefore it can be said that the right to it is meant for Finns. Foreign students enjoying free education in Finland are consuming financial resources and student places - and additionally do not usually stay in Finland to offer their acquired skills as the teaching of courses in English usually results in the students not learning Finnish.

Affirmative action in hiring

Many municipalities prefer to hire minority job applicants - the so-called process of 'affirmative action.' This procedure attempts to ensure that different ethnic and language populations have employment in the public sector with a similar proportion as the corresponding percent that they represent in the general population.

Ethnic-based 'affirmative action' is unjustified as there is no evidence that minority 'quota-type' representatives bring to the work environment extra value or improve that minority's

general status. The lower representation of various ethnic groups in the public sector work force, and similarly in the general work force, is explained, above all, by the particular minority's weaker average skill level in languages as well as a lower level of education.

Equality should mean that there is equality of opportunity and not that the outcome is equality. The solution of unemployment problems is certainly tied to the development of 'work skills.' Society must offer the same training possibilities for all but the conversion of these opportunities into positive results is the responsibility of the individual.

Naturalization as a reward

Motivation for integrating into the Finnish society must emanate from the migrants themselves. Achieving Finnish citizenship cannot be assumed as just happening on its own - it must be earned with the evaluation of how the applicant is integrating into Finnish society. The level of integration can be objectively measured by the development of Finnish or Swedish language skills, the capability of supporting themselves and adhering to the laws and rules of Finnish society. The period of residence in Finland, prior to the granting of citizenship, should also be lengthened - regardless of the original basis for entry - employment, humanitarian or other grounds.

The laws concerning Finnish citizenship should also be re-examined with an eye to the possibility of revoking citizenships granted previously. Holding a Finnish passport should be considered a privilege and a symbol of a commitment to a person's new homeland - not just a document which would facilitate someone's travel plans. Dual citizenship should be permitted only in very exceptional cases. It must be realized that dual citizenship can also represent a security risk in that a foreign power can consider persons living in Finland with that power's citizenship to be within their legitimate sphere of influence.

"Home country" visits - Jihad tourism

The asylum procedure is intended for those experiencing persecution in their home country. If an applicant is granted entry on these humanitarian grounds - or subsequently given Finnish citizenship - and found to be spending holidays in their former "home country," or sending their children there to "learn the culture" or, in the worst case, to act in a military capacity there, it should be clearly evident that the person no longer considers that country to be dangerous. In those cases, there is no need for any further protection and any residence permit revoked.

Responsible authorities - Information exchange development

When aliens are continually applying for financial social support, they may well be no longer eligible for a residence permit. However the Social Services authorities are prohibited from informing the Finnish Immigration Service. This is a good example of defective legislation which prevents responsible work by authority officials and is directly opposed to the interests of the Finnish taxpayer.

Social Services officials should be obligated to inform the Immigration Service of repeated requests of financial support to the Finnish Immigration Service. This information can be significantly helpful in curbing the EU's internal "poverty migration."

Undocumented people - Solicitation

There is considerable discussion in Finland as to the offering of health services to undocumented persons as these people are living in Finland illegally. The Finns Party believes, unequivocally, that these persons should be deported and services should not be offered - as these will only be an additional attraction.

Finland, as well as other west European countries, have seen since the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU, a migration of a large number of Roma people engaging in solicitation. This solicitation is, more or less, associated with a great deal of street crime, shoplifting and burglaries. These phenomena can be effectively reduced by prohibitions of soliciting in public.

Immigration costs - Development of transparency

The social welfare system and its related statistics should be developed so that the various categories as to type and provider can be specified in a much more detailed and categorized manner. Only in this manner can the services be published in a clear and transparent way. Consequently, speculation can be minimized and, at the same time, costs realistically assessed and more accurate forecasts made.

International development financial aid – A Reflection

International aid is not, in the opinion of the Finns Party, a core function of government. Accordingly, we do not feel that such aid should continue at present levels, and certainly not increased, when at the same time the public sector is undergoing austerity measures. We feel the goal should be that international aid funds are collected with voluntary contributions.

Regardless of the government financing system, the costs of the humanitarian immigration program should be included in the international aid budget and the total numbers used at the time of evaluation of these measures.

Additionally, the aim of development programs should be sustainable results in the target countries. Africa must not be a patient for continual 'intra-venous feeding' by Europe. Development aid should be on a strictly conditional basis and should automatically cease if the conditions are not met. In practice, this means that aid funds must not be used - in disproportionate amounts to the country's own financial resources - for military use or to support a ruling elite's extravagant living standards. The keys to economic development are good government, the removal of corruption, the rule of law and human rights.

European Union

The European Union has passed a strongly binding common asylum policy with a "burden sharing mechanism" which promotes a program where migrants from Africa and the Middle East should be distributed evenly among EU member states. Such "burden sharing" would seriously affect Finland with large numbers of people that would be difficult to successfully integrate into Finnish society - as well as making it difficult for Finland to make its own decisions on who enters our country.

The Finns Party is opposed to this "burden sharing" model not only because additional non-employment related migration is not to Finland's advantage but also the wrong way to address the difference in living standards. The population of Africa is predicted to be some 4 billion by the end of this century. Supporting this population explosion and the consequent exacerbation of poverty will mean the EU intervening on the behalf of good government, promotion of economic activity and efficiency and encouraging an increasing role of women in Africa. The key is 'result-responsibility' and strict condition-based aid. Refugees resulting from war and other crises should be set up in places that are relatively near to the disturbed areas and the intention and plan should be that these people return home as soon as circumstances permit.

In conclusion

Finland needs to abandon the last 25 years of thought that immigration and multiculturalism are intrinsically necessary and desirable concepts. A generous welfare state and open borders are not compatible. High taxes do not attract high talent but tax-financed public services do attract migrants seeking high standards of living. The structure of present immigration is only weakening the level of services and the financial well-being of the welfare state itself.

Finland must remain an open society for those who have the ability and desire to be responsible for their own affairs and live with the principle "when in Rome, do as the Romans do." At the same time, it is necessary to do what we can to prevent the addition of those people looking for an expensive 'free ride.' Additionally, the asylum methods will have improved acceptability by the Finnish population if use of that channel is made more difficult to abuse.