

# **CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CALL FOR CLARITY**

**Helsinki, May 26, 2001**

## **Resolution by the XXIV party congress of the Christian Democrats in Finland**

### **Nordic cooperation on European Union affairs needs to be strengthened**

The Finnish membership in the European Union has clarified the status of Finland among the democratic States in Europe. Therefore, Finnish policy on EU affairs should in future be prepared in closer corporation with the Nordic EU member States and also with the Baltic States. The Christian Democrats in Finland will aim at enhancing co-operation on EU affairs together with the corresponding political parties in the region.

Finnish policy on European affairs must be anchored in the support of the citizens. The language of discussions on the future of the EU is limited to people with a special interest in the matter. In order to correct the situation, the Finnish government should publish an annual report on European policy.

### **Support for increasing the international responsibilities of the EU**

The Christian Democrats in Finland believe it is important to develop the EU clearly as a community of European democracies. We support increasing the international responsibilities of the Union. The Nordic dimension of the Union needs more substance. This dimension fortifies the ties to Russia. The division of competence between the different organs of the Union needs to be clarified. The division of competence between the Member States and the Union also needs to be clarified. The enlargement of the Union must be accomplished by the end of this decade. Only after this stage will it be possible to make a realistic assessment of further development of the Union.