

Curriculum vitae

24 October 2016

Katja Lehto-Komulainen

Born in 1969, Seinäjoki, Finland

Katja Lehto-Komulainen joined the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK, 19 years ago. Currently, she is Head of International Affairs. She has an extensive understanding of the labour market and of the economy both at the national and at the European level. The values she believes in are freedom, equality and solidarity. She is passionate about protecting workers' rights and fighting against injustice. She is member of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, SDP, since 1986.

She graduated with a Master's Degree in Law. She has worked together with trade union colleagues in Europe and worldwide in the Workers' Group at the International Labour Conference. She has worked in the Cabinet of Minister of Labour Ms. Tarja Filatov. Concerning European institutions, she has experience of working in the Cabinet of Mr. Erkki Liikanen, Member of the European Commission and in the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter.

She has many years of experience working together with the ETUC, the ITUC and the PERC. She has cooperated with other trade unions in the Nordic countries and the Baltic Sea Region, including Russia. As a member of the SAK's delegation, she participated in the ICFTU's Congress in Miyazaki in 2004 and in the ITUC's 2nd World Congress in Vancouver in 2010. In both of these, she was also a member of the Resolutions Committee. She was again a member of the SAK's delegation to the ITUC's 3rd World Congress in Berlin in 2014." She has been a member of the ICFTU's, the ITUC's and the PERC's Women's Committees.

Ms. Lehto-Komulainen was a member of the SAK's delegation to the ETUC's 9th Congress in Helsinki, in 1999. She was elected a substitute member of the Executive Committee in the ETUC's 11th Congress in Sevilla, in 2007 and re-elected in the ETUC's 12th Congress in Athens 2011 as well as in the ETUC's 13th Congress in Paris 2015. She was a member of the ETUC Congress Preparatory Committee prior to the 13th Congress. She is currently a member of the ETUC Constitution Review Ad Hoc Committee. She is a substitute member of the European Economic and Social Committee.

As Head of International Affairs in the SAK, she is responsible for coordination of a wide range of EU matters. She has worked with SAK colleagues in matters related to, for instance, collective bargaining, labour law, financial affairs, economic governance, the European Semester, macroeconomic policy, employment, labour market policy, better regulation, international trade and investment policies, social policy, health and safety, education and lifelong learning, migration, sustainable development, and organising.

She assists President of the SAK Mr. Jarkko Eloranta who is a member of the ETUC's Executive Committee and a member of the ETUC's Steering Committee. Assisting

President of the SAK involves both bilateral and multilateral meetings. Before Mr. Eloranta, she assisted Mr. Lauri Ihalainen (2007 – 2009) and Mr. Lauri Lyly (2009 – 2016).

As Head of International Affairs she is responsible for managing her team and coordinating EU matters not only within the SAK but also with its 21 affiliates and with STTK and Akava. In the SAK, she is responsible for the budget for international affairs, including solidarity action.

She has experience of leadership also beyond the SAK. She was nominated Worker Delegate of Finland for the first time in 2009 and in this position she has led the Finnish Worker Delegation to the International Labour Conference. The delegation consists of representatives of all three Finnish trade union confederations. She has served as Vice President of the Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland (SASK) and is currently Vice President of the European Movement in Finland.

She has served as a Member of the Labour Court of Finland and as a Member of the Insurance Court. She has represented SAK's views in several Committees of the Finnish Parliament.

Ms. Lehto-Komulainen has experience of negotiations with employers' organisations nationally and beyond. Right from the beginning, she was SAK's representative in a tripartite working group on EU labour law at the Ministry of Labour and in the national tripartite ILO Committee. She has negotiated with employers' representatives in bipartite working groups. She was a member and Co-Secretary of a bipartite working group on working time in 1998–1999 and co-organised a joint study trip to discuss working time with DGB and BDA, TUC and CBI, CFDT and Medef in 1999. She was a member of a national implementation working group which reached an agreement on a binding implementation of the Framework Agreement on Telework (2002). At the European level, she was a member of the ETUC's Negotiation Group concerning the Framework Agreement on Inclusive Labour Markets (2010). At the global level, she has experience of negotiating with employers' organisations at the International Labour Conference.

Ms. Lehto-Komulainen's professional skills were further developed during the time she assisted Finnish Social Democratic Minister of Labour Ms. Tarja Filatov in a coalition government consisting of three Finnish parties: the Center Party (the party of the Prime Minister, Mr. Matti Vanhanen), the Social Democrats and the Swedish People's Party in Finland. MP Filatov is currently Chairperson of the Employment and Equality Committee.

Minister Filatov's Cabinet consisted of her Personal Secretary, of Ms. Lehto-Komulainen as the only political adviser in the Ministry of Labour, and of an Assistant in the Parliament. Finland does not have a system of Vice Ministers. At the time, there was also no political State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour.

Ms. Lehto-Komulainen assisted Minister Filatov not only in relation to the formal and informal meetings of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) and to the International Labour Conference, but also in relation to a whole range of national labour market issues including but not limited to employment policies and labour law, labour market policy, inclusive labour market, free movement of workers, public employment services, work related migration and integration, and non-military service. Ms.

Lehto-Komulainen assisted Minister Filatov during the Finnish EU Presidency in 2006 and was present when Minister Filatov participated in hearings at the European Parliament prior to the Finnish EU Presidency. It was part of Ms. Lehto-Komulainen's responsibilities to assist Minister Filatov in budget negotiations. She assisted Minister Filatov also in negotiations on the long term budgetary framework. She assisted the Minister in preparing for the weekly Direct Live Discussion at the Parliament. Ms. Lehto-Komulainen also took part in the weekly meetings of the Social Democratic Ministerial Group and of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group.

Work experience

Head of International Affairs at SAK, Finland, from 1 April 2012 to present

Senior Adviser of International Affairs at SAK, Finland, from October 2009 to March 2012

European Secretary at SAK, Finland, from 1 May 2007 to September 2009

Special adviser to the Social Democratic Minister of Labour Ms. Tarja Filatov from January 2005 to April 2007

Legal Adviser at SAK, Finland from October 1997 to January 2005

Government Secretary (lawyer) at the International Affairs Unit, Ministry of Labour, from March 1996 to October 1997. Her responsibilities included ILO standards and the European Social Charter. She took part in the Committee on the Application of the Conventions and Recommendations at the International Labour Conference as Adviser to the government delegates. It was her duty to draft Government Bills on the ratification of the ILO standards. She was a member of the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter in Strasbourg.

Lawyer at the Ministry of Labour, Personnel and Administrative Unit, from February 1995 to February 1996. Her main areas of responsibility were legal matters concerning non-military service in Finland as well as personnel and administrative matters. She was a civil servant whose task was to draft decisions for the scrutiny of the Council of State (the Government).

Trainee at the European Commission in the Cabinet of Member of the European Commission Mr. Erkki Liikanen for Budget, Personnel and Administration, 1995–1996 (five months). The working languages were English and French. Among other things, Ms. Lehto-Komulainen assisted at cabinet meetings and meetings with the Director General and with the MEPs of the Budgetary Committee of the European Parliament. Mr. Liikanen is currently Governor of the Bank of Finland and a member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank.

Assistant at the International Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Labour, from September 1994 to January 1995. She was recruited upon Finland's forthcoming accession to the European Union. She assisted in coordinating EU labour law issues including the draft Directive on the posting of workers.

Work and other experience before graduation

Notary Public and Head of Local Register Office during law studies, in four different offices (also bi-lingual) in different towns in Finland.

Interpreter at a Red Cross Refugee Centre during law studies, in Rovaniemi, Finland

Translator Russian–Finnish, during law studies, at the request of the Director of the SAK's Regional Office in Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland

Stagière, un stage accéléré de langue française pour animateurs de jeunesse organisé par le Centre Européen de la Jeunesse du Conseil de l'Europe à Strasbourg, 1989 ;

Stagière, un stage de perfectionnement en langue française organisé par le Centre Européen de la Jeunesse du Conseil de l'Europe au Foyer International d'Accueil de Paris, La Défense (FIAPAD), 1990.

Representative of Finnish Social Democratic Youth Organisation at a Nordic Social Democratic Youth Congress (Förbundet Nordens Socialdemokratiska Ungdom), Roskilde, Denmark, 1990

Member of the Council of Representatives, Student Union of the University of Lapland 1989-1991

Vice President of the Executive Board,, responsible for International Affairs, Student Union of the University of Lapland

Chairperson of the Social Democratic Students' Organisation in Rovaniemi 1989-90

Representative of the Finnish Social Democratic Youth Organisation at the Preparatory Meeting for the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, Strasbourg, May 1989

Member of the Social Democratic Youth Organisation's Executive Committee 1989-90

Substitute member of the Youth Committee in Seinäjoki 1988.

Member of the Finnish Social Democratic Youth Delegation at the Youth Festival of the International Union of Socialist Youth, Valencia, Spain, July 1987

Education

Master of Laws, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland, 1994

Becoming a Leader, Executive Education Programme, Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland, 2015 (Diploma in English)

Education for Directors and Heads of Teams at SAK, 2012

Languages

Finnish: native, English: fluent, Scandinavian (Swedish, Norwegian, Danish): fluent, French: fluent, Russian: intermediate, Spanish: elementary

Decoration

Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite (France)

Other

At the request of SAK President Mr. Lauri Lyly, she participated as one of the rare trade union representatives in a high level foreign policy discussion led by President of the Republic, Mr. Sauli Niinistö, in Naantali, Finland, June 2015.

Chairperson of a local French-Finnish friendship organisation Cercle franco-finlandais de Porvoo/Borgå in her home town Porvoo, 2010-2012.

Studied Russian at the Russian Science and Cultural Center in Helsinki, Finland, 2008–2009 and 2009–2010

Studied Russian in the State University of St. Petersburg, Russia; a two-week intensive course, October 2007

Contact information

Email address: katja.lehto@sak.fi

Address: Katja Lehto-Komulainen, the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK, P.O.Box 157, 00531 Helsinki, Finland

mobile phone: +358 40 731 2386