

Election results in Finland

The Left managed to get a clear electoral victory in Finland. With an increase of 3,4 per cent of the votes, the Left Alliance could fairly call itself the only winner of the elections. This meant also the Left Alliance's return to the European Parliament. The new MEP is Merja Kyllönen, second term MP and former minister of transport.

The general election results provided little surprises, as the opinion polls quite well predicted the final results. Quite expectedly, the conservatives and the centre party were the biggest parties. The most interesting element in the result of the centre party was total division in the attitudes towards European integration amongst the top candidates, as both leading euroskeptic and current commission member were elected.

The right-wing populist True Finns party clearly waited for an electoral victory. They indeed increased their popularity from the European election of 2009, but on the other hand are clearly in decline from the peak of their support in the 2011 parliamentary election, and had problems calling their result a victory. The social democrats finished behind the True Finns with a humiliating defeat, scoring historically low at 12,3 per cent. This catastrophe will call for deep self-reflection within the SDP.

Also the Greens scored considerably lower than in 2009, losing their second MEP. This was yet somewhat expected, as the 2009 score was unusually high. The last seat went to the Swedish People's Party, which managed to keep its MEP (who is, incidentally, an old Marxist radical).

The Left proceeded in almost all areas of the country. In Helsinki constituency, the Left Alliance finished third, ahead of both True Finns and the Social democrats. In the Suomussalmi constituency, home to fresh MEP Kyllönen, the Left Alliance got 50,7% of the overall vote.

The campaign of the Left was generally successful. Behind Kyllönen but with a considerable personal vote (number 9 in the country) was Li Andersson, the chairperson of the Left Youth. Andersson's campaign was highly inspiring especially for the younger generation of the Left, and she had considerable support in the large cities (number 2 in Helsinki). Kyllönen, on the other hand, could mobilise her base in eastern and northern parts of the country. Other Left candidates, despite an active campaign, finished far behind the two.

The other EL group, the communist party, finished with 0,3 per cent of the vote, showing a steady decline from 2009.

Overall results:

Conservatives: Kokoomus 22,6% 3 seats

Liberals: Centre 19,7% 3 seats, Swedish people's party 6,7% 1 seat

Nationalist, unclear alignment: True Finns 12,9%, 2 seats

Social democrats: 12,3% 2 seats

GUE/NGL: Left Alliance 9,3% 1 seat, Communist party 0,3%, 0 seats

The Greens: 9,3% 1 seat

Teppo Eskelinen, Left Forum, May 26, 2014