



REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSIONER

The year 2006 was the best operational year for the Finnish Police in 15 years. This was due to enhanced police leadership, performance management and monitoring, and concentrating on the development of one focus area each year.

The finances of the police remained under control, although cost pressures were caused by the EU Presidency and the introduction of biometric passports. The number of police officers exceeded the 2002 level, which had been set as the target. In the course of the year, recent graduates of the Police College were engaged on a fixed-term basis for EU Presidency security duties, among other things.

The new passports containing biometrical identifiers were introduced in August. Despite the tight schedule, the introduction was effected without difficulties.

A local police administration reform was launched in late 2006. The aim is to create an organization whose administration and management structures are as lean as possible, yet which can guarantee police services nationwide. Sufficient field resources for the police are also to be ensured.

The proposals for the new local police administration structures were completed in December. They involve a reduction in the number of local police departments from 90 to about 30.

Internal control of the legality of police operations was further developed in 2006. Planned inspections were conducted in each province and in the national police units.

Inspections by Provincial Police Commands were made more systematic, continuing to focus on the appropriateness of the use of coercive measures in

pre-trial investigations with specific reference to their relevance in solving crimes. This is important for the legal protection of the victims of crime.

The number of complaints lodged against the police did not change significantly during 2006, remaining stable at about 1,300. Most of these complaints are related to the pre-trial investigation of offences.

Decisions regarding complaints consider not only the purely legal aspects of each case but also whether the procedure involved was appropriate in view of the basic rights of citizens. Some 5% to 10% of complaints lead to the issue of a reprimand or instructions on the proper procedure for future reference. If there is reason to suspect that an offence in public office has been committed when applying an incorrect procedure, an order will be issued to conduct a pre-trial investigation. Some 646 reports were filed in 2006 against police officers suspected of committing an offence. This figure decreased by about 100 on the previous year. The pretrial investigation of an offence where a police officer is a suspect is always conducted by a public prosecutor. The police administration information security principles came into force on 1 December 2006. The purpose of these principles is to specify information security policy, to standardize procedures and to increase systematization.

Media interest in the police remained high, both locally and nationally. Relationships between the police and the media were actively developed nationwide, for instance by training personnel responsible for external communications at police departments. ■

Markku Salminen

National Police Commissioner



THE FINNISH POLICE IN 2006

The year 2006 represented a major challenge for the Finnish Police. The security arrangements for Finland's Presidency of the European Union and the international conferences, which the police were responsible for safeguarding, kept all police units busy.

The EU Presidency security arrangements proceeded as planned. They were appropriately scaled and did not upstage the content of the meetings. The security arrangements were scaled according to international needs but were implemented according to Finnish practice as far as possible.

The most important changes in the content of police operations during the Finnish EU Presidency were joining the Treaty of Prüm and the enlargement of the Schengen area together with progress in introducing the related new information system.

The Finnish EU Presidency as a whole was the largest group of events ever organized in Finland requiring security arrangements of an international standard. Moreover, the ASEM 6 Summit for European and Asian Heads of State or Government held in Helsinki in early September was the largest single conference of any kind in Finland ever.

The need for security arrangements was heightened by the recent terrorist attacks in the EU.

The participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin at the informal meeting of EU Heads of State or Government in Lahti in October required an even more heightened state of security.

In 2006, 763,052 offences were reported to the

police, representing a decrease of 3% on the previous year. The number of crimes resolved by the police was 583,236. Most of the detection rates improved on the previous year.

Public order and security remained good throughout the whole country, even though police resources were concentrated at the locations of meetings related to the EU Presidency. Crime prevention results also improved.

A number of projects important for the future of the police were launched during the year, including an administrative reform and the background study for an overhaul of the legislation on pre-trial investigation and coercive measures. The police training reform and the merging of police training facilities also progressed. Police operations focused on increased prevention of violent crime, with the aim of reducing violent crime in the long term through exposure of unreported violent crime, closer cooperation between authorities and improved quality of police work in, for instance, domestic calls and pre-trial investigation.

The number of serious violent crimes reported to the police decreased during the year. Increasing numbers of typically unreported crimes such as sexual offences were reported to the police. Detection rates for violent crime improved during the year.

Increasing alcohol consumption was reflected in police violence statistics as an increasing number of domestic calls. In 2006, the police received some 85,591 domestic calls, 17,684 of which involved domestic violence. The police filed 4,122 reports of an offence on domestic violence, nearly twice as many as in 2002. ■



COMBATING CRIME

The year 2006 was overall a successful one in combating crime. The number of crimes reported to the police was 763,052, some 3% fewer than in the previous year. The crime detection rates were maintained. The number of property offences reported to the police was 244,291, significantly fewer than in the previous year. The detection rate for property offences was 38.3%, and the detection rate for Penal Code offences excluding traffic offences was 49%.

DNA registration is an efficient means of preventing and solving crime. The police have been able to close cases years or even decades old thanks to enhanced registration. DNA registration has significantly contributed to an increase in detection rates. The DNA register is maintained and testing conducted at the National Bureau of Investigation in Vantaa.

Uncovering unreported crime

In 2006, police action focused on enhancing the prevention of violent crime. A particular focus area was crime against children, with the aim of reducing violent crime by exposing unreported crime, by engaging in closer cooperation with other authorities and by aiming to improve the quality of police work for instance in domestic calls and in pre-trial investigations.

The action taken seems to have reduced the volume of the most serious types of violent crime, i.e. homicide and attempted homicide. The police were also successful in uncovering an increasing number of cases of unreported crime. The violent crime detection rates improved too. Particular attention was given to cooperation between the various authorities to cut the cycle of violence and to refer the parties involved to support services.

In 2006, a total of almost 32,000 violent offences were reported to the police, including 388 homicides and attempted homicides; this was 75 cases fewer than in 2005. The number of attempted homicides reported to the police has decreased considerably, though the number of actual homicides only decreased by one, to 113.

Most sexual offences remain unreported. It seems, however, that the threshold for reporting sexual

offences to the police is now lower; the number of such offences reported to the police in 2006 was 620, 37 more than in the previous year. There was a lively public debate on sexual offences and child abuse during the year under review.

Shorter investigation times in financial crime

Much has been invested in increasing the detection rate for property offences in recent years. Focus areas in guidance and leadership include conducting comprehensive crime scene investigation, registering suspects, pursuing a perpetrator-oriented investigation approach, linking unsolved offences, and carrying out analysis.

The average investigation times for financial crime were significantly reduced as a result of the enhancement measures undertaken. Resources were increased for uncovering operations and the monitoring of prohibitions to engage in business was developed. Investigation of breaches of prohibitions to engage in business often revealed other financial crimes. A prohibition to engage in business is served by a court on a person found guilty of crimes in business, and continuing to engage in such activities constitutes a breach of the prohibition.

In combating drug-related crime, the police focused on uncovering aggravated drug-related crime, and as a result the percentage of aggravated drug-related crime among all drug crime increased.

International cooperation will continue to focus on attempting to stop drugs at the border and by bringing perpetrators to justice in their home countries.

A year of fires

There were several major fires in 2006. Just after May Day, the old storage magazines in the city centre of Helsinki burned down, soon followed by Porvoo Cathedral and Kaivoksela Church in Vantaa.

These fires called for special forensic and tactical expertise. The police allocated resources to investigating whether these fires were linked or part of a new trend.

All the fires could have caused substantial damage had they spread. There were no casualties, however.

Community policing strategy prepared

The community policing strategy was under preparation in 2006. Community policing constitutes carrying out basic police functions competently and efficiently in close contact with citizens.

The purpose of community policing is to create both actual security and a sense of security, to reduce and prevent crime and disturbances, and to promote a positive image of the police and maintain a high level of public confidence in the police.

EU Presidency tightens border controls

The Finnish EU Presidency brought added crime prevention responsibilities to the police. Preparations were made against potential terrorist activities, for instance, by temporarily tightening border controls. The EU Presidency arrangements were successfully carried out thanks to close cooperation between the authorities and other stakeholders.

Criminal intelligence and crime analysis at national and regional level shared between the Finnish Police, Customs and Border Guard gained in importance during the EU Presidency. This cooperation was widely marketed and gained public attention; there are plans to introduce this model elsewhere in the EU. ■

Crimes reported to the police

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All offences	740,206	762,556	787,838	787,307	763,052
Penal Code offences (excl. traffic and narcotics offences)	350,970	352,311	339,915	325,897	311,908
Property offences	289,497	289,131	273,896	258,779	244,291
Aggravated crimes against the person	3,369	3,246	3,460	3,237	3,105

Financial crimes (num
Narcotics offences
Aggravated narcotics
Traffic offences



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The year 2006 was particularly important and challenging for the international operations of the Finnish Police. Finland's successfully managed EU Presidency in the latter half of the year was the result of years of careful planning. Some 30 police administration experts from the Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Security Police, the Police IT Management Agency, the Police College and the State Provincial Office of Western Finland were involved in various special duties during the EU Presidency. Representatives of the police administration chaired several working groups of the Council in Brussels and some Europol working groups in The Hague. There were also numerous informal meetings and briefings during the EU Presidency.

The objectives of the police for the EU Presidency were to enhance operational cooperation between authorities, to improve the operations and legal framework of Europol, to improve information exchange between law enforcement authorities, to enlarge the Schengen area, to combat terrorism and to develop cooperation between the EU and Russia. These objectives were attained well, and excellent progress made in many areas.

Operational cooperation between authorities enhanced

One of the principal objectives of the Finnish EU Presidency was to enhance operational cooperation between authorities at the EU level. The cooperation model of the Finnish Police, Customs and Border Guard was widely presented in various contexts such as the informal meeting of EU Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in Tampere and subsequently in working groups initiatives, which are important for the progress of the Schengen Information System.

Finland also brokered a solution enabling the abolition of border controls at the internal land borders of the new Member States by the end of 2007 and at airports by the end of March 2008, assuming that the new Member States fulfil all the requirements of the

Enhanced combating of terrorism

The combating of terrorism focused on efficiently implementing the comprehensive strategies agreed

of the Council. Enhancing operational cooperation between authorities was introduced into the mid-term review of the Action Plan implementing the Hague Programme.

The operating conditions of the major EU law enforcement agencies were also addressed.

From Europol development to agreement

In early 2006, Austria launched a debate on the future of Europol. This was discussed at several meetings of experts, and a document on Europol development was drawn up. In June 2006, the Justice and Home Affairs Council approved conclusions whereby the possible replacement of the Europol Convention by a Council Decision should be looked into.

The debate continued during the Finnish EU Presidency. In December 2006, a political agreement was achieved on replacing the Convention with a Council Decision, and recommendations for short-term objectives were approved. A practical discussion based on these policies has been launched during the German EU Presidency.

Finland undertook efforts to ensure that the three Protocols amending the Convention and their implementation provisions will come into force during spring 2007.

Schengen area enlarges by stages

Extensive preparations were made for the enlargement of the Schengen area during 2006. Evaluations of the new Member States were completed during the Finnish EU Presidency in all respects other than concerning the Schengen Information System. Also, a political agreement was achieved on the SIS II legislative Schengen Acquis.

in the EU in 2005 while adapting to changes in the operating environment. During the Finnish EU Presidency, support was given to drawing up a European programme for critical infrastructure protection and developing its external relations dimension with Russia.

Finland's initiative concerning regular meetings between the heads of anti-terrorism units in the ASEM countries was discussed at the ASEM counter-terrorism conference held in Copenhagen in June 2006. It was concluded at that conference that the implementation of the initiative should be further explored. The Helsinki Declaration approved by the ASEM Heads of State or Government at the Summit in Helsinki in September

2006 contained the aim of deepening the ASEM process, which would enable the drafting of concrete action plans for sectors of policy which are given priority.

Negotiating the Treaty of Prüm

During 2006, Finland expressed its interest in becoming party to the Treaty of Prüm negotiated by seven EU Member States. From autumn 2006, Finland has been involved in its further preparation. The Treaty of Prüm contains provisions on mutual exchange of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data, on cross-border operational cooperation and on combating terrorism and illegal immigration. The Treaty reinforces the principle of availability confirmed in the Hague Programme.

Late in 2006, the Finnish Government submitted a bill to Parliament concerning Finland's accession to the Treaty of Prüm and the legislative amendments that this would require. Parliament passed the bill in early 2007. Germany, during its EU Presidency, moved to have the Treaty of Prüm included in the legal framework of the EU.

Chairing Baltic cooperation

Until the end of 2006, Finland chaired the Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region. This is an important forum for combating serious threats in international organised crime, particularly between EU Member States and Russia.

The principal strategic objective of Finland's chairmanship was to develop these efforts from the present crime-specific approach to project-based, goal-oriented and information-driven cooperation between the Finnish Police, Customs and Border Guard.

More than 30 operations and projects were implemented or begun during Finland's chairmanship. During the Finnish EU Presidency, the Task Force was presented to other EU Member States as an excellently functioning model for regional crime prevention in Europe.

SURVEILLANCE AND CALLS

The security arrangements for the 36 meetings during the Finnish EU Presidency, for which the police were responsible, were executed according to plan and without any unforeseen threats.

The police were widely commended for their actions, which helped to reinforce the positive image of the Finnish EU Presidency and of the Finnish authorities that was created by the various conferences and

Progress in EU external relations

Significant results were achieved in the external dimension of justice and home affairs in 2006, particularly in relation to Africa, the Western Balkans and Russia.

Development of cooperation between the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the EU was launched during Finland's EU Presidency, and an internal EU action oriented paper on cooperation with Russia was drafted. Cooperation in justice and home affairs between the EU and Russia advanced to a considerably more practical level during Finland's EU Presidency. ■



Ministers responsible for police cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region met in Koli in May 2006.

extensive ever in Finland and involved the entire police administration directly or indirectly.

The meetings had been grouped into three security classifications, based on an evaluation by the Security Police. There were five meetings in the first class, nine in the second and 13 in the third. The largest were the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Lappeenranta; the ASEM 6 Summit in Helsinki; the informal meeting of EU Heads of State or Government in Lahti; and the Barcelona Process monitoring meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Tampere.

The security detail involved hundreds of police officers



– thousands for the largest meetings – from all over Finland. Official assistance was provided by the Defence Forces, the Border Guard, the aviation authorities and Customs. The cooperation ran smoothly. The costs of the security arrangements totalled nearly EUR 10 million.

Number of calls continues to increase

The increase in urgent and emergency calls in recent years continued in 2006, with a total of 1,072,747 calls. This was some 45,380 more than in the previous year. Emergency (class A) calls accounted for 3% of the total. The majority of the calls involved intoxicated persons, public disturbances, vandalism and domestic calls.



In 2006, the number of domestic calls increased to 85,591, of which one in five involved domestic violence. The police filed 4,122 reports of an offence on domestic



The average police response time to emergency calls nationwide was 13.4 minutes, slightly more than in the previous year. The longest average times for a Police patrol to arrive on the scene were recorded in the Provinces of Lapland (17.7 min) and Oulu (15.2). In Helsinki, the average response time was 10.4 minutes. The response time is substantially affected by the number of patrols available to the police and the driving distances involved. Cooperation between the local police and the National Traffic Police in responding to urgent and emergency calls has been improved locally through joint operation agreements.

Reduction in alcohol tax continues to show

The reduction made in the alcohol tax in spring 2004 was reflected in police statistics, police duties and offences reported to the police in that year. The number

of intoxicated people taken into police custody increased significantly from 2003, by about 10,000, when compared to previous years. This figure has since been decreasing steadily, although it has not yet reached the level of the years preceding the tax cut. In 2006, the number of intoxicated people taken into police custody was 101,039, a decrease of just over 2,500 on the previous year and of just over 6,700 since 2004.

Improved traffic safety

The Traffic Safety Index showed that traffic safety improved considerably on the previous year. The Index value in 2006 was 150, whereas in the previous year it was 136. The Traffic Safety Index is equal to the number

of registered vehicles and motorcycles divided by the weighted average of fatalities and casualties.

Preliminary figures reveal that the number of road accident fatalities in 2006 was 330, or 36 fewer than in the previous year (366). The total number of road accident casualties went down by 479 to 8,500.

The percentage of drunken drivers in the traffic flow held steady at 0.15%. The number of drunken drivers apprehended decreased by about 200, to 25,816 from 26,039.

At the same time, the number of casualties in accidents caused by drunken drivers decreased by 131, to 983 from 1,114. These figures indicate a downward trend in drunken driving, although the working hours used by the police for surveillance of drunken driving were reduced by some 29,000 person-hours because of the security arrangements for the EU Presidency meetings.

Efficient devices for drug testing

Intervention in cases of drug-impaired drivers was improved by introducing more effective field impairment tests. In 2006, the police acquired some 14,000 disposable quick-test kits. About 3,600 drivers tested positive for drugs or medications, an increase of about 600 on the previous year.

The police investigated the possibility of installing precision breathalysers in police vehicles for more effective surveillance of drunken driving. A similar investigation for police boats will be conducted in 2007



Surveillance of heavy traffic was given priority along with surveillance of speeding, drunken driving and the use of safety equipment.

60 speed cameras in use

In 2006, the police employed 60 speed cameras rotated among 440 fixed camera posts covering a total of 2,300 km of road.

The police also have 15 portable traffic surveillance units, used to enhance surveillance mainly in places where accidents are most likely to happen in built-up areas.

Readiness to combat terrorism is good

Combating terrorism is based on the strategic objectives of the European Union. These include enhanced international cooperation, detecting and preventing terrorist financing, and maximizing capacity within EU bodies and Member States to detect, investigate and prosecute terrorists.

The aim is to prevent any forthcoming terrorist actions, to protect international transport and ensure border security, and to enhance the operational capacities of the European Union and its Member States in the event of a terrorist action occurring. Efforts are also underway to affect factors that increase supporters of terrorism and actual terrorists. What is particularly important is to increase cooperation with those third countries that are considered particularly important in combating terrorism.

Combating international terrorism requires close national cooperation as well as international cooperation mainly between intelligence services and police organizations. This mostly means collecting, coordinating and analysing data.

Although the threat of terrorism is not great in Finland at

Enhanced immigration monitoring

Special characteristics, Finland is not an easy target for terrorists. The police action plans for combating

the moment, the country should have a high level of readiness to combat terrorism at a national level. Because of its remote location and other and made more systematic. The police had been issued new instructions on immigration monitoring in December 2005. At the same time, a regularly updated summary for the field monitoring of immigration was issued. The capacities of field patrols to undertake immigration monitoring was improved through training too. The police participated in a project to improve cooperation between the immigration authorities of Finland and Russia, led by the Ministry of the Interior. The aim was to enhance practical cooperation by creating permanent systems for promoting managed immigration and combating illegal immigration and human trafficking.

The police and other authorities have been implementing the Ministry of the Interior's Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings, which was drawn up as part of the implementation of the national plan of action approved by the Government. The purpose of this action plan is to prevent human trafficking and to enable rapid identification of and provision of assistance for its victims.

13 years of international civilian crisis management

The Finnish Police have been participating in police action in international civilian crisis management for 13 years, to a total of 403 person-years; 245 Finnish police officers have been involved in 351 assignments since 1994.

At the end of 2006, there were 23 Finnish police officers in eight different international civilian crisis management operations or projects on three continents. ■

***Article provided by the Finnish National Police**

Urgent and emergency calls	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Intoxicated persons	93,400	90,328	104,992	103,517	103,131
Public disturbances and vandalism	88,637	88,161	92,676	91,780	94,349
Transport duties	56,709	57,236	57,561	57,004	55,296
Domestic calls	59,896	63,888	74,209	81,227	85,591
Traffic intoxication	51,711	54,609	59,350	54,878	51,355
Damage to property	22,363	21,280	21,249	22,082	20,935
All urgent and emergency calls	927,943	940,029	998,493	1,027,371	1,072,747
– Emergency (class A) calls*	29,795	25,241	22,941	25,087	30,893

Source: Police results data system
 * The increase in emergency (class A) calls is due to the revised guidelines on statistical compilation. The headings in the table are not official designations used for different crime categories.