



**Opinion 144 (1989)<sup>1</sup>**

## **Application by Finland for membership of the Council of Europe**

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having received from the Committee of Ministers a request for an opinion on the accession of Finland to the Council of Europe ([Doc. 5915](#)), in pursuance of Statutory Resolution (51) 30 A, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 3 May 1951;
2. Noting Finland's outstanding international and European vocation, exemplified by the hosting in Helsinki of the signature, by thirty-five heads of state or government, of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;
3. Recognising that Finland is an old-established parliamentary democracy and respects the principle of the rule of law, as well as the human rights and fundamental freedoms embodied in the European Convention on Human Rights, and that its Government is scrutinising and adapting legislation with a view to signature of the convention,
4. Expresses the opinion that Finland should be deemed able and willing:
  - i. to fulfil the provisions of Article 3 of the Statute which stipulates that "every member of the Council of Europe must accept the principles of the rule of law and of the enjoyment by all persons within its jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms";
  - ii. to collaborate sincerely and effectively in the realisation of the aim of the Council of Europe as specified in Chapter I of the Statute of the Council of Europe, thereby fulfilling the conditions for accession to the Council of Europe, as laid down in Article 4 of the Statute;
5. Welcomes the fact that the accession of Finland to the Council of Europe will, for the first time, make membership of the latter and the "European democratic area" identical;
6. Proposes that the number of seats to which Finland should be entitled in the Assembly be five.

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1. *Assembly debate* on 1 February 1989 (21st Sitting) (see [Doc. 5915](#), request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers; and [Doc. 5985](#), report of the Political Affairs Committee, Rapporteur: Mr Lied). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 1 February 1989 (21st Sitting).

