



Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI) acts as a parliamentary forum that organises dialogue on security policy, homeland defence and preparedness for crises and emergencies among civil society organisations, decision-makers, authorities, the media and specialists. The ABDI monitors general preparedness for crises and emergencies in society and studies the related needs with a special focus on communications.

It helps civil society organisations and the media to develop their expertise and competence in security policy, homeland defence and preparedness. The ABDI surveys public attitudes towards security policy, homeland defence and general crisis awareness. It also pursues close cooperation at the Nordic level, especially with partners in Norway and Sweden.

ABDI IN 2024

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which started in February 2022, has had a fundamental impact on Finland's foreign and security policy and security environment. Destabilising activities around the world and in Finland's neighbouring areas have become mainstream. It was two years in the spring of 2024 since Finland acceded to NATO.

The Government appoint the ABDI for the parliamentary term on 7 September 2023. The ABDI is chaired by Member of Parliament (MP) *Jarno Linnéll* (National Coalition Party), while Parliamentary Assistant *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party) and MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (Social Democratic Party of Finland) serve as Vice-Chairs.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the implementation of the ABDI's annual survey. As was done already in 2020, the 2024 survey combined personal interviews and an internet panel. Before 2020, only personal interviews were used. The results of surveys conducted in a parliamentary election year are, as a rule, published at the start of the year following the elections. This means that two surveys were published in 2024: the 2023 survey and the 2024 survey.

Besides a Work Branch, the ABDI has an Education and Organisation Branch, a Media Branch and a Research Branch.

Since early 2020, following the coronavirus pandemic, the ABDI has been using the 'hybrid work model' in most of its activities so that people have been able to attend meetings and events either in person or remotely. Another benefit of hybrid working is that the ABDI's target groups working and/or living abroad are able to participate in the ABDI's events from abroad. It has also transformed the ABDI's activities so that remote work has become a well-established alternative to office work for the secretariat.

A particularly significant change for the ABDI and its Office was that *Heli Santala*, the ABDI's long-serving secretary general, transitioned into the 'reserves' in late March 2024.

SEMINARS AND PUBLIC EVENTS

The ABDI organised the following events in 2024:

Open public event in Seinäjoki on 10 June 2024

The ABDI organised a public event on foreign and security policy and homeland defence in the city council chamber at Seinäjoki City Hall on 10 June 2024. The event was streamed live.

The ABDI's acting Secretary-General *Markus Kinkku* opened the event, followed by *Paula Risikko* (National Coalition Party), Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the chair of the Seinäjoki City Executive, on behalf of the City of Seinäjoki. Brigadier General *Jami Virta*, Commander of the Pori Brigade, gave the keynote address.

After the opening speeches, a panel discussed foreign and security policy and homeland defence. The panellists were MP *Paula Risikko* (National Coalition Party), MP *Juha Mäenpää* (Finns Party), MP *Jani Kokko* (Social Democratic Party of Finland), MP *Mikko Savola* (Centre Party), Chair of the City Council Group *Aki Ruotsala* (Christian Democrats in Finland) and Chair of the Ostrobothnia District Organisation of the Swedish People's Party of Finland *Samuel Broman*. *Markku Mantila*, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper *Ilkka-Pohjalainen*, moderated the panel discussion and gave the closing words.

Around 75 people attended the event in person, and 51 people watched the live stream. All in all, around 125 people attended the event either in person or remotely.

Open public event in Kajaani on 26 August 2024

The ABDI organised a public event on foreign and security policy and homeland defence in the city council chamber at Kajaani City Hall on 26 August 2024. The event was streamed live.

The ABDI's Chair *Jarno Limnéll* (National Coalition Party) opened the event, followed by Chief Executive *Jari Tolonen* on behalf of the City of Kajaani. There were two keynote addresses. The first was delivered by *Matti Sarén*, President of Kajaani University of Applied Sciences and the second by Colonel *Tuomas Laosmaa*, Commander of Kainuu Border Guard District.

After the opening speeches, a panel discussed foreign and security policy and homeland defence. The panellists were MP *Mikko Polvinen* (Finns Party), MP *Tuomas Kettunen* (Centre Party), Member of the European Parliament *Merja Kyllönen* (Left Alliance), First Deputy Chair of Kajaani City Executive *Eero Suutari* (National Coalition Party), Second Deputy Chair of Kuhmo City Council *Riikka Seppänen* (Social Democratic Party of Finland) and Council Councillor and Regional Assembly Member of North Ostrobothnia *Mika Flöjt* (Greens). The panel discussion was moderated by *Vilja Sorsa*, Digital Producer at the *Kainuu Sanomat* newspaper.

The closing words were given by MP *Mikko Polvinen*, Chair of the ABDI's Education and Organisation Branch.

Around 90 people attended the event in person, and at its peak 114 people watched the live stream at the same time. All in all, at least 204 people attended the event either in person or remotely.

Before the event, the ABDI's delegation visited Kainuu Brigade. The delegation learned the brigade's latest news and followed the Readiness Unit's training in the training area. The visit was hosted by Brigadier General *Ari Laaksonen*, Brigade Commander, Lieutenant Colonel *Jukka Vuorisalmi*, Chief of Staff, and Sergeant First Class *Jarno Mikkola*. The ABDI delegation included MP *Jarno Limnéll*, Chair, MP *Mikko Polvinen*, Chair of the Education and Organisation Branch, *Harriet Lonka*, Member of the Work Branch, *Petri Savolainen*, Member, *Markus Kinkku*, acting Secretary General, and *Laura Renvall*, Administrative Assistant.

Seminar for journalists in Helsinki on 17 December 2024

The ABDI organised its annual foreign and security policy seminar for journalists in the Ostrobotnia hall in Helsinki on 17 December 2024. The event was streamed live.

MP *Jarno Limnéll*, Chair of the ABDI, opened the seminar, and Minister of Defence *Antti Häkkinen* gave a keynote address on topical foreign and security policy matters. Permanent State Under-Secretary *Outi Holopainen* from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs talked about Finland's foreign and security policy, and Major General *Sami Nurmi*, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy from the Finnish Defence Forces, discussed Finland's NATO membership from the perspective of the Finnish Defence Forces.

Rear Admiral *Markku Hassinen*, Deputy Chief of the Finnish Border Guard, described current affairs at the Finnish Border Guard, and *Tarja Fernández*, Ambassador of Finland in Kyiv, brought greetings from Ukraine.

Juha Martelius, Director of the Finnish Security Intelligence Service, spoke about how the instability of the global security environment is challenging Finland, and Brigadier General *Pekka Turunen* gave an account of the current affairs in the field of military intelligence.

Heli Simola, Senior Economist at the Bank of Finland Institute for Emerging Economies, talked about the economic outlook for Russia and Ukraine, and *Benita Heiskanen*, Professor at the University of Turku, discussed the aftermath of the US presidential elections. The last keynote speaker was *Hannu Juusola*, Professor at the University of Helsinki, who spoke about the situation in the Middle East.

The ABDI's Secretary General *Markus Kinkku* gave the closing words of the seminar.

About 160 people attended the seminar in person at the Ostrobotnia hall, and 117 people watched the live stream. All in all, around 204 people attended the seminar either in person or remotely.

The ABDI requests feedback from all event participants, and, for a long time, the response has been that overall the ABDI's events are well-organised and have interesting themes.

The ABDI's open public events are open to everyone, while the seminars are by invitation only.

The materials, detailed programmes, presentations, photos and livestream recordings of the ABDI's seminars are available in Finnish on the ABDI page of the Ministry of Defence's website (www.defmin.fi/mts → Seminaarit).

ABDI SURVEY

Each year, the ABDI conducts an extensive survey, comprising the entire population, to investigate the opinions and attitudes of Finns towards security policy and the factors influencing them.

The results of surveys conducted in a parliamentary election year are, as a rule, published at the start of the year following the elections. This means that two surveys were published in 2024: the 2023 survey and the 2024 survey.

The ABDI commissioned the 2023 and 2024 surveys from Taloustutkimus Oy. The 2023 and 2024 surveys combined personal interviews and an internet panel, following the pattern of the 2020 survey. Previous surveys had only personal interviews.

The 2023 survey included a total of 21 questions, two of which were new. The interviews took place between 8 November and 26 November 2023, and the panel results were collected between 15 November and 28 November 2023. The sample was 1,197 people, and the target group was Finland's population between the ages of 15 and 79, not including Åland.

The results of the 2023 survey were revealed in the Ostrobothnia Hall on 19 January 2024. The event was also available for remote participation. The ABDI's Chair, *Jarno Limnéll*, opened the event. Secretary General *Heli Santala* presented the survey results, followed by comments from *Riku Keski-Rauska*, Chair of the ABDI's Research Branch. *Tuomo Turja*, Research Director at Taloustutkimus Oy, was also present to answer questions.

The 2024 survey included a total of 21 questions. The interviews took place between 12 September and 6 October 2024, and the panel results were collected between 17 September and 7 October 2024. The sample was 1,112 people, and the target group was Finland's population between the ages of 15 and 79, not including Åland.

The results of the 2024 survey were revealed in the Topelius meeting room at Ostrobothnia on 4 December 2024. The event was also available for remote participation. The ABDI's Chair, *Jarno Limnéll*, opened the event. Secretary General *Markus Kinkku* presented the survey results, followed by comments from *Riku Keski-Rauska*, Chair of the ABDI's Research Branch. *Tuomo Turja*, Research Director at Taloustutkimus Oy, was also present to answer questions.

The survey reports published by the ABDI are in the public domain and accessible to all. When citing or using the results, always mention the relevant ABDI survey as the source.

The survey reports are available online on the ABDI site of the Ministry of Defence's website (https://www.defmin.fi/en/the_advisory_board_for_defence_information_abdi → Bulletins and Reports). The reports are also available online in Finnish and Swedish.

NORDIC COOPERATION

The ABDI works closely with its sister organisations in other Nordic countries and especially with *Folk och Försvar* in Sweden and *Folk og Forsvar* in Norway.

Each year, the three organisations organise a Nordic conference on a rotating basis. A Teams meeting to plan the next conference was held on 1 February 2024. Secretary General *Heli Santala* and Assistant Secretary General *Markus Kinkku* attended the meeting for the ABDI.

The 2024 conference was held in Linköping, Sweden, between 13 and 15 May 2024. Its theme was the common defence of the Nordic countries.

The first day of the conference, 13 May 2024, was held at the Saab main office.

The conference was opened by *Maud Holma von Heijne*, Secretary General of *Folk och Försvar*.

After the opening address, Saab directors *Carl-Henrik Arvidsson*, *Johan Rättvall* and *Ulf Hellberg* described operations at Saab.

The opening address was followed by a guided tour of the Saab main office.

Next in the programme were:

- Presentation by *Lars Helmrich*, Director of the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration, on the future of the Swedish Air force
- Presentation by *Fredrik Hassel*, Senior Advisor at Saab, on defence industry as a geopolitical question
- Panel discussion on common Nordic defence, moderated by *David Bruhn*, Programme Manager at *Folk och Försvar*. The panellists were:
 - *Asle Strand*, Norway's Liaison Officer to the Swedish Armed Forces
 - *Juha Kilpi*, Finland's Defence Attaché to Sweden
 - *Ken Nielsen*, Denmark's Liaison Officer to the Swedish Armed Forces
 - *Per Edling*, Assistant Chief of Staff Operations at the Swedish Joint Force Command.

The next day of the conference, 14 May 2024, was held at the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI).

Head of Division *Linda Sjödin* presented the agency's activities. Next followed presentations on a range of topics, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and technology manipulation. Presentations were given by Researcher *Lars Norin*, Researcher *Paulina Ärlebäck*, Head of Division *Jonas Hallberg* and Researcher *Niclas Wadströmer*.

Next in the programme were:

- Presentation by *Jimmy Ahlstrand*, Chief Corporate Affairs and Strategy Officer at Telenor Sweden, on integrated digital safety
- Presentation by *Stefan Gustafsson*, Senior Vice President at the Swedish Space Corporation, on satellites and space infrastructure
- Presentation by *Anders Kämpe*, Manager at Seaway7, on piracy as a threat to merchant shipping
- Presentation by *Sune Lund*, Commander in the Royal Danish Navy, on a maritime joint operation in the Red Sea.

The day was concluded with a visit to the Swedish Air Force Museum.

The third day of the conference, 15 May 2024, was held at the Linköping Castle and Cathedral Museum.

The day's programme included:

- Presentation by *Christina Andersson*, Risk Communication Strategist at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and *Henrik P. Framvig*, Journalist and Board Member of the Danish sister organisation *Folk og Sikkerhed*, on communicating about preparedness

- Presentation by Professor *Magnus Karlsson*, Head of Center for Civil Society Research at Marie Cederschiöld University, on what can be expected of society in times of crisis
- *Pirjo Auvinen*, Nordic correspondent at the Finnish Broadcasting Company, and *Heidi Avellan*, Editor-in-Chief of the *HD-Sydsvenskan* newspaper, on how we talk about war and defence.

The ABDI delegation at the 2024 Nordic conference included the ABDI's Vice-Chair, MP *Tuula Väättäinen*, members of the Work Branch *Matti Heikkinen*, *Johanna Kelhu*, *Harriet Lonka*, *Timo Perälä* and *Mikko Polvinen*, acting Secretary General *Markus Kinkku* and *Pirjo Auvinen*, the Nordic correspondent at the Finnish Broadcasting Company.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Work Branch's visit to Brussels

The ABDI's Work Branch visited Brussels from 14 to 16 March 2024. They visited the NATO Headquarters, the Permanent Representation of Finland to NATO and the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union.

In Brussels, the Work Branch had meetings with *Piritta Asunmaa*, Permanent Representative of Finland to NATO, Lieutenant General *Kim Jäämeri*, Finland's Military Representative to the EU and NATO, *Pete Piirainen*, Senior Specialist in the Defence Team, *Ville-Veikko Pitkänen*, Senior Specialist in the Resilience Committee, *Amy Lecomber* and *Beatriz Molina Sanchez*, Researchers at NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, *Markku Keinänen*, Head of Mission at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU, *Juha Ottman*, Ambassador to the EU Political and Security Committee, and *Ville Similä* and *Anna Oksanen*, Senior Specialists at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU. The Work Branch was even able to have an impromptu meeting with NATO Secretary General *Jens Stoltenberg*.

The ABDI's delegation in Brussels included Chair *Jarno Limnéll*, Vice-Chairs *Marika Sorja* and *Tuula Väättäinen*, Work Branch members *Elli Flén*, *Matti Heikkinen*, *Johanna Kelhu*, *Riku Keski-Rauska*, *Harriet Lonka* and *Timo Perälä*, Secretary General *Heli Santala* and General Secretary *Markus Kinkku*.

National Defence Courses

Each year, the ABDI proposes a list of the journalists and representatives of science it would like to see invited to join the National Defence Courses. The list of invitees is confirmed by the Delegation of National Defence Education. The ABDI was represented in the delegation by Chair *Jarno Limnéll* as a full member and, until 31 March 2024, Secretary General *Heli Santala* as deputy member. Acting Secretary General (later Secretary General) *Markus Kinkku* became a deputy member on 1 April 2024.

Basic communications course

The ABDI recruits journalists and communications specialists who have not done military service to a basic communications course, organised annually by the Public Information Division of the Defence Command Finland. The 55th course was held at the Defence Command Finland and the Coastal Brigade in Upinniemi, Kirkkonummi, from 7 to 10 October 2024. Altogether 25 ABDI-

recruited journalists and communications specialists, who have not done military service, attended the course.

ABDI website and social media

The ABDI has its own site at the website of the Ministry of Defence www.defmin.fi/mts. The website has information about the ABDI, its activities and its seminars and events, including photos and recordings. The ABDI site, including its language versions, was visited a total of 3,615 times in 2024. Survey reports were downloaded from the Institutional Repository for the Government (Valto) and from the ABDI site, language versions included, altogether 3,160 times.

The ABDI has had a Twitter (now X) account, *@MTS_Suomi*, since the end of December 2015. The ABDI uses the account especially to communicate about its events and surveys but also to distribute other information on foreign and security policy and homeland defence. The same applies to the ABDI's LinkedIn profile, which it created in 2024.

Branches and meetings

In 2024, the ABDI had a Work Branch, an Education and Organisation Branch, a Media Branch and a Research Branch.

The Plenum, or general meeting, convened once in 2024. The Work Branch met five times, the Research Branch four times, the Media Branch twice and the Education and Organisation Branch once. A total of 13 meetings were held during the year.

The following persons gave presentations at the ABDI's branch meetings in 2024:

Pekka Kallioniemi, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Tampere University, gave a presentation on Russia's potential information influence activities during the first round of Finland's presidential elections at the Media Branch meeting, held in the Topelius meeting room at Ostrobothnia on 30 January 2024.

Colonel *Marko Turunen*, Deputy Chief of the Border and Coastguard Division at the Finnish Border Guard Headquarters, gave a presentation on the current situation at the eastern border at the Education and Organisation Branch meeting, held in the Chydenius meeting room at Ostrobothnia on 27 February 2024.

Miina Kaarkoski, PhD, Researcher at the National Defence University, specialist of the Research Branch, gave a presentation on topical research on people's will to defend the country at the Research Branch meeting in the Topelius meeting room at Ostrobothnia on 28 February 2024.

Teuvo Arolainen, Preparedness Specialist at the National Emergency Supply Agency, specialist of the Media Branch, gave a presentation on a report discussing the continuity of the Ukrainian media during the war at the Media Branch meeting, held in Topelius meeting room at Ostrobothnia on 1 October 2024.

The branch meetings prepared the ABDI's activities. The Research Branch followed other opinion polls on foreign and security policy and national defence carried out in Finland, Sweden, Norway and NATO.

MEMBERS OF THE ABDI

Appointed by the Government on 7 September 2023, the present Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI) started its work on the same day and will continue until the term of the next advisory board starts after the next parliamentary elections.

As of 7 September 2023, the ABDI has 18 members, 17 deputy members and 12 other members.

The ABDI was chaired by Member of Parliament (MP) *Jarno Limnell* (National Coalition Party). The two vice-chairs were Parliamentary Assistant *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party), and her deputy Parliamentary Assistant *Ismo Nöjd*, Master of Laws (Finns Party), and MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (Social Democratic Party of Finland), and her deputy Head of Communications *Miia Järvi* (Social Democratic Party of Finland).

Other members and deputy members are as follows:

- *Riku Keski-Rauska*, PhD, Director of Archives (National Coalition Party) and his deputy MP *Juha Hänninen* (National Coalition Party)
- *Riikka Varila*, Executive Director (National Coalition Party) and her deputy *Janina Haapaniemi*, Social Media Strategist (National Coalition Party)
- *Kristiina Kokko*, Party Secretary (National Coalition Party) and her deputy *Riitta Savukoski*, Employment Specialist (National Coalition Party)
- *Teija Makkonen*, State Secretary (Finns Party) and her deputy *Iiro Silvander*, Committee Specialist (Finns Party)
- *Mikko Polvinen*, MP (Finns Party) and his deputy *Heidi Pöykiö*, Planning Assistant (Finns Party)
- *Tomi Immonen*, MP (Finns Party) and his deputy *Hannu Peurasaari*, Special Adviser to a Minister (Finns Party)
- *Mika Kari*, MP (Social Democratic Party of Finland) and his deputy *Pekka Tuuri*, Head of Organisation (Social Democratic Party of Finland)
- *Petri Korhonen*, Editor-in-Chief (Social Democratic Party of Finland) and his deputy *Harri Järvinen*, Journalist (Social Democratic Party of Finland)
- *Ida-Susanna Pöllänen*, Specialist (Social Democratic Party of Finland) and her deputy *Vesa Mauriala*, Head of Civic Participation (Social Democratic Party of Finland)
- *Harriet Lonka*, PhD (Centre Party) and her deputy *Perttu Helin*, Special Education Teacher (Centre Party)
- *Joonas Immonen*, Journalist (Centre Party) and his deputy *Helena Pakarinen*, Political Adviser (Centre Party)
- *Timo Perälä*, Senior Officer (Greens) and his deputy *Tiina Kivinen*, Secretary General (Greens)
- *Johanna Kelhu*, Political Adviser (Left Alliance) and her deputy *Antero Eerola*, Journalist (Left Alliance)
- *Kari Salmi*, Brigadier General (ret), CEO (Swedish People's Party of Finland) and his deputy *Elli Flén*, Communications Consultant (Swedish People's Party of Finland)

- *Matti Heikkinen*, Engineer (Christian Democrats in Finland) and his deputy *Reija Taupila*, Production Manager (Christian Democrats)
- *Saara Jantunen*, Senior Specialist, Doctor of Military Sciences, Prime Minister's Office
- *Markus Teir*, Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- *Marikaisa Tiilikainen*, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Defence
- *Jaana Vaahtio*, Head of Communications, Ministry of the Interior
- *Mari-Kaisa Brander*, Director of Communications, Ministry of Education and Culture
- Captain (N) *Johan Tillander*, Director of Public Information, Defence Command Finland (until 28 June 2024)
- Captain (N) *Kaarle Wikström*, Director of Public Information, Defence Command Finland (as of 28 June 2024)
- Lieutenant Colonel *Tuomas Liukko*, Director External Relations, National Defence University (until 22 August 2024)
- Captain (N) *Misa Kangaste*, Director External Relations, National Defence University (as of 22 August 2024)
- *Marko Lehti*, Research Director, Tampere Peace Research Institute
- *Minna Asikainen*, Head of Content, Finnish Broadcasting Company
- *Minna Holopainen*, Editor-in-Chief, Finnish News Agency STT
- *Sirpa Kirjonen*, Marketing and Research Director, Finnish Media Federation
- *Petri Savolainen*, Master of Laws, Chief Negotiator, Union of Journalists in Finland

In addition to *Jarno Limnell* (National Coalition Party), *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party) and *Tuula Väätäinen* (National Coalition Party), the following persons also serve as members of the Work Branch:

- *Riku Keski-Rauska*, PhD, Chief of Archives (National Coalition Party)
- *Mikko Polvinen*, MP (Finns Party)
- *Mika Kari*, MP (Social Democratic Party of Finland)
- *Harriet Lonka*, PhD (Centre Party)
- *Timo Perälä*, Senior Officer (Greens)
- *Johanna Kelhu*, Political Adviser (Left Alliance)
- *Elli Flén*, Communications Consultant (Swedish People's Party of Finland)
- *Matti Heikkinen*, Engineer (Christian Democrats in Finland)
- *Marikaisa Tiilikainen*, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Defence

The following persons serve as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the branches:

- Chair of the Research Branch *Riku Keski-Rauska*, PhD, Director of Archives (National Coalition Party), Vice-Chair *Timo Perälä*, Senior Officer (Greens)

- Chair of the Media Branch *Petri Korhonen*, Editor-in-Chief (Social Democratic Party of Finland), Vice-Chair *Elli Flén*, Communications Consultant (Swedish People's Party of Finland) as of 30 January 2024
- Chair of the Education and Organisation Branch *Mikko Polvinen*, MP (Finns Party), Vice-Chair *Antero Eerola*, Journalist (Left Alliance) as of 27 February 2024

On proposal by the ABDI's branches and by decision of the Work Branch the following experts were invited:

- Education Branch:
 - *Suvi Manelius*, Chief of Public Affairs, Defence Command Finland
- Research Branch:
 - *Katri Pynnöniemi*, DSocSci, Associate Professor, University of Helsinki and National Defence University
 - *Miina Kaarkoski*, Researcher, DSocSci, National Defence University
- Media Branch:
 - *Teuvo Arolainen*, Preparedness Specialist, National Emergency Supply Agency (as of 30 January 2024)
 - *Maria Gestrin-Hagner*, Journalist, Hufvudstadsbladet (as of 30 January 2024)
 - *Anssi Miettinen*, Head of Feature Desk, Helsingin Sanomat (as of 30 January 2024)
 - *Stefan Möller*, CEO, Radiomedia Association (as of 30 January 2024)
 - *Heli Uusimaa*, Producer, MTV News (as of 30 January 2024)
 - *Toni Viljanmaa*, Journalist, Lännen media (as of 30 January 2024)

Finances of the ABDI

In 2024, the ABDI was allocated an operating appropriation of EUR 117,000, of which it used EUR 108,241.09 (92.5%).

Secretariat and Office of the ABDI

The ABDI operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence and as part of the Media and Communications Unit.

The ABDI has a Secretary General and an Assistant Secretary General. Until 31 March 2024, the Secretary General was *Heli Santala*, M.Soc.Sc. *Markus Kinkku*, M.Soc.Sc., served as acting Secretary General as of 1 April 2024 until his appointment as Secretary General on 1 September 2024.

Markus Kinkku, M.Soc.Sc., served as Assistant Secretary General until 31 March.

Laura Renvall, M.Soc.Sc., M.A. (Mus.), was appointed the ABDI's Administrative Assistant on 6 May 2024.

Payment transactions were processed by Communications Secretary *Jaana Riihimaa*.

The ABDI has its office on the first floor of the Ministry of Defence premises. The visiting address is Eteläinen Makasiinikatu 8.

After serving more than 20 years as Secretary General, *Heli Santala* was given a farewell party in the Ostrobotnia hall after the ABDI Plenum on 10 December 2024. Secretary General *Markus Kinkku* gave the welcoming address. Chair *Jarno Linnéll* gave a video greeting. *Esa Pulkkinen*, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, gave a speech at the party. Besides the current ABDI, invitations were also extended to all those who served as the ABDI's chair during *Heli Santala*'s term of office. Of the former chairs, *Lauri Kaira*, *Lauri Kontro*, *Esko Kurvinen* and *Harri Järvinen* were present. Femu Brass Band of the Guards Band provided the music, directed by Captain *Jouko Auramo*, Assistant Bandmaster of the Guards Band.