

Kaupunginjohtajan puhe EYP Finlandin tilaisuudessa 24.10.2025

Dear participants, organisers, and guests,

It is a great honour to welcome you all to Mikkeli and to this important session of the European Youth Parliament.

Your presence here reflects something truly vital: the commitment of young people to dialogue, cooperation, and the future of Europe.

This year's theme, *"Security through Unity: Stronger Cooperation Shaping a Resilient Europe,"* could not be more timely. We live in an era where security is no longer defined solely by borders or armies. It is about resilience – our ability as societies to adapt, to support one another, and to thrive even in times of uncertainty.

Mikkeli is proud to play a unique role in this conversation. Now our city is a modern hub for comprehensive security. Here, national and international actors work together to strengthen preparedness and resilience. We host the NATO's Multi-Corps Land Component Command and maintain close cooperation with the Finnish Army, ensuring that our region contributes to the collective defence and stability of Europe.

But security is not just about military. It is about trust and collaboration – between authorities, businesses, and citizens. In Mikkeli, we have built strong partnerships across these sectors. This is what makes communities resilient: not only physical preparedness, but also mental security, the confidence that we can rely on one another.

In today's international world, no city, no nation can stand alone. That is why we value opportunities like this session, where ideas cross borders and young voices shape the future.

We also believe that internationalism begins at home. Mikkeli is launching a bilingual education, giving our children the tools to engage with the world from an early age. Language is more than communication – it is a bridge to understanding, to empathy, and to shared progress.

Dear participants, your energy, your curiosity, and your commitment to dialogue are the foundations of a stronger, more resilient Europe.

On behalf of the City of Mikkeli, I thank you for being here. Together we can shape a future that is secure, resilient, and full of opportunity.

Thank you, and welcome to Mikkeli.

