



## The English-Speaking Union of Finland

*After a gap of some years, the English-Speaking Union (ESU), [www.esu.org](http://www.esu.org), is being re-established in Finland. The Union, an educational service organisation founded in 1918, aims to promote global understanding through the shared use of the English language, and has almost 40 branches in the United Kingdom and over 50 international branches throughout the world.*

*The royal patron is Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has been President since 1957. Former Chairmen include Sir Winston Churchill. The newly elected co-chairmen of the ESU Finland will be Richard Lewis, Chairman of Richard Lewis Communications and Ulla-Ladau Harjulin, F.R.S.A., Lecturer at the Swedish School of Economics – HANKEN.*

*The Finnish branch will promote international friendship and a fresh angle on current affairs through an exciting array of speakers prominent in the UK in politics, education, business, the media etc.*

The opening will be hosted by the British Ambassador Dr Valerie Caton on Tuesday 30 September 2008 from 6.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. at the Ambassador's Residence and our guest of honour is the Director-General of the ESU, Mrs. Valerie Mitchell O.B.E.

The speaker for the evening is Sir Eldon Griffiths, National Patron of the World Affairs Councils of America. Sir Eldon is a former government minister in the UK, editor of Newsweek, author, and has hands-on experience in world affairs over four decades. A more detailed CV is enclosed.

### Programme

- 6.00 p.m.** Reception and welcoming cocktails at the British Ambassador's Residence
- 6.30 p.m.** Talk by Sir Eldon Griffiths – The Road Ahead for the Atlantic Alliance as America Changes Gear (British Embassy Conference Room)
- 7.30 p.m.** Buffet dinner and drinks at the Residence
- 8.45 p.m.** Close

The ESU is a non-profit organisation, but has to cover its costs through membership fees and donations. The annual Finnish membership fee, payable on attending your first event, is EUROS 50 per person, (EUROS 35 for students and O.A.Ps.). To become a member please send an e-mail with your contact information to [info@esu-finland.org](mailto:info@esu-finland.org)

*Once you have become a member we will send you an official invitation to the opening event.*

We have an impressive array of speakers and topics lined up between now and summer 2009. In addition to Sir Eldon Griffiths these include:

**Professor Roger Ainsworth, Master of St. Catherine's College, Oxford – on what makes Oxford unique and shared British and Finnish challenges in higher education**

**Lord Plant of Highfield, Labour Peer and leading political philosopher – on transnational citizenship in a changing Europe**

**Mr. Peter Knowles, Channel Director, BBC Parliament – on coverage of politics by the media, and EU challenges**

We do hope that you will join what should prove to be a stimulating new forum for ideas and debate in English in Finland, and hope to see you at our opening.

**Michael Gates**  
Director of Operations, The English-Speaking Union of Finland  
+358 40 751 7299