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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their
countries and on the progress made in the
standardization of geographical names since the
Seventh Conference**

Place Names — the memory of places

**Theme of the European Heritage Days held in Finland
in 1999**

Submitted by Finland**

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Summary

The members of the Council of Europe have organized Heritage Days since 1985 for the purpose of making people aware of the value of the built environment. The theme of the European Heritage Days organized in Finland 1999 was “Place names — the memory of places”.

Name planning is currently of great interest in Finland because the rapidly growing towns in the south are in need of many new planned names. By choosing “Place names — the memory of places” as a theme of the event, the organizers wanted to draw attention to the significance of place names in an urban environment and to the importance of name planning in the creation of comfortable surroundings.

The official organizers of Heritage Days planned seminars and public events, produced publications, wrote articles and appeared on television. The University of Helsinki produced a video on nomenclature and name planning (the video is available in English). The theme was also well received in municipalities, which organized several different events related to nomenclature.

Heritage Days highlighted the need for knowledge of urban nomenclature. At the beginning of 2001, the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland launched, together with several Finnish universities, a three-year project on urban names for the acquisition of the data necessary for name planning.
