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FINLAND'S PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

A COUNTRY OF 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE REPRESENTING 500 MILLION EU CITIZENS

- Holding the Presidency: representing all 28 EU Member States and working together for common good
- Finland has always been an open, pragmatic and solution-driven Member State
- Council presidency entails two main tasks:
 - 1) To act as the Chair in Council meetings
 - 2) To represent the Council in relation to the Commission and European Parliament



A VIBRANT TIME TO HOLD THE PRESIDENCY

- Finland takes on the six-month-long Presidency on the 1st of July for the third time since joining the European Union in 1995
- A vibrant time: new European Parliament, new Commission, rule of law and human rights, the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) to be discussed, Brexit to name a few
- Key words for Finland: Solution-driven, concrete results, consistency, sustainability
- Presidency slogan: "Sustainable Europe – sustainable future"



FINNISH PRESIDENCY: SUSTAINABLE EUROPE – SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Our priorities are to:

- Strengthen common values and the rule of law
- Make the EU more competitive and socially inclusive
- Strengthen the EU's position as a global leader in climate action
- Protect the security of citizens comprehensively



FINNISH PRESIDENCY - KEY PRINCIPLES

SUSTAINABLE MEETING
ARRANGEMENTS

TRANSPARENCY AND ACTIVE
COMMUNICATIONS

RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES OF
BETTER REGULATION

USE AND FURTHER THE
DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL TOOLS
IN THE COUNCIL WORK

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CONCRETE ACTION

- During Finland's Presidency the emphasis is on sustainability and tackling climate change
- We have rethought Presidency traditions and practises in line with principles of sustainable development
- We believe that a successful and welcoming Presidency can be achieved with a smaller carbon footprint
- A gift to the climate: Finland will offset the carbon emissions caused by air travel to Presidency meetings instead of handing out traditional presidency gifts



SUSTAINABLE PRESIDENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- All meetings are arranged in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): e.g. serving more vegetarian dishes, cutting down on food waste and promoting the use of public transportation
- We also want to stress the importance of circular economy by replacing single-use materials with recyclable alternatives, digital applications and Finnish innovations
- As the Council President Finland is encouraging the EU to become a global climate frontrunner
- Finnish government has set a goal for Finland to reach carbon neutrality by 2035



EU APPROVAL RATING AT ALL-TIME HIGH

- EU approval ratings are on the rise across the EU
- Finland is one of the most EU positive Member States (2019 Eurobarometer)
- 79% of Finns identify themselves as EU citizens
- The benefits of Finland's EU membership according to Finnish people: peace – the EU is first and foremost a peace project –, European single market & the four freedoms (free movement of goods, capital, services and labour), trade policy and agreements



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