



## COUNCIL PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

Tuesday 25 June 2019

12h00 - 14h00 Roundtable Discussion  
*(over sandwich working lunch)*

**Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU**  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 80  
1000 Brussels





## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Janne PELTOLA, Counsellor, Competitiveness, Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU

Janne Peltola welcomed the participants to the briefing and discussion on the Finnish Council Presidency Priorities organized jointly with the European Forum for Manufacturing and thanked them for their help. He also welcomed his Croatian and German colleagues, future holders of the Council Presidency.



## FINNISH PRESIDENCY VIEW ON THE SINGLE MARKET & INDUSTRIAL POLICY – A HOLISTIC VIEW

We will have complex horizontal issues ahead, notably the next multiannual financial framework, Rule of Law and Brexit. In addition, addressing migration and the development of the EMU will be on the table.

The European Council will agree on the Strategic Agenda 2019–2024 at the end of June. Finland will be the first Presidency to integrate the new strategic priorities into the Council work. As there will be less legislative files, we will be able to dedicate time to discuss in more detail in each sector what the Union should be doing next five years.

It is up to our new government - to be formed in the coming weeks - to agree on the Finnish Presidency programme.

When we are defining those priorities, the guiding principle is answering to our main challenges and to citizens' expectations. The EU must be able to make decisions and implement what has been agreed. Delivery is what matters.





## FINNISH PRESIDENCY - INHERITED AGENDA AND NEW STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Our Presidency Programme and priorities will be defined by our new Government
- Inherited agenda:
  - MFF
  - rule of law
  - migration
  - EMU
  - Brexit
- Finland will be the first Presidency to integrate the new strategic priorities into the Council work
- The EU has to be able to make decisions, implement and deliver

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## FINNISH PRESIDENCY - KEY PRINCIPLES

- Sustainable meeting arrangements
- Transparency and active communications
- Respect for principles of better regulation
- Use and further development of digital tools in the Council Work

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## COMPET - SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Europe's prosperity and competitiveness in the global context should be enhanced by creating an economically, environmentally and socially strong Europe.

Elements of sustainable growth include:

- Effective single market including modern industrial policy
- Trade policy as external dimension of EU competitiveness
- Transformation to low-carbon economy
- Digital economy as competitive edge
- Skills and inclusive society

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## COMPET - INTEGRATED APPROACH

COMPET is responsible for policies that are crucial for competitiveness, sustainable growth and new jobs – implementation of strategic agenda.

Finland emphasizes the need for an integrated approach to the single market, industrial, innovation and digital policies.

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## COMPET - R&I

- Future EU R&I policy and innovation-led sustainable growth
- Advancing Horizon Europe and EU Space Programme negotiations
- Advancing Sustainable Growth, Competitiveness and Security in Space policy

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## KEY DATES

- Informal Meeting of Competitiveness Council 4/5 July 2019
- Competitiveness Council 26/27 September 2019
- Competitiveness Council 28/29 November 2019

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## EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PRIORITIES OF THE FINNISH PRESIDENCY

Riikka Maria TURKIA, Counsellor, Employment Policy, Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU

While the economy has been growing and employment situation has improved during the previous years, challenges remain particularly in the adaptation of the labour market to the rapid technological change and new forms of work. Furthermore, the demographic change adds to the challenge of providing people with right skills for the future jobs.

Artificial intelligence, platform economy and transition to low carbon economy, among other things, are changing the structures of the economy, tasks, ways to work and even the concept of work itself. The importance of human capital is largely recognised in the EU as a key to success. Guaranteeing the necessary skills in the labour market is an essential issue throughout Europe.



Skills development should be continuous and flexible - real lifelong learning through a person's entire career regardless of his/her educational background. In order for the EU to do well in global competition, attention should be paid both to basic skills and to special skills. All this increases the need for anticipation of the skills needs and for guidance and counselling for people of all ages.

Investment in people should be seen as a strategic choice, as one that ensures EU's competitiveness. The EU needs a skills strategy that is based on the needs of the labour market.

The EU should actively support the Member States in their efforts to strengthen future oriented continuous learning that takes into account the changing world of work and digitalisation.

The Finnish Presidency will organise in July a conference on skills and smart work organisation in the digital era that is closely linked to the informal Competitiveness Council meeting. Later on, in October, the Presidency will organise a conference in on continuous learning and guidance during the European Skills Week.

Skills mismatch and the future skills needs are also linked to the need to improve access to the labour market for those with more challenges in finding a job. The Finnish Presidency intends to promote discussion on inclusive labour markets, in particular for people with partial employability.

Labour mobility is another factor that can help ensuring the necessary skills for the future jobs. EU should continue facilitating fair mobility and preventing any abuse. Exchange of good practices is important also in this regard, as well as, helping migrant workers and their families to integration into the society. Furthermore, new forms of work should be taken into account. The Presidency intends to discuss whether labour law is up to date or does it need to be better take into account the changing world of work.



## DIGITALIZATION & AI PRIORITIES OF THE FINNISH PRESIDENCY

Kristiina PIETIKÄINEN, Counsellor, Digitalization, Electronic Communications Services, Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU

Digitalisation is a key factor for the EU's success in the global economy. The EU's competitiveness will depend on our ability to make the most of the data and platform economy, artificial intelligence (AI) and other new emerging technologies. At the same time, we need to build and maintain digital trust and digital skills.

European data economy is one of our priorities. It should be built with the aim at increasing growth, employment and innovation in the EU. Data economy requires extensive availability and use of data while respecting individuals' fundamental rights and personal data. Free flow of cross-border data should also be ensured.

The aim is to discuss the main principles for data policy. We need to focus the discussions on the trusted and human centric data economy, which respects the rights and privacy of individuals. Throughout our presidency we are committed to engage businesses, stakeholders and citizens' alike to the discussions on European data policy and how we can enhance access and re-use of data in general and for sectoral development as well as for AI.

It will be crucial for the EU to become a significant developer of AI as well as a forerunner and a role model in AI ethics. It is essential to support European citizens' trust, inclusion and skills in the digitalizing society. Focus needs to be on practical solutions such as transparency of algorithms.

On a legislative side we will continue the negotiations on the ePrivacy proposal and further them as far as possible with the aim to ensure quality legislation. We will also continue the work on the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre Regulation proposal and hopefully we can return to the negotiating table with the Parliament and find a common understanding on this file. We will also further discussion on the priorities of the Digital Europe Programme and CEF digital although we most likely will not be able to finalize these regulations.

One of our common priorities is to improve the availability of high capacity and increasingly fast networks and the deployment of 5G infrastructures and services. To ensure the swift deployment of 5G in Europe we need also to reflect on the security of these networks based on the Commission Recommendation.





## Priorities in the Digital Policy

- Mainstreaming and strengthening digitalisation as an **integral element of the Single Market**
- **Availability and use of data** (free flow, human centric approach, principles based)
- the EU to become a **significant developer of AI** as well as a forerunner and a role model in **AI ethics**.
- **Building trust, inclusion and skills in digitalizing societies**
- **Sustainable growth and security**

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## Finnish presidency in the telecommunications sector

### Legislative files:

- ePrivacy
- Digital Europe Programme
- Cyber Security Competence Centers (Cyber HWP)
- CEF-digital

### Other topics:

- Data policy
- 5G security recommendation and 5G uptake

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## Events

Digital Government  
Conference, 22.10  
Helsinki

High Level Conference  
on Data Economy, 25.-  
26.11 Helsinki

Telecommunications  
Council 3.12 Brussels

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