

MEDIA GUIDE

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MEETINGS IN FINLAND DURING FINLAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union will be organising six informal meetings of ministers in Helsinki between July and September 2019. The European Commission will visit Finland in early July to meet the Finnish Government. Finland's Presidency will also organise a number of other events in Finland.

A more detailed media programme will be published separately for each informal meeting of ministers and for the Commission's visit to Finland.

<https://eu2019.fi/en/events/upcoming-events>

- Meeting of the College of Commissioners with the Finnish Government 4–5 Jul
- Informal Meeting of Ministers of Competitiveness and Research 4–5 Jul
- Informal Meeting of Ministers of the Environment 11–12 Jul
- Informal Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs 18–19 Jul
- Informal Meeting of Ministers of Defence and Ministers for Foreign Affairs 28–29 Aug
- Meeting of the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament with the Finnish Government 6 Sep
- Informal Meeting of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs and Eurogroup 13–14 Sep
- Informal Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture 22–24 Sep



MEDIA CENTRE AT FINLANDIA HALL

Finlandia Hall is within walking distance of the city centre, and Helsinki Central Railway Station and Kamppi Bus Station are only about one kilometre from the venue.

The renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto designed Finlandia Hall as a venue for congresses and events. It was completed in 1971 and is one of the masterpieces of Finnish architecture.

The Media Centre at Finlandia Hall is open during the informal meetings of ministers and the Commission's visit to Finland.

Opening hours

The Media Centre at Finlandia Hall is open during the informal meetings of ministers and the Commission's visit to Finland.

The Media Centre is open from 15.00 to 20.00 on the day before each meeting. On meeting days, it opens at 7.00 and closes four hours after the last press conference or at 21.00 at the latest.

Address:

Finlandia Hall
Mannerheimintie 13e, 00100 Helsinki

The Media Centre is located on Level 0 of Finlandia Hall. The entrance is K4 on the Karamziniranta side of the building.

Please make sure to allow enough time to reach the venue in case of exceptional traffic arrangements.

Information desk and contact information

Please contact the information desk at the Media Centre if you have any questions during the meeting or want to find contacts for interviews. Submit your request for photo opportunities online through links provided in the media programme of each meeting. Photographers should collect their pool cards at the information desk.

Media representatives needing a printer or a photocopier can use those at the information desk. Please consult the desk if you need technical support.

The Host Broadcaster's desk is in the editing facilities on Level 0.
Inquiries: media@eu2019.fi

Press conferences

Press conferences of the informal meetings of ministers take place in Press Room I on Level 0, next to the K4 entrance. Press Room II (Aurora Hall) on Level 1 and Press Room III (Veranda 4) on Level 0 can be used for national press conferences and other press briefings.

Schedules for press conferences will be displayed on the internal screens at the Media Centre, on the eu2019.fi website, on Twitter and in a mobile application designed for media use.

Working facilities

The Media Centre has 180 workstations for media representatives. No booking is required. Twenty workstations have an ISDN access point, and high-quality wireless internet access is available throughout Finlandia Hall. The voltage is 230V.

There are lockers and an unattended cloakroom in the lobby areas.

Catering

On meeting days, the restaurant at the Media Centre serves a hot lunch and dinner and snacks free of charge.

Editing booths

TV and radio editing booths are available at Finlandia Hall, but the number of booths is limited. The editing booths are provided free-of-charge by the Presidency. Submit your booking request online through links provided in the media programme of each meeting. The booths are equipped with an ISDN access point and video cable link to the live and recorded audiovisual material provided by the Host Broadcaster.

The editing booths have a connection hub, a TV monitor and socket outlets, as well as a desk and chairs. Media representatives should bring their own PCs and cables. Submit your booking request online through links provided in the media programme of each meeting.

Interview points and stand-up positions

Finlandia Hall has three numbered interview positions in Piazza on Level 1 that media representatives can use for arranging meetings with ministers. There is a well-lit stand-up position on Level 1, available free of charge and without prior booking for media representatives for filming their own material. Weather permitting, media representatives are encouraged to use Finlandia Hall's terrace with city views.

The Host Broadcaster provides stand-up position services subject to a charge.

Photo opportunities and pool registration

All accredited media representatives have access to the press conferences. Access to other photo opportunities may be restricted.

Photo opportunities with restricted access (pools) for photographers:

Photo opportunities with restricted access (pools) for photographers:

- o Arrivals and doorsteps (also journalists)
- o Family photo
- o Round table

List and schedule of available photo opportunities will be available in the media programme of each meeting. The media programmes will also include links for registering for photo opportunities. The photo opportunities will be reserved in the order of registration.

Audiovisual material of broadcast quality and photographs by the Host Broadcaster are available for media use.

Interview requests

Interview requests and interview position bookings should be made at the Media Centre information desk or by email to media@eu2019.fi.

HOST BROADCASTER SERVICES AND PHOTOS

The Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE is the host broadcaster for Finland's Presidency. It provides live stand-ups and filming and editing services, among other services, subject to charge.

Inquiries and bookings: ylenews@yle.fi

In other matters, the YLE contact is Matti Heikkilä: matti.heikkila@yle.fi

- o Arrivals of ministers and doorstep statements, if any
- o Handshake (host welcoming the ministers)
- o Round table
- o Family photo
- o Press conference
- o Doorstep statements during breaks or on departure, if any
- o Stock-shots of the venue, Helsinki and Finland

The media can use multi-camera produced audiovisual material in broadcast quality live and on demand.

The material must not be used for commercial purposes.

Audiovisual material is available in:

- Europe by Satellite -service
- Newsroom of the Council of the EU

ACCREDITATION

Media representatives covering the informal meetings of ministers held in Helsinki must complete their accreditation via the online accreditation system at the latest two weeks before the meeting starts (see link below). To allow sufficient time for security clearance, we invite you to complete your accreditation well in advance.

A single accreditation is sufficient to gain access to one or more informal meetings of ministers held in Finland and to the visits of the European Commission and the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament in Helsinki.

A request for security clearance should be attached to the accreditation application. Print out the security clearance request form and sign it by hand, then scan the signed form and attach the scanned file to your accreditation application.

You will receive an automatic acknowledgement of receipt by email and a separate email informing you that your accreditation application has been processed and accepted. We recommend that you save this message.

Media representatives with a valid annual media accreditation to the EU institutions are not required to undergo a security clearance. Instead, they can supply the number of their Laissez-passer Journaliste card.

Separate accreditation may be needed to other events during Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

[Link to accreditation: eu2019.fi/en/media/accreditation](https://eu2019.fi/en/media/accreditation)

HOW TO GET THERE

Finlandia Hall is within walking and cycling distance from the hotels pre-booked for media representatives. You can rent a bike from the numerous city bike docking stations around the city. Finlandia Hall is located 800-metres from Helsinki Central Railway Station and its metro station and 900-metres from Kamppi Bus Station.

Public transportation

Trams 4 and 10 take you to Finlandia Hall, the closest stop on Mannerheimintie is called 'Kansallismuseo'. The Media Centre entrance is on the other side of the building.

Tickets for public transport must be purchased in advance. You can buy tickets from ticket machines and R-kioski newsagents or by using the HSL Mobile Ticket application. A single ticket for the Helsinki travel area (zones AB) costs about EUR 3. Tickets are not sold on board trains, buses or trams. Please make sure to allow enough time to reach the venue in case of exceptional traffic arrangements.

From the airport

There are two public transport options between Helsinki Airport and Helsinki Central Railway Station (zones ABC). The train connection has two services, I train and P train, and the journey takes about 30 minutes. Public transport bus line 615 operates between the airport and Helsinki Central Railway Station and takes about 50 minutes. The ticket for zones ABC costs around EUR 5.

Helsinki Airport: <https://www.finavia.fi/en/>

Finnair City Bus is an express line that operates between Helsinki Airport and Helsinki Central Railway Station. Tickets cost about EUR 6.50, and they are sold on board and online. Finnair City Bus always chooses the quickest route according to traffic conditions. The journey takes about 30 minutes.

Finnair City Bus: <https://www.pohjolanliikenne.fi/en/finnair-bus.html>

By taxi, it takes about 20 minutes from Helsinki Airport to the city centre. The taxi fare is about EUR 40–45. The address of Finlandia Hall is Mannerheimintie 13e.

Accessing Finlandia Hall

Media representatives must obtain accreditation in advance to access the Media Centre. Have your accreditation badge and the same identity card you used for accreditation at hand on arrival at the Media Centre. Please be ready to undergo a security check.

The Media Centre is located on Level 0 of Finlandia Hall. The entrance is K4 on the Karamziniranta side of the building.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Services

As a rule, shops and grocery stores are open from 9.00 to 21.00 on weekdays and from 9.00 to 18.00 at weekends.

Banks are usually open from 10.00 to 16.00 on weekdays and closed at weekends.

The closest post office (address Elielinaukio 2) to Finlandia Hall is located next to Helsinki Central Railway Station. It is open on weekdays from 8.00 to 20.00, on Saturdays from 10.00 to 16.00 and on Sundays from 12.00 to 16.00.

The Medical Helpline, provided by the City of Helsinki free of charge, is open 24/7 at the number 116 117.

The general emergency number in Finland is 112.

You can book a taxi by phone or hail a taxi on the street or from a taxi rank.

There are taxi ranks at Helsinki Central Railway Station and the seaport terminals and in other locations such as Senate Square and Pohjoisesplanadi.

- Taksi-Helsinki, tel. +358 100 0700
- Airport Taxi Yellow Line, tel. +358 600 555 555
- Kovanen, tel. +358 200 6060
- Lähitaksi tel. +358 100 7300

General information about Finland

- o Electricity: 230V, 50Hz
- o Local time: Eastern European Time, EET, which is two hours ahead of GMT
- o Country code: Finland +358
- o Helsinki: (0)9
- o Currency: euro
- o Tap water: safe to drink everywhere
- o Population: 5.5 million
- o Surface: 338,440 km²
- o Capital city: Helsinki
- o Official languages: Finnish and Swedish
- o Independence: 6 December 1917
- o EU membership: 1 January 1995

Climate

Temperatures cool down in September at the latest. Winter in Helsinki starts in November or December with temperatures generally ranging between +2°C and -2°C.

Helsinki has summer temperatures from May to mid-September. The daily mean temperature is around 15°C. The highest temperatures are usually in July.

SUSTAINABLE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The cross-cutting theme in all meeting arrangements during Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union is sustainability. This acknowledges wider concerns about climate change in particular.

Our aim is to keep the number of meetings held in Finland during the Presidency at a reasonable level and to promote the use of video conferencing. To minimise travel, the meetings being held in Finland will be organised in a single location in Helsinki and the Presidency venue, Finlandia Hall, is very easy to reach by public transport.

Finland also wants to emphasise the importance of the circular economy. The aim is to generate as little presidency-related material as possible, for example by avoiding the use of paper and plastics and by opting for digital applications. In decorating the meeting venue, the existing architectural features of Finlandia Hall will be highlighted.

The visual identity of the Presidency is based on the emblem designed for Finland's 2006 Presidency. Finland will use the money earmarked for presidency gifts to offset carbon dioxide emissions caused by air travel during the Presidency.

All meetings organised in Helsinki during Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU will serve pure, organic, seasonal and locally produced Finnish food with natural Nordic flavours.

