

College visit for the official launch of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

President **Juncker** and the College of Commissioners will travel to Helsinki today for the official launch of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The [priorities of the Finnish Presidency](#) will focus on strengthening the EU's common values and the rule of law, making the EU more competitive and socially inclusive, how to reinforce the Union's position as a global leader in climate action, and how to protect Europeans on all fronts. As set out in the [contribution to the informal EU27 leaders' meeting in Sibiu](#) on 9 May this year, the Commission has itself highlighted these themes as priorities for the Union in the months to come.

On Thursday 4 July at 19:00 CET, President **Juncker**, accompanied by the College of Commissioners, will take part in an informal dinner organised by the Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne. On Friday, 5 July at 9:00 CET, President **Juncker** will have a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Rinne. In parallel, bilateral meetings between the Commissioners and members of the Finnish Government will take place on a variety of themes, including the next long-term budget of the Union, a fair, sustainable and competitive Europe, an influential Europe and a protective Europe. A family photo with the College of Commissioners and members of the Finnish Government will follow. At 10:00 CET, a plenary meeting will take place with the College of Commissioners and the Finnish Government. This will be followed by a press conference at 10:45 CET with President **Juncker** and Prime Minister Rinne, which will be broadcast live on [EbS+](#).

Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland, will welcome the College at 11:15 CET for an informal lunch in the presidential palace.

The College will then be hosted by the Finnish Parliament House for a series of meetings, including with the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Matti Vanhanen.