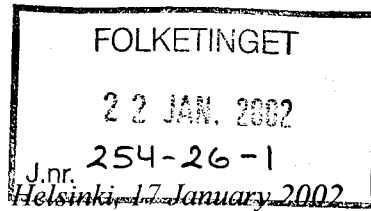




MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Finland
Minister of Justice



IVH
HT
BD

Mr Ivar HANSEN
Folketingets formand
Folketinget
Christiansborg
DK-1240 København K
DENMARK

○ *Invitation to the Helsinki Conference on Fundamental Rights in Future Europe*

Dear Mr. Hansen,

I have great pleasure in inviting you to participate in the Conference on "Fundamental Rights in Future Europe" to be held in Helsinki on 18 - 19 March, 2002. The aim of the Conference is to participate in the debate on the enhancement of fundamental rights in future Europe, with regard to the work to be carried out by the Convention set up by the Laeken European Council and the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference in 2004.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union was solemnly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in Nice on 7 December, 2000. The Charter sets out in a single text and for the first time in the history of the European Union, a whole range of civil, political, economic and social rights which are based, in particular, on the fundamental rights and freedoms recognised by the European Convention on Human Rights, the constitutional traditions of the Member States and international human rights instruments to which the European Union or its Member States are parties.

The Declaration on the future of the European Union adopted together with the Treaty of Nice refers to the analysis of the legal status of the EU Charter. Under the heading on challenges and reforms of the renewed Union the Declaration of Laeken refers to the possible incorporation of the EU Charter in the EU Treaties and to the accession in the future by the European Community or, alternatively the European Union, to the European Convention on Human Rights. Both measures would strengthen the human rights dimension in the European Union. In addition, the accession would also bring the European institutions under the same international human rights monitoring system as the Member States. The Conference will discuss these initiatives as well as the experiences gained so far in the application of the Charter.

The Conference participants include representatives from EU Member States and Candidate Countries, EU institutions, national parliaments and the civil society, the academic world included. Due to the limited conference facilities, participation is by invitation only. The working language of the Conference will be English.

The Conference is organised by the Finnish Ministries for Foreign Affairs and of Justice and the respective Offices of the Finnish Prime Minister and the Chancellor of Justice.

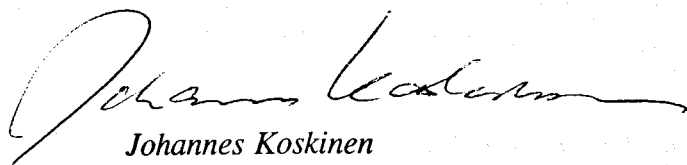
The Conference is free of charge. We regret to inform you that travel and accommodation costs will not be reimbursed. The Conference programme is enclosed.

You are kindly requested to confirm your participation by 31 January 2002 using the enclosed registration form. Please note that if you are unable to participate and another person will represent your institution, the same deadline applies.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Tiina Kangas, Ministerial Counsellor, European Union Affairs, tel. + 358 9 1825 7566, fax + 358 9 1825 7949, e-mail tiina.kangas.om.fi, for any assistance or further information on the Conference.

Looking forward to meeting you at the Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Johannes Koskinen

Enclosures

Draft agenda 17 January 2002

**CONFERENCE ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN FUTURE EUROPE,
HELSINKI ON 18 – 19 MARCH 2002**

Monday 18 March 2002

Opening of the Conference

8.30 – 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 – 9.45 Opening Speeches

Mr. Johannes Koskinen, Minister of Justice of Finland

Ms. Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Minister of Justice of the Federal
Republic of Germany

**Part I: The Significance of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European
Union**

Chair: Mr. Paavo Nikula, Chancellor of Justice of Finland

9.45 – 10.15 Presentation by Mr. Francis Jacobs, Advocate General, Court of
Justice of the European Communities

10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 – 11.30 Comments by
Mr. Gunnar Jansson, Member of the Parliament of Finland, Chair of
the Committee on Legal affairs and Human Rights of the
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Ms. Heidi Hautala, Member of the European Parliament
Mr. Ínigo Méndez de Vigo, Member of the European Parliament

11.30 – 12.30 Discussion

12.30 – 14.00 Luncheon

**Part II: Accession by the European Community / European Union to the European
Convention on Human Rights**

**Chair: Mr. Holger Rotkirch, Director General for Legal Affairs, Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland**

14.00 – 14.45 Presentation by Mr. Hans-Christian Krüger, Deputy Secretary
General, Council of Europe

- 14.45 – 15.15 Comments by
 Ms. Paula Kokkonen, Chair of the Constitutional Law Committee,
 Parliament of Finland
 Mr. Aurelio Perez Giralda, Ambassador, Head of the International
 Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain
- 15.15 – 16.15 Discussion
- 16.15 – 17.00 Press conference
- 17.00 – 19.00 Reception hosted by Ms. Riitta Uosukainen, the Speaker of
 Parliament

Tuesday 19 March 2002

Part III: The fundamental rights as a part of the debate on the future of the European Union

Chair: Dr. Kirsti Rissanen, Permanent Secretary, the Ministry of Justice of Finland

- 9.00 – 9.15 Opening speech
 Mr. Kimmo Sasi, Minister of Transport and Communication, former
 Minister for Trade and Minister responsible for European Affairs
- 9.15 – 10.00 Presentation by António Vitorino, Commissioner for Justice and
 Home Affairs, the European Union
- 10.00 – 10.15 Comments by Mr. Matti Vanhanen, Member of the Parliament of
 Finland and the representative of the Finnish Parliament of the
 Convention
- 10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break
- 10.45 – 11.30 Comments by
 Mr. Göran Magnusson, Member of the Parliament of Sweden and of
 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
 Ms. Aino Lepik von Wiren, Estonia
- 11.30 – 12.30 Discussion

Closing of the conference

- 12.30 – 12.45 Closing speech
 Mr. Paavo Lipponen, Prime Minister of Finland
- 12.45 – 13.00 Press conference

Conference on Fundamental Rights in Future Europe

Helsinki, Finland
18-19 March 2002

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS

SURNAME.....

NAME.....

NATIONALITY..... MR/MS.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... POSTCODE.....

Telephone number.....

Fax number.....

E-mail

MAILING ADDRESS (if
different).....

ORGANISATION AND PRESENT
POSITION.....

HOTEL IN WHICH YOU HAVE RESERVED THE ACCOMMODATION DURING THE
CONFERENCE.....

Date.....Signature.....

Please return this form not later than 31 January 2002

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International Affairs Unit
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FIN-00131 Helsinki

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