



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR



HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON GOVERNANCE AND THE EU

TURKU, 2-3 OCTOBER 2006

20 June 2006

Dear Colleague,

On the occasion of Finland's Presidency of the European Union, I have the pleasure of inviting you to the 3rd High Level Meeting on "Governance and the EU", to be held on 2 and 3 October, 2006. The meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of the Interior and will take place in the Radisson SAS Marina Palace Hotel, in the City of Turku in South-West Finland.

As was the case at the High Level Meeting in London, we will involve representatives of local and regional government as well, including the Committee of the Regions. Accordingly, I am inviting you to be accompanied by (a) representative/s of your State's local and/or regional government. The meeting is, of course, as the very title of the meeting entails, first and for most a forum for discussion between us, responsible for local and regional democracy in the Member States. We may of course give the floor to other members of our delegations. In order to keep the meeting productive and enhance lively discussion, the delegations cannot be too large. Therefore, in general a State's delegation, including yourself, would be no more than four people. If this limitation causes any difficulties, please contact me or the organising team for a solution.

At the Turku meeting we will take forward the outcomes of the Hague and London meetings and build on the Multi-Annual Work Programme developed during the Dutch and UK Presidencies. We also propose to add one theme to the Multi-Annual Work Programme, namely the role of local and regional government in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy. In sum, we envisage that the key themes to be covered at the Turku High Level Meeting will be:

- follow up to the Hague and the London meetings, especially the tripartite arrangements;
- better regulation regarding EU-legislation on state aid and procurement;
- the role of local and regional government in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy and in creating sustainable communities.
- cross border co-operation; and
- closer links between the EU, the Council of Europe, and their Member States;

A full programme, agenda and discussion papers for the meeting will be sent later on. For now, I am enclosing with this letter a draft programme, a brief on the agenda and notes on the themes, practical information about the hotel and connections, and a registration form for the meeting.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at the meeting and let me know who will be in your delegation. Please complete one registration form for each person in your delegation and return them to anne-maria.pfitzner@intermin.fi or by FAX to +358 9 160 42520, latest by August 31. Accommodation reservations are made directly to the Radisson SAS Marina Palace Hotel (www.intermin.fi/english/governance). The hotel prices at the Radisson SAS Marina Palace Hotel, where also the meeting takes place, are cheaper for early reservations. As to other accommodation alternatives, see the attached paper on practical information. Delegations will be expected to meet their own travel and accommodation costs.

If you have any questions about the meeting, you can email or contact the organising team who will be pleased to help:

Anne-Maria Pfitzner; + 358 40 559 1154 or anne-maria.pfitzner@intermin.fi

In case Anne-Maria Pfitzner is not available, please contact:

Arto Luhtala (Head of Team); +358 40 830 9194 or arto.luhtala@intermin.fi
(Out of office: 26.6-28.7.2006)

Hanna-Maria Urjankangas; +358 160 42997 or hanna-maria.urjankangas@intermin.fi
(Out of office: 3.7-30.7.2006)

I look forward to seeing you in Turku in October,

Yours Sincerely

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