



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Dear Expatriate Finns, Dear Friends,

The year is drawing to a close and the time has come to celebrate Finland's 102nd year of independence. The past year has been eventful for us here in Finland as it must have been for all of you around the world.

The global situation is becoming increasingly unpredictable. For our part, Finland is working for international stability and cooperation. The promotion of security and global challenges – notably the eradication of poverty and prevention of climate change – call for extensive cooperation. Finland can make a valuable contribution based on its own experiences.

We also need to take care of the affairs of expatriate Finns. Next June the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, the cooperation forum of expatriates, will convene in Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. It will offer us here in Finland an opportunity to learn about the views and concerns of expatriate Finns.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Winter War. Although a long time has passed since these events, the veterans and Lottas who secured our independence always deserve our greatest respect. Their efforts have provided a sound basis for building the modern Finland.

It is of great significance that you celebrate Finland's Independence Day in all parts of the world. You represent Finland holding the blue-white flag high. Our independence deserves to be honoured. I express my heartfelt thanks to you for your participation.

I wish you all across the world a pleasant Independence Day in anticipation of the Christmas season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sauli Niinistö'.

Sauli Niinistö
The President of the Republic of Finland