



Regional Council of Kainuu  
Mr. Pentti Malinen  
Region Mayor

12.11.2018

### **Kainuu Representing Finland as the Celebrated Country at Winter Wonders Event 2018**

Ladies and gentlemen, greetings from Finland!

As a representative of Finland and Kainuu region, I want to warmly thank you for inviting us here as the celebrated country of the Winter Wonders 2018-2019 event. I'm so happy to share the joy and excitement of your marvelous event, Winter Wonders, with you.

I hope **Finland** is and will be known here in Central Europe as a Nordic welfare state, excelling for example in education and maternity care, as well as in high technology. The organizers of this event, who we've been preparing our Finnish Village with, and also some journalists, have visited Finland during this busy year. They have been amazed to meet fully functioning communication networks and technological innovations in the middle of wilderness. I think it's just **the unique combination** of – from the perspective of overcrowded cities - wild nature, Finnish culture and high technology available everywhere, which makes Finland such an interesting country.

For a traveler arriving at Finland, there's so much to experience and explore. We have four totally different **four seasons of the year**. During winter we have the northern lights, or polar lights, lots of white snow and winter activities. During summer Finland is a country of thousands of lakes, and great forests, where you can hike and pick wild berries as much as you wish. We are a country of 40 national parks around the country, like the newest one, Hossa, in our region. By the way, you can also watch the wild living bears in Kainuu!

Finland is a big country measured by land area, the eighth-largest in Europe. It means that **our region, Kainuu**, which is one of the eighteen provinces in Finland, is geographically about the same size as the whole Belgium. When having only 4 inhabitants per square kilometer, our population is about 74 000. Almost 80% on land area is forests. So, we really live in the forest, with the forest and from the forests!

As Finland received your decision to have the honor as **the celebrated country** on this year's Winter Wonders, our national tourism development organization, called Visit Finland, asked the Kainuu Region to take the responsibility. We made the deal with Brussels Major Events and took several main partners in Finland to our organizing team. These include e.g. Kalevala Spirit, organizer of the chalets for selling special Finnish food and articles, the Finnish national forest council, the regional business and tourism development organizations and Finnish national air carrier Finnair.

In **the Finnish Village**, located in the front of the Bourse, you can experience the magical touch of far North and Finnish folklore, music and dance, and meet the original Father Christmas. In front of our Village we will have two wooden bear statues welcoming people to our area. You can also visit



the House of Silence, an amazing wooden house with three floors, compact enough to fit into a single parking space. It is a fine example of innovative Finnish design and building with wood, which is one of the drivers of sustainable growth and **bio-based economy** in Finland and Kainuu.

The week preceding Christmas is the **Finnish movie week** in the Palace movie theatre. Interested audience will be able to see new movies filmed in our region of Kainuu. The highlight of this week is the premiere of a movie concert “Symphony of Nature” – a unique creation telling the unforgettable story of the four seasons in Finland. And, of course, we are happy to offer you the Northern Lights as a light show at the Grand Place.

I hope you'll enjoy our programs and personally experience the magic of Finland here, in the heart of Europe.

Thank you for your attention!



**For more information, please visit:**

Winter Wonders 2018 Finland #kainuu

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