The European Union is a community based on shared values, the rule of law and the respect for human rights. These values will take center stage as preparing for the June European Council, which will discuss new strategic guidelines for the development of the European Area of Justice. The building of an EU Justice policy began at the European Council meeting at Tampere 1999. Today, 15 years from Tampere, trust between member states is regarded to be one of the key challenges in deepening the cooperation. Corruption and the undermining of shared values in the EU are weakening this trust. The European Commission has recently launched several initiatives in order to tackle these problems.

At the seminar Mr Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of Finland will speak on the Rule of Law in the European Union. Ms Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Home Affairs will present the recently published EU Anti-Corruption Report. We will also hear a comment from Mr Morten Kjaerum, Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU. The views on the future of the European Area of Justice will be presented by Ms Anna-Maja Henriksson, Minister of Justice of Finland as well as by other Ministers of Justice from EU member states. The moderator of the seminar is Mr Thomas Wilhelmsson, Chancellor of the University of Helsinki.

Opening words
Moderator of the seminar
Chancellor Thomas Wilhelmsson, University of Helsinki

Rule of Law in the European Union
Mr Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of Finland

Corruption and Human Rights – The findings of the EU Anti-Corruption Report
Ms Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Home Affairs

Broadening the Rule of Law debate: towards a Fundamental rights strategy
Morten Kjaerum, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency

Panel discussion on the Future of the European Area of Justice

Panelists:
Minister of Justice of Finland, Sweden, Latvia, the Netherlands and the Vice-Minister of Lithuania