

# Programme

European Office, Brussels

## The Morning After – Finland has voted

**Tuesday, 30 January 2024**

**09:30-10:15 CET**

**Online Event (via Zoom)**

The European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is very pleased to invite you to the next session of our event format "**The Morning After**". In this online format, we are monitoring the Parliamentary and/or Presidential Elections in European states and discuss the results with our KAS colleagues in the respective country. Furthermore, we try to assess the implications the result could have for the country's relationship with the European Union. This session will focus on **Finland**, where the first round of the **Presidential Elections** is scheduled for **28 January 2024**.

One year after the Parliamentary Elections, which brought about a change of government, the citizens of Finland are called upon to elect a new head of state at the end of January. The office of President, which cannot be equated with the office of Federal President in Germany due to its far-reaching powers - particularly in foreign policy matters - is of paramount importance in Finland and is filled by direct popular election every six years. While the incumbent Sauli Niinistö cannot stand again after two terms in office, nine candidates are vying to succeed him. Many observers are therefore assuming that none of the candidates will receive the required absolute majority of votes in the first round and that a run-off election will have to be held in mid-February to decide the new head of state. The most promising candidates are likely to be former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb from the National Coalition Party (*Kokoomus*), which belongs to the EPP at European level, and Pekka Haavisto, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs who is running as an independent candidate but is supported by the Green Party (*VIHR*). According to surveys, the two candidates have around 30 and 20 per cent support respectively. The other candidates include former Finance Minister and current EU Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen from the Social Democrats (*SDP*) as well as candidates from the Centre Party (*KESK*), which was part of the previous government, and the right-wing populist Finns Party (*PS*), which is part of the current government. However, they are considered to have outsider chances at best.

Which two candidates were successful in the first round of the Presidential Election? Is a run-off election necessary? What issues played a role in the election campaign? What priorities could the new president set and how would these affect Finnish Foreign and European policy?

The event „**The Morning After – Finland has voted**” will take place on **Tuesday, 30 January 2024** from **09:30-10:15 CET** via Zoom. We look forward to discussing the election result with our colleague **Gabriele Baumann**, Director of the KAS Nordic Countries Project. After the conversation between Ms Baumann and **Kai Gläser**, Policy Advisor at the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the audience will have the opportunity to contribute their questions to the discussion. The event will be held in **German** with simultaneous interpretation into **English**.

We look forward to your participation!

# Programme

European Office, Brussels

**Tuesday, 30 January 2024**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 09:00 | <b>Welcoming</b><br><br><b>Kai Gläser</b><br>Policy Advisor at the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  |
| 09:05 | <b>Discussion about the Presidential Elections 2024 and their national and European implications</b><br><br><b>Kai Gläser</b><br>Policy Advisor at the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung<br><br><b>Gabriele Baumann</b><br>Director of the KAS Nordic Countries Project |
| 09:35 | <b>Questions from the audience</b>  |
| 09:45 | <b>End of event</b>   |

## **Information on registration and participation:**

Please register by providing your name, email address, organisation and position. You will then receive a confirmation of your registration and further information on how to participate in the online event.

## **During the online event:**

During the event, you will not be connected via video and will be muted by the host. After the speakers' short statements, you are welcome to join the conversation by asking the speakers a written question (click on the Q&A icon in the toolbar).