



## **Jussi Pajunen**

### **Mayor**

### **City of Helsinki**

Jussi Pajunen has been the Mayor of Helsinki since June 1, 2005, serving a seven-year term in office that runs through the end of May 2012. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Pajunen held numerous municipal positions of trust. He served as a member of the City Council in 1997 - 2005 and became a member of the City Board in 1999. In 2003 he assumed the position of Chairman of the City Board, holding it until his appointment as Mayor.

With its 39,000 employees, the City of Helsinki is the biggest employer in Finland. The prime responsibility of the Mayor is management of the city's finances and its 4.2 billion euro budget. Following the Nordic welfare model, Finnish local authorities have an exceptionally wide range of responsibilities compared with their counterparts elsewhere. According to most quality-of-life indicators, Helsinki is among the most liveable cities in the world.

Mr. Pajunen is a strong advocate for intensified co-operation in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, which is home to more than one million inhabitants. In terms of partnership with the state level, he was among the key initiators of a new metropolitan policy between the Government of Finland and Greater Helsinki to address the specific challenges associated with competitiveness, land use, multiculturalism, social exclusion and traffic that affect the capital region.

Under the leadership of Mayor Pajunen, the city has developed an international strategy to establish Helsinki as a global business hub and center of knowledge. Its attractiveness is based on functionality, first-class welfare services and a high-standard living environment. Mayor Pajunen was personally involved in Helsinki's successful bidding process to become World Design Capital in 2012.

Before assuming his duties as Mayor of Helsinki, Jussi Pajunen worked as Managing Director and as Chairman of the Board of the family-owned company Edvard Pajunen Ltd. He has a master's degree from the Helsinki School of Economics (1978) and an MBA from INSEAD, France (1980). He was born in 1954 in Helsinki and is married with five grown children.