

# THE ECONOMIC CLUB

---

O F W A S H I N G T O N, D. C.

**Excerpts from the Signature Event featuring His Excellency Juha  
Sipilä, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland**

**November 26, 2018**

“[*Brexit*] is a lose-lose situation for both U.K. and European Union. If they vote against the agreement we have done together, this is the best possible [*outcome*]. Maybe there is an option then, but we don’t speculate about what [*will happen*] after the voting. I think that this is the best deal we can have... If they decided to have a second referendum and they decided to stay, of course, this is what we want. [*Nobody in the*] EU wants the U.K. to leave. But that’s their decision.”

“...In some small details maybe [*the United Kingdom is*] too active, or we are too active as the European Union. But to have the biggest single market in the world, we have 500 million people in the same economical area, and as a country of 5.5 million people, [*the European Union’s bureaucracy*] is something really, we need and want to keep.”

“I think that there is an image that we are afraid of Russians in Finland and Europe. We are not. We [are] used to [*living*] with the Russians as a neighbor. And we are behind all the sanctions and all the policy we have agreed together with the European Union, with [*the United States*]. But at the same time, we have had very good dialogue [*with Russia*].”

“Climate change is disaster for all of us. And we have to fight against the climate change together. We have [*the*] Paris Agreement... We need to do three things. First, private consumptions. We have to change our behavior. Secondly, we need to increase these carbon sinks, to plant new trees. And the third thing is new technology. We can do a lot by new technology, by capturing CO2 from the air and converting CO2 to other products. And this will be very important part of the business in the future.”

