

Agreements between Sweden and France on the occasion of the State Visit to Sweden on 30 and 31 January 2024
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The State Visit has been an opportunity to open a new chapter in relations between France and Sweden, based on our historical ties of friendship.

I. A number of high-level signings of framework agreements in numerous areas highlight our broad and deepening exchanges:

1. **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP.** The key result of the State Visit, the **Strategic Innovation Partnership for Sustainable, Digital and Resilient Societies signed by the President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of Sweden** reaffirms the widening scope of our cooperation, building on the closer bilateral relations initiated in 2017 with the first French-Swedish partnership. It gives concrete and operational guidance to actors in a range of priority sectors.
2. **NUCLEAR ENERGY.** The State Visit was preceded by the signing on 19 December 2023 of a **ministerial Declaration of Intent on long-term cooperation in the area of nuclear energy**. This will enable support to French and Swedish civil nuclear power actors as both France and Sweden are relaunching their national programmes.
3. **NUCLEAR RESEARCH.** A **ministerial Declaration of Intent on cooperation in the area of nuclear research** was signed at the Alfa Laval site in Lund. It aims to promote scientific and technological cooperation via joint activities and events and mobility for researchers.
4. **FORESTS.** The State Visit was preceded by the **signing on 23 October 2023 of a ministerial Declaration of Intent on long-term cooperation on forestry**. As also reiterated in the Strategic Partnership, our cooperation in this area aims to promote active and sustainable forest management with a view to using wood in the context of the climate transition.
5. **DEFENCE.** A **ministerial Declaration of Intent reaffirms our desire to cooperate in the area of air defence and surveillance systems**, following on from the Letter of Intent on bilateral defence cooperation signed on 24 September 2021.
6. **INTERNAL SECURITY.** Our desire to strengthen our cooperation on internal security, including via the **future signing of a text on crime prevention, research and law enforcement** – particularly targeting cross-border organised crime – was announced during the State Visit. France decided in mid-2023 to post an internal security attaché in Stockholm.
7. **FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY.** Our bilateral dialogue on foreign and security policy will be deepened through the launch of **annual consultations between our foreign affairs ministers** at senior official level.
8. **SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY.** It was formally announced during the State Visit that **France has joined the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)**, which is based in Stockholm. France is the first P5 country to join International IDEA.
9. **CULTURAL COOPERATION.** A **Declaration of Intent between the Institut Français and the Swedish Institute was signed on 30 January at Moderna Museet**. This concerns promoting joint cultural actions and projects, particularly in the areas of the visual arts, the performing arts and digital technology. The two institutes will also strengthen their cooperation for cultural diversity in Europe and throughout the world. In addition, the President of the French Republic announced a **retrospective exhibition of the works of Pierre Bonnard** at the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm in early 2025.

10. THE FRENCH LANGUAGE. In a speech to the French community, **the President of the French Republic announced the creation of three new Alliances françaises** (Umeå, Luleå and Gävle) that will join the fourteen existing Alliance françaises in Sweden.

II. Agreements between enterprises and institutions were also concluded in the margins of the Business Forum, building on the ambitions of the Strategic Partnership (non-exhaustive list):

- 1. ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP.** In a spirit of ‘Team France-Sweden’, an agreement between **Business France, Business Sweden, MEDEF International, the Swedish business sector and chambers of commerce** will contribute to implementing the economic sections of the Strategic Partnership in association with the embassies, and to bringing French and Swedish businesses closer together.
- 2. EMPLOYMENT.** An agreement between **France Travail and Arbetsförmedlingen** aiming to promote collaboration on employment policy issues between France and Sweden was signed by representatives of the two agencies.
- 3. SPACE.** Agreements in the space sector were signed in the margins of the Business Forum by **the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and its Swedish counterpart, the Swedish National Space Agency:**
 1. Letter of intent on the launch of studies monitoring gaseous pollutant emissions from space, with a view to strengthening French-Swedish cooperation to combat global warming.
 2. Letter of intent in the context of stratospheric balloon launches from the Esrange base, with a view to undertaking a transatlantic flight for scientific purposes in 2024 (studying the layers of the atmosphere).
- 4. DEFENCE INDUSTRY.** A letter of intent between **MDBA and SAAB on cooperation on anti-tank missiles** was signed in the margins of the Business Forum.
- 5. HEALTH.** A partnership between **the University Hospital of Bordeaux and Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg** on issues concerning the green transition in health care institutions and organisational innovation in the hospital sector was announced during the State Visit.
- 6. ENERGY.**
 1. Construction of the largest solar park in Sweden (90-100 MW) by French companies Neoen and Bouygues construction, Swedish companies Alight and Solkompaniet, and Germany company E.ON.
 2. Construction of the Isbillen Power Reserve, the largest battery in Sweden, (94 MW/94MWh): agreement between Neoen and E.ON.
 3. Cooperation on energy efficiency between Schneider Electric and Sweden’s EcoDataCenter, with a view to developing more environmentally responsible and decarbonised data centres.
 4. Agreement on recycling of waste from decommissioned nuclear facilities between Cyclife Sweden AB, a 100% subsidiary of the EDF Group, and Åkers Sweden AB.
- 7. FOREST BIOECONOMY.**
 1. A cooperation project between forestry sector enterprises and forest owners (UCFF, Fransylva, Mellanskog, LRF, FAM, etc.) was launched in preparation for the State Visit. The French and Swedish stakeholders are committed to cooperating on effective and sustainable forest management for the production of bio-based materials, forest adaptation to climate change, and innovation.