



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Trade Ann Linde to discuss feminist trade policy at Fashion Week Trade

Published 15 August 2019

On 15 August at Fashion Week Trade, Minister for Foreign Trade Ann Linde will be taking part in a round-table discussion on feminist trade policy and its relevance for the fashion industry. With more than 700 footwear, clothing, underwear, accessories and childrenswear collections, Fashion Week Trade is Sweden's largest fashion event, including for fashion buyers.

At the event, Ms Linde will meet with representatives of the fashion industry, the media, government agencies, organisations and academia. She will be speaking about internationalisation, exports and Sweden's new feminist trade policy.

“It should not be more expensive for women to buy clothes due to unfair tariffs. It should be just as easy to export in areas where women's entrepreneurship is common, as it is for men to export. New trade agreements will contribute to creating decent work for women too. But the fact is that today, trade policy benefits men more than women,” says Ms Linde.

The fashion industry is one of the fastest growing export industries in Sweden and, by international standards, the global interest in Swedish fashion is growing. According to Swedish fashion industry statistics, exports increased by a total of 5.8 per cent in 2018, and small and medium-sized

enterprises increased their exports by as much as 20 per cent. Since statistics were first compiled seven years ago, the fashion industry as a whole has grown by just over 60 per cent and exports have risen by almost 90 per cent.

An ongoing study by the National Board of Trade highlights significant differences in US tariffs on certain womenswear and menswear items; for example, the tariff on silk shirts for women is six times the tariff on silk shirts for men. Furthermore, the effective tariff on sportswear designed for women is 21 per cent; for sportswear designed for men, it is 7 per cent. For underwear, the figures are 13 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

“Generally speaking, as consumers, exporters and employees, men benefit more than women. It goes without saying that as a feminist, I will always work to promote economic development that benefits both women and men. That’s why I am stepping up our feminist trade policy efforts,” says Ms Linde.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ludwig Göransson receives the Government's Music Export Prize 2018

Published 06 March 2019

The Government's prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports in 2018 has been awarded to composer and producer Ludwig Göransson. The Government's 2018 Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports has been awarded this year to Thomas Johansson, Live Nation. The commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music has been awarded to Musikmakarna and Ulla Sjöström.

The winner of the Government's Music Export Prize was presented during a ceremony at the International Press Centre. The prize is awarded each year to Swedish music creators who have contributed to export success and to spreading a modern and positive image of Sweden abroad.

“This year's recipient of the Music Export Prize, Ludwig Göransson, is a clear example of how the Swedish music industry has created opportunities for people to boundlessly experiment and develop their talent and musicality to reach the absolute top world elite as music practitioners,” says Minister for Foreign Trade Ann Linde.

Ludwig Göransson became the 22nd winner of the Music Export Prize with the following citation:

“From Linköping to Los Angeles. From playing the drums so much to

Metallica as an eight-year-old that he injured his thumb to basking in the limelight of pop music and popular culture. This composer and producer found his way early on to film music because it was full of opportunities. Because it was possible to mix and experiment so boundlessly with styles and rhythms – as he did last year on cinema screens across the world in ‘Black Panther’, ‘Creed II’ and ‘Venom’. The same thing happens in his music. The incredible song ‘This is America’, which combines hip-hop, gospel, trap, afrobeat and more, took almost three years to complete with Childish Gambino. It is an important and much discussed song about today’s United States. In musical terms, it is an excellent declaration of who this boundless musician from Östra Götaland really is. He is certainly worthy of his nominations for an Oscar and a Golden Globe. As well as the three Grammys he won.”

Sweden had several major and important musical ambassadors in 2018, but no one shone as brightly and clearly as this year’s Music Export Prize winner – Ludwig Göransson.

The Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports went to Thomas Johansson, Live Nation, with the following citation:

“This year’s winner of the Special Prize has had a key position in Swedish music exports ever since he founded the concert company EMA Telstar in 1969. The fact that right from its inception EMA Telstar brought foreign superstars and undertakings to Sweden opened international doors that gave him a leading role in export contexts as well. In the early 1970s, he and EMA had primary responsibility for ABBA’s tours when they became global stars, and since then he has been directly and indirectly involved when leading Swedish artists have been exported to the world’s stages. He fully managed the world tours of Europe and Roxette. With the title Chairman International/Nordics in the company that is now called Live Nation Sweden, he has also regularly worked behind the scenes in recent decades for contemporary Swedish export artists such as the Cardigans, Peter Dinklage and Zara Larsson. Fifty years after that first global endeavour, Thomas Johansson is still an essential part of building Swedish music exports.”

The commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music was awarded to Musikmakarna with the following citation:

“In recent years, the Swedish and international music industry has been on pilgrimage to Örnsköldsvik where, under the slogan ‘It all starts with a great

song', a community songwriter programme has been fostering tomorrow's songwriters for 20 years and created a well-deserved reputation as a nursery for unique talents. Hitmakers such as LÉON, Agrin Rahmani, Joy & Linnea Deb, SKOTT, SHY Martin & SHY Nodi, and many more, have received the tools they needed to create brilliant careers as music creators.

Tireless work led by real enthusiasts with a passion for music, and Head Teacher Ulla Sjöström who never compromises her vision, have given Sweden not only its first songwriter programme but also major international musical success. In addition to raising an entire occupational category to unimaginable heights, the school has also made a major contribution to gender equality in the Swedish music industry.”



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices

New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi.

Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde presented the Government's Music Export Prize for 2017

Published 01 June 2018

The Government's prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports in 2017 was awarded to the artist and songwriter Noonie Bao. The Government's 2017 Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports was awarded to the world-class conductor Herbert Blomstedt.

"Sweden continues its tradition of delivering world-class songwriters. I'm especially pleased to see Noonie Bao breaking new ground and helping to spread a positive image of Sweden as a gender-equal, creative and innovative country," says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde.

Today, 1 June, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde awarded the Government's Music Export Prize for 2017. The prize aims to draw attention to an artist who, during the preceding year, has contributed to Swedish music export successes and to a positive image of Sweden.

Noonie Bao received the 2017 prize with the following citation:

When Jonnali Parmenius debuted six years ago, we heard a singular kind of pop music. Under the artist name Noonie Bao, she performed enchanting tracks that seemed both immense and intimate in the same breath. They encapsulated not only the immediate but also colour, feeling and intimacy. But her own career is small compared with the music she has made for other artists. What started as collaborations with Avicii, Tove Styrke and others grew over the years into something that became pure dynamite in 2017. As

one of the composers of 'Stay' by Zedd and featuring Alessia Cara, she not only topped the US radio charts but also other charts around the world. It has – together with other hits from the same year that she was involved in creating, such as 'Final Song' with MØ and 'Alone' for Alan Walker – been streamed more than one billion times. This year's Music Export Prize goes to one of the biggest Swedish hit-makers of today – Jonnali Parmenius – or as she styles herself, Noonie Bao.

"I'm touched. Thank you so much! I'm lost for words. It's about being true to yourself and carrying on doing what you believe in and what you like," said Noonie Bao.

The other nominees were: Zara Larsson, Amon Amarth, Ali Payami and Yung Lean.

The 2017 Special Prize is awarded to Herbert Blomstedt for his long-standing commitment to spreading Swedish music abroad. The motivation was as follows:

With his calm charisma, his insightful interpretations and his dedication to classical music, Herbert Blomstedt enchants both audiences and musicians. For more than half a century he has spread Swedish and Nordic orchestra music beyond the country's borders. The most renowned orchestras in Berlin, Paris, London, Tokyo and San Francisco have queued up to perform Stenhammar, Berwald, Nielsen and Sibelius together with the world-class conductor from Sweden. The fact that he celebrated his 90th birthday last summer is no hindrance. Conductor Herbert Blomstedt loves and lives for music and continues to tour throughout the world. For this untiring and unending love, Herbert Blomstedt is awarded the Government's 2017 Special Prize for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music.

The award ceremony was followed by a panel debate with representatives of the music industry on the theme of Swedish music innovations and with musical entertainment by the duo VAZ.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Acne Studios winner of the 2017 Cultural and Creative Industries Export Prize

Published 25 May 2018

On 24 May, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde presented the Government's 2017 Cultural and Creative Industries Export Prize. The newly established prize was awarded to the Swedish fashion company Acne Studios.

"With their combination of creativity, entrepreneurship and high-quality products, Acne Studios have created a global, growing business that is profitable and helps to spread the image of a modern and innovative Sweden," says Ms Linde.

The prize aims to highlight successes across the whole spectrum of the cultural and creative industries and strengthen their internationalisation. The sectors included in the prize are architecture, computer games, design, film and television production, photography, art, literature, media and marketing communications, fashion and the performing arts.

Acne Studios received this year's prize with the following citation:

The winner of the Government's 2017 Cultural and Creative Industries Export Prize is not just a winner, but rather an example to the entire Swedish fashion industry. They have contributed in an exemplary way to the development of Swedish fashion and international trade, and their successful global ventures have in no small measure helped put Sweden on the map – not least in 2017, with strengthened eCommerce, the opening of new stores, primarily in Asia, and a global turnover reaching SEK 1.5 billion. The

combination of creativity, social engagement, entrepreneurship and a strong focus on business processes has created an exciting, innovative company operating in a global arena.

"I am totally convinced that cultural depth and cultural breadth are increasingly important factors in companies' attractiveness, and it feels like the Government has come to the same conclusion," said Mattias Magnusson, CEO of Acne Studios, at the ceremony.

The other nominees were: Nordisk Film Production Sweden for the film 'Sami Blood', Frida Kjellman, Stugan and String Furniture AB.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

King and Queen on official visit to Japan

Published 30 March 2018

The King and Queen will visit Japan on 22–25 April 2018 on the invitation of the Japanese Government. The Swedish Government will be represented by Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan and Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde. Business issues will be the focus of the visit, during which Sweden and Japan will celebrate 150 years of diplomatic relations.

The free trade agreement between the EU and Japan is expected to stimulate more trade and investments for both Sweden and Japan. A large Swedish business delegation will join the visit to attend the Japan-Sweden Business Summit – the largest ever meeting between the Swedish and Japanese business sectors. Business Sweden is also organising a large number of seminars and meetings aimed at strengthening trade relations between the two countries.

Innovation, research and sustainability will be highlighted. In addition, societal issues such as ageing and violence against children will be raised.

During their stay in Japan, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress will invite Their Majesties the King and Queen to a dinner. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and Mrs. Abe will hold a meeting with Their Majesties the King and Queen and host a dinner in their honor

The three-day visit will take place in Tokyo and Kamakura.

A more detailed programme for the visit will be published separately.

To editorial offices

Swedish media representatives will need special accreditation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to cover the visit. The deadline to apply for accreditation is Tuesday 17 April 2018.

Accreditation application



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality to bring together top names from more than 100 countries

Published 28 March 2018

Award-winning author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and human rights counsellor Colin Gonsalves are some of the 500 gender equality actors who will participate in the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality on 15–17 April. The global forum is about strengthening women's and girls' rights, representation and access to resources.

The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality will bring together just over 500 participants from more than 100 countries, from grassroots to ministerial level. They include politicians and representatives of academia, the business world and civil society. Representatives of international organisations will also participate, including the heads of several UN bodies, commissioners from the European Union and African Union, and the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The purpose of the forum is to mobilise the work on global gender equality through alliance-building and exchange of methods and results.

The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality is being organised by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA). Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot

Wallström, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Lena Hallengren will represent the Swedish Government. The ministers will share their experiences of working on the Government's feminist foreign policy.

The programme has been developed in cooperation with a number of Swedish and international gender equality actors and covers a wide range of topics. These include methods to increase the participation of women and girls in peace processes, the importance of gender equality for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, how we are to ensure the right of women and girls to decide over their own bodies, and how various actors can pave the way for women's economic empowerment. The participants will also hear witness accounts from Colombia about the work on what is sometimes called the world's most gender equal peace agreement, and be able to hold interactive discussions about threats and hatred against women on the internet.

The full programme and detailed press and accreditation information is available at www.genderequalworld.com.

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to host global gender equality conference 15–17 April

Published 14 February 2018

Leaders from all over the world will gather in Stockholm to intensify international efforts for gender equality. The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality brings together close to 500 key representatives from civil society organisations, governments, business, and academia. The aim is to find solutions, take new initiatives, and strengthen co-operation in the international fight for gender equality.

Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Margot Wallström, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, Ms Isabella Lövin, and Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, Ms Ann Linde, as well as the Director-General of the Swedish Institute, Ms Annika Rembe, will host the forum, which is organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute.

The conference is taking place at a decisive moment. Despite some progress, inequality and discrimination of girls and women remains one of the greatest human rights challenges in our time. The forum mobilises forces to achieve the global goals under Agenda 2030 and will focus on critical issues related to women's and girls' rights, representation, and access to resources.

"More rights, representation, and resources for women and girls means more peace, security, and prosperity for the world. A feminist foreign policy is the way forward. With this conference, we create a possibility for grassroots and high-level participants from all over the globe to meet, share knowledge, and inspire political leaders," says Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign

Affairs

"When we empower women and girls we empower nations and eradicate poverty. It starts with giving every woman and girl the right over her own body," says Isabella Lövin, Minister International Development Cooperation and Climate.

"Gender equality contributes to growth in all countries, regardless of the level of development. This has to guide all economic policy-making, including trade," says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, Ms Ann Linde.

"We see successes but also movements that seek to limit women's and girls' rights and range. That's why the forum is so important. We need to gather forces, share experiences, and disseminate breakthroughs that make a difference for the individual as well as for society at large," says Annika Rembe, Director-General of the Swedish Institute.

Approximately 500 participants are expected from around the world. During the forum, participants will identify the biggest challenges, as well as possible solutions, for the fight for gender equality today. They will share experiences and good examples as well as build networks. Results as well as new initiatives will be brought into local contexts.

Date: 15–17 April

Location: Stockholm City Conference Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

For further information and media accreditation, please visit:

genderequalworld.com

#GenderEqualWorld

#StockholmGenderForum

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Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde leads Team Sweden delegation to Palestine

Published 20 November 2017

On 21–22 November, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde will travel to Palestine. Ms Linde will lead a Team Sweden delegation of around 10 companies and representatives of four government agencies. It will be the first time the Government conducts a Team Sweden trip to Palestine.

During the visit, Ms Linde will meet Palestinian counterparts to discuss economic and political developments in Palestine, including the possibilities of trade and the exchange of experience between Palestine and Sweden in the economic area

This visit aims to contribute to positive economic development in Palestine.

"It is essential to increase Palestine's opportunities for economic exchanges with the rest of the world. Sweden can both contribute with business solutions and examples of good practice, even if Palestinian companies must operate in a challenging environment," says Ms Linde.

Team Sweden is the Government's concept for integrated trade promotion and promotion of Sweden and was created as part of the Government's export strategy. Issues including corporate social responsibility and gender equality will also be raised during the trip. All companies in the delegation have signed Business Sweden's 'new undertakings document', which is a result of the Government's focus on corporate social responsibility.

"I particularly look forward to meeting women Palestinian entrepreneurs for discussions on women's participation on the labour market and other important issues, including corporate social responsibility," says Ms Linde.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Eight Swedish cabinet ministers to the Social Summit in Gothenburg

Published 15 November 2017

The Prime Minister, together with the EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has invited to a social summit focusing on the promotion of Fair Jobs and growth, in Gothenburg on Friday 17 November. Heads of State and heads of Governments together with other EU-member ministers will be in place.

Apart from the Prime minister the Swedish Government participates are:

- **Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson**
- **Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll**
- **Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin**
- **Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde**
- **Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg**
- **Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér**
- **Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Anna Ekström**

All government ministers will be available for media during the summit, contact respective press secretaries. In addition to the Swedish government, representatives from the EU Commission and EU countries, more than 30 different organizations and actors will attend the Summit on Fair Conditions and Growth in Göteborg, November 17, 2017.

The summit will bring together EU leaders, the social partners and other key stakeholders to discuss how to promote fair jobs and growth.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde to host Digital 9 ministerial meeting

Published 17 October 2017

On Wednesday 18 October, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde will host a ministerial meeting of the Digital 9 group (D9), focusing on the EU's digital single market. The aim of the D9 is to continue to push the EU's digital agenda forward.

The group works to jointly identify and hasten the implementation of concrete digitalisation measures, which in turn can help strengthen Europe's competitiveness and increase employment. It also aims to foster closer dialogue with the business sector to hear their policy recommendations for future legislative proposals in the digital area.

"Developments linked to digital transformation affect value chains for all businesses and alter trade patterns.

This is why it is important that more businesses, but particularly traditional manufacturing companies, also reflect on the potential of automation and digital transformation. Startups and digital operators are already ahead when it comes to digital transformation," says Ms Linde.

During the meeting, McKinsey will present a study on the effects of digital transformation on employment, broken down in terms of which countries and sectors are most advanced when it comes to technology.

"It is clear that previous technological developments have boosted productivity, and as such it will be exciting to see what effect future technological developments will bring," says Ms Linde.

The legislative proposal on data flows, which has already been presented,

will be discussed at the meeting. The D9 was actively involved in advancing this proposal. Another matter for discussion is the role of platforms in the digital economy and cross-border trade. There will also be an opportunity to report on the D9 round-table discussions that have been held in the Member States, which are another way to create platforms for dialogue with the business sector.

Time and place:

Ericsson Studio
Grönlandsgatan 8
Kista, Stockholm

16.00–16.30 Media are welcome to take photographs. The ministers will receive a guided tour of the Ericsson Studio demonstration centre.

16.30–17.00 Press conference with D9 ministers. The press conference will be conducted in English.

Please notify your attendance to Darina Agha no later than Wednesday 18 October, and bring your press credentials.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Swedish Government strongly criticizes the Commission's EMA assessment in a letter today

Published 13 October 2017

The Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll and the Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde criticize the assessment in a letter today to the Commission with clarifying comments on the Swedish bid. The ministers conclude that this has not been a serious part of the process.

– We strongly disagree to the non-objective criteria within the EMA-bid process. This process has to have one objective and nothing else; patient safety for more than 500 million people living in the EU. That has to be the standards for the EU assessment and the vote of the member states and nothing else, says minister Strandhäll.

In short, the technical assessment states that the Swedish bid "does not meet EMA requirements", but Sweden more than meets all the specified criteria.

The bid states that Sweden offers the EMA a choice of secure premises in Stockholm, giving the EMA the opportunity to influence the design of the building such that it suits the requirements and needs of the Agency and that detailed plans for the whole relocation process will be drawn up in close cooperation with the EMA.

– This is the first common decision for EU 27 after the British referendum on the exit from the EU. It is therefore important that both the process and decisions are fair and objective, says Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and

Trade.

It is the Swedish Government's sincere hope and expectation that the Commission will continue to work for a transparent process based on objective criteria, and to this end acknowledge the correct and verifiable facts provided in the Swedish bid.

Facts:

On 30 September, the Commission published its assessment, including a technical assessment performed by the agency itself, of the bids submitted for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The Commission's general assessment summary of Sweden's bid is correct; however, the technical assessment conducted by the EMA omits and misinterprets some of the information Sweden have provided.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to visit China

Published 12 June 2017

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will be in China on 26–28 June. He will be joined on the trip by several ministers and a business delegation with a focus on green innovation and sustainability. Mr Löfven will also have talks with China's Premier Li Keqiang and speak at the World Economic Forum.

China is one of the world's largest economies and accounts for a large proportion of global growth. There is also a great deal of demand in China for green innovation to move society in a more sustainable direction.

Sweden is a world leader in this area, and Mr Löfven is therefore heading a delegation within the framework of the Government's Team Sweden initiative, with companies and agencies that have the expertise in demand in China. Mr Löfven will also be accompanied by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog.

Mr Löfven has also been invited to speak at the World Economic Forum in Dalian and will have talks with China's Premier Li Keqiang. In addition, Mr Löfven will meet Chinese business representatives and civil society actors.

A press briefing will be held ahead of the visit. The date and a more detailed programme will be published later.

Questions about visas should be put to the Swedish Embassy in Beijing.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister to welcome Aung San Suu Kyi to Stockholm

Published 09 June 2017

On Monday 12 June, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will welcome Myanmar's State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, to Rosenbad. They will meet to discuss bilateral relations between Sweden and Myanmar.

During her two-day visit to Sweden, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi will have bilateral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin. She will also give a speech in the Riksdag at the invitation of Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin.

Programme points

Monday 12 June

Morning Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström receives Ms Aung San Suu Kyi at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Initial talks are followed by a working lunch. Photo opportunity on arrival.

Early afternoon Prime Minister Stefan Löfven receives Ms Aung San Suu Kyi at Rosenbad. Photo opportunity at the entrance to Rosenbad. Photo pool at the start of the meeting. Joint press conference.

Late afternoon Meeting with Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, followed by a meeting with Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

Tuesday 13 June

Morning Ms Aung San Suu Kyi gives a speech in the Riksdag. Photo opportunity on arrival. Media representatives with Riksdag accreditation have the opportunity to be present during the speech.

Advance registration

Media representatives must register and/or apply for a place in the photo pool. Please register/apply via the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 15.00 on Sunday 11 June. More detailed information about times and venues will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swede Lars Karlsson is EU candidate in election of new WCO Secretary General

Published 29 March 2017

The EU Member States today selected Lars Karlsson as their joint candidate for the election of a new Secretary General of the World Customs Organisation (WCO). The WCO brings together 180 of the world's customs administrations and has the primary task of facilitation trade and customs procedures for its members.

The election of Lars Karlsson means that Sweden, together with the European Commission and the other Member States, will now work to ensure that Lars Karlsson is elected to the position of WCO Secretary General.

"The selection of Lars Karlsson as the EU candidate is important for several reasons. Firstly, it is the Government's strategy to get more Swedes into senior positions in international organisations. Secondly, one of Lars Karlsson's top priorities is the introduction of more trade facilitation in global trade. This is important at a time when free trade is being challenged," says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde.

One of the most important tasks for the WCO in the coming years is the implementation of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. This agreement, which will modernise and automate developing countries' customs administrations, is expected to reduce the cost of trading with these countries by up to 15 per cent. This will further integrate developing countries in global trade, leading to increased trade and good chances of reducing poverty.

This year and last year, the Government worked actively to get Lars Karlsson selected as the EU candidate for this election. Among other things, Sweden's EU ambassadors have approached the governments in the other EU countries to guarantee their support in the selection process.

Lars Karlsson has a background in Swedish Customs and has many years' experience of international work in this area, including as Director at the WCO. The new Secretary General will be elected at the WCO Council Meeting in summer 2018.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde presents Government's Music Export Prize

Published 21 February 2017 Updated 21 February 2017

The Government's 2016 Music Export Prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports is awarded to artist and songwriter Zara Larsson. The Government's 2016 Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports is awarded to opera singer Nina Stemme. The Government continues in 2017 to grant the organization Export Music Sweden business support to increase their initiatives to launch Swedish songwriters, artists and music industry businesses in strategically important markets.

"Sweden continues to export world-class music. It is particularly exciting that the prizes in the two categories this year go to two women who have not only put Sweden on the map with their voices and artistry, but also helped spread a positive image of Sweden as a gender-equal, creative and innovative country," says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde.

On 21 February, Ms Linde presented the Government's Music Export Prize – the 20th consecutive year it has been awarded. The prize goes to Swedish music creators who have contributed to export success and to spreading a modern and positive image of Sweden abroad.

Zara Larsson was awarded the 20th Music Export Prize, with the following motivation:

With her irresistible pop music, colourful artistry and strong personality, she has captivated the entire world. Her songs have charted in a number of

countries around the world and have been streamed an incredible one billion times. Over the past year she has begun experimenting and developing her own songwriting, has featured in international media, appeared on major talk shows, inaugurated Euro 2016 and played sold-out concerts in Europe and the United States. She has made a big impression, and TIME magazine has named her one of the world's most influential individuals under 30. Her strong voice as a singer, but also as a spokesperson for women's rights, makes her a great role model for modern Sweden. The Government's Music Export Prize for 2016 is awarded to songwriter and artist Zara Larsson.

The other nominees were: Galantis, Ghost and Yung Lean & Sad Boys.

The Special Prize is awarded to opera singer Nina Stemme, a figure in the music industry who has made a long-standing contribution to spreading Swedish music abroad, thus helping to promote a positive image of Sweden.

The motivation was as follows:

Her roles over the years span the entire soprano repertoire, from Mozart and Webern, via Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème* to the most demanding and technically difficult roles in works such as Richard Wagner's *The Ring* cycle and *Tristan and Isolde*, or as the unremittingly vengeful Elektra in the opera of the same name by Richard Strauss. She performs at the Metropolitan in New York, La Scala in Milan, the Wiener Staatsoper in Vienna, the Opera Bastille in Paris and the Royal Opera House in London, and also makes regular guest appearances at opera houses in Zurich, Munich, Barcelona and elsewhere, as well as both the Stockholm and Gothenburg operas in Sweden.

It is the interplay between her warm, rich tones and unerring instinct for finely honed characters that make her a singer out of the ordinary, beloved of both audiences and critics. Sweden has a long history of producing world-class singers, and she is one of the very best. Celebrated and adored, she has the opera world at her feet.

The award ceremony was followed by a panel discussion on Swedish talent in the global music market featuring the prize winners, representatives of the music industry and politicians.

In her introductory address, Ann Linde announced that the Government intends to grant Export Music Sweden additional business support in 2017 to increase their initiatives to launch Swedish songwriters, artists and music industry businesses in strategically important markets.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Employment,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and President Jean-Claude Juncker to host Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth

Published 23 January 2017 Updated 23 January 2017

Together with President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will host a Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, focusing on promoting fair jobs and growth.

The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth will gather heads of state and government, the social partners and other key players to work together to promote fair jobs and growth. Well-functioning and fair European labour markets, effective and sustainable social protection systems and the promotion of social dialogue at all levels will be at the heart of these discussions.

In spite of recent improvements in economic conditions, the legacy of the worst economic and social crisis in recent times has been far-reaching. The world of work and our societies are changing fast, with new opportunities and new challenges arising from globalisation, the digital revolution, changing work patterns and demographic developments. We share a responsibility and an interest in working for a more prosperous and 'future-proof' Europe, where economic and social developments go hand-in-hand.

The Summit will be an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss the policy priorities and initiatives set at European level and to see how the European

Union, the Member States and social partners at all levels can deliver on their shared economic and social priorities.

President Jean-Claude Juncker said: “Since the start of my mandate, I have made clear that I wanted a more social Europe. We have taken important first steps to achieve that. This year will be crucial. Following the broad public consultation, it is time to establish the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Social Summit in Sweden will help us to deliver the momentum and put social priorities where they belong: at the top of Europe's agenda.”

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven said: “In these challenging times, we need to show that we can deliver results in peoples’ everyday lives. A more social Europe, with fair working conditions, effective labour markets and a strong social dialogue, should be a priority for all of us. I trust we can take important steps towards this goal at the Social Summit in November.”



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to visit Iran

Published 16 January 2017 Updated 16 January 2017

On 11–12 February, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will visit Iran at the invitation of President Hassan Rouhani. Discussions will primarily concern bilateral cooperation, trade issues and developments in the region, with a focusing on Syria.

Iran is an important political and economic actor with a key role in the region. Developments in the Middle East increasingly affect both Europe and Sweden. The Prime Minister has therefore travelled extensively in the region and spoken with the major stakeholders. Good relations are particularly important now that Sweden has taken its seat on the United Nations Security Council. Sweden and Iran have close ties, not least because of the large Iranian diaspora in Sweden.

A business delegation, including representatives of a large number of Swedish companies and government agencies, will also be travelling to Iran. The delegation, led by Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde, is part of the Government's Team Sweden initiative and export strategy to promote increased Swedish presence in growth markets. Historically, Iran has been one of Sweden's most important export markets in the Middle East and several Swedish companies have long had a presence in the country.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Swedish campaign for relocation of the European Medicines Agency from the UK to Sweden

Published 08 December 2016 Updated 08 December 2016

Today, Thursday, the Swedish Government decided to actively work for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to Sweden, and to the Stockholm-Uppsala region. The process leading up to the decision by the Government was started after the British people's decision to leave the EU.

- With one of Europe's top national medicines agencies, an excellent climate for research and life science as well as good conditions for an efficient relocation, Sweden is a good future home for the EMA, says Gabriel Wikström, Minister for Health Care.

The Government will now establish a special secretariat tasked with planning and organizing Sweden's candidacy for locating the EMA to Sweden. Their mission will be to actively seek dialogue with other Member States.

- As a consequence of Brexit, operations will move from the UK. The Government will try to attract the EMA, the European Medicines Agency, to be located in Sweden. It would create many jobs and attract more investments, says Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade.

Overall reasons for the Government to believe that Sweden is best suited as host country for the EMA:

- Swedish Medical Products Agency is one of the main regulatory

authorities in the EU and one of the national authorities that the EMA usually hires.

- Sweden has distinguished education and research within this area as well as a good climate for the life science sector. We have a long tradition in pharmaceutical development, production and a well-established cooperation between industry and academics.
- Sweden is recognized to be transparent and effective in the way we work with agencies and organizations. The relocation needs to be done while maintaining operations within the Agency.
- Sweden has experience of locating a European agency. We will use the experience gained from locating the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, ECDC.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government takes European Commission to court over lead chromates decision

Published 28 November 2016 Updated 28 November 2016

The Swedish Government considers that the European Commission broke the rules when it authorised the continued use of lead chromates in the EU. The decision is bad for people's health and distorts competition for responsible businesses that have stopped using these hazardous substances. The Government therefore decided today to refer the Commission's decision to the Court of Justice of the European Union for a preliminary ruling.

In September, the European Commission decided to authorise a business to sell pigments containing lead chromates for use within the EU, despite the fact that adequate alternatives are available. By referring the Commission to the Court, the Government is defending common EU regulations, people's health and those businesses that live up to their environmental responsibilities.

Because lead pigments are often cheaper than the alternatives, businesses that choose to sell these paints will gain a competitive advantage over businesses that have chosen to remove hazardous lead chromates. The Commission's decision thus sends a signal that it is not worthwhile for businesses to phase out particularly hazardous substances. By referring the decision for a preliminary ruling, the Government is also standing up for healthy competition in the European Single Market.

Lead is one of the most poisonous substances known to humankind. The chemicals regulations in the EU clearly state that authorisations for this kind of hazardous substances may only be granted where there are no available alternatives. Such alternatives are available in the case of lead chromates, a fact demonstrated by Swedish businesses and others that have phased out their use.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde takes initiative at EU level for a 'Digital 9' group

Published 05 September 2016 Updated 05 September 2016

At the initiative of Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde, the Government today welcomed a number of European ministerial colleagues to Stockholm to form a 'Digital 9' group (D9). The aim is to begin a new collaboration and, in doing so, take on a leading role in the EU when it comes to pushing forward the agenda on digitalisation issues and creating a digital single market within the EU.

"There is currently a need for renewed efforts focusing on what the EU is able to achieve and contribute. Sweden, together with the Baltic and the Benelux countries, can be considered digital frontrunners in Europe. We have made considerable progress on digital matters and also have the most to gain from the reforms proposed by the European Commission actually being implemented. Together, we are a strong voice when it comes to influencing the EU in the right direction," says Ms Linde.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden, France and Germany in future initiative for the EU

Published 12 July 2016 Updated 12 July 2016

On Monday 11 July, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde is meeting the French and German EU ministers in Berlin to jointly raise the level of ambition for EU job creation efforts and to step up the important climate efforts that the world has undertaken since Paris. Together, they will sign a declaration that shows a higher level of ambition and strengthened cooperation on a few specific issues.

– The world is facing major challenges, in which cooperation and solidarity are essential for our shared success. Climate change, the refugee crisis and unemployment are just a few examples of challenges that must be solved together, across national borders. The European Union was formed with the aim of a more peaceful and stronger Europe, and its most important tasks lie ahead of it, says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

– Brexit does not mean a pause for European cooperation – quite the reverse – political engagement for a united, democratic and open Europe must be strengthened. Sweden also needs to find new partnerships, as we will lose an important partner – the UK – in EU cooperation, says Ms Linde.

Monday's meeting is about creating new jobs, transitioning to a fossil-free Europe and integrating millions of new people in our societies. It is also about standing up for values that have characterised post-war European cooperation, such as gender equality, openness and diversity, at a time when these values are being challenged from many different quarters. It is more

important than ever for European politicians to act responsibly and work for a Europe that is able to meet the challenges of the future instead of creating more division.

As a leader, Sweden plays, and will increasingly play, a key role in the EU. Today we already have more influence than many other Member States of equivalent size. We will work actively to ensure that the EU is better at solving the issues that people expect – contributing to people's daily lives. It is particularly important that the EU focuses, through trade, on creating conditions for more jobs with decent conditions and is able to realise the goals that were adopted at the climate change conference in Paris. If the EU succeeds in this, people will see results in their daily lives and thus the EU's legitimacy will also increase.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden working for more efficient global trade

Published 31 May 2016 Updated 31 May 2016

This week, Sweden is hosting an international meeting on how we can simplify trade in our important eastern neighbourhood. Participants from more than 40 countries are coming to Stockholm to exchange experiences and learn from each other about how to best simplify trade and customs procedures.

"It is extremely important for Swedish exports that not just we, but also our trade partners, have efficient trade procedures," says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde. "For this reason, it is natural for us to support these efforts, not just as part of our export strategy, but also as part of our endeavour to help poorer countries develop through trade."

The background is the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) new Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The TFA has been the greatest success in recent years of WTO negotiations, and is the agreement in the WTO expected to have the greatest economic impact, mainly for poorer countries. Under the TFA, unnecessary document requirements will be removed and modern technology will be applied, which will reduce processing times at border crossings and the risk of corruption, facilitating trade between the countries now implementing the agreement. As far as the EU is concerned, new and modernised customs legislation that meets the new requirements of the TFA has been in place since May 2016. The role of Sweden and the EU at the meeting in Stockholm is to support countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia implement the agreement.

"Sweden has an important role to play both for the transfer of expertise in the customs area and in the discussions on development aid that will be

important in the meeting," says Director-General for Trade Eva Walder. "Sweden is seen as a leader with regard to simple customs procedures, and many of the customs simplifications in the WTO agreement were produced by Swedish Customs. Sweden is also one of the largest donors of development aid to help countries implement the WTO agreement."

The meeting will take place in Stockholm on 1–3 June. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Swedish Customs and the National Board of Trade will host the meeting in Sweden, which is being organised together with the European Commission. The participants at the meeting come from the World Customs Organisation's Europe region, which consists of 52 countries, from Russia in the north to Israel in the south.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde new Minister for EU Affairs and Trade at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Published 27 May 2016 Updated 27 May 2016

In connection with the government reshuffle on 25 May 2016, Ann Linde took up her new office as Minister for EU Affairs and Trade at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Ms Linde has had an extensive career, both internationally and at the Government Offices. Most recently she served as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman at the Ministry of Justice.

"I was delighted and honoured by the appointment as Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, with responsibility for two areas I have been very committed to for a long time," says Ms Linde. The EU is facing major challenges considering the British referendum and the ongoing refugee crisis, and it is important that Sweden takes part in the debate on the future of the EU, both in Europe and at home.

"Increased trade in Europe and in other important markets is highly prioritised by the Government in its efforts to reduce unemployment and increase growth. I am looking forward to working with Team Sweden to make this a reality using the export strategy that was recently adopted," says Ms Linde.

Oscar Stenström will assume the post of State Secretary to the Minister for EU Affairs and Trade. Mr Stenström most recently served at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, where he was State Secretary to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Michael Damberg.