



Report on the Swedish Presidency of the Council of
the European Union

1 July – 31 December 2009

Foreword

Sweden took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2009. The country holding the Presidency leads the Council and acts as the driving force behind the EU's legislative and political work. This report is based on a Government Communication submitted to the Swedish Riksdag on 9 April 2010 (Regeringens skrivelse 2009/10:174 Redogörelse för det svenska ordförandeskapet i Europeiska unionens råd andra halvåret 2009). The report contains a brief account of the Swedish Presidency in 2009. It describes the Government Offices' preparations for the Presidency, how it was managed and the most important results. It also includes a statement of account.

Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	9
2 Preparations.....	9
2.1 Organisation.....	9
2.2 Competence development programmes.....	11
2.3 Appointment of Working Group Chairs.....	11
3 Issues.....	12
3.1 The 18-Month Programme.....	12
3.2 The 6-Month Programme.....	13
3.3 Meeting Agendas.....	14
3.4 Meetings.....	14
4 The Presidency's Accomplishments.....	16
4.1 Institutional Issues.....	16
4.1.1 Appointment of a New Commission.....	16
4.1.2 Lisbon Treaty Entered into Force.....	17
4.1.3 Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty.....	17
4.2 Climate.....	20
4.2.1 International Climate Negotiations.....	20
4.2.2 Preparations for the Climate Conference in Copenhagen.....	20
4.2.3 The Climate Change Conference and the Copenhagen Accord.....	22
4.2.4 Environment Ministers' Meeting on 22 December.....	22
4.3 Economy and employment – the EU emerges stronger from the economic crisis.....	23
4.3.1 Fiscal Exit Strategy.....	23
4.3.2 Support Measures for the Banking Sector.....	24
4.3.3 G20.....	24
4.3.4 Financial market regulation.....	25
4.3.5 The Internal Market.....	25
4.3.6 Competitiveness and More Jobs.....	26
4.3.7 More Jobs and More People Working.....	26
4.3.8 Employment and Long-Term Growth in the Next Decade – EU 2020.....	27
4.4 Justice and Home Affairs – the Stockholm Programme Safeguarding Security and the Rights of Individuals.....	28
4.4.1 Ambitions of the Swedish Presidency.....	28
4.4.2 Programme Contents – a Summary.....	28
4.5 EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.....	32
4.5.1 Background.....	32
4.5.2 The Commission's Proposal.....	32
4.5.3 Council Conclusions.....	33
4.5.4 Ministerial Conference in Stockholm on 17–18 September on the EU's Baltic Sea Strategy and Macro-Regional Strategies in the EU.....	34

	4.5.5	Follow-up in Other Council Configurations.....	35
4.6		The EU, its Neighbourhood and the World.....	35
	4.6.1	The European External Action Service	35
	4.6.2	Continued Enlargement.....	35
	4.6.3	Relations with Neighbouring Countries	36
	4.6.4	Strengthened Cooperation and Political Role in the World.....	37
	4.6.5	Development of the EU's Crisis Management Capability	39
	4.6.6	Development Issues with Focus on Climate and Democracy	40
	4.6.7	Increased Free Trade	41
5		The European Parliament	42
	5.1	Preparations for the Presidency.....	42
	5.2	The Work during the Presidency and Appearances at the Political Level before the European Parliament in Autumn 2009	42
6		Meetings in Sweden.....	45
	6.1	General.....	45
	6.2	Preparations and Implementation.....	45
	6.3	Partners	46
	6.4	Economic Aspects.....	46
	6.5	Environmental Aspects	47
	6.6	Interpretation Regimes	47
7		Communications for the Presidency	48
	7.1	General.....	48
	7.2	Visual Identity.....	48
	7.3	The Website	49
	7.4	Media	49
	7.5	Internal Communications.....	50
	7.6	Information and Dialogue	51
	7.7	Culture and Promotion	52
8		Cost Report.....	53
	8.1	Principles for allocating the extra funds provided.....	53
	8.2	Follow-up and Forecast.....	53

Summary

The Government's aim for the EU Presidency was to conduct an effective, open and results-oriented Presidency in the interest of the whole of Europe and to advance EU common issues and Swedish priority issues.

The Swedish Presidency also represented the EU in its relations with third countries and in doing so, strengthened the EU's role as a global actor. The Government, has, in the course of Presidency, affirmed its ambition to be one of the core EU countries and Sweden's role in the EU has been strengthened. It is important to build on this achievement in future work.

The Swedish Presidency took place at a time of radical change in European cooperation. Preparations for the Presidency in the Government Offices began to gather speed in 2007. The planning took into consideration both that a newly elected European Parliament would be formed after the June 2009 elections and that the Commission's mandate would expire in the autumn and a new Commission would be appointed. In addition, there was uncertainty about the possible entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. At the same time, important issues also reached a critical stage during the Presidency, not least the EU work leading up to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 and the follow-up of the economic and financial crisis. The Presidency planning thus required considerable flexibility in order to handle both the institutional issues and the challenges such as the financial and economic crisis and climate change.

Sweden was part of a trio Presidency together with France (EU Presidency in autumn 2008) and the Czech Republic (Presidency in spring 2009). The design of the joint 18-month programme was well-balanced overall and Swedish interests were well taken care of. This strengthened the continuity in the EU's work and the Swedish Presidency.

Work on the Swedish 6-month programme and Sweden's priorities began in 2008 and intensified in 2009. The Government's two overall ambitions were that the EU would continue to shoulder its climate change responsibilities and that it would make a successful exit from the financial crisis. Other important priorities were for the EU to continue its growth towards a safer and more transparent Europe by adopting an ambitious Stockholm Programme, to launch a special strategy for the Baltic Sea region, and to strengthen the EU's role as a global actor and to continue to make progress in the enlargement process. The institutional issues were also important, and if the Lisbon Treaty were to be ratified by all Member States, the Treaty had to be launched in good faith and applied in a smooth and workable manner from the very beginning.

During the Swedish Presidency, extensive work was done on the practical preparations for *the Lisbon Treaty's* entry into force. In September 2009, José Manuel Barroso was appointed to continue as President of the European Commission. On 2 October, the Irish voted yes to the Treaty. After Member States agreed at the European Council on 29–30 October to give the Czech Republic a clarification concerning the

application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, President Václav Klaus signed the Czech ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. At an extra meeting of the Heads of State and Government on 19 November, political agreement was reached to elect Herman Van Rompuy as the President of the European Council for a period of two and a half years and Catherine Ashton as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for a period of five years. Thus all preparations could be completed for the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009.

On *climate matters*, the Swedish Presidency's preparatory work and implementation focused on Sweden's leadership of the EU delegation at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009. The work on the climate began in July with an informal meeting of environment ministers. Intensive work then followed in the Environment Council, ECOFIN and the European Council to develop the EU position. A comprehensive EU position was adopted at the Environment Council in October, which was clarified and confirmed by the European Council on 29–30 October. The European Council also adopted conclusions on climate financing and endorsed the Commission's estimates of total financing requirements for climate measures in developing countries of about EUR 100 billion annually by 2020, as well as its opinion that EUR 22–50 billion a year should come from international public financing. An extra meeting of the Environment Council was arranged on the 23 November with a view to preparing environment ministers for the negotiations in Copenhagen. At the European Council meeting on 10–11 December, the EU decided to contribute EUR 2.4 billion annually for the years 2010 to 2012, to the fast-start financing of measures for adaptation to the effects of climate change and emission limitations in developing countries, particularly in the most vulnerable and least developed countries.

The climate change conference in Copenhagen on 7–18 December failed to yield the results that the EU had hoped for. However, with the Copenhagen Accord, the foundation for further work was laid. At the Environment Council on 22 December 2009, the ministers agreed that the EU should continue to have high ambitions and show leadership in the work on climate change. The Presidency also encouraged the Commission to analyse the results and draw up a proposal for the road ahead.

The Swedish Presidency followed in the wake of the worst economic crisis since the 1930s. Consequently, an important task was to manage the follow-up of the crisis and lay the basis for economic growth over the next decade. Work focused on drawing up strategies for phasing out the implemented support measures when the time was ripe and on agreeing on measures to improve the stability and supervision of the financial system. The new supervisory structure will improve supervision of the EU's financial sector, increase harmonisation of supervisory policy in the EU and improve the potential for early risk detection. A general approach on changes in the Capital Requirements Directive was also agreed. The changes involve stricter capital requirements rules and binding rules on remuneration policies, including limits on bonuses.

The Swedish Presidency drew up a new justice and home affairs programme for 2010–2014. The programme, called the *Stockholm Programme*, was adopted by the European Council on 11 December 2009. During the Spanish Presidency, an action plan for implementing the Stockholm Programme will be drawn up. One important starting point for the Swedish Presidency was a clearer focus on the rights of the individual. The Swedish Presidency wanted to ensure that in the next few years, when the EU takes measures to increase common security, these measures should be followed by initiatives strengthening legal certainty and protection for the individual. It is the Government's opinion that the Stockholm Programme fulfils these ambitions.

The EU's Baltic Sea Strategy was adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 29–30 October 2009. The Strategy is the result of a systematic effort leading up to and during the Swedish Presidency. It is based on four challenges facing the Baltic Sea region: an environmentally sustainable region, a growing region, an accessible and attractive region, and a safe and secure region. The Baltic Sea Strategy is the first example of a macro-regional strategy and opens new possibilities for cross-border working methods based on a common macro-regional context.

The Swedish Presidency's objective was to strengthen the EU as a global actor with a clear agenda for peace, development, democracy and human rights. The intention was to develop the EU's capacity to act in international crises, strengthen cooperation with important partners and contribute to coherent EU initiatives in foreign and security policy and trade and development policy. Another objective of the Presidency was to work for continued *progress in the enlargement process*.

These objectives were achieved. Several concrete steps forward were made in the enlargement process. Cooperation with EU neighbours was developed further, particularly through the implementation of the Eastern Partnership, and cooperation with a number of important partners in the world was strengthened. During the Swedish Presidency, the groundwork was laid for future decisions on the European External Action Service, which will improve the conditions for conducting an effective and coherent external policy. The results achieved during the Swedish Presidency, both in foreign and security policy and in development and trade policy, confirm the development of the EU as an increasingly important global actor. During the Presidency, summits were held with Brazil, China, India, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine and the United States. A number of concrete steps were taken at these meetings towards closer cooperation between the EU and these countries. About 200 meetings were held with third countries, some 50 of which were held at the ministerial level.

During the Presidency, the Government Offices conducted a total of *111 meetings and conferences* in Sweden. The practical and logistical arrangements were greatly appreciated. In the *communications work*, the focus was on the media and the web as the most important channels for reaching the public. Communications were open, comprehensible and objective. Presidency costs have stayed within the budget appropriation limits.

The EU Presidency covered a very large number of activities. The report which follows is not a full account of the Presidency, but rather reflects the more important preparations made and the Presidency's priority issues. For a more detailed account of the issues during the Presidency, see the EU 2009 Yearbook (Government Communication 2009/10:150).

1 Introduction

Sweden held the Presidency of the European Council from 1 July to 31 December 2009. The Presidency chaired the Council and functioned as the engine in EU legislative and political work. As President, Sweden had the important task of acting in the interest of all Member States and impartially brokering agreements. The Swedish Presidency was also prepared to handle unforeseen events.

In order to secure support in Sweden for the Presidency, the Government maintained continuous contacts with the Riksdag as well as with representatives of the social partners, the business community and non-governmental organisations prior to and during the Swedish Presidency. A number of activities were also held throughout the country to stimulate debate about the EU.

The Government's aim for the Presidency was to conduct an effective, open and results-oriented Presidency in the interest of the whole of Europe and to advance EU common issues and Sweden's priority issues.

The Swedish Presidency also represented the EU in its relations with third countries and by doing so, strengthened the EU's role as a global actor. With the Presidency, the Government has affirmed its ambition to be one of the core EU countries and Sweden's role in the EU has been strengthened. It is important in work on EU matters to continue to build on this.

2 Preparations

Preparations for the Presidency in the Government Offices began to gather speed in 2007. The presumption was that both the preparatory work and the conduct of the Presidency would as much as possible be carried out within the framework the Government Offices' ordinary organisational forms and working methods. The Prime Minister's Office was assigned overall responsibility for coordination.

2.1 Organisation

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt had ultimate responsibility for the Government's work leading up to and during the Presidency. Minister for EU Affairs Cecilia Malmström was responsible for the coordination of the preparatory work in the Government Offices. At civil servant level, the EU Coordination Secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office was responsible for the coordination of the preparatory work in close consultation with the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels and the ministries.

During the Presidency, the Government and the Government Offices followed their customary division of responsibility. The Prime Minister

led the Government's work. The ministers and ministries continued to pursue matters in their respective areas of responsibility. Presidency issues were discussed on a regular basis at general government meetings. All government ministers and ministries' preparations for the Presidency in their respective areas of responsibility involved extensive travel and meetings with colleagues in Member States and key people in EU institutions, particularly in Brussels. The Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels played an important role in this work.

To carry forward the work on priority issues, a number of key figures responsible for climate, the financial crisis, the Stockholm Programme, the Baltic Sea Strategy and enlargement were appointed.

At civil servant level, the Presidency was primarily conducted within the existing line organisation with some exceptions, primarily meetings and communications activities.

To ensure that actions during the Presidency were clear and coordinated, a forum was established in the Prime Minister's Office for consultation and the exchange of information between the Government Offices in Stockholm and the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels. Its task was to consider lines of action, ensure that the Presidency spoke with one voice, respond to any questions that might arise suddenly and identify possible problems in time. The Prime Minister's State Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs led regular morning meetings, assisted by the State Secretary to the Minister for EU Affairs and with participation by representatives of the ministries concerned and, via video link, to the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels. The Presidency's leadership was thereby assured an overall monitoring of negotiations and insight into developments in EU Member States and media reporting of current issues.

Prior to the Presidency, the Government Offices hired temporary extra staff in order to handle the extra workload. A total of about 200 extra people were hired for the ministries, Swedish missions abroad and the Presidency Secretariats. Sweden's representation to the EU increased by about 60 people.

A special secretariat for meetings, the Secretariat for EU Meetings in Sweden (SES-09), was established on 1 January 2008 (see section 6). The Secretariat was responsible for the logistical and practical implementation of meetings in Sweden under the leadership of the Permanent Secretary of the Government Offices and with a Secretary-General as head. The Secretariat consisted of more than 60 people. During high level meetings, a varying number of part-time meeting attachés were also employed.

A communications secretariat (KOM-09) in the Prime Minister's Office was established on 1 September 2008, as a section of the EU Coordination Secretariat. KOM-09 was assigned responsibility for overall communications issues in Sweden and abroad as well as internally in the Government Offices prior to and during the Presidency. KOM-09 was responsible for the information on the Presidency website in particular. A total of about 23 people worked at KOM-09 from 1 September 2008 until 31 March 2010 (see section 7).

The competence development work was carried out in close cooperation between the EU Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office and the Office for Administrative Affairs through FA RK Kompetens. Formal responsibility for the competence development measures rested with the EU Coordination Secretariat. FA RK Kompetens was responsible for the implementation of the competence development measures (see section 2.2).

2.2 Competence development programmes

One fundamental principle was that the entire Government Offices would be involved in the training required by an EU Presidency. Ministers and state secretaries were subject to particular focus, including their political staff, people chairing working groups and committees in the Council and division heads. Also included in the 'chairing group' were staff members working at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels.

In spring 2008, the competence development measures concentrated on training in procedures and on the institutional frameworks with the focal point being the role of the Presidency. Beginning in June 2008 and for the remainder of the year, the training focused on measures to develop proficiency in negotiation and meeting techniques. In spring 2009, activities focused on competence development for ministers, state secretaries and their political staff. The training revolved around tailor-made cases composed of topical issues on the ministers' agendas. In addition to the training programmes already mentioned, a number of tailor-made seminars were regularly offered to staff members such as EU coordinators, public relations officers and administrative personnel.

Another form of competence development was offered through the different programmes for short-term postings at Swedish missions abroad, at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels and at the European Commission.

2.3 Appointment of Working Group Chairs

One major duty of the Presidency is to lead the work in the Council's working groups and committees where officials prepare the various issues.

The nomination process for the appointment of chairs was introduced in autumn 2007 based on guidelines from the Prime Minister's Office on such matters as language skills, EU experience, negotiating technique and personal characteristics.

In total, about 250 chairs were appointed to 200 active working groups and committees under the Council.

3 Issues

The Swedish Presidency took place at a time of radical change in European cooperation. The planning required taking into consideration both that a newly elected European Parliament would be formed after the June 2009 elections and that the Commission's mandate would expire in the autumn and a new Commission would be appointed. In addition, there was uncertainty about the possible entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. At the same time, important issues had reached a critical stage, not least the EU work leading up to the climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 and the follow-up of the economic and financial crisis.

The Presidency planning thus required considerable flexibility in order to handle both the institutional issues and moving targets such as the financial and economic crisis and climate change. The inventory of issues begun in the Government Offices in spring 2007 formed the basis for the work on the 18-month programme of the French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies and the Swedish 6-month programme. The Government stayed in close contact with the Riksdag and representatives of the social partners, the business community and individual organisations about the issues prior to and during the Presidency. Minister for EU Affairs Cecilia Malmström also carried out several activities to stimulate the EU debate in conjunction with the Presidency. Among them was a tour of all the counties, 'Dialogue Europe', where current EU issues were discussed with representatives at the regional and local levels in the counties, and open lunch seminars on the Swedish Presidency were held around Sweden.

3.1 The 18-Month Programme

To streamline planning of the Council's activities, an 18-month programme for the Council's activities is to be drawn up by the three Presidencies concerned in close cooperation with the Commission.

Sweden was part of a trio Presidency together with France (EU Presidency in autumn 2008) and the Czech Republic (Presidency in spring 2009). Before France and the Czech Republic were contacted, experiences from the previous trio's work was gathered at the same time as current issues on the agenda were identified internally in the Government Offices.

Five particularly important areas for the Swedish Presidency were identified in autumn 2007 prior to negotiation of the 18-month programme: 1. Climate, environment and energy, 2. Jobs, growth and competitiveness, 3. A more secure and more open Europe, 4. The Baltic Sea Strategy and relations with neighbouring countries and 5. The EU as a global actor and continued enlargement. These areas served as a guide for the Government's work on the 18-month programme and in the many bilateral contacts with Member States, institutions and countries outside

the EU leading up to the Presidency. At the same time, the Government took great care to make ambitious preparations and gain support for the entire agenda that a Presidency is responsible for.

EU ministers from the trio countries led the trio cooperation. They held their first meeting in Prague in September 2007, a meeting that led to intensive bilateral contacts with France, the Czech Republic and the Commission before the trio Presidency began and during the three Presidencies. The relevant officials in the Government Offices also used the trio cooperation in making contacts, negotiating the division of labour and planning the three Presidencies.

In autumn 2007 and spring 2008, the Government, represented by Cecilia Malmström, Minister for EU Affairs, held talks on a number of occasions with the Speaker of the Riksdag and group leaders about planning for the Presidency and the work on the 18-month programme.

The 18-month programme was negotiated in spring 2008 at the level of officials, and EU ministers from the three countries approved the draft at a meeting in Prague in May 2008. In early June there was a consultation with the next trio (Spain, Belgium and Hungary) on the long-term issues on the agenda. The Council approved the 18-month programme on 16 June 2008. French President Sarkozy presented this programme to the European Parliament in July, after which there was a joint press conference with Prime Minister Reinholdt and Czech Prime Minister Topolánek.

To sum up, the 18-month programme represented a significant value added for continuity in the work of the EU and for the preparations of the Swedish Presidency.

3.2 The 6-Month Programme

Work on the Swedish 6-month programme began in 2008 and intensified in 2009. The Government's vision was a dynamic Europe, better able to take action, where the focus was on mutual responsibility for today's and tomorrow's challenges. The watchwords transparency, efficiency, and results-oriented were to guide the day-to-day work on EU matters during the Presidency. The motto for the Swedish Presidency was 'Taking on the challenge'.

The terms of the Swedish Presidency were settled in spring 2009, although the uncertainty surrounding the Lisbon Treaty remained. In addition to the institutional issues, handling the financial crisis and uniting the world to meet the climate challenges were the most important challenges.

The 6-month programme had two parts. *The first part* concerned the Government's two overall objectives: that the EU would make a successful exit from the financial crisis and that it would continue to shoulder its climate change responsibilities. Other important priorities were for the EU to continue its growth towards a safer and more transparent Europe by adopting an ambitious Stockholm Programme, to launch a special strategy for the Baltic Sea and to strengthen the EU's role as a global actor and to continue to make progress in the enlargement process. There were also important institutional issues. If all

Member States ratified the Lisbon Treaty, it had to be launched in good faith and be implemented smoothly right from the start. *The second part* of the programme dealt with the most important issues in the respective council configurations: horizontal issues for a better EU (the General Affairs Council), the EU as a global actor (the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC)), reversing the economic downturn (the Economic and Financial Affairs, or ECOFIN, Council), a more secure and open Europe (the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council), full employment and good health (the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)), a competitive Europe (the Competitiveness Council), towards an eco-efficient economy (the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE)), using resources without exhausting them (the Agriculture and Fisheries Council), a credible EU for the environment (the Environment Council), and high standards to promote better growth (the Education, Youth and Culture Council).

The Government consulted the Riksdag about Presidency priorities on several occasions. Consultations were held with both the Committee on European Union Affairs and other committees. There were also a number of discussions with party leaders.

The Prime Minister presented the 6-month programme to the Riksdag on 23 June 2009. It was simultaneously published on the Presidency website, www.se2009.eu. The Prime Minister presented the programme to the European Parliament on 16 July 2009.

3.3 Meeting Agendas

The work on the preliminary agendas for all the Council meetings was carried out in close cooperation between ministries, the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels, the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission's Secretariat-General. There was also a dialogue with the European Parliament to coordinate the handling of matters between the Council and the Parliament.

The preliminary agendas were made public in June 2009 and adopted by the Council two weeks before the respective Council meeting took place.

3.4 Meetings

The country holding the Presidency is responsible for planning and conducting meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg with the Council of Ministers, the Conciliation Committee and all the various committees and working parties attached to the Council. The Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels exercised considerable responsibility in planning these meetings.

The official calendar of meetings includes meetings with the European Council, all the meetings of the Council of Ministers, informal ministerial meetings in the country holding the Presidency, and some meetings of senior officials. Work on the calendar began in autumn 2008.

After extensive coordination between SES-09 in Stockholm and the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels, the calendar was ready to be presented on 1 December 2008, seven months before the Swedish Presidency began. A revised calendar was published at the end of January 2009 as the timing of the European Council meeting in December 2009 had been changed to fit in with the final round of negotiations at the climate change conference in Copenhagen. Some Council meetings had to be held earlier. Minor revisions to the calendar were also made in spring 2009.

During the Presidency, two extra informal meetings for Heads of State and Government were convened: one on 17 September for coordination ahead of the G20 meeting in Pittsburgh and the other on 19 November to appoint the President of the European Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. An informal coordination meeting of Heads of State and Government was also arranged in connection with the climate change conference in Copenhagen. An extra EPSCO meeting was arranged on 12 October to handle swine flu and an extra meeting of the Environment Council on 23 November to coordinate the EU position before the meeting in Copenhagen. An informal meeting of finance ministers was held on 2 September for coordination purposes ahead of the G20 finance ministers meeting in London on 4–5 September. An informal lunch meeting for agriculture ministers was held in October to discuss the issue of milk prices. Due to the extra meeting of Heads of State and Government on 19 November, the ECOFIN Council meeting (budget) was brought forward to 18 November and the Agriculture and Fisheries Council was shortened to a one-day meeting on 20 November but their meeting in December was accordingly extended to a three-day meeting held from 14–16 December.

In autumn 2009, there was a total of five meetings at the level of Heads of State and Government, which is more than ever before, 35 Council meetings, 67 Coreper meetings and 1 919 meetings at the Council working group level. Within the framework of political dialogue, a large number of meetings were also held with countries outside the EU and with multilateral organisations in Brussels, New York, Stockholm and a number of other places. The preparations for these meetings, which included the seven summit meetings and some 50 meetings at the ministerial level, required extensive work on the part of the Presidency.

For meetings in Sweden during the Presidency and the 111 meetings and conferences organised here, please see section 6.

4 The Presidency's Accomplishments

Sweden conducted its Presidency with clear priorities. Two overarching issues dominated the Presidency: the climate challenge and the financial and economic crisis. The Lisbon Treaty's entry into force and associated institutional issues also required a major effort. In addition, the Stockholm Programme was adopted, the Baltic Sea Strategy was launched, the EU's role as a global actor was strengthened, and progress was made in the enlargement process.

The Swedish Presidency was successful in achieving far-reaching results in all its priority areas. Substantive results were also achieved in a number of other areas.

The Presidency handled a number of sensitive issues, unforeseen events and crises. Some areas deserve to be highlighted, particularly when handling them required rapid action on the part of the Presidency. Work on agriculture focused on the *situation in the milk market*. A meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council was brought forward to September to discuss the situation. An extra lunch meeting of ministers of agriculture was held in October. The Presidency also dealt with *the new influenza*, particularly with respect to health, but it also had cross-sectoral consequences. An extra EPSCO Council was held on 12 October to discuss the situation and resulted in Council conclusions. The Presidency also activated a special Council working group for influenza management, which held regular meetings during the autumn. The work in the Competitiveness Council was involved to a large extent with *the situation in the automotive industry*. As to foreign affairs, the crisis in *Honduras* and the troubles in *Iran*, as well as a number of other conflicts, required extensive engagement by the Presidency.

4.1 Institutional Issues

When the Swedish Presidency began, there were special institutional circumstances. With a new European Parliament in place, a new Commission was to be appointed. At the same time, it became the Presidency's responsibility to work for the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty by the end of 2009, a goal established earlier by the European Council. This involved extensive work on institutional matters.

4.1.1 Appointment of a New Commission

At the European Council meeting in June, the Heads of State and Government agreed to nominate the Portuguese José Manuel Barroso to a new term as President of the Commission. In accordance with the conclusions of the June summit, the Swedish Presidency consulted the European Parliament's group leaders at the beginning of July. The

Presidency sought and thereafter obtained the formal assent of the Heads of State and Government to the nomination.

From the point of view of the Presidency, it was important to have a new President in place as early as possible in order to maintain continuity and ensure a smooth transition to a new Commission. At the same time, there were different views on whether the nomination process should proceed or if it should wait until the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The Swedish Presidency was able to win support for its position by extensive networking, and the European Parliament approved Barroso's appointment by a large majority at its September session.

The process of nominating other members of the Commission was able to move forward when it was clear that the Lisbon Treaty would enter into force and it was thus clear that the Commission would continue to consist of members nominated by all 27 EU Member States.

The formal decision on the nomination of members could be taken soon after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009. Thereafter the European Parliament began the process of approving the new Commission, a process that was completed on 9 February 2010. The new Commission took office the next day.

4.1.2 Lisbon Treaty Entered into Force

At the start of the Swedish Presidency, Germany, Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic had not given final approval to the Lisbon Treaty.

In July it became clear that the ground had been prepared for Ireland to hold a new referendum on 2 October. Germany was able to ratify the Lisbon Treaty in September after a national law was passed in response to the German Constitutional Court's opinion on the Treaty. After Ireland and then Poland approved the Lisbon Treaty, the focus shifted to the Czech Republic.

Since a group of members of the Czech Senate had asked for a second review of the Lisbon Treaty by the Czech Constitutional Court, the Czech President held off signing the Czech ratification instrument. Furthermore, the demand was raised that the Czech Republic be allowed to adopt the same protocols as the United Kingdom and Poland on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Human Rights, which the Treaty makes legally binding.

Getting an agreement at a high political level on how to handle the Czech President's demands was a challenge. After considerable effort, the Presidency succeeded in garnering support for an agreement at the European Council meeting on 29–30 October on a clarification regarding the Czech position on the Charter of Fundamental Rights. This created the political conditions for a Czech ratification in November. The Lisbon Treaty could enter into force on 1 December.

4.1.3 Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty

During the Swedish Presidency, extensive work on the practical preparations for the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and on putting

in place the positions to be taken was required. A number of political and technical issues needed to be handled to make the transition from the previous treaty to the Lisbon Treaty as smooth as possible. All the necessary preparations were completed before the Treaty's entry into force and two progress reports on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty submitted to the European Council in October and December respectively were adopted.

The Lisbon Treaty introduced important changes in the foundation on which EU institutions' activities are based. The European Council will have an elected president for two and a half years. The EU High Representative, who is also Vice-President of the Commission, will lead the foreign ministers' meetings. The rotating, 6-month Council Presidency will be limited to the other Council formations.

Getting agreement on the appointment of leading officials was a major challenge. At an extra informal summit on 19 November, political agreement was reached to elect the Belgian Herman Van Rompuy as the President of the European Council and the British Catherine Ashton as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. With these appointments, the political conditions required for finalising the Commission's composition were in place.

As part of the Lisbon Treaty, a common European External Action Service will be formed supporting the High Representative with the aim of making the EU more effective on the international scene.

The Presidency considered it very important to lay the foundations for building this external action service at an early date and was, after extensive preparatory work, able to win support for a report, which was approved at the European Council on 29–30 October.

The report, which was adopted, established the basis for integrating the external action service into the existing institutional framework, the scope of the service, the principles for staffing and financing it, and the way in which EU delegations in third countries and at international organisations will fit in. The report serves as guidelines for the High Representative's proposals on the external service. The report set a goal of end April 2010 for a Council decision on the external action service.

A number of other measures of a technical nature were prepared. These were the measures needed to enable the EU and its institutions to function under the new Treaty as soon as it entered into force. Among them were new rules of procedure for the European Council and revised rules of procedure for the Council of Ministers. In both these cases, it mostly concerned technical adjustments to the regulatory framework to conform to the Lisbon Treaty, not opening a detailed discussion of the contents of the Treaty.

In the rules of procedure for the European Council, there was agreement on more detailed provisions on how the European Council's meetings are to be prepared. In the rules of procedure for the Council, the division of responsibility between the General Affairs and External Relations Council and the European Council was clarified. Provisions also had to be revised in light of the Lisbon Treaty's new rules that all legislative debates in the Council are to be public. Agreement had been reached at the previous Intergovernmental Conference on how the Presidency of the Council would function. During the Swedish

Presidency, the outstanding issue of how the working groups under the External Relations Council are to be led under the Lisbon Treaty was solved in a special Council decision.

The Lisbon Treaty gives the European Parliament a considerably larger role as co-decider. This is particularly true of justice and home affairs but it also applies to other matters such as agricultural policy and budget issues.

In this connection, a number of issues arose concerning the transition to the Lisbon Treaty, and the Presidency, in consultation with the Member States, maintained close contacts with the European Parliament and the Commission to try and find workable solutions. These included how to handle the legislative procedures in progress which under the new Treaty fall under the co-decision procedure, how practical matters concerning the budget would be handled, and how the new provisions for delegated acts and implementing acts would be applied in the transition to the new Treaty.

As to justice and home affairs, agreement was reached on a mandate for the new Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI) and decisions reforming the structure of the Council and the tasks of the working groups in this area were taken.

During the Presidency, the issue of the seats to be added to the European Parliament in accordance with the political agreement reached at the European Council in June 2009 was raised. In December, Spain made a proposal for amending the Treaty, which the European Council submitted to the European Parliament and the Commission for an opinion. The proposed amendment means that the Member States awarded new seats in the European Parliament under the Lisbon Treaty will be able to take these seats during the current legislature. This concerns 18 MPs, two of whom are Swedish.

4.2 Climate

4.2.1 International Climate Negotiations

On climate matters, the Swedish Presidency's preparatory work and implementation focused on Sweden's leadership of the EU delegation at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009. The Conference concluded a two-year negotiation process with the ultimate goal of achieving a new climate agreement that could take over when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends on 31 December 2012. The preparations for the meeting began with the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol on Bali in 2007 and intensified with the work programme decided at the meeting of the parties in Poznan in 2008.

4.2.2 Preparations for the Climate Conference in Copenhagen

The Swedish Presidency launched its climate work with an informal meeting of environment ministers in Åre on 24–26 July, which, in addition to the eco-efficient economy issue, took up critical issues concerning the EU position on climate change. The environment ministers discussed the gap between the bids on emission reductions and the reductions considered necessary by scientists, the financing issue and the division of financial responsibility among Member States, and criteria for upgrading the EU's promised emission reductions from 20 to 30 per cent by 2020 compared with 1990. The environment ministers confirmed that the EU should occupy a leading position and that upgrading to 30 per cent would be used as a means of pressing other parties to the negotiations to raise their emission reductions. Beginning early in the autumn, work intensified on hammering out the EU negotiating mandate prior to Copenhagen, with considerable discussion of the issues at the Council working party level and in Coreper. A number of countries, among them Russia and Japan, presented higher offers for the emission reductions they were prepared to make.

The informal ECOFIN in Göteborg on 1–2 October discussed cost-effective financial policy instruments for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The Environment Council at its meeting on 21 October adopted a comprehensive EU position in the run-up to the Copenhagen negotiations on all the negotiating issues except those dealing with climate financing, which had been discussed by the ECOFIN Council. The particularly difficult issues at the Council meeting were those concerning a target for long-term emission reductions for the EU, emission targets for international shipping and aviation, and surplus allocated allowances in the Kyoto Protocol (Assigned Amount Units). A long-term EU target of an 80 to 95 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050 was adopted as was a target for shipping and aviation (a 10 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 in the aviation sector and a 20 per cent reduction by 2020 for shipping compared with 2005). There was also agreement that the large

AAU surplus may be a problem from the standpoint of environmental integrity and agreement on a clearer position on accounting rules for carbon capture and sequestration and on new incentives for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

On 20 October, the ECOFIN Council discussed climate financing issues but did not reach any agreement. However, on 29–30 October the European Council adopted conclusions on these issues. The European Council endorsed the Commission's estimates of total financing requirements for climate measures in developing countries of about EUR 100 billion annually by 2020, as well as its opinion that EUR 22–50 billion a year should come from international public financing. The European Council stated that all countries, except the least developed, should contribute to climate financing and that contributions should be made using an allocation key based on countries' GDP and emissions levels. The European Council emphasised the importance of fast-start international public support and noted the Commission's estimate of total requirements of about EUR 5–7 billion a year for 2010–2012 with particular emphasis on the least developed countries. It was also pointed out that the EU, under certain conditions, is prepared to assume its fair share of the public financing requirements, both in the short run to 2012 and in the medium term to 2020. Alongside climate financing, all parties should make sure that such financing does not undermine or jeopardise the fight against poverty and continued progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The European Council also endorsed the Environment Council's conclusions and clarified the EU position on some points.

An extra meeting of the Environment Council was held on 23 November. The aim was to prepare the environment ministers for the negotiations in Copenhagen and agree on how to make best use of the position taken by the EU in October. No conclusions were adopted at this meeting.

At the European Council meeting on 10–11 December, the EU decided to contribute EUR 2.4 billion annually for the years 2010 to 2012, to the fast-start financing of measures for adaptation to the effects of climate change and emission reductions in developing countries, particularly in the most vulnerable and least developed countries.

Based on the trips that the Minister of the Environment made to all the other 26 Member States in 2009, the Swedish Presidency could in good faith represent the EU in international and multilateral meetings on climate change at various levels that took place in the autumn. These concerned the informal Greenland dialogue under Danish leadership, G8 and Major Economies Forum meetings, as well as the high level meeting on climate change in the UN General Assembly on 22 September. In 2009 the Major Economies Forum provided ministers responsible for climate change with an important place for discussions before the meeting in Copenhagen. At the meeting in L'Aquila, Italy, which was held at the Heads of State and Government level, a declaration supporting the target formulated by the EU on limiting the global temperature increase to below two degrees was adopted.

4.2.3 The Climate Change Conference and the Copenhagen Accord

The climate change conference in Copenhagen on 7–18 December failed to yield the results that the EU had hoped for. The reason for this was the lack of confidence between the parties to the climate negotiations and opposing views on the issues. The dual-track negotiations – continuing the commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the future track, the Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) track, had not made any real progress in the three negotiating meetings held on the majority of substantive issues. One exception was the negotiations on adapting to the impacts of climate change. There were no critical breakthroughs on most issues during the negotiations at the Copenhagen meeting. Several countries thought that the Copenhagen meeting was deficient on purely procedural issues, which contributed to the conflicting views that prevailed.

On the initiative of the EU and Denmark, some 30 Heads of State and Government met during the final days in Copenhagen, leading to what is called the Copenhagen Accord. The parties that drew up the Copenhagen Accord are responsible for approximately 80 per cent of global emissions. The Copenhagen Accord set the target that the temperature increase should not exceed two degrees, the two-degree target. The developed countries also undertake to contribute USD 30 billion from 2010 to 2012 to climate measures in developing countries. In the long run, the goal is to mobilise USD 100 billion dollars a year by 2020. Commitments have also been made to establish a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund and a High Level Panel to review the financial flows. The Copenhagen Accord also includes progress on the issue of reducing deforestation and ambitions to accelerate technology transfer.

Not all parties to the Climate Convention could support the Copenhagen Accord, which means that it is only taken note of by the parties to the Climate Convention. The parties did, however, decide that the negotiations that have been conducted on dual tracks since 2007 in Bali will continue in 2010. The stated aim is to decide on a new climate agreement in accordance with what was decided in Bali in 2007 at the next Meeting of the Parties in Mexico in November 2010.

4.2.4 Environment Ministers' Meeting on 22 December

At the Environment Council in Brussels on 22 December, environment ministers discussed the outcome of the Copenhagen meeting. The discussion was summarised in the Presidency conclusions. The Conclusions noted that the Copenhagen Accord is a first step which involves most parties and that the Accord provides a basis for commitments and further work on financing emission reductions, adaptation and deforestation. It was further noted that a tight time schedule with clear deadlines was needed and that the EU should continue to have high ambitions and show leadership in the work on climate change. The Presidency also encouraged the Commission to analyse the results and draw up a proposal for the road ahead.

4.3 Economy and employment – the EU emerges stronger from the economic crisis

The Swedish Presidency followed in the wake of the worst economic crisis since the 1930s. Handling the follow-up to the crisis and laying the foundation for the work for growth in the next decade were important tasks. The work to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, for example, by way of an eco-efficient economy, had a great impact. EU work during the Swedish Presidency also focused on initiating a controlled phase-out of the crisis measures and on agreeing measures to strengthen the stability and improve the supervision of the financial system. The Swedish Presidency also took action so that the EU would be a strong voice for free trade.

The negative trend has been reversed and the EU is on its way out of the economic crisis.

4.3.1 Fiscal Exit Strategy

One priority of the ECOFIN Council was to agree principles on how EU Member States are to phase out the fiscal stimulus measures taken during the crisis and how balance in the public finances is to be restored.

At the informal meeting of the ECOFIN Council in Göteborg on 1–2 October, finance ministers agreed the principles for a fiscal exit strategy. The Göteborg principles included a timely withdrawal of the extraordinary stimulus measures, further structural consolidation of more than 0.5 per cent of GDP a year, structural reforms to increase employment and potential growth, including labour market reforms and long-term investments, and strengthened national fiscal frameworks.

The ECOFIN Council adopted conclusions on the exit strategy at its meeting on 20 October and also decided that all Member States should embark on fiscal consolidation no later than 2011, provided that the Commission's forecasts continue to indicate a sustained recovery. These exit strategy principles were confirmed by the European Council on 29-30 October.

The exit strategies agreed in the Council are an important part of the work to ensure a fair and responsible implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact. During the Swedish Presidency, decisions were taken on two occasions about opening excessive deficit procedures. At the ECOFIN Council meeting on 7 July, it was decided to open excessive deficit procedures for Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Romania. At the ECOFIN Council meeting on 2 December, it was further decided to open excessive deficit procedures for Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The excessive deficit procedures decided during the Swedish Presidency should be viewed as a first step in Member States' fiscal exit strategies.

4.3.2 Support Measures for the Banking Sector

To mitigate the effects of the financial crisis and keep credit flowing to households and businesses, many Member States have taken far-reaching support measures targeted at banks and other financial institutions. Beginning work on a coordinated strategy to exit these support schemes was a priority of the Presidency. On 2 December, the ECOFIN Council agreed a number of general principles on how to evaluate the need to continue financial support schemes taken to address the crisis and how to unwind these measures in the long run. The ECOFIN Council agreed that support schemes directed at the banking sector are to remain in place as long as they are warranted for the stability of the financial system and that government guarantees to banks should be phased out before banks get any capital injection.

4.3.3 G20

During 2009, the G20 assumed the role of the key organ for global economic policy coordination. The EU is represented in the G20 by the Presidency and the Commission. During the Presidency, Sweden participated in all the G20 meetings as the representative of the EU.

Prior to each G20 meeting, it put together common EU positions that the EU's representatives then presented. The aim was for the EU to speak with one voice in the G20 and for EU countries that were not G20 members to be given insight and influence in the G20's work. The aim of the Swedish Presidency was to conduct a transparent and ambitious coordination effort in the development of these positions.

Even though agreements in the G20 are not binding, in practice they have considerable influence on the areas and institutions they concern. At meetings of the G20 in the autumn, agreements reached included retention of fiscal and monetary stimulus measures and state support for financial institutions, which will be withdrawn in a coordinated manner when the recovery is ensured, and financial support to developing countries; initiation of reform of representation and governance in the IMF and World Bank; and tightened financial market regulation on capital adequacy rules for financial institutions and on bonus and compensation principles.

The agreement in the G20 in spring 2009 on improving transparency in tax matters was one of the reasons why the Commission presented a communication on good governance in tax matters. It led to Council conclusions to speed up the work on changes to the Savings Directive with a view to a political agreement in autumn 2009 and to continue the efforts to find solutions on the issues outstanding in the proposed Directives on administrative cooperation and recovery. The subsequent intensive work during the Swedish Presidency led to a compromise text that all Member States could, in principle, endorse.

4.3.4 Financial market regulation

On 23 September 2009, the Commission presented a number of legislative proposals on establishing a new architecture for financial supervision in the EU aimed at strengthening financial markets' resistance to future crises. The proposals concerned the creation of both a macro-organ to oversee systemic risks and three EU authorities in three sectors: banking, securities markets and insurance.

In October, the ECOFIN Council reached broad agreement on the substance of a regulation establishing a new European Systemic Risk Board for supervision at the macro level in the EU. At the ECOFIN Council meeting in December, finance ministers agreed on a general approach on draft regulations aimed at establishing the three new EU-authorities. In December, the European Council welcomed the general approach agreed by the Council. The new supervisory structure will improve supervision of the EU's financial sector, increase harmonisation of supervisory policy in the EU and improve the potential for early risk detection.

The Presidency was able to succeed in another area. In November, the ECOFIN Council agreed on a general approach on changes in the Capital Requirements Directive. The changes involve stricter capital requirements rules and detailed, binding rules on remuneration policies, including limits on bonuses. The changes aim to increase financial companies' resilience and avoid exaggerated risk-taking in these companies.

There was important progress made on work developing and strengthening various arrangements in the EU for stability and crisis management during the Swedish Presidency. On 20 October, the ECOFIN Council adopted conclusions on various measures, including a new work plan for the next few years. Work has begun on deepening policy coordination in the EU and strengthening the EU's ability to handle problems in cross-border banks, including burden-sharing of any state costs that may arise.

4.3.5 The Internal Market

The basis for an economic recovery is in open, inclusive and well-functioning markets inside and outside the EU. The internal market is the linchpin of European cooperation. During the Swedish Presidency, the focus was on strengthening and improving the way in which the internal market functions, with the aim of making it easier for consumers and companies to benefit. Among other things, the negotiations on the proposed Directive on Consumers Rights made substantial progress.

One very important step for deepening the internal market was taken by the Competitiveness Council in December when all Member States, after decades of negotiations, agreed on a general approach on the EU Patent Regulation and Council conclusions on the proposed patent court. The EU patent and a unified European patent court will promote innovation and strengthen European industry's competitiveness in global

markets. In the autumn, the Presidency also worked intensively to get the Services Directive implemented in time and in all Member States.

The Swedish Presidency, together with the Commission, took the initiative to establish the Single Market Award. The aim of the prize is to highlight the importance of the internal market and raise awareness of the opportunities associated with the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital within the EU in order to strengthen the economy and employment.

4.3.6 Competitiveness and More Jobs

The economic crisis can also bring opportunities for industrial renewal and adjustment. The potential for enhanced competitiveness and new jobs that an eco-efficient economy may lead to was therefore discussed in the Competitiveness Council, the Environment Council, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, and the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council.

In December, the Competitiveness Council adopted conclusions on a competitive, innovative and eco-efficient Europe. The conclusions emphasised the importance of the best possible framework conditions for enterprise and highlighted the 'think small first' principle. Also emphasised were the need to develop the internal market and intensify EU work on research and innovation, and the critical importance of SMEs in the European economy. The importance of keeping EU markets open to the world was emphasised, as were regular evaluations of the openness of EU and other markets.

Furthermore, the work on improving legislation and rule simplification was a high priority. This is important, not least to improve SMEs' situation in the EU. The issue was emphasised in all the Council configurations concerned.

Particular attention was paid to entrepreneurship during the Presidency. Entrepreneurship among women and its potential to contribute to increased growth received particular emphasis. A European network, the Women's Enterprise Ambassadors Network, was launched during the Presidency's Business Week in Stockholm.

The importance of a well-functioning transport system and the role that IT and electronic communication play in Europe's competitiveness was highlighted. As to transport policy, priority was given to EU transport policy after 2010, efficient logistics for the transport of goods, and new technology and intelligent transport systems. In IT policy, the priorities were EU IT policy after 2010 and radio spectrum use. In addition, the Presidency expended considerable effort concluding the Telecoms package in conciliation negotiations with the European Parliament.

4.3.7 More Jobs and More People Working

Work forms the primary basis of economic and social welfare for both the individual and society as a whole. A stable foundation must be built to make labour markets and social protection systems in Europe secure.

The Presidency's work was therefore aimed at measures that keep unemployment down, promote more labour force participation, and reduce labour market exclusion while the foundation for high and long-term employment is laid. Responsibility for labour market policy and social policy rests with the Member States. The value added in cooperation at the EU level in these areas rests primarily in the exchange of experience and commitments to take measures at the national level to increase employment.

Against this background, the EPSCO Council agreed on 30 November on conclusions to create more inclusive labour markets.

The conclusions and the discussions during the Presidency established the issue of inclusion at the European level. A clear message was sent to the European Council and the Commission on the direction of the next growth and employment strategy with a view to full employment based on a larger labour supply and reduced exclusion. This discussion began at the informal meeting of employment and social affairs ministers. At that time, there was also broad support for the importance of making labour markets more inclusive through an active labour market policy in conjunction with an active social insurance policy. During the Presidency, a political agreement was also reached in both the EPSCO Council and the ECOFIN Council that short-term measures in the wake of the crisis must not deter the prospects for achieving long-term challenges and that labour force participation must be maintained.

The EPSCO Council also adopted Council conclusions on the importance of promoting women's participation and increasing gender equality in the labour market in order to meet the EU's long-term challenges.

On the initiative of the Swedish Presidency and the Commission, a booklet with Member States' best and most innovative labour market measures to tackle the effects of a sharp economic downturn was published on 30 November. The booklet is entitled *Recovering from the Crisis – 27 ways of tackling the employment challenge*. All 27 Member States have participated with examples of measures.

4.3.8 Employment and Long-Term Growth in the Next Decade – EU 2020

The short-term measures to manage the economic crisis must not be allowed to overshadow the long-term challenges. It was thus important during the Swedish Presidency to move forward with the discussion of the EU 2020, the successor to the Lisbon strategy,

In the autumn, discussions were held on the key issues in the future strategy and conclusions were adopted in a number of the Council configurations concerned (these included the ECOFIN Council, the EPSCO Council, the Competitiveness Council, the Environment Council, the Transport, Telecommunications and the Energy Council, and the Education, Youth and Culture Council). There was also an initial discussion in the General Affairs and External Relations Council.

The work in the Council was preceded by a number of high-level conferences and informal ministerial meetings. The aim was to identify

and agree on the areas that the future strategy should focus on and lay the groundwork for a good decision during the Spanish Presidency. These included the importance of promoting external and internal openness and a well-functioning internal market, ensuring sustainable public finances for future investment and welfare, increasing the labour supply and reducing exclusion, showing the link between gender equality and economic growth, creating a greener economy and an innovative business climate, and promoting investment in human capital and research.

4.4 Justice and Home Affairs – the Stockholm Programme Safeguarding Security and the Rights of Individuals

Justice and home affairs policy includes civil protection service, police and customs cooperation, criminal and civil law, asylum, migration, visas and external border control. The direction the cooperation is to take is set out in multi-year strategic work programmes. The first programme was adopted in 1999 in Tampere. It was followed by the Hague Programme, which expired in December 2009. With a communication from the Commission on 10 June 2009 as its basis, the Swedish Presidency drew up a new programme for the period 2010–2014. The European Council adopted this programme on 11 December 2009. During the Spanish Presidency, an action plan for implementing the Stockholm Programme will be drawn up.

4.4.1 Ambitions of the Swedish Presidency

One important starting point for the Swedish Presidency was a clearer focus on the rights of the individual. The Swedish Presidency wanted to ensure that in the coming years, when the EU undertakes measures increasing common security, for example, measures fighting terrorism, organised crime and illegal immigration, they should be followed by initiatives strengthening legal certainty and the protection of individuals, for example, in the form of procedural rights for suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings, improved protection of, and support for, victims of crime, the development of regulations for data protection, rights for migrants and an effective and fair scrutiny of asylum applications. In the Government's opinion, the Stockholm Programme fulfils these ambitions.

4.4.2 Programme Contents – a Summary

More focus on the interests and rights of individuals

In an *introductory chapter* in the programme, the political priorities in this area and the tools required to transform these priorities into concrete measures are defined. It stresses that the basis for cooperation in this area

is to be the public's interests and needs. It also establishes that it is of the utmost importance that measures to combat crime and measures to safeguard the rights of the individual are compatible and mutually reinforce each other. Increased knowledge about and confidence in each other's judicial systems through education and more effective implementation of the measures adopted are emphasised as important tools for implementing the programme. The importance of better communication with the public and an enhanced dialogue with civil society are also emphasised.

The *second chapter* is devoted to various measures for promoting citizen's rights. It points out that the EU is based on common values and respect for fundamental rights. One important measure is therefore as rapid as possible an accession by the EU to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (the European Convention). The Stockholm Programme also contains a special section on victims' rights as well as a section on procedural rights for suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings. Data protection issues are discussed in detail in a special section in the programme with the clear aim of ensuring a comprehensive strategy for the protection of personal information in the EU and in relations with other countries. The chapter also discusses measures to ensure free movement, respect for diversity, and protection of the most vulnerable, including measures to safeguard children's rights. In conclusion, the chapter also contains measures to bring about more participation in the democratic life of the Union, including the importance of openness in decision-making and access to documents as well as a section on consular cooperation.

Judicial Cooperation.

The *third chapter* deals with judicial cooperation. Judicial cooperation has long built on the principle of mutual recognition, i.e., that a judgment or decision in one Member State shall be recognised and enforced in the other Member States without any unnecessary obstacles. This principle is now enshrined in the Treaty. The Stockholm Programme proposes that the principle of mutual recognition shall, in principle, apply to all types of judgments and decisions in criminal law. It lists a number of measures to achieve this over time. In civil law, the goal established some time ago to abolish *exequatur* (the special procedure that would otherwise be required to get a ruling from one Member State enforced in another) has been taken up again, as has extending the principle of mutual recognition to new areas. The Programme also contains measures that include the possibility of some harmonisation of Member States' laws when deemed necessary, for example, to ensure certain fundamental rights or to facilitate the application of the principle of mutual recognition. One such example is the common conflict-of-law rules on divorce, mention of which already exists in the Hague Programme. Regarding the approximation of substantive rules in criminal law (constituent elements of criminal acts and their consequences), the Commission was encouraged to examine whether the content of the framework decisions already adopted is sufficient or whether there needs to be further approximation. The Commission and the Council were also encouraged

to continue the development of standard rules for formulating criminal law in various EU instruments. Further development of Eurojust was stressed. Here the development of the European public prosecutor was mentioned as one of several alternatives for the future. The chapter on judicial cooperation also contains a section on facilitating the individual's access to the courts, particularly in cases that concern parties in several countries.

Safety and Security

The *fourth chapter* is devoted to measures for strengthening common security. A strategy for internal security will be devised to further improve cooperation in fighting organised crime, terrorism and other threats. In addition, there are proposals for a number of measures regarding a more carefully considered strategy for exchanging information and taking better advantage of new technology. The role of Europol is highlighted. Of particular note with regard to organised crime are the measures proposed to counter human trafficking and the sexual abuse of children. The establishment of a special coordinator at the EU level to improve coordination of efforts to combat human trafficking is one of the proposals under consideration. As to combating terrorism, it is noted that much has already been achieved and efforts now should increasingly be directed at preventative measures and the fight against financing terrorism. The programme also emphasises that upholding international law, including human rights, is an integral part of combating terrorism and that international cooperation beyond the EU continues and is being intensified. The chapter concludes with a section on civil protection. The importance of each nation's responsibility for this area is emphasised, as is the value of strengthening existing cooperation and developing cooperation, particularly with the UN. The aim is for an integrated approach for actions before, during and after a catastrophe. As to CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security), work in the next few years will focus on a recently approved action plan. Regarding critical infrastructure, the Programme points out the importance of implementing a directive in the area.

Management of the EU's external borders is discussed in the *fifth chapter*. The basis is that the EU should facilitate entering the Union while maintaining a high level of security. Stronger border control must not affect access to international protection. It is proposed that Member States' operational cooperation through the 'European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union' (Frontex) be improved and that Frontex's operational capacity be strengthened. There is a reminder of what the Hague Programme said about further discussion on the possibilities of introducing common border control forces. It proposed that the Schengen Information System (SIS) II and the Visa Information System (VIS) be introduced and that their management could be secured by establishing an office. It is pointed out that visa policy is an important tool of EU foreign policy. The establishment of a common Schengen visa, issued, if possible by common visa centres, is proposed.

In the *seventh chapter*, which deals with asylum and migration policy, it is stated that one of the EU's biggest challenges in the future will be managing migration flows to the Union and that migration, if well managed, can be positive for all the parties concerned. To begin with, the chapter recalls the five commitments established in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. In this connection, emphasis is put on the importance of implementing and further developing the EU's global efforts on migration and migration issues so that they are more clearly integrated into several EU policy areas, not least in the common foreign policy. The importance of deepening partnerships with third countries is also underlined. The chapter also takes up the importance of a coherent development policy based on migration, as well as the connection between climate change, migration and development. It further maintains that labour migration can help increase competitiveness and economic vitality. The EU needs a common and flexible framework for labour immigration more in line with the increased mobility. Immigration policy should aim at guaranteeing citizens of third countries who are resident in the EU rights comparable to those of EU citizens. A review of the Family Reunification Directive and an EU coordination mechanism supporting Member States' integration efforts is proposed. Control of illegal immigration should be improved, with the focus primarily on return policy. Unaccompanied children from third countries are dealt with in a special section and the Commission has been given the task of drawing up an action plan with measures based on what is best for the child.

In conclusion, the chapter deals with the common European asylum system. The EU must continue to strive to be a common area that offers protection in a spirit of solidarity with the objective of introducing a common asylum procedure and a uniform status for people seeking asylum or subsidiary protection by 2012. The European Asylum Support Office will be given the remit of contributing to this development. The importance of shared responsibility between Member States is emphasised and it is stated that establishing a solidarity mechanism will be considered. Solidarity with third countries is also touched on and development of the regional protection programmes is emphasised, as is intensifying EU work on resettlement with the UNHCR.

The *final chapter* deals with the EU's external relations with respect to freedom, security and justice. The EU is not an isolated area that can work without well-functioning, close relations with the world around it. The starting point is that this is crucial for a successful implementation of the other objectives in the Programme. In future, ten principles will guide work on external relations. The chapter contains thematic and geographic priorities and there is a special section on human rights with proposals on developing a special action plan for work on human rights in relation to third countries.

4.5 EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region was adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 29–30 October 2009. The Strategy is the result of a systematic effort before and during the Swedish Presidency. It is based on four challenges facing the Baltic Sea region: an environmentally sustainable region, a growing region, an accessible and attractive region, and a safe and secure region.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region is the first example of a macro-regional strategy and opens new possibilities for cross-border working methods based on a common macro-regional context.

4.5.1 Background

Eight of nine Baltic Sea countries are EU members, giving the EU greater responsibility and more scope for contributing to the development of the region.

The idea of an EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was first raised by a group of independent members of the European Parliament known as the Baltic Intergroup. In 2006 the European Parliament adopted a resolution asking the Commission to develop such a strategy.

Since then Sweden has strived to have the Commission present a proposal outlining a possible strategy for the Baltic Sea region in good time for the Swedish Presidency in autumn 2009. The European Council decided at its meeting on 14 December 2007 to ask the Commission to draw up a proposal. In preparing its proposal, the Commission conducted extensive consultations in the Baltic Sea region. The first broad consultation was held in Stockholm on 30 September 2008 and the final conference in Rostock on 5–6 February 2009. Based on the results of the consultation process, the Commission submitted its proposal for the EU Baltic Sea region strategy on 10 June 2009 in the form of a communication, accompanied by an Action Plan.

4.5.2 The Commission's Proposal

The Commission's communication was divided into four challenges for the region. Their aim is to create a sustainable environment, increase growth and prosperity, improve accessibility and attractiveness in the region, and increase safety and security.

Supported by the European Council conclusions from 14 December 2007, the Commission's communication points out the Baltic Sea's serious environmental condition in particular. The eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, with the resulting algal blooms and oxygen deficiency, is an acute problem that needs to be addressed, as do the harmful effects on the ecosystem from overfishing and pollution. The Baltic Sea region is also still characterised by the historical divisions between east and west with large differences in economic development and integration between markets. Old structures are all too evident in the form of deficiencies in regional transport and energy infrastructure linkages.

At the same time, there is considerable potential for improvement and increased integration. EU membership offers unique and entirely new possibilities for the region to effect change. The EU influences the region's future through the design and implementation of its policies. Greater cooperation on various issues, and a more strategic use of EU programmes, can help achieve the Strategy's objectives. The Commission's Action Plan for implementing the Strategy may also be seen as an inventory of the policy and legal instruments that are available to help achieve the Strategy's objectives. The Strategy can also act as an instrument for intersectoral work on various issues that are important to the region's future.

Based on consultation with Member States around the Baltic Sea, the Commission in its communication assigned Member States' responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the 15 priority areas in the Action Plan. Each priority area contains projects of high significance, the 'flagship projects' (a total of some 80 projects). Project responsibility for these priorities has likewise been assigned to Member States, public bodies, organisations or equivalents.

4.5.3 Council Conclusions

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will be implemented primarily by EU Member States together with the Commission. There is also considerable scope for other parties to contribute to the Strategy. It was therefore important for the Swedish Presidency to ensure clear guidance for the work implementing the Strategy.

The conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 26 October 2009 established a governance model for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The conclusions point out the potential in working via cross-sector macro-regional strategies for addressing common challenges in the region. Stress was put on an integrated approach as a precondition for the task to achieve a sustainable environment, increase growth and prosperity in the region, enhance accessibility and attractiveness, and improve safety and security in the region.

The governance model was also designed with a view to similar macro-regional strategies in the EU in the future. A similar strategy is currently being developed for the Danube region. Political governance is accomplished by the Council, which decides on the contents, management and update of the Strategy. Given the regional nature of the Strategy, it is appropriate that major reviews be done during a Baltic Sea Member State's Presidency, which will occur with around two-year intervals in the next few years. The first evaluation of the Strategy will be based on a report from the Commission in June 2011. This coincides with the Polish EU Presidency. The Council conclusions also stipulate the budget neutral foundation of the Strategy and state that it is primarily an internal EU strategy. Cooperation with third countries and regional actors is welcomed.

The ongoing consultation with Member States will be done through the High-Level Group that the Commission has undertaken to establish with

the support of the Council conclusions. The High-Level Group is open to all Member States. An annual forum was set up to consult all the stakeholders concerned on the implementation and development of the Strategy as such.

The Commission will review and update the Strategy on a regular basis. The Commission is also to ensure that the EU funds that may be considered for the implementation of the Strategy take into account the Strategy's objectives in their assessments. The Commission's Action Plan with its concrete measures for implementing the Strategy is a living document that is regularly updated. It is to be updated in consultation with the annual forum and the High-Level Group.

4.5.4 Ministerial Conference in Stockholm on 17–18 September on the EU's Baltic Sea Strategy and Macro-Regional Strategies in the EU

The EU Baltic Sea Strategy was made a working model for macro-regional strategies at a ministerial conference in Stockholm 17–18 September which had broad participation from EU countries. The Estonian President participated in the meeting as a special guest speaker. Also participating in the meeting were the Deputy Speaker of the European Parliament, the Commissioner for Regional Policy and the President of the European Investment Bank. The outcome of the conference was that some guiding principles for future macro-regional strategies were established and the EU Baltic countries agreed a common declaration for implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy.

The ministerial conference discussed three guiding principles for the format on macro-regional strategies identified by the Presidency in its work on the Baltic Sea Strategy: the internal EU dimension, budgetary neutrality and the lack of legally binding measures.

The EU internal dimension refers to regional cooperation with a more effective and deepened implementation of EU legal and political decisions. This means that the Strategy is primarily relevant for EU Member States. Cooperation with third countries can be conducted preferably, but not exclusively, within the framework of the Nordic dimension. Such cooperation may also take place within the framework of regional intergovernmental organisations.

The other guiding principle, that on budgetary neutrality, has been of key importance to the Swedish Presidency. The work on macro-regional strategies is to be based on existing structures and should not require any additional EU budgetary resources. Substantial budgetary resources have been allotted the region and have been identified as possible to use to support several commitments in the Strategy and as better used through coordinated action.

The third guiding principle discussed at the ministerial conference aims at a cooperative-oriented way of working and the absence of special mandatory legal instruments. Cooperation in the region is not binding on any party. Instead it occurs on a voluntary political basis and without any new intergovernmental organisations.

4.5.5 Follow-up in Other Council Configurations

A number of other Council configurations considered the Strategy in their work in the course of the Swedish Presidency, including the EPSCO Council, the Environment Council and the ECOFIN Council.

4.6 The EU, its Neighbourhood and the World

The Swedish Presidency's aim was to strengthen the EU as a global actor with a clear agenda for peace, development, democracy and human rights. The intention was to develop the EU's capacity to act in international crises, strengthen cooperation with important partners and contribute to coherent EU initiatives in foreign and security policy and trade and development policy. Another aim of the Presidency was to work for continued progress in the enlargement process. The results achieved, both in foreign and security policy and in development and trade policy, confirm the development of the EU as an increasingly important global actor.

During the Presidency, summits were held with Brazil, China, India, Russia, South Africa, the Ukraine and the United States. A number of concrete steps were taken at these meetings towards closer cooperation between the EU and these countries. Climate and energy issues as well as the global economy were important issues at these meetings. During the Presidency, about 200 meetings were held with third countries, some 50 of which were held at the ministerial level.

There were 148 statements expressing the EU's view on various foreign policy issues, not least on matters concerning human rights, during the Swedish Presidency.

4.6.1 The European External Action Service

In October 2009, the European Council adopted the Swedish Presidency's report on the new European External Action Service (see also section 4.1.3). It forms the basis for the proposal on the design of the Service to be presented by the High Representative. The report sets out the principles for the External Action Service's organisation, legal basis and financing and contains guidelines on its composition and the role EU delegations around the world should be given. The European Council urged the High Representative to present her proposal for decision by the Council by the end of April 2010.

4.6.2 Continued Enlargement

Important steps forward were taken in the enlargement process. After a negotiating process supported by Sweden and the Commission, an arbitration agreement defining borders between Slovenia and Croatia was signed in Stockholm on 4 November. It made possible three accession conferences at which six negotiation chapters could be opened and ten closed, meaning that negotiations with Croatia have entered their final

phase. The Council adopted the financial framework for Croatia's EU accession and work began on drafting an accession treaty for Croatia. Turkey's EU negotiations took an important step forward when the environmental chapter was opened at the accession conference on 21 December. After Iceland presented its application for EU membership to the Swedish Presidency, the Council in July adopted the decision to ask the Commission to draw up an opinion. It was also decided to ask the Commission to draw up an opinion on Albania. The Council agreed in December that implementing Serbia's interim agreement with the EU could begin and the Council will take a position within six months on ratifying the stabilisation and association agreement. The agreement paved the way for a Serbian membership application, which was presented to the Swedish Presidency on 22 December. The Council also decided to return, during the Spanish Presidency, to the Commission's recommendation on beginning negotiations with Macedonia (FYROM). The Council also decided that the cooperation and verification mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania will remain in place as long as the benchmarks have not been met. Together with the United States, the Swedish Presidency initiated a political process with the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to clarify the conditions for the country's EU integration process. The initiative has received broad support from EU Member States and the international community.

It was decided to introduce a visa exemption for Serbia, Macedonia (FYROM) and Montenegro beginning on 19 December. In December, the Presidency and the Commission arranged a conference on the Western Balkans in Brussels. In connection with the conference, the Western Balkan Investment Framework was signed. It is a major effort involving the Commission and a number of banks. The Commission contributed almost EUR 100 million and Sweden is contributing SEK 20 million.

4.6.3 Relations with Neighbouring Countries

The implementation of the Eastern Partnership has begun and there has been progress in a number of areas. It was decided to draw up negotiation directives for association agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Discussion commenced in the Council structure of the Commission's proposals for directives, including for a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with Armenia and Georgia. Negotiations with the Ukraine on an association agreement, including a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement, made progress and are expected to be concluded in 2010. Structures for an enhanced multilateral cooperation in specific areas, for example, rescue services and border control, are in place. During the Presidency, a partnership for energy efficiency and environment in Eastern Europe, initially focusing on projects in Ukraine, was launched. The Presidency played an active role in the decision taken by the European Investment Bank on a special facility for the countries in the Eastern Partnership and Russia, meaning that the Bank will be able to lend up to EUR 1.5 billion until 2013. At the EU-Ukraine Summit in Kiev on 4 December, the integration agenda was

discussed, the next steps in the visa dialogue were laid out, and an agreement between the Ukraine and Europol was signed. At the EU-Russia Summit in Stockholm on 18 November, Russia raised its emission reduction target prior to the Copenhagen meeting and reconfirmed its intention to join the WTO as soon as possible. Five agreements on cross-border cooperation were signed, a mechanism to warn of potential energy crises was launched, and the parties also came to an agreement on closer cooperation on crisis management.

Meetings at the political level in the Union for the Mediterranean resumed with three ministerial meetings: finance, gender equality and trade.

4.6.4 Strengthened Cooperation and Political Role in the World

Middle East issues figured prominently on the EU agenda during the Presidency. Council conclusions were adopted stressing EU support for efforts to resume peace negotiations. At the same time, the EU clarified its fundamental positions that negotiations are to be based on the 1967 borders, that the settlements are illegal, and that all final status issues are to be part of the negotiations, including Jerusalem. The EU also adopted a declaration on the situation in Gaza, demanding immediate and unconditional opening of border crossings. The EU also reacted forcefully to the deterioration in human rights in Iran with a number of statements and declarations and in direct contacts with the Iranian authorities. Council conclusions on the worrying developments in Yemen were adopted and the EU launched an initiative aimed at a more strategic approach to Yemen. It was decided that the EU is prepared to sign an association agreement with Syria. Negotiations on a partnership and cooperation agreement with Iraq were concluded.

Relations with countries in Asia have been strengthened. An action plan for intensified cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan aimed at strengthening EU action in the region and the political and civil involvement in peace efforts in Afghanistan was adopted. Implementation of the strategy has begun. The EU provided financial and other support, including an election observation mission, in connection with the presidential election in August. The EU-India Summit in New Delhi on 6 November included Indian recognition of the two degree climate objective, clear messages on the importance of human rights and closer cooperation on nuclear energy, as well as recognition of the importance of continued progress in the negotiations on a free trade agreement. At the EU-China Summit in Nanjing on 30 November, it was agreed, among other things, to continue developing the strategic partnership, deepen economic cooperation, upgrade the Partnership on Climate Change, and speed up efforts to conclude the EU-China Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The Summit also took up the issue of human rights, which is an important aspect of EU-China relations. A Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was signed with Indonesia, the first of its kind with an Asian country, and negotiations for a framework agreement as well as a ground-breaking free-trade agreement with South Korea were completed and the agreements

initialled. It was also decided to begin bilateral negotiations with individual ASEAN countries, starting with Singapore.

Transatlantic cooperation has been strengthened. At the EU-US Summit in Washington on 3 November, discussions included climate change, the economic and financial situation and EU and US cooperation in Afghanistan. Among the decisions taken were establishing an energy council, deepened development cooperation, intensified cooperation in the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), strengthened cooperation on cyber security, and the adoption of a declaration on non-proliferation and disarmament. The first round of negotiations on a far-reaching trade and investment agreement was held with Canada and the Canada – EU Air Transport Agreement was signed.

The EU-Brazil Summit, which was held in Stockholm on 6 October, resulted in an enhanced strategic partnership. The Summit focused on climate change and the financial crisis and it was decided to cooperate more closely in such forums as the G20. The political crisis in Honduras required substantial involvement in the form of intensive contacts within the EU, with Washington and with other international actors. Several statements and declarations were adopted, as well as Council conclusions. Support was given to the mediation process led by the President of Costa Rica and to OAS efforts. At a ministerial troika meeting within the framework for political dialogue with Cuba, the EU delivered a strong message demanding respect for human rights.

An EU policy on the war-torn African Horn and the humanitarian crisis there was adopted. The policy identifies the region's challenges and EU priorities for achieving peace and development. There were Troika visits to Zimbabwe and to Kenya aimed at ratcheting up the political pressure to implement needed reforms. Council conclusions affirming the EU's concern and commitment regarding developments in the DR Congo, Sudan, Somalia, and Kenya were adopted. As a result of the political crises in Niger and Madagascar, there were consultations on EU assistance to these countries. An AU-EU Ministerial Troika meeting was held in October at which recommendations were adopted on how the Joint EU-Africa Strategy with its action plan is to be followed up. A Ministerial Troika meeting was also held between the EU and ECOWAS at which cooperation on constitutional crises in West Africa and other matters was confirmed. The EU-South Africa Summit was held in Cape Town on 11 September and focused on the follow-up of the strategic partnership between the EU and South Africa, the international economic crisis, the climate issue, and peace and security.

Interim free trade agreements were signed with a number of countries in Africa (Mauritius, Madagascar, the Seychelles and Zimbabwe) and the Pacific region (Papua New Guinea and Fiji).

There was extensive activity, both bilateral and multilateral, on international law and work on human rights. The importance of international law was stressed in the EU's common foreign and security policy. More than 60 calls were made in third countries with reference to the EU common guidelines on human rights, including concerning the death penalty, torture and human rights defenders. About 85 statements on violations of human rights were made. More than 230 individual cases of human rights defenders whose human rights had been violated were

raised separately through calls and statements. Human rights dialogues were conducted with 17 countries/organisations and the EU's NGO forum on human rights was held in Stockholm in July on the theme of violence against children. The Presidency also introduced an initiative on increased transparency that resulted in a number of concrete measures to increase the visibility of EU work on human rights, such as better use of the Internet and improved reporting on human rights. The Council decided that the EU would accede to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Work on international humanitarian law was strengthened by Council conclusions and other measures. A large number of countries were encouraged to join the treaty of the International Criminal Court or were reminded of their obligation to cooperate with the Court. Initiatives were also taken by the Presidency to raise the EU's profile on strengthening the freedom of expression on the Internet by such means as highlighting the position of exposed bloggers, journalists and others.

The Presidency contributed to a high-level conference in New York in September to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. EU efforts to achieve a global Arms Trade Treaty intensified. The Presidency was also proactive in the work on establishing multilateral nuclear fuel assurances and contributed to a decision in the IAEA Board of Governors. Council decisions were taken on EU autonomous sanctions against North Korea on dual-use products. It was decided to continue EU support to third countries on export control of defence equipment. Within the framework of the work on the Ottawa Convention, the Presidency also pressed for the destruction of existing stocks of land mines, the clearing of minefields and the provision of assistance to mine victims.

4.6.5 Development of the EU's Crisis Management Capability

The Presidency pursued an ambitious agenda to continue the development of EU crisis management capability. In November, the Council adopted a declaration on the future development of these capabilities, taking into account the new conditions under the Lisbon Treaty. The decision was taken to strengthen civil crisis management capabilities by such means as developing the use of civil rapid response teams. Measures were taken to improve and broaden Member States' efforts to make more civil personnel available and to strengthen education in gender equality and human rights. EU defence and foreign ministers agreed on guidelines to increase the flexibility and usability of the EU Battle groups. Council conclusions were adopted to support integration and streamlining of maritime surveillance in the EU. The Presidency initiated improved cooperation and coordination in the development of civil and military resources in the EU. The defence ministers also adopted a political declaration on the importance of equal competitive conditions in the defence industry. The Council also adopted conclusions on the continuation of EU work on the climate and security. EU work on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security has been intensified. Ongoing crisis

management operations were an important part of the Presidency. The mandate for operation Atalanta off the Somali coast was extended. It was decided to begin planning for a training programme for the Somali security forces and to extend civil initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Palestinian territories, the DR Congo and Guinea Bissau. The EU Police mission in Afghanistan was strengthened.

4.6.6 Development Issues with Focus on Climate and Democracy

The Presidency worked for an effective development policy in the EU to meet today's global challenges. This was reflected in the Council conclusions on climate and development, democracy support, policy coherence and aid effectiveness, which were also the Presidency's top development priorities.

The recommendations of the International Commission on Climate Change and Development, a Swedish initiative, laid the groundwork for action in this area. The conclusions adopted in November aim at integrating climate concerns into EU development cooperation in the long run, providing support to developing countries to adapt to climate change, and drawing attention to the link to disaster risk reduction. Conditions for a coherent and effective policy for democracy support by the EU were improved by the adoption of cross-pillar Council conclusions in the area. A framework was created for the work on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) to be able to assess the policy's overall impact on development goals. In 2010 a work programme will be drawn up focusing on as the priority areas trade and financial policy, climate change, food security, migration and security. There was a follow-up of how the EU is to fulfil its commitments of increased development assistance volumes, not least for contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A framework for greater aid effectiveness was created through the Council conclusions on enhanced aid effectiveness. This is crucial in order to achieve development goals. The Council also adopted conclusions on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which emphasised preventative efforts, and the importance of human rights, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Special attention was given to humanitarian issues, with focus on securing the EU's clear support for the UN's humanitarian system.

In October, the Presidency and the Commission arranged European Development Days (EDD), the single biggest meeting in Sweden during the Presidency, on the theme 'Citizenship and Development' focusing on democracy, the global economic downturn and the climate. The meeting gathered together some ten Heads of State and Government, a large number of ministers and a broad range of experts. EDD had over 6 000 visitors and over 270 participating organisations.

4.6.7 Increased Free Trade

The Swedish Presidency took action in order for the EU to be a strong advocate of free trade and thus, supported those forces that prevented the introduction of protectionist measures on a broad front. Together with the Commission, the Presidency was a driving force in efforts to reactivate the Doha Round. There was progress in the EU's bilateral and free trade negotiations. The agreement concluded with South Korea was particularly important. The agreement is the most far-reaching free trade agreement that the EU has negotiated and is estimated to be worth EUR 19 billion for EU exporters.

At the G20 meeting in Pittsburgh, participants agreed on the goal of concluding the Doha negotiations in 2010, a commitment reaffirmed at the WTO Ministerial Conference in November. A number of important WTO disputes were resolved. An agreement was initialled solving the 15-year long dispute over the EU import regime for bananas and a decision was taken in the EU that resolved the dispute with the United States over meat treated with hormones. The Competitiveness Council's conclusions in December expressed support for the importance of openness and free trade within the framework of the follow-up to the Lisbon strategy, the EU 2020 strategy. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) was highlighted at a conference, 'Protect, Respect, Remedy', held in Stockholm in November. The Swedish Presidency also represented the EU at a UN global conference where a decision was taken on a mechanism for review to the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. As to export financing, the EU played an active role in the progress made in negotiations in the OECD on rules to promote the spread of climate-friendly technology.

5 The European Parliament

During the Presidency, Sweden represented the Council in its contacts with the European Parliament. The Prime Minister presented the Swedish 6-month programme in July, discussed the Lisbon Treaty in October and reported back from the European Council in October and December. Swedish ministers, state secretaries and officials participated in plenary debates and committee meetings on current issues. The Minister for EU Affairs also answered questions put to the Council by MEPs at the sessions in Strasbourg. Sweden also represented the Council as its negotiating party at trilogues and conciliation meetings and participated in meetings with political group leaders, committee chairs and others.

The European Parliament held five sessions in Strasbourg during the Swedish Presidency. The first of these sessions was the newly elected Parliament's organisational session. In addition, there were two mini sessions in Brussels.

5.1 Preparations for the Presidency

In autumn 2008 and spring 2009, most cabinet ministers and state secretaries made networking visits to Brussels and Strasbourg. Contacts were established with the then committee chairs, rapporteurs on important dossiers, representatives of the political groups and Swedish MPs. Most committees were also invited to Sweden in spring 2009 for meetings with the responsible minister and representatives of corresponding Riksdag committees. The leadership of the three largest party groups also visited Sweden in spring 2009. After the elections to the European Parliament in June, new committee chairs and rapporteurs were appointed and contacts were also established with them. The European Parliament's Conference of Presidents visited Sweden on 6 July for a discussion with the Government on important issues during the Presidency and was also invited to a meeting with the Swedish Riksdag.

Before the Presidency, the Prime Minister had appointed the Minister for EU Affairs as the Government's special representative for contacts with the European Parliament.

5.2 The Work during the Presidency and Appearances at the Political Level before the European Parliament in Autumn 2009

The Prime Minister presented the Swedish 6-month programme in the plenary session on 15 July. Furthermore, 22 Swedish ministers stated their particular priorities before the respective parliamentary committees. Most of these presentations took place in September. Sweden's priorities

were also discussed when the Minister for EU Affairs attended the Conference of Committee Chairs in October.

The Presidency, as customary at the political level, attended the weekly sessions in Strasbourg and the mini sessions in Brussels. These appearances in Strasbourg were mostly made on a Tuesday afternoon and the whole of Wednesday. Appearances in Brussels during the mini sessions generally took place on Wednesday afternoons.

The Prime Minister appeared at plenary sessions on four occasions. In addition to his presentation of the Presidency programme in July, the Prime Minister participated in the debates in October on the Lisbon Treaty, in November to report back from the European Council in October, and in December to report the results of the December summit and the Presidency as a whole. The Minister for EU Affairs participated in almost 30 plenary debates and four question times. The Minister for EU Affairs also visited three different committees. Other ministers appeared 14 times at plenary sessions to discuss issues in their respective areas of responsibility. Swedish ministers also visited committees on over 40 occasions. Swedish state secretaries attended committee and plenary sessions on a total of 15 occasions. Swedish officials participated on behalf of the Council in committee meetings, meetings with joint parliamentary delegations and other formal meetings on 85 occasions.

The plenary debates in the autumn concerned a variety of current issues such as climate change and the preparations in the run-up to the meeting in Copenhagen, the EU-USA and EU-Russia summit meetings, the G20 meeting, enlargement, the Lisbon Treaty and the European External Action Service (EEAS), the 2010 EU budget and current foreign policy issues, for example, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A committee or a political group may also put questions to the Council and request that these be included on the agenda by means of 'oral questions with debate'. In the autumn, there were some twenty such plenary debates concerning such matters as the Stockholm Programme; the Baltic Sea Strategy; Frontex, the EU border security agency; visa liberalisation with the Balkans; democracy building; violence against women; implementation of the Services Directive, and transparency issues.

Regarding the regular question time with the Council in Strasbourg, 10–12 questions were answered orally on each occasion. The remaining questions received were answered in writing. In total, answers to 82 oral questions were prepared. Subjects recurring in the questions were Cuba, the Middle East, the climate change conference in Copenhagen, Frontex, the EU border security agency, unemployment in the EU, animal welfare, the EU budget and transparency issues.

In the autumn, questions focused on the Lisbon Treaty, including the appointment of the Commission's President and the new Commission. The Presidency had a close dialogue with representatives of the European Parliament on these questions. During the preparations leading to the Lisbon Treaty's entry into force, the Presidency maintained regular contacts with the European Parliament.

The Presidency also cooperated extensively with the European Parliament on issues related to the codecision procedure. In autumn

2009, there were 48 trilogue meetings and one conciliation meeting on the telecommunications package and on pesticides.

The Presidency also represented the Council at interinstitutional meetings between the Council, the Commission and Parliament about communication and openness and, at the technical level, about European agencies.

6 Meetings in Sweden

6.1 General

During the Presidency, the Government Offices conducted 111 meetings and conferences in Sweden. The Secretariat for EU Meetings in Sweden in 2009 (SES-09) was responsible for their logistical and practical implementation.

The meetings in the country holding the Presidency are informal and give that country the opportunity to accentuate new aspects or new issues that may become part of the agenda in the future. Bringing the political process nearer to the people and thus stimulating their awareness of the EU's work is also valuable.

The meetings took place at 25 sites in 22 Swedish municipalities, from Kiruna in the far north to Malmö in the south. The calendar included a number of high-level meetings: eleven informal ministerial meetings, two summit meetings with third countries, a visit by the Commission, a visit by the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents, meetings with a strong ministerial presence on biodiversity and the Baltic Sea, and European Development Days attended by some ten Heads of State and Government and a large number of ministers. In addition, a total of 40 conferences and 53 meetings of senior officials took place. A number of meetings were honoured by the presence of one or more members of the Swedish royal family. There was higher than usual attendance by candidate countries and EFTA/EEA countries at the informal ministerial meetings.

During the six months of the Presidency, a total of about 21 000 delegates and 1 500 accredited representatives of the media participated in meetings.

6.2 Preparations and Implementation

The first part of 2008 was principally devoted to organisation building, recruitment, deciding the meeting calendar (place and time), needs analysis, identification and preliminary booking of venues, preparations prior to procurement and the signing of contracts with suppliers of goods and services, and general planning of the meetings. Experience from previous Presidencies, including the 2001 Swedish Presidency, supported this work.

In October 2008, the planning of specific meetings began. A project group, which included the respective ministry and the Secretariat, was formed for each meeting. Sometimes subcontractors and external actors such as the police and municipalities also took part. As hosts of the meetings, the ministries were responsible for the programme and political content, while the Secretariat was responsible for the logistical and practical implementation and for the budget.

For the majority of the EU meetings, not only a meeting room had to be hired, but also space for delegates, journalists, interpreters, security

personnel and government staff. Particular care was taken as far as possible to arrange good conditions for journalists to follow and report on what was happening at the meetings. Modern technology was also used to make news coverage from a distance possible. The public was able via the Presidency website to follow picture and the sound, including interpretations, from the press conferences.

Almost all meetings required the meeting room to be put in some kind of order in accordance with a configuration concept. Modern conference and interpretation technologies were provided. Security, registration, accreditation, reception, transport, hotel bookings, conference hosts/hostesses, meals, profile material and sometimes gifts for the meetings also had to be attended to. The meeting period was also preceded by an extensive risk analysis and the development of action plans to handle risk or crisis.

For high-level meetings and meetings at Frösundavik Conference Centre, specially supplied furniture was used.

The practical and logistical arrangements were very well received.

6.3 Partners

The substantial involvement of some of the municipalities and county councils concerned has made a significant contribution to the Presidency logistics. A number of universities and colleges, institutions and organisations have also taken part in meeting projects. The Swedish Security Service has assessed possible threats and has been responsible for personal protection services as usual. The Swedish Police and the county police departments have been responsible for external security and police escorts. No incidents or accidents occurred that affected the conduct of meetings.

6.4 Economic Aspects

For the meetings in Sweden and the four meetings with the European Council in Brussels, the Secretariat was allotted a financial framework totalling SEK 426 million, spread over three fiscal years. Meeting costs will fall under this framework. In addition, the Commission contributions to the meeting costs has been higher than expected.

With the enlargement of the EU from 15 to 27 Member States, the meetings this time were essentially double the size of those held in 2001. The meeting calendar was also considerably more extensive, reflecting the EU's growing agenda.

The overall goal has been to make functional and cost-effective meeting arrangements and strengthen the positive image of Sweden. The budget for meetings has been an important restraint. A number of measures were used to hold costs in check. No European Council meeting was held in Sweden. The number of places where meetings were held was fewer than in 2001. This was made possible by locating a third (35) of the meetings in the conference centre in Frösundavik. A number

of informal ministerial meetings were held back-to-back in the same geographical location and in the same venue.

Some existing framework agreements could be used in the procurement of goods and services. There was a separate procurement for 'Host Broadcaster for Radio and TV'. Sponsoring agreements were entered into with three companies, by far the largest of which was Volvo Cars. The financial and economic crisis and restrictive guidelines affected the business sector's interest.

6.5 Environmental Aspects

Environmental and climate aspects have been taken into consideration as much as possible in the meeting arrangements, including underlying agreements with suppliers. An expert from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, using the Government Offices' environmental guidelines as a basis, assisted the Secretariat with practical environmental management for various functions and in relation to suppliers. Suppliers who were not already environmentally certified were advised on improving their environmental efforts.

6.6 Interpretation Regimes

Interpretation regimes at the informal EU meetings in the country holding the Presidency rely mainly on established practice instead of on agreed rules. Since 2001 the regimes have grown. Certain Member States want to develop the practice further to their own advantage. It is the Presidency's responsibility to balance these wishes against their costs and the EU's shared interest in manageable regimes.

7 Communications for the Presidency

7.1 General

The Government's communication objectives during the Presidency were to increase awareness of the Swedish Government's EU work, stimulate the dialogue on issues and in particular, show the connection between the EU and people's daily life, demonstrate the advantages of EU membership in Sweden, and give a positive impression of Sweden in the EU and the Swedish Presidency in third countries.

The communication work ultimately managed to reach interested members of the general public, including upper secondary school students and young adults. To reach this target group, communication efforts were concentrated on key groups or intermediaries such as employees in the Government Offices and public authorities, Swedish and foreign media, actors and opinion-makers, teachers and librarians, and not least, EU officials and officials in other Member States. The focus was on the media and the web as the most important channels for reaching the public. Communications were characterised by transparency, intelligibility and objectivity. Overall responsibility rested on a special communications secretariat in the EU Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office, KOM-09. There were six sub-projects in the work conducted: visual identity, the web, media, internal communications, information and dialogue, and culture and promotion.

In autumn 2008 and spring 2009, KOM-09 developed its cooperation internally with SES-09 and the ministries and externally with various consultants and municipalities that would host the informal ministerial meetings. KOM-09 reported to the Prime Minister's State Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office, to the Minister for European Affairs' state secretary and to the Minister for EU Affairs. KOM-09's strategic position provided the conditions needed for effective coordination of all the communications work done by the Government Offices.

7.2 Visual Identity

The Presidency's visual identity was designed in autumn 2008. Bacon Annonbyrå was given the task of designing both the identity and the web site to ensure a uniform visual expression and thus clearer communication.

The identity was present in all visual communications (including websites, decoration in meeting premises, printed matter, sign materials, profile products and moving image material) and aimed at making clear that the Presidency was the source and communicating the Presidency's policy based on some key catchwords: transparency, everyday relevance and dialogue and discussion. Climate change and the Baltic Sea were

other important aspects taken into consideration during development of the logotype. After the logotype was decided in mid-October 2008, a number of applications were developed: the website design, letter and presentation templates, templates for printed matter meeting materials (name tags, pins, folders, notepads, notebooks, pens, etc.), posters, roll-ups and signs. A graphics manual was produced to assist the ministries and others who needed to use the visual identity.

Over 130 activities and meetings, arranged by actors other than the Government Offices, received permission to use the logotype, based on special criteria.

7.3 The Website

The Presidency's website was the main hub linking communications during the Presidency. On 1 June 2009, se2009.se was inaugurated. The website was to contribute to a successful Presidency and achievement of the overall communications objectives. These objectives, together with interviews with the communications activities' priority target groups, served as a guide in the development of the website. In addition to the communications objectives, the website also had other objectives such as providing a rapid and comprehensive source for following the Presidency. The objectives were also that se2009.se would be perceived as innovative in its design and use of technology in the context of the Presidency and be an important internal information channel. Openness was important and was seen, for example, in the almost one thousand contacts published on the website and through widespread opportunities to follow the political process via photo and film – often live. Editorial activity was more extensive than under any previous Presidency. Text, photos and films were intended to clarify the connection using everyday language.

One survey found that users generally had a positive perception of the website. This was also endorsed by the very positive response from media, bloggers, twitterers and government officials. The se2009.se website was nominated for a Swedish Design Prize and for a European Excellence Award. The view of the website is that it took considerable pressure off administrative and press officers. From 1 July to 31 December 2009, se2009.se was visited 1 106 752 times. As per statistics compiled by the French Presidency, the Swedish Presidency's website has thus had the more visitors than any previous Presidency website, with the exception of the Czech Republic's, which according to its information had close to 2 million visitors. The website se2009.se now acts as an archive and will be available throughout 2010.

7.4 Media

The basis for the Government Offices' communication activities before and during the Presidency was that the media would have free access to all aspects of the Presidency. The ambition was to offer Swedish and foreign journalists the best possible conditions for reporting on the

Presidency's policy and various activities. Openness in practice featured in all the activities. In spring 2009, a tour of some twenty local editorial offices around Sweden was made with the aim of spreading awareness and knowledge of the Presidency. There was a special initiative for journalists from candidate countries, which made it possible for journalists from Croatia, Macedonia (FYROM) and Turkey to come to Sweden and learn about the Presidency's policy and Sweden's experience with EU membership generally. A trip for correspondents was arranged in connection with the start of the Presidency. Some sixty Brussels-based journalists then got to know both the issues Sweden pursued during the six months of its Presidency and Sweden in general. Among those the journalists met were the prime minister, cabinet ministers, representatives of the opposition parties, central government officials, and Swedish company representatives. The programme concluded with a reception given by their Majesties the King and Queen. A kick-off meeting was arranged in the Council's press room in Brussels with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for EU Affairs who presented information on important Presidency issues to about 250 Brussels correspondents.

During the Presidency, Swedish and foreign journalists got their information primarily from the Presidency website se2009.eu. The press corps in Brussels was also served by press officials attached to the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels. A large number of press conferences and background briefings were also conducted both in Brussels and in Stockholm in connection with the more important meetings/events. The Swedish Presidency has made a considerable impact in the European press. By 12 December, it had been mentioned in 1 198 articles and in 671 news agency telegrams. The news items that have dominated reporting are the Lisbon Treaty, the appointment of the permanent president of the European Council, and climate change.

7.5 Internal Communications

The Government Offices' overall communications strategy for the 2009 Presidency made clear that its staff was one of the most important target groups for information on the Presidency. The main aim of internal communications has been to support the Government's overall objective of an effective and successful Presidency. Another aim has been to encourage the staff's participation in and commitment to the Presidency.

The internal communications plan which has formed the basis for the project activities defines three principal target groups: staff whose main task is the Presidency, intermediaries and other staff members. The objectives have been for the staff to have a basic knowledge of the Presidency, have sufficient information to be able to do their work and know where they can find information on the Presidency. An internal survey indicates that these objectives have been achieved. That part of the staff not directly involved in the Presidency has not experienced any sense of exclusion, thus indicating that internal communications have helped create greater participation.

One important information channel was the messages on current EU issues from the 'Situation Room' in the Government Offices that were regularly circulated in the Government Offices and to Sweden's missions abroad. These contained statement guidelines on certain issues to ensure that the same information was given in all channels. A newsletter with general information on Presidency activities was also published regularly on the Government Offices intranet. An interview series on the intranet and in the Government Offices' magazine *Klara* was appreciated as a way of spotlighting staff who worked with the Presidency and creating commitment. The intranet was also used to call attention to important news, for example, the launching of the Presidency's logotype, the website and the Swedish work programme.

A seminar series on internal communications for managers in the Government Offices, a kick-off meeting for key personnel in the Government Offices and exhibitions in Government Offices' lobbies at the start of the Presidency are other examples of internal communications initiatives.

7.6 Information and Dialogue

A large number of information initiatives and dialogue activities were carried out for and in cooperation with the public and the civil society during the Presidency. The activities contributed to the Government's vision for the Swedish people to increasingly identify themselves as European and a part of the European context. The idea was that knowledge and support for the EU would increase through dialogue and activities connected to the Presidency's priorities, among them, climate change, the EU as a global actor and the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. The activities were targeted at the interested general public with emphasis on upper secondary school students and young adults. The civil society and intermediaries were both target group and partners during these activities. In the six months, successful activities were carried out in cooperation with more than 70 cooperating parties from the civil society, local government, public authorities and European institutions. Young reporters covering the Presidency had a big local impact, a seminar series toured the country and courses linked to high priority issues were conducted. There were 250 000 copies of a magazine about the Presidency distributed to embassies, educational institutions, libraries and organisations. An exhibition on the Presidency was produced for libraries, authorities, and others. Information was also spread by the Presidency's website. The Swedish people's sense of belonging to Europe increased during the Presidency, as did the EU's importance in everyday life. The percentage who agree that the EU is a given has also increased, particularly among women¹.

¹ A survey was conducted in December 2009 when 1 000 Swedes were asked about their perception of the EU and their knowledge of the Presidency- Synovate 2009 - Allmänheten inför Sveriges ordförandeskap i EU [The Public before Sweden's EU Presidency].

7.7 Culture and Promotion

During the Swedish EU Presidency, the overall objectives of its cultural activities were to increase international cultural exchanges between Sweden and Europe and to position Sweden in a global context. In promotion activities, the ambition was to show an image of Sweden as open, innovative and creative. Thematically, several cultural events have reflected some of the issues that characterised the EU Presidency. This was accomplished, for example, with cultural events dealing with and discussing the climate issue and a special focus on cultural exchanges with candidate countries and countries around the Baltic Sea.

In Sweden there has been close cooperation with cultural groups in many parts of the country. Some 50 organisations have been directly involved in various ways in shaping and implementing the culture programme. The cooperating parties have ranged from cultural institutions to individual artists and performers. The activities have had a major impact on the public and the media. One of the factors in the programme's success was initiating and promoting events that took place in the public sphere, thus producing cultural events that were both accessible and visible. Through a remit from the Government to the Swedish Institute, Sweden's ambassador in Brussels held a cultural season. The Swedish embassies and their counsellors for cultural affairs have also played an important role in the organisation of cultural events in Europe.

8 Cost Report

In the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Budget Bills, the Riksdag allocated the Government Offices a total of SEK 890 million extra in administration appropriations for preparing and conducting Sweden's Presidency of the European Council. In the supplementary budget for 2009, the Riksdag allocated a further SEK 81 million in the light of changed international circumstances. The supplementary budget also allocated SEK 3.6 million to the Swedish Arts Council for cultural activities with the aim of strengthening the image of the Swedish Presidency. Including extra Presidency funding totalling SEK 967.4 million, the appropriation for 2008 amounted to SEK 6 013 million, for 2009 to SEK 7 092 million and for 2010 to SEK 6 705 million.

The main expenditures in 2008 and 2009 for the Presidency concern meetings in Sweden and SES-09, which preliminarily total SEK 439 million; press, information and cultural initiatives totalling SEK 47.7 million; strengthening of ministries and certain government authorities abroad totalling SEK 272 million, and education initiatives and expanded administrative capacity totalling SEK 32 million.

The Presidency was financed by extra Presidency appropriations, co-financing from the Commission and funding allocated for regular activities. In the Government Offices, Presidency funding in the Government Offices was allocated within the framework for the normal activity planning process, based on the ministries' activity plans.

8.1 Principles for allocating the extra funds provided

Funding was first allocated for activities deemed to be obligatory. Current regulations, decisions taken earlier in EU institutions, established practices and the Presidency's priorities formed the basis for assessing what was obligatory. Included here first of all were meetings in Sweden and abroad, in-service training and communication with the public and the media.

Ministries with substantial obligatory commitments in the form of many meetings, high priority matters or labour intensive issues requiring a formal Presidency role were allocated more funds than ministries with less extensive commitments.

Ministries with extensive EU activities or international activities were also expected to adjust their priorities for their own ordinary resources as far as possible in aid of the Presidency.

8.2 Follow-up and Forecast

The Presidency's outcome has been followed up regularly in the monthly financial follow-up of the Government Office's activities. Specific costs of the Presidency have been reported as Presidency costs.

Lags, for example, in contributions from the Commission, and close-down costs in 2010 mean that the outcome is still not complete. However, the Authorities' costs for the preparation and conduct of the Presidency are expected to fall within the resources appropriated by the Riksdag. Of the SEK 917.4 million that the Government Offices have been allocated in extra funding for 2008 and 2009, SEK 767 million has been reported as specific costs for the Presidency, including SEK 9.7 million made available to the Swedish Institute. The SEK 150 million that has not been spent is included in the 2010 unexpended appropriations. The extra funding provided for unforeseen events in the 2009 supplementary budget was not used. An explanation for the under-spending of appropriations is that meetings in Sweden were conducted at a lower cost than budgeted. The Commission's contribution to meeting costs has also been higher than expected.