



Press releases 2002–2006

This document contains the collected Ministry of Health and Social Affairs press releases from the period 1 January 2002–6 October 2006. These press releases have previously been published on www.regeringen.se and were removed from the website on 6 October 2006 when a new Government took office.

The contact information in the press releases has largely been deleted since press secretaries and other staff have been replaced.

Links contained in the press releases have been deleted.

The press releases in the document have been sorted by date, starting with the most recent.

In total, there are 6 press releases from this period.

How to search the document

You can search the press releases in the document using the Adobe Reader search function. The search function is generally marked with a binoculars icon on the tool bar. You can search using any word of your choice, but to simplify your search the press releases contain the following key words:

- Minister
- Ministry
- Subject

In 2002–2006 the following ministers, ministries and subjects were referred to on www.regeringen.se:

Ministers

Göran Persson, Ann-Christin Nykvist, Barbro Holmberg, Berit Andnor, Bosse Ringholm, Carin Jämtin, Hans Karlsson, Ibrahim Baylan, Jan Eliasson, Jens Orback, Leif Pagrotsky, Lena Hallengren, Lena Sommestad, Leni Björklund, Mona Sahlin, Morgan Johansson, Pär Nuder, Sven-Erik Österberg, Thomas Bodström, Thomas Östros, Ulrica Messing, Ylva Johansson, Laila Freivalds, Gunnar Lund, Lars-Erik Lövdén, Lars Engqvist, Marita Ulvskog, Anna Lindh, Margareta Winberg and Jan O Karlsson.

Ministries

The Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment and The Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union.

Subjects

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries
 Asylum, migration, integration, minorities
 Central, regional and local government
 Communications, IT
 Culture, the media, leisure activities
 Defence, emergency management and safety
 Democracy and human rights
 Education and research
 Employment and gender equality
 Environment, energy and housing
 EU
 Foreign policy and international cooperation
 Health care, health, social issues/insurance
 Industry, trade, regional development
 Legislation and justice
 National economy and budget
 Sustainable development

PRESS RELEASE

2006-07-03

Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Sustainable Development
Office for Administrative Affairs
Ministry of Education, Research and Culture
Ministry of Justice

Improved usability and accessibility on www.sweden.gov.se

In July 2006, some changes will be made to the design of the www.regeringen.se and www.sweden.gov.se websites. The new design is the result of a systematic effort to improve usability and accessibility. The changes are based on such things as user tests and validation of HTML and style sheets.

In connection with the launch in July, the text version of the website will be discontinued. Instead, the level of customisation on the entire website will be increased in accordance with WAI guidelines. Visitors to the website will be able to select their own preferences, such as choice of font or background colour.

Content on the websites is validated XHTML 1.0 Strict, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) 2.0. The website has a fluid design, which means that all proportions are relative to the text size used.

The changes being made will not affect the URL addresses; links to material on the websites will still work after the launch.

CONTACT

Webbredaktionen
Web Editorial Group and Webmaster
Office 08-405 10 00

Key word: 66638 Communications, IT

PRESS RELEASE

2006-06-29

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Montenegro's health minister visits Sweden

Montenegro's Minister of Health Miodrag Pavlicic is visiting Sweden and will meet Minister for Public Health and Social Services Morgan Johansson on Thursday 29 June. This is the first ministerial visit since Montenegro became independent after a referendum at the end of May. Minister Pavlicic's agenda includes meetings at Karolinska Institutet and the University Hospital to discuss possible future exchanges and cooperation.

Sweden recognised Montenegro as a sovereign state following a Government decision on 14 June. Formal diplomatic relations were established with the country on 26 June.

CONTACT

Christian Carlsson
Press Officer
Office 08-405 58 80
Mobile 070-257 56 56

Helena Gustavsson
Deputy Director
Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
+46 8 405 22 22
+46 70 298 02 44

Ann Jönsson
Political Adviser
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
+46 8 405 39 14
+46 70 218 31 87

Key word: 66495 Health care, health, social issues/insurance Foreign policy and international cooperation Morgan Johansson

PRESS RELEASE

2006-03-30

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Go-ahead for further action to implement production of influenza vaccine in Sweden

Minister for Public Health and Social Services Morgan Johansson has today received Lars Rekke's report on the conditions necessary for producing influenza vaccine in Sweden.

On 12 January this year, the Government appointed Lars Rekke as negotiator to investigate, in contact with the pharmaceutical industries, various public-private solutions for setting up production of influenza vaccine in Sweden.

The reason behind the assignment is that global capacity for producing influenza vaccine is expected to be insufficient in the event of a pandemic. The Government has therefore noted that Sweden cannot be sure it would have access to the amounts of vaccine that would be required. Domestic production of influenza vaccine would increase the chances of being able to vaccinate Sweden's population at an early stage.

The conclusions in Mr Rekke's report indicate that the conditions allow the Government to proceed

with negotiations on public-private cooperation to set up vaccine production in Sweden. Mr Rekke also recommends that the Government continue negotiations.

The report also concludes that continued negotiations should primarily focus on production in very close cooperation with an established vaccine company. Production should preferably be part of a structure that is designed over time to safeguard development resources, the transfer of know-how, and marketing channels. Furthermore, the aim should be to base such production on the new technology that is on the threshold of a probable breakthrough.

Minister for Public Health and Social Services Morgan Johansson says:

-We now have a solid report setting out the conditions for negotiations and a recommendation that the Government should continue its efforts to set up vaccine production in Sweden. In the Spring Budget Bill, the Government will provide the means necessary to proceed quickly. It is the Government's ambition that we in Sweden will have supplies of vaccine that will cover the needs of the whole population in the event of a pandemic.

CONTACT

Stefan Sjöquist

Key word: 61285 Health care, health, social issues/insurance Morgan Johansson

PRESS RELEASE

2006-01-18

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Press briefing: UN Special Rapporteur comments on right to health in Sweden

TIME AND PLACE

Time: Wednesday the 18th of January, 11.00 a.m.

Place: The Press Centre, Rosenbad, Stockholm

Paul Hunt, Special Rapporteur, is visiting Sweden to report on the right to health, focusing particularly on marginalised groups. During his visit, the Special Rapporteur has met with Government officials and with civil society representatives, including non-governmental organisations, members of the media and academics. Mr. Hunt is hosting a press briefing today, on the 18th of January.

Please bring your press credentials.

CONTACT

Dragana Korljan

Office of the High Commission for Human Rights

+41 229 179 721

Maria Helling

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

+46 8 405 40 18
+46 70 279 64 20

Key word: 56384 Health care, health, social issues/insurance

PRESS RELEASE

2005-08-29

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

International Forum on equal access to health care

Health Ministers of Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom met in Stockholm on 28-29 August 2005 to continue discussions initiated in Aachen in August 2004 and Toledo in March 2005. Their discussion focused on how to improve health care for the benefit of patients and particularly what role European cooperation shall play in improving quality, accessibility, safety, innovation, efficiency et cetera. Ministers also discussed how to ensure that future developments are driven by the fundamental values of equity, universality and solidarity. In essence, that everyone should be guaranteed all the health care they need, regardless of ability to pay.

- European health systems, even though they have organisational differences, share some basic common values, namely equity, universality and solidarity. We need to find out concrete ways to put these principles into practice in the context of an enlarged European Union, reinforcing quality and sustainability, and setting the patients in the core of our political discussions and initiatives, said Elena Salgado.

- Health care is no ordinary commodity and should not be governed by free market principles. I therefore assume that health care will be excluded from the draft Services Directive. I however, wish to continue to discuss if there is a need some kind of patient mobility directive to ensure the safety for patients who receives care abroad, continued Ylva Johansson.

- We welcome the freedom of movement in Europe and want to increase patient mobility. This requires a clear framework, which we provide sovereignly at the national level. The services directive is not the appropriate place for this, elaborated Ulla Schmidt.

- When thinking about health, market is not an end in itself. Some market mechanisms can however be used in the health care sector under strong regulation, as instruments to improve effectiveness, efficiency as well as equity in health and to ensure the political and social objectives that inspire a renovated European Social Model, continued António Correia de Campos.

- Health care is an integral part of the greater discussion on the European Social Model. Further investment in our systems is needed to promote medical science and to face the challenges of an aging population. If properly oriented, health expenditure is not expenditure but an investment in human capital, said Stefaan Thijs.

- These have been useful and interesting discussions relevant to our shared objectives of reconnecting Europe with the citizen, in the context of Europe's shared values and principles, concluded Rosie Winterton.

The five invited Member States were represented by Ms. Ulla Schmidt, Minister for Health and Social Security (Germany); Mr. António Correia de Campos, Minister of Health (Portugal); Ms. Elena Salgado, Minister for Health and Consumer Affairs (Spain); Ms. Rosie Winterton, Minister of State (UK) and Mr. Stefaan Thijs, Political Advisor to Mr. Rudy DeMotte (Belgium).

CONTACT

Ingemar Olsson
Press Secretary to Ylva Johansson
Office 08-405 33 72
Mobile 070-302 08 22
Fax 08-781 04 82

Key word: 48715 Health care, health, social issues/insurance Ylva Johansson

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-01

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Smoking ban in restaurants on 1 June

On Wednesday 1 June, smoking is banned in pubs and restaurants. Sweden is thus one of the first countries to introduce smoke-free cafés and restaurants. Ireland and several states in the US have previously taken the lead.

The reason for the decision on smoke-free cafés and restaurants is that some 6 500 people die each year due to smoking, while an additional 500 people die from passive smoking. The Government Bill on banning smoking in restaurants was adopted by the Riksdag a year ago, with a large majority. Only the Moderate Party was opposed.

It is primarily restaurant employees who are exposed to second hand smoke in Sweden.

- Smoking has been a major problem in the working environment. The risk of developing cancer is two to three times greater among people working in pubs and restaurants than among the rest of the population, states Morgan Johansson, Minister for Public Health and Social Services.

A study recently showed that over 80 per cent of the Swedish people support the decision. Two out of three smokers support the introduction of smoke-free cafés and restaurants.

- I am very pleased that popular support is so extensive. It shows that the prospects for implementation are quite promising, Mr Johansson adds.

The Government's proposal is based on the health of employees, increased access to public entertainment for people suffering from allergies and asthma, and on young people having access to smoke-free premises, such as cafés. Restaurateurs who wish to set up a smoking room may do so. However, out of consideration to the staff, no service, eating or drinking is allowed in the smoking room.

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CONTACT

Kicki Mäler

Ulrika Lindblom

Desk Officer

+46 8 405 33 06