

December 2006

Press releases 2002–2006

This document contains the collected Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications 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 37 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.

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Key word: 66638 Communications, IT

PRESS RELEASE

2006-03-22

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Communication on strategic export controls presented to

the Riksdag

The Government today presented the communication "Strategic export controls in 2005 - military equipment and dual-use items" to the Riksdag. The communication contains an account of Swedish military equipment exports during the year.

It is the Government's ambition to continuously increase and improve transparency in the annual communication. This year's communication includes an extended account of dual-use items and exports of nuclear material.

The value of actual Swedish military equipment exports in 2005 rose by 18 per cent compared with the previous year, from SEK 7.2 billion to SEK 8.6 billion. This year's increase is largely due to increased sales to other EU countries.

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Key word: 60575 Defence, emergency management and safety Industry, trade, regional development Ulrica Messing

PRESS RELEASE

2006-02-27

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Thomas Östros meets Ukraine's Industrial Policy Minister

Ukraine's Minister of Industrial Policy Volodymyr Shandra is visiting Stockholm on 26-28 February at the invitation of Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

During the visit, Mr Östros and Mr Shandra will discuss state ownership, innovation issues and the bilateral economic cooperation between Ukraine and Sweden. Mr Shandra will also visit Vattenfall and take part in round-table talks with representatives of a number of Swedish companies.

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Key word: 58907 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2006-02-17

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Lars-Olof Lindgren visits Egypt

State Secretary Lars-Olof Lindgren is heading a business delegation to Egypt on 17-21 February. The aim is to promote trade and investment between the two countries.

Among those he will meet during his visit are Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Rachid Mohamed Rachid and Minister of Communications and Information Technology Dr Tarek Kamel. A meeting with Minister of Health and Population Dr Hatem El Gabali is also planned.

In addition, Mr Lindgren will meet representatives of both Egyptian and Swedish trade and industry.

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Key word: 58438 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2006-02-08

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thomas Östros receives Armenian Minister of Trade

On Wednesday 8 February, Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros will receive his Armenian colleague, Minister of Trade and Economic Development Karen Chshmarityan.

The meeting is in conjunction with a visit that Armenian president, Robert Kocharyan, will pay to Prime Minister Göran Persson.

During the Armenian delegation's visit, Mr Östros and Mr Chshmarityan will sign a bilateral investment protection agreement.

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Key word: 57775 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2006-02-02

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Thomas Östros to speak at WTO seminar

On 2 February Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros will speak at a seminar on the WTO and the Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December.

TIME AND PLACE

Thursday 2 February 16.00-17.30

Beskowsalen, ABF-huset
Sveavägen 41
Stockholm

The seminar is being held by ABF (Workers' Educational Association) and the Olof Palme International Center and is open to the public. The economist Stefan de Vylder and Bengt Nörby, Administrative Director, Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), will also take part in the seminar. The head of the Olof Palme International Center, Viola Furubjelke, will lead the discussion.

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Key word: 57375 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2006-01-30

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Thomas Östros to speak at the Palestine International Business Forum

On Tuesday 31 January at 09.00, Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros is to address the Palestine International Business Forum. This will take place at Berns Hotel in Stockholm.

The Palestine International Business Forum is a meeting place for Palestinian, Israeli and Swedish business representatives. It was set up on the initiative of the Swedish business sector and is supported by the Swedish Government. Its purpose is to contribute to economic growth and stability in the Middle East region. The Forum has some 30 members, all of which are companies in the private sector. Their task includes identifying and promoting investments among the parties.

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Key word: 57148 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2006-01-26

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

New trade office in Romania

The Government decided today to open a trade office in Bucharest. The office will be run by the Swedish Trade Council and will open in February this year.

"By opening a trade office we will strengthen opportunities to assist Swedish companies in the Romanian market. At the same time, we will enhance Sweden's profile abroad and improve the prospects for Swedish exports to Romania," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

Sweden's presence in strategically important markets is being expanded gradually. In 2005 completely new trade offices were opened in Kuala Lumpur and Athens. Another office will open soon in Buenos Aires. Swedish Trade Council representation has also been reinforced in Toronto, Milan and Sao Paulo. An office will also be set up in Bangalore in India. This reinforcement is part of the Government's initiative for increased internationalisation of Swedish companies.

The Swedish Trade Council, which cooperates closely with embassies and consulates-general, has about 50 offices in some 40 countries and just over 400 employees. The Swedish Trade Council is jointly owned by the state and the business sector and has a turnover of approximately SEK 450 million a year.

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Key word: 56901 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-12-09

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

SEK 1.5 million to virtual world exhibition

The Government has decided to allocate SEK 1.5 million to the first world exhibition ever held on the Internet.

The virtual world exhibition is the result of a Swedish initiative, and Sweden will also have a prominent role in the project organisation. The aim of the exhibition is to increase interest in the world exhibitions and to reach new strategic target groups and cooperation partners.

Swedish participation is being financed by funds from the export promotion budget controlled by Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros, and the information technology budget controlled by Minister for Communications and Regional Policy Ulrica Messing.

The project is owned and operated by the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) in Paris, which is also responsible for the existing world exhibitions. The next physical world exhibition will be held in Shanghai in 2010.

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PRESS RELEASE

2005-12-06

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thomas Östros to receive Iranian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

On Tuesday, 6 December, Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros will receive Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for Europe and America Said Jalili.

Mr Jalili is here for a meeting of the joint commission to discuss economic and industrial cooperation. The meeting of the joint commission is the sixth in a series and is taking place on 5-7 December. State Secretary Lars-Olof Lindgren is hosting the meeting and, together with Deputy Foreign Minister Jalili, will sign an investment protection agreement between Iran and Sweden.

During the meeting with Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros, the countries' trade exchange will be discussed, as will Iran's preparations ahead of its admission to the WTO.

Swedish exports to Iran have increased significantly in recent years and have turned a trade deficit to a surplus. The telecommunications and motor vehicle industries in particular have met with great success.

Imports from Iran consist almost exclusively of crude oil.

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PRESS RELEASE

2005-11-23

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to open trade office in Sao Paolo

Sweden is to establish a trade office in Sao Paolo. The Government took this decision today. The office will be managed by the Swedish Trade Council and will open at the beginning of January next year.

"There is great demand for consultancy services in the Brazilian market. By opening a trade office in Sao Paolo we will strengthen opportunities to assist Swedish companies, particularly small and medium-sized companies," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

The Swedish Trade Council, which cooperates closely with embassies and consulates-general, has about 50 offices in some 40 countries and just over 400 employees. The Swedish Trade Council, which is jointly owned by the state and the business sector, has a turnover of approximately SEK 450 million a year.

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Key word: 53775 Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-09-27

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Breakthrough for Swedish sustainable solutions in China

Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros and China's Minister of Construction Wang Guangtao signed an agreement on Tuesday on sustainable urban development - the "Sustainable City".

The ministers have agreed to send a group of Swedish experts to two or three cities in western China to conduct a sustainability review of planned infrastructure investments. The new agreement will bring an enlargement of cooperation already existing within the framework of the Sustainable Cities Programme.

Large-scale migration to Chinese cities and rapid economic development are leading to major environmental and social problems. These include water shortages, air, ground and water pollution, and greenhouse gases with global consequences.

"Here Sweden and Swedish companies are in a position to contribute their useful experience in the area of environmental issues and infrastructure. This opens up great opportunities for international exchange, consultancy services and environmental technology exports," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

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Key word: 50709 Sustainable development Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-09-23

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Industry and Trade Östros to visit China

Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros will visit Beijing on 25-29 September.

TIME AND PLACE

Textile factory visit: Wednesday 28 September 10.45-12.15. Departure from SAS Radisson Hotel 09.15. Pre-registration to Torbjörn Hållö, tel: +46 70 266 34 33.

Renmin University: Tuesday 27 September 09.30-10.30. Assembly outside University main entrance 09.15.

He will meet a number of representatives from line ministries and business from both China and Sweden to promote Swedish interests. Among those he will meet is Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, to discuss the development of environmental cooperation within the framework of the Sustainable City project.

During his visit Mr Östros will also hold talks with Bo Xilai, the Chinese Minister of Commerce, to discuss trade, investments, WTO issues and other topics.

While in China, Mr Östros will give particular attention to the issue of corporate social responsibility from the perspective of free trade. His itinerary includes a visit to textile factory Beijing Pengda Clothing Co. Ltd, one of fashion company H&M's largest suppliers.

Mr Östros is also invited to Renmin University, where he will deliver a speech on "Globalisation and welfare - Trade policy in the WTO Doha Round".

In addition, the Minister, in the presence of Crown Princess Victoria, will open the Swedish-Chinese exhibition in the Forbidden City, "China and Sweden: Treasured Memories".

The media are invited to cover the visit to the textile factory on Wednesday 28 September from 10.45-12.15. Departure will be from SAS Radisson Hotel at 09.15. Pre-registration should be made with Torbjörn Hållö, tel: +46 70 266 34 33.

Mr Östros will also be available for comments in connection with his speech at Renmin University, Tuesday 27 September from 09.30-10.30. Assembly outside the main entrance to the University at

09.15.

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Key word: 50539 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-09-16

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swedish security marketed in the USA

Marketing of Swedish security-related products and systems in the USA will be improved. At Thursday's cabinet meeting a decision was made to allocate SEK 400 000 to special promotion efforts.

"There is great potential to increase Swedish exports in this area," says Thomas Östros, Minister for Industry and Trade.

"Last year, the American government purchased security-related products and systems from private companies to a value of USD 8 billion. This can be compared to the USD 12 billion spent by the World Bank and the USD 4.5 billion spent by the UN on purchases."

According to the Swedish Trade Council, Sweden has cutting-edge skills in areas such as ID systems and biometrics, sensors and communications, personal protective equipment, public security networks and security connected with transport and logistics.

"There is every indication that the US will invest more on defences against bioterrorism, on border security and on secure IT networks in the future. Swedish companies have excellent prospects to succeed in this market," states Mr Östros.

The marketing project is being carried out in cooperation between the Embassy in Washington, the Swedish Trade Council and the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce. Swedish companies, government agencies and organisations are also taking part, as are local cooperation partners.

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Key word: 49999 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-09-16

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

New trade offices in Italy and Canada

Sweden is to open trade offices in Milan and Toronto. This was decided by the Government today. The offices will be run by the Swedish Trade Council and will be opened this autumn to strengthen Sweden's presence in these countries.

"Both Italy and Canada are already among Sweden's fifteen largest export markets," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros. "There is potential here to further increase our trade. This leads to growth and more employment in Sweden.

"Opening trade offices enhances opportunities to assist Swedish companies, not least small and medium-sized companies in these markets," says Thomas Östros.

The Government has appointed Marie Rosenkrantz to be Trade Commissioner in Italy, moving from her latest position at the Swedish Embassy in Rome. Åke Ryhagen, who has served most recently as head of the cooperation groups at the Swedish Trade Council, has been appointed Trade Commissioner in Canada.

The Swedish Trade Council, which cooperates closely with embassies and consulates-general, is currently represented in about 40 countries and has some 400 employees.

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Key word: 49963 Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-07-29

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

WTO eliminates trade barriers to Swedish vehicle exports to Taiwan and India

Sweden and the Swedish vehicle industry have enjoyed success in two cases

concerning technical barriers to trade brought before the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Taiwan recently declared that, contrary to previous announcements, it would not be introducing special national regulations on the height of buses. The changes would have caused substantial problems for exports of buses by Swedish companies such as Volvo and Scania and were therefore brought before the WTO as technical barriers to trade.

A lack of capacity at the Indian authority responsible for testing lorry engines and parts has also been raised as a barrier to trade. This lack of capacity has previously forced Volvo to have its tests done by competing companies in India, which has been unjustifiably costly and time-consuming. However, after two years of discussions and pressure in the WTO, India has now chosen to expand capacity at its domestic testing authority.

"These are two good examples of how problems involving technical barriers to trade can be resolved in the WTO", says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros. "They also illustrate how Sweden's membership of the EU lends force to our actions in the WTO."

"It has been important to find an acceptable solution to these problems in which Sweden has clear interests," he adds.

However, certain regulations in India still constitute technical barriers to trade for the Swedish vehicle industry. These problems could be resolved if India acceded to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) international agreement concerning motor vehicles.

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Key word: 47979 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-07-28

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Personal export advisers for every county

The Government decided today to increase the number of personal export advisers available through the Swedish Trade Council so that in future there will be export advisers for every county.

The extended remit of the Swedish Trade Council, which involves an investment of SEK 4.5 million, means it will be possible to increase the number of export advisers from 15 to 21.

In 2004 there were six export advisers. There was an increase to nine at the beginning of 2005, and on 22 June 2005 the Government instructed the Swedish Trade Council to increase the number by a further six, to 15 export advisers.

By now increasing the number of regional advisers to 21, it is estimated that approximately 1 500 companies annually will be able to obtain advice and help in preparing to enter new markets and expand internationally.

"Many small Swedish companies have export potential. It is important that the Swedish Trade Council is able to assist with special advisory services to make it easier for them to get out into the international market. It must be possible to obtain this support everywhere in the country," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

"With the right support, more companies can gain access to the international market more rapidly. In this way we help Swedish companies to expand internationally, while also promoting growth and employment in Sweden."

The Swedish Trade Council has offered personal export advisory services to companies with fewer than 50 employees since 2002. These advisers work in close cooperation with regional and local business organisations throughout the country.

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Key word: 47963 Foreign policy and international cooperation Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-07-01

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

New board members of the Swedish Export Credits Guarantee Board (EKN)

The Government decided yesterday Thursday on the board of EKN (Swedish Export Credits Guarantee Board) for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The following people were appointed to the board:

Chair Lennart Nilsson, Managing Director
First Deputy Chair Göran Johansson, General Secretary

Second Deputy Chair Lena Rooth, Director
Kristina Alsér, Managing Director
Wille Alstermark, Director
Karin Apelman, Finance Director
Ulla Holm, Director
Anna-Karin Jatko, Director
Ulf Stange, Director

EKN has the role of promoting Swedish exports by issuing guarantees. An EKN guarantee functions as insurance cover where the Swedish State takes certain risks, such as the risk of non-payment. EKN's customers are exporters and banks.

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Key word: 47238 Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-28

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden enters reservation against new tariff rules for developing countries

On 27 June the EU Council of Ministers adopted new rules for tariff preferences for developing countries in relation to the EU. Sweden entered a reservation against the decision.

"The idea of these new rules is to make things easier for developing countries. We do not think that they go far enough," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

Sweden considers that the system is still too restrictive and limits export opportunities for developing countries, partly through the introduction of safeguard clauses. This makes access to the EU market more difficult rather than enhancing it.

One new feature is the system of duty free access for certain goods from countries that fulfil international conventions in areas like human rights, environment and labour law. However, here too, there are complicated requirements that limit the use of these exemptions.

"This is a step in the right direction, but we would have liked to go further and open up the system even more," says Thomas Östros.

The new regulation enters into force on 1 January 2006. The system of duty free access based on international conventions has itself been in force since 1 July 2005.

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Key word: 47026 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-23

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government to fund export advisers

The Government took a decision on 22 June to increase the number of personal export advisers available through the Swedish Trade Council.

The extra SEK 5 million provided means there will be new export advisers in Kalmar, Linköping, Örebro, Borlänge and elsewhere.

By increasing the number of advisers from 9 to 15, it is expected that 1 000 companies can be helped each year. Previously these advisory services reached about 400 companies per year.

"We must make it easier for small Swedish companies to get out into the export market, and they often need special advice," says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

"With the right support, more companies can gain quicker access to the international market. This is a way for us to help Swedish companies gain international visibility, while also promoting growth and employment at home."

The Swedish Trade Council has offered personal export advisory services to companies with fewer than 50 employees since 2002. The advisers work in close cooperation with regional and local business organisations around the country. The Government plans to further increase the availability of export advice in the future.

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Key word: 46900 Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-22

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

New Director-General of Inspectorate of Strategic Products

The Government today appointed Ambassador Andreas Ekman as new Director-General and Head of the National Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP).

Andreas Ekman's most recent position was with the Department for Export Promotion and the Internal Market (EIM) at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, where he coordinated government export support to the defence industry.

Mr Ekman was born in 1945 and holds a degree in economics. He began working at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1970 and has been stationed in Kinshasa, London, Dar es Salaam, Tokyo, Washington and Los Angeles.

The ISP controls Sweden's exports of military equipment and dual-use products, i.e., products that can be used both for civilian and military purposes. It is also the national agency of the UN Chemical Weapons Convention.

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Key word: 46882 Industry, trade, regional development Defence, emergency management and safety Foreign policy and international cooperation Ulrica Messing

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-14

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Invitation to a press conference on the future of the Swedish aerospace industry

Sven-Eric Söder, state secretary to Minister of Trade and Industry Thomas Östros will hold a press conference at the world's largest aerospace event, Paris Air Show, on June 14. The topic is the Swedish aerospace industry and a strategy for its future.

"Aerospace is a growth industry that is highly important for Swedish innovation. The strategy developed jointly by the state and industry emphasises international cooperation. It is therefore important to use this event to describe Swedish know-how and our ambitions," explains Sven-Eric Söder.

Fred Bodin (CEO, Volvo Aero Corporation), Claes-Göran Borg (CEO, Swedish Space Corporation), Johan Norén (Ericsson Microwave Systems) and Jan Nygren (executive VP, Saab) will also take part at the press conference.

The press conference will be held in Saab's chalet A358-360 at 11.00 on June 14. Saab currently holds the presidency of the Association of Swedish Aerospace Industries, SAI, which is co-organising the press conference together with the Ministry. There will also be opportunities to conduct separate interviews after the event.

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Key word: 46409 Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-10

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thomas Östros to visit Turkey

Together with Crown Princess Victoria, Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros will visit Ankara and Istanbul on 13-15 June.

The purpose of the visit is to promote Swedish business, to conduct a political dialogue on the EU process and to deepen relations between Sweden and Turkey.

On Monday 13 June, Mr Östros will address the Swedish Business Day seminar, where he will also meet Swedish companies operating in the area. On Tuesday he will take part in the presentation of the human rights scholarship which has been created in memory of Anna Lindh.

During his visit to Turkey, Mr Östros will meet Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Minister of State for the Economy Ali Babacan, who was recently appointed as chief negotiator for Turkey's EU entry negotiations.

Turkey is an interesting and expanding market for Swedish companies. Some 70 Swedish companies are represented in Turkey today. In addition, 400 Swedish companies have agencies in the country.

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Key word: 46159 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-09

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Simplified rules for providing temporary services in the EU

This week, the EU Competitiveness Council adopted a Directive on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, such as degree certificates or professional licences.

The new Directive replaces 15 different directives and makes it easier for both employed and self-employed persons to practise their professions in another member country.

"This is another step towards achieving a functioning internal market in which the free movement of workers plays an integral part," says Thomas Östros, Minister for Industry and Trade.

A new feature is that simplified rules have been introduced with regard to providing services on a temporary basis in another member country. It will be sufficient for a professional to be established in one member country to be approved in another.

Some member countries have very specific requirements for particular professions, such as membership in special professional associations. With regard to providers of temporary services, such rules will only be in effect if the profession has an impact on health or security. However, the same disciplinary measures that apply to the professional group in the recipient country will also apply to providers of temporary services.

A special government agency in each member country will be responsible for ensuring that the new rules are followed and that citizens receive necessary information.

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Key word: 46152 Employment and gender equality EU Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-09

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thomas Östros to host Swedish-Russian meeting in Uppsala

Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros will be hosting a Swedish-Russian cooperation meeting in Uppsala on 10 June. Russian Health Minister Mikhail Zurabov will also be attending.

TIME AND PLACE

Thomas Östros will be available for questions on Friday 10 June between 14.15 and 14.45 at Värmlands Nation, Nedre Slottsgatan 2, Uppsala.

The meeting is a steering committee meeting at which the two ministers will function as the Swedish and Russian chair respectively.

Thomas Östros and Mikhail Zurabov will be discussing, in addition to the trade and economic situation, border crossing cooperation, conditions for economic growth, development cooperation and Swedish investments in Russia.

Sweden and Russia began meeting in the Steering Committee on a yearly basis eleven years ago. This year the meeting format has been extended and expert groups have been created to further deepen cooperation in four areas: IT and telecommunications, tourism, sky and space issues, and banking, finance and investments.

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Key word: 46145 Industry, trade, regional development Foreign policy and international cooperation Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-02

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thomas Östros speaks at Business Forum in Kiev

"The Orange Revolution has raised expectations and hopes in the Swedish business community. There are already close to 60 Swedish companies operating in Ukraine and the interest in this market just keeps growing."

This was what Thomas Östros said on Thursday when he took part in a business seminar along with the First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, Anatoliy Kyrylovyeh Kinakh.

Thomas Östros is on a two-day visit to Kiev to promote Swedish business in Ukraine, as well as to express his support for ongoing political and economic reforms.

Trade between Ukraine and Sweden increased sharply last year, with a jump of 55 per cent in Swedish exports to Ukraine and a 42 per cent rise in imports.

"The main reason for the growing interest is of course the new political situation. And even if it's impossible to solve all the problems overnight, what we've seen so far is extremely positive," says Mr Östros.

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Key word: 45763 Foreign policy and international cooperation Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-01

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Initiative for promoting more Swedish companies in World

Bank procurement

The Swedish Trade Council has been commissioned by the Government to actively follow up World Bank procurement in new EU Member States and neighbouring countries.

This procurement includes installations and system solutions in fields where Sweden has cutting-edge skills: energy, environment, IT, healthcare and transport.

"Competition for procurement by multilateral institutions is cutthroat. This is why it is important to get involved in the project cycle at an early stage," says Thomas Östros, Minister for Industry and Trade.

"Swedish companies can be better when it comes to this type of international procurement. We are currently conducting an information campaign on UN procurement, but the World Bank is also a major financier of interest in this context."

The project is part of Government efforts to promote export of Swedish cutting-edge skills and special initiatives in strategically important markets.

The reason for undertaking these initiatives is that the new EU countries and their neighbours face extensive investments in areas such as infrastructure and environmental improvement. In February of this year the Government decided to allocate SEK 20 million for a special initiative targeting project exports.

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PRESS RELEASE

2005-05-20

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thomas Östros to visit Norway

TIME AND PLACE

Thomas Östros and Børge Brende will hold a joint press conference on Monday 23 May at 11.45 at Voksenåsen.

Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros is visiting Oslo on 23 May to take part in a seminar on Swedish-Norwegian business cooperation.

In connection with the conference he will meet his Norwegian colleague Minister for Industry and Trade Børge Brende.

Programme points:

10.05 Thomas Östros to speak at the business conference
11.45 Press conference at Voksenåsen, Ullveien 4 in Oslo

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Key word: 44907 Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2005-05-03

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
The 2004 Forestry Inquiry

The Swedish Forest Administration to merge into one government agency and marking of standing timber to be discontinued

The Swedish Forest Administration (SVO) will merge into a single government agency, regional forestry boards will be abolished and SVO contract services will be separated from official responsibilities. At the same time, the SVO will discontinue marking standing timber on behalf of forest owners. These proposals were made by the chair of the Government's inquiry, County Governor Maggi Mikaelsson, in an interim report that was presented to Minister for Communications and Regional Policy Ulrica Messing at 15.00 today.

At present, the SVO consists of the head agency, the National Board of Forestry, and 10 regional forestry boards, each one an independent agency in a legal sense. Inquiry chair Ms Mikaelsson now proposes that the National Board of Forestry and the regional forestry boards merge into a single government agency. The board of directors of the regional forestry boards will be replaced by broad-based regional councils and increased cooperation with county administrative boards will be an important task.

"It is important to safeguard the confidence and the regional support that the Swedish Forest Administration has. But greater uniformity is needed and my proposal makes possible a more cost-effective organisation," comments Ms Mikaelsson.

Ms Mikaelsson also proposes that SVO contract services that are financed by fees be organisationally separated from publicly financed official responsibilities and that the much

discussed marking of standing timber be discontinued.

A proposal from the Forestry Inquiry is that forestry measures be given a more prominent position in the coming national programme for rural development to enable funding from the EU for activities of this kind.

"I think that Sweden should make use of the opportunity to receive support for certain forestry measures", states Ms Mikaelsson. "These include training, small-scale additional processing and certain staff-intensive management practices. Measures of this kind must naturally have an environmental focus."

Key word: 45387 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries

PRESS RELEASE

2005-05-03

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Thomas Östros to attend OECD ministerial meeting

Thomas Östros, Minister for Industry and Trade, will participate in the OECD annual ministerial meeting on 3-4 May. Sweden will chair the meeting this year.

During the ministerial meeting, Mr Östros will participate in discussions on reforms in the OECD. In addition, he will participate in the meeting of trade ministers which this year will give particular attention to the ongoing WTO negotiations known as the Doha Round.

Besides the official ministerial meeting, Mr Östros will participate in the parallel Forum, where NGOs, business, trade union organisations and others will take part. He will take part in two panel debates; one on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and one on the importance of success in the Doha round. Mr Östros is the official rapporteur from the Forum to the ministerial meeting.

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Key word: 43736 Foreign policy and international cooperation Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2004-12-09

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Minister for Industry and Trade and Minister for the Environment take initiative for simplified global vehicle rules

Today Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros and Minister for the Environment Lena Sommestad are to send a letter to the EU Commissioner, Günter Verheugen, in which they urge him to take an initiative as soon as possible to introduce common rules for emissions from heavy vehicles in the EU and the USA. It is hoped that identical legislation can be achieved in these countries by 2012 at the latest.

At present, the USA and Europe employ different methods for testing heavy vehicle motors, which means that the technical requirements differ. The result is that vehicle manufacturers are obliged to conduct repeated tests and certifications so as to comply with the requirements of the importing country.

This often becomes a time-consuming aspect of companies development work, which could be avoided through common rules and testing methods.

In their letter to Verheugen, Thomas Östros and Lena Sommestad state that there are great advantages in enabling the European and US vehicle industries to compete on the same terms. The ministers point, for example, to the fact that harmonisation would free resources for vehicle manufacturers, which could then be used for more constructive and innovative ideas.

To realise these important aims, forceful political action is needed at a high level, write Östros and Sommestad in their letter, urging the Commission to take action to realise the full potential of the European and US vehicle industries.

The Swedish ministers also point to the advantage of the USA and Europe helping to develop global technical rules in the area, work that is being undertaken within the framework of the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

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Key word: 35251 Environment, energy and housing Industry, trade, regional development Thomas Östros

PRESS RELEASE

2004-11-03

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Thomas Östros and Leif Pagrotsky comment agreement on initiatives in the Västra Götaland region

The Government, the Left Party and the Green Party have agreed on initiatives for infrastructure, research and education to strengthen Trollhättan and West Sweden as a production location for the vehicle industry. The proposals have been prepared in close consultation with Västra Götaland Region, the municipalities in the four cities region, employee organisations and companies affected in the region.

In addition to the SEK 8 billion previously decided for road and rail investments in the region, a further SEK 2 billion is being committed in the next few years for better roads and railways, for research and development projects in vehicle research and for improved labour market training of future carbuilders.

These initiatives will further strengthen the competitiveness of Trollhättan and West Sweden, which is positive for the whole of Sweden. Today Sweden is a leading nation in vehicle production. Now we are moving ahead together with business by taking joint initiatives in research and development, says Minister for Industry and Trade Thomas Östros.

We have been working intensively for a long period to vigorously reinforce conditions for the vehicle industry in West Sweden and Trollhättan. Around 150 000 people work in the vehicle industry and its suppliers. This is therefore of very great importance for Sweden, says Minister for Education and Science Leif Pagrotsky.

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Key word: 32931 Industry, trade, regional development Leif Pagrotsky

PRESS RELEASE

2004-08-13

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Brazils Minister of Development, Industry and Trade Furlan to visit Sweden

Brazils Minister of Development, Industry and Trade, Luiz Fernando Furlan, is to visit Stockholm on 17-18 August at the invitation of Minister for Industry and Trade Leif Pagrotsky.

TIME AND PLACE

Minister for Industry and Trade Pagrotsky and Minister of Development, Industry and Trade Furlan will meet the media

on Wednesday, 18 August at 18.30

Ministry for Foreign Affairs Press Centre, Fredsgatan 6.

Welcome!

The aim of the visit is to discuss the possibilities of extending and developing relations between the two countries, primarily in industry and trade.

Brazil is Swedens most important trade partner in South America. A large number of Swedish companies are represented on the Brazilian market. Among companies that have recently been established in Brazil are Smart Trust, BANQIT and Thule. Stora Enso is currently in the process of making large investments in Brazil.

In addition to discussions with the Minister for Industry and Trade, Furlan will also be holding talks with Gunnar Lund, Minister for International Economic Affairs and Financial Markets, and with representatives of Swedish companies, agencies and organisations.

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Key word: 28226 Foreign policy and international cooperation Leif Pagrotsky

PRESS RELEASE

2004-06-22

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Leif Pagrotsky to attend Global Compact meeting in New York

On Thursday 24 June, Minister for Industry and Trade Leif Pagrotsky will take part in a high-level meeting of the Global Compact at UN Headquarters in New York. The meeting will bring together 400 business leaders and politicians from around the world, under the leadership of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

TIME AND PLACE

A press conference is scheduled for 10.45 at UN Headquarters. Leif Pagrotsky will be among the participants, along with Kofi Annan, President Lula of Brazil, and others.

The Global Compact was launched by Kofi Annan five years ago to promote social and environmental responsibility on the part of companies engaging in international operations. In practical terms, the aim is to encourage companies in the private sector to incorporate nine ethical principles in their policy plans and to cooperate with the UN and with public and civil society actors. The purpose is to make it possible for more people to benefit from globalisation.

The most important point on the agenda for Thursdays meeting is the adoption of a tenth principle for the work of the Global Compact encouraging companies to combat all forms of corruption.

16 of the more than 1500 companies that have joined the Global Compact are Swedish. Apart from Minister for Industry and Trade Leif Pagrotsky, other Swedish participants at the meeting will be representatives from Folksam, ICA, Banco Fonder, Volvo Personvagnar, Ericsson and Skanska.

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Key word: 26448 Foreign policy and international cooperation Industry, trade, regional development Leif Pagrotsky

PRESS RELEASE

2004-05-19

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Communications Ulrica Messing to lead trade delegation to Angola, 1-3 June 2004

A Swedish trade delegation focusing on infrastructure led by Minister Ulrica Messing is scheduled to visit Angola on 1-3 June 2004. Included in the delegation of over 30 persons are representatives from Ericsson, ABB, Volvo and Scania, the Swedish Export Credits Guarantee Board, banks and consulting companies.

The aim of the trade delegation visit is to intensify trade between Angola and Sweden and create favourable conditions for new contacts for Swedish companies. Ulrica Messing will also be holding talks with several representatives of the Angolan government in connection with her visit.

Growing Angolan-Swedish cooperation in sectors like infrastructure is taking place because we are now seeing reconstruction and peaceful development in Angola after years of conflict, says Ulrica Messing.

In connection with the visit of the delegation, the Swedish Embassy in Luanda, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Trade Council are holding a wide range of activities to promote Swedish business and spread knowledge about trade with Sweden. A trade delegation from the telecommunications and energy sector visited Angola in January earlier this year.

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Key word: 23645 Foreign policy and international cooperation Ulrica Messing

PRESS RELEASE

2002-04-15

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Individual learning and skills development

- Tax deductible savings (a maximum of approximately SEK 9 500 per year) for individual learning and skills development is to be introduced from 2003
- On withdrawal from this learning account, a special learning and skills development premium will be given
- The learning and skills development premium is augmented by a fixed sum of SEK 1 000 for everyone
- Employers may pay deposits into the employee's individual learning account.

The Government decided today to present a so-called guideline bill on individual learning and skills development to the Riksdag. Due to the Council on Legislation's statement criticising the method of dividing the same legislative reform into two separate areas, the Government aims to present a supplementary bill during the autumn of 2002, in which the system will be developed in more detail and proposals for legislation presented. The system is planned to enter into force on 1 July 2003. The Government wishes to emphasise that the new organisation will not affect the timetable for introduction of this system.

"In the information society in which we are living today, it is becoming increasingly clear that learning and skills are perishables. This is why a system providing individual learning and skills development is an extremely important reform. It will be crucial for Sweden's chance to hold its own in international competition and to secure and develop prosperity and welfare. It will give individuals the opportunity to choose themselves, on the basis of their dreams and abilities, how they want to upgrade and improve their learning and skills", says Minister Mona Sahlin.

The principal elements of the bill are:

- The chance to build up a learning account should be sufficiently tempting to attract broad sections of the population. Even for people with medium- to high incomes, these accounts should provide a chance for sufficiently comprehensive learning and skills development.
- Learning accounts shall be built up in a system that allows individual savings to be accessible, that enables them to be administered in a manner compatible with Sweden's membership of the EU and guaranteeing Swedish tax demands.
- The system will be constructed so that even individuals with limited scope for saving will find it attractive to take part. The proposal as a whole should have a satisfactory outcome in terms of distribution policy.
- It should be possible to use withdrawals from the individual learning account to pay for learning of all kinds. A regulatory framework will be drawn up in order to prevent risk of abuse.
- The employer will be given the option to strengthen the system by paying in deposits to individual learning accounts. However, employers continue to have undivided responsibility for in-service training connected with their own operations.

The main components of the proposal

The individual will be given the opportunity to set aside a maximum of 25% of a base amount (approximately SEK 9 500) per year, including a tax reduction, to an individual learning account. The income on the balance of the individual learning account will be liable to full capital income tax (30%).

To enable the rapid introduction of the system, savings will initially be made in accounts administered by a government agency. Later, the possibility of saving with different financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies will be considered. By special order an inquiry will be carried out into the agency most suited to administer these accounts. The continuing process will also include a more detailed examination of the various Community law aspects that may emerge.

Funds withdrawn for learning and skills development will be liable to income tax. However, special stimulation will be given to withdrawal via a skills and learning premium. This will take the form of a tax deduction. The skills and learning premium consists of the following elements:

- The maximum premium will amount to 25% of a base amount (approximately SEK 9 500).
- The full premium is paid on one-year's full-time study (=200 study days) When a lower number of study days is used, the maximum premium is proportionally reduced. However, no premium is paid

for learning and skills development that takes less than five days.

- The actual premium may not exceed 50 per cent of a withdrawal from an individual learning account.

- The skills and learning premium is strengthened with a fixed amount # a basic sum # of SEK 1 000 applying irrespective of the number of study days.

- The premium will take the form of a tax deduction. The possibility for special tax adjustment will be investigated so that this stimulation will benefit the individual during the course.

- Special rules will ensure that abuse does not occur.

Individuals saving in a learning account will later be able to withdraw savings without having undergone learning and skills development. In this case, withdrawn funds will be liable to full income tax

Employers depositing funds in an employee's learning account receive a tax deduction corresponding to a reduction of the employer contribution by 10 percentage points. An equivalent reduction will be given to individual business operators and partners in trading partnerships.

Financing

Stimulation to individual learning and skills development will be financed within the framework given in the 2000 Budget Bill. The framework amounts to SEK 1.15 billion per year and will be financed by increased energy tax revenue. The funds on the account at the National Debt Office in anticipation of the new reform will be used to cover the deficit during the years in which the system will be built up (at the close of 2002, this account amounts to SEK 3.65 billion, including deposits for 2002). In the longer term, the system will be in financial balance.

Entry into force, etc.

The system is intended to enter into force on 1 July 2003 (2004 taxation applies to income tax issues) as regards the possibility of savings with tax deductions, learning and skills development premiums, etc. The account system will have been completed around 1 July 2003 after decision by the Riksdag in the autumn of 2002.

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-02-13

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

Pressinvitation: Government initiatives for young women in families with patriarchal and traditional values

Lack of freedom, coercion, threats and violence poison the everyday lives of many women and girls. Alongside basic structural reasons for men's violence against women, there is another dimension # when girls or young women live under threat or coercion and are completely alone, without support from their close families or relatives.

On Thursday, Ministers Mona Sahlin and Margareta Winberg will present the Government's initiatives for young women in families with patriarchal and traditional values.

Date and time: Thursday 14 February at 15.15.

Venue: Press Centre, Rosenbad, Rosenbad 4, Stockholm

During the autumn of 2001, the Government organised two seminars with representatives of agencies, women's shelters, ethnically-based organisations, other NGOs and experts. Discussions centred on how agencies and organisations can better cooperate in order to improve the situation for these girls and their families.

To concretise further work and enable efforts to be carried out at all levels # central governmental, regional and local government -- the Government has taken a number of measures which will be presented at the press conference on Thursday.

The press conference will be held in Swedish.

Please have your press credentials with you.

The press conference will also be webcast via the Internet: www.regeringen.se

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