

December 2006

Press releases 2002–2006

This document contains the collected Prime Minister's Office 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

PRESS RELEASE

2006-08-31

Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson's participation in Stockholm Conference on Lebanon's Early Recovery at Grand Hôtel

TIME AND PLACE

Thursday 31 August

12.10 (approx.) Joint press conference with Sweden's Prime Minister and Lebanon's Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, Press tent, Blasieholmstorg

On Thursday 31 August Sweden is hosting the international conference on Lebanon which will focus on the first steps towards reconstruction of the country. The conference is being held in cooperation with the Government of Lebanon and the UN.

Prime Minister Göran Persson's participation on Thursday 31 August:

Thursday 31 August

10.15 Bilateral discussions with Lebanon's Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, China Room, Grand Hôtel (photo pool)

11.05 The Prime Minister's opening address at the Stockholm Conference on Lebanon's Early Recovery

CONTACT

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Key word: 68561 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2006-08-15

Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson to address Baltic Sea conference in Visby on 17 August

Prime Minister Göran Persson is to visit Visby on 17 August to address the conference on local and regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea.

TIME AND PLACE

Press meeting

Time: Thursday 17 August, 16.00 (approx.)

Venue: Rackethallen, Botairlunden, Visby

Valid press credentials are required to participate in the press meeting. Journalists wishing to attend should notify Press Assistant Margareta Brandting.

The Swedish Government is hosting the conference, which will gather some 300 mayors, chairs of municipal executive boards and councils and national and regional representatives to discuss the common challenges facing the Baltic Sea region and cooperation to deal with them.

Göran Persson will speak during the session on "Strengthening cooperation between local, national and European actors." Also taking part in this session are Lithuania's Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas, Prime Minister of Finland and EU President Matti Vanhanen and Danuta Hübner, the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy.

Thursday 17 August

14.00-15.45 Participation in the conference

The conference, entitled "Prosperity and Sustainability - Local Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region", is intended to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of experience between local, national and regional actors on current Baltic Sea issues.

Minister for International Development Cooperation Carin Jämtin will chair the conference. The programme and further information can be obtained at the conference website.

CONTACT

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Key word: 67876 Environment, energy and housing EU Foreign policy and international cooperation Carin Jämtin

PRESS RELEASE

2006-07-17

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Göran Persson comments on the situation in the Middle East

"I am deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East and am dismayed over the escalating

violence and the human suffering we are witnessing in Lebanon, in Gaza and in northern Israel," says Prime Minister Göran Persson. "It is now crucial that all parties display self-control and restraint. The deadly circle of violence and retribution must be broken. The hostilities must cease.

"The threat to international security must be taken extremely seriously. The UN Security Council has a major responsibility in this regard. The EU and its Member States also have a special role to play in the developments.

"Further escalation can have serious and far-reaching repercussions, and risk making a peaceful solution in the Middle East impossible for the foreseeable future. Room must be made for the constructive forces in the region if a lasting peace is to be possible. The hostilities we are now witnessing only serve to weaken these forces. All parties must look beyond the current conflict if a long-lasting solution is to be achieved.

"My sincere concern goes out to all the people who are in the affected region. These include Swedish citizens and I understand the anxiety that family and friends are feeling for them. I am relieved to note that many Swedes have been able to leave the area and return home. Efforts continue with undiminished intensity to help the remaining Swedes out of the area as quickly and as safely as possible.

"I would also like to express my appreciation for all those here at home and on site in the region who are working extremely hard and often under difficult conditions to assist in this relief effort," says Mr Persson.

Key word: 67243 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

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

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

Key word: 66638 Communications, IT

PRESS RELEASE

2006-06-28

Prime Minister's Office

Commission on Oil Independence presents its report

The Commission on Oil Independence was appointed by the Government in December 2005. Its remit was to present a concrete strategy to break Sweden's dependence on oil by 2020 - so there will be alternatives should prices rise - and tangibly reduce our actual use of oil. In this way, Sweden will be in a better position to secure its long-term energy supply, reduce climate impact, develop new technology, improve competitiveness and make better use of energy resources from forestry and agriculture.

The Commission presented its report today. Commenting on the report, Prime Minister Göran Persson says:

"The report is an important first step towards Sweden becoming independent of oil. My assessment is that this can be difficult to achieve by 2020. Moreover, the rate of progress is affected by a number of factors that are outside the scope of national policy. The clear direction of the report is a good basis for positive development.

"The Commission's work has been characterised by its members' expertise in industry, agriculture and forestry, science and energy efficiency. All of them have been prepared to compromise. No one has reached their own optimal position on every issue. The result has been a consensus report. There is one single issue on which we have not agreed: whether Sweden should press to abolish Europe's protective tariffs on its own ethanol production. In every other respect, the Commission is in total agreement."

"I am now hoping for a broad discussion on the Commission's proposals so that

the report can contribute to increased knowledge and offensive action from industry and consumers as well as from the agricultural and forestry sectors. The report will form the basis of the further work - analyses, inquiries, and proposals - that is necessary to develop a policy that can consolidate and develop Sweden as a pioneer in the transition to sustainable development."

Commission Secretary-General Stefan Edman says:

"The Commission's report opens up many exciting opportunities for Sweden. We show that by taking measures at this stage, it is possible to counter a future oil shortage and rising oil prices in a way that also promotes development, growth and employment. The report also indicates a number of conflicting objectives. I am convinced, for example, that it is possible to find a balance between increased forestry production and ambitious goals for biological diversity and nature conservation."

Conclusions of the report

Overall objectives and measures

The Commission has worked to ensure that Sweden will be able achieve the following objectives by 2020:

- energy efficiency improvement in society as a whole by at least 20 per cent,
- 40-50 per cent less petrol and diesel in road transport,
- 25-40 per cent less oil in industry,
- no oil for the heating of residential and commercial buildings.

A special centre for energy efficiency is proposed. Its task will be to move issues forward, evaluate and submit annual reports to the Government and Riksdag on energy efficiency in homes, vehicles and industry.

Alternative fuels

The greatest consumption of oil products takes place on the roads. To break this dependence, a rapid increase in the use of alternative fuels is necessary.

Production of fuel from the Swedish forestry and agriculture sectors must increase. The Commission proposes the following measures.

- New plants. The Government should contribute to the initiation of a number of pilot and demoplants to start production of "second generation biofuels" such as synthetic gas fuels, forest-based ethanol and biogas from the bio-based raw materials that are most efficient from the point of view of acreage and energy.
- Increased forest take-off. Forest growth needs to be increased in the long term by 15-20 per cent through more efficient management in the form of clearing, thinning out, refined plant material, ditch clearing and fertilisation as well as through intensive cultivation of spruce and broad-leaf trees on a few per cent of the acreage.
- Energy crops. Arable land and disused, non-afforested farmland can be cultivated with energy crops and energy broad-leaf trees on a scale of 300 000-500 000 hectares.
- Demand for biovehicles. Promotion of vehicles running on alternative fuels

should continue through measures at national as well as local level. Public procurement can contribute to technological development. Government agencies should procure vehicles with new technology, thus accelerating the phasing out of fossil fuels and putting a premium on efficient vehicles.

More efficient transport

Potential fuel production is limited by the acreage of forest and arable land, as well as by the energy used in the production process. If availability of alternative fuels in the future is to meet the demand, fuel consumption of cars and lorries must be reduced.

- More efficient vehicles. By such means as hybrid cars, an increased proportion of diesel-run vehicles, renewal of the vehicle fleet and better materials, Swedish cars could become on average 25-50 per cent more efficient by 2020. The Commission would like to see greater incentives for fuel-efficient vehicles and reduced carbon dioxide emissions.
- Environmental classification. Fuel efficiency should be included as a factor in environmental classification of cars. The Commission recommends that consideration be given to the different size groups for cars. In this way, the necessary technological development can be pursued on a broad front in all the various car classes.
- Energy labelling. To make consumer choice easier, consideration should be given to introducing an energy-labelling system. Such systems currently exist in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.
- Planning. Traffic planning can be improved by the use of systems including ITS (intelligent transport systems) and GPS. Car-pooling should be encouraged.

The Commission also proposes a series of measures to improve efficiency and reduce goods transport on the roads, to strengthen the public transport system and railways and encourage the use of IT, for instance, to increase distance work.

Residential and commercial buildings

The use of oil for heating has decreased rapidly in recent decades. To do away in practice with all the oil used for heating, an increase in biofuels and greater energy efficiency are essential.

- New construction. Incentives for new production of low-energy buildings should be created. The Commission recommends the introduction of stricter building regulations and new incentives to encourage building in an energy-efficient way.
- Rebuilding and modernisation. Energy efficiency programmes are proposed to provide increased knowledge and greater motivation to modernise existing residential and commercial buildings - not least in the "million homes programme" - for improved energy efficiency. A reduction in direct electric heating should be speeded up. The Government should lead the way in efforts to improve efficiency.

- Thermal power technology. District heating has a central role in the phasing out of oil. Existing and future power stations should be supplemented by thermal power technology so they are able to produce electricity as well as heat.

Industry

The Commission has set the ambition that half the heating oil used in industry must be replaced by biofuels by 2020 and that oil for industrial processes must be replaced whenever possible by biofuels or energy gases.

- Policy instruments. Incentives may be needed if the oil used for heating or steam is to be replaced by biofuels or district heating.
- Efficiency improvement. Greater cooperation between institutes of technology and primary industries could promote improvements in energy efficiency. Major benefits could also be gained by mapping energy use and efficiency improvement programmes drawn up jointly by company management and employees.
- Knowledge. Small and medium-sized enterprises should be provided with supplementary support through energy offices and energy consultants.

Research

The Commission also indicates a series of research and development projects that could be decisive in the long term for further reducing our oil use. This includes projects on solar cells, fuel cells, hybrid vehicles, wave energy and improvements in energy systems in residential buildings and industry.

Background to the Commission on Oil Independence

Prime Minister Göran Persson chaired the Commission, which comprised:

Professor Christian Azar, Chalmers University of Technology

Lars Andersson, Chair, Government bioenergy inquiry

Lotta Bångens, Chair, Sweden's Energy Advisers

Birgitta Johansson-Hedberg, CEO, Swedish Farmers' Supply and Crop Marketing Association

Leif Johansson, CEO, AB Volvo

Göran Johnsson, former Chair, Swedish Metal Workers' Union

Christer Segersteen, Chair, Federation of Swedish Forest Owners

Lisa Sennerby-Forsse, Secretary-General, Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, newly-appointed Rector, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

The Commission Staff comprised Stefan Edman, biologist and writer, and Anders Nylander, architect and energy expert. They worked openly, and throughout the spring they held a large number of meetings with the actors concerned, the media and other interested parties. Four public hearings were arranged and attracted considerable interest in Sweden and around the world:

- 13 December 2005: Will oil run out - and if so, when?
- 20 January 2006: Sweden's green gold - what potential do forestry and

agriculture offer for bioenergy, now and in the future?

· 17 February 2006: How can we reduce dependence on petrol and other fossil fuels in the transport sector?

· 22 March 2006: How can we reduce dependence on oil and other fossil fuels for heating and power production?

The Commission's report is published on the Government website at www.regeringen.se

The Commission on Oil Independence was appointed by the Government in December 2005. Its remit was to present a concrete strategy to break Sweden's dependence on oil by 2020 - so there will be alternatives should prices rise - and tangibly reduce our actual use of oil. In this way, Sweden will be in a better position to secure its long-term energy supply, reduce climate impact, develop new technology, improve competitiveness and make better use of energy resources from forestry and agriculture.

The Commission presented its report today. Commenting on the report, Prime Minister Göran Persson says:

"The report is an important first step towards Sweden becoming independent of oil. My assessment is that this can be difficult to achieve by 2020. Moreover, the rate of progress is affected by a number of factors that are outside the scope of national policy. The clear direction of the report is a good basis for positive development.

"The Commission's work has been characterised by its members' expertise in industry, agriculture and forestry, science and energy efficiency. All of them have been prepared to compromise. No one has reached their own optimal position on every issue. The result has been a consensus report. There is one single issue on which we have not agreed: whether Sweden should press to abolish Europe's protective tariffs on its own ethanol production. In every other respect, the Commission is in total agreement."

"I am now hoping for a broad discussion on the Commission's proposals so that the report can contribute to increased knowledge and offensive action from industry and consumers as well as from the agricultural and forestry sectors. The report will form the basis of the further work - analyses, inquiries, and proposals - that is necessary to develop a policy that can consolidate and develop Sweden as a pioneer in the transition to sustainable development."

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"The Commission's report opens up many exciting opportunities for Sweden. We show that by taking measures at this stage, it is possible to counter a future oil shortage and rising oil prices in a way that also promotes development, growth and employment. The report also indicates a number of conflicting objectives. I am convinced, for example, that it is possible to find a balance between increased forestry production and ambitious goals for biological diversity and nature conservation."

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PRESS RELEASE

2006-06-01

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Göran Persson comments on the Blix Commission report

Hans Blix, Chairman of the international Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, today presented the Commission's report "Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms" to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York.

"Disarmament and non-proliferation issues are extraordinarily important for global peace and security. Anna Lindh, who was Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time, manifested this awareness when she asked Hans Blix in 2003 to lead the international Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission," comments Prime Minister Göran Persson.

"Since the Commission was appointed, disarmament and non-proliferation issues have become even more urgent. The fact that the Blix Commission has been able to agree on a large number of concrete proposals therefore inspires hope," Mr Persson continues.

"The UN World Summit in September failed to agree on measures in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Consequently, renewed efforts are needed at international level to get disarmament and non-proliferation work moving. The Swedish Government is actively pushing this issue. The Blix report is a very important part of our continued efforts."

The report contains 60 recommendations to promote disarmament and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Half of these recommendations refer to nuclear weapons. The report is available on the Commission's website.

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Key word: 64933 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2005-04-25
Prime Minister's Office

Visit by OECD Secretary-General Johnston

On Wednesday 27 April Prime Minister Göran Persson will meet OECD Secretary-General Donald J Johnston who is visiting Stockholm to prepare the annual OECD ministerial meeting in Paris on 3-4 May. Sweden is chair country of the OECD this year and Göran Persson will lead the ministerial meeting, whose theme is "Enabling globalisation".

The press conference can also be followed on the Governments website:
www.sweden.gov.se

TIME AND PLACE

Wednesday 27 April
10.30 Joint press conference in Rosenbad, Bella Venezia
(The press conference will be held in English.)
Please bring your press credentials!

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The press conference can also be followed on the Governments website: www.sweden.gov.se

CONTACT

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Key word: 43374 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2005-01-06
Prime Minister's Office

Information on the ceremony at Stockholm City Hall

On Monday, 10 January at 11.00 the Government will hold a ceremony for specially invited guests at Stockholm City Hall for unity, reflection and fellowship, following the disaster in Asia.

It will be a ceremony filled with music and words. Among those taking part will be the Nacka Music School, Robyn Carlsson, Benny Anderssons Orchestra, Ale Möller with Shipra Nandi and Maria Stellas. Texts will also be read by actress Melinda Kinnaman, among others. Speeches will be held by King Carl XVI Gustaf, Prime Minister Göran Persson and Archbishop KG Hammar.

Close to 1,000 guests will be present in the Blue Hall. Taking part in the ceremony will be the Royal Family, the Government, representatives of the Riksdag, the political parties and the diplomatic corps. Members of youth organisations, the sports movement, NGOs and tour operators have also been invited. A special invitation has also been extended to Swedens local authorities so that the whole country will be represented and to enable victims and their relatives to participate.

A more detailed programme for the ceremony will be presented later.

The media are reminded that applications for accreditation must have been received by the Government Offices, by Friday 7 January, no later than 10.00.

Accreditations: johanna.wistedt@education.ministry.se.

See previous press releases for information on arrangements for the media to cover the ceremony.

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070-364 18 17

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Key word: 36528 Democracy and human rights

PRESS RELEASE

2005-01-05

Prime Minister's Office

Media arrangements: The ceremony in Stockholm City Hall - for reflection and fellowship

On Monday, 10 January at 11 a.m. the Swedish Government will host a ceremony at Stockholm City Hall - for unity, reflection and fellowship in the aftermath of the catastrophe in Asia.

Information for media:

There will be limited space for the media.

Special media accreditation is required.

Applications for accreditation must be sent to the Government Offices no later than Friday, 7 January at 10.00. Please send your application to Ms Johanna Wistedt at:
johanna.wistedt@education.ministry.se.

The application must contain the following information:

Name

Media company

Date of birth

Phone no.

E-mail address

Reporter/Photographer/Other

Confirmation of accreditation will be sent by e-mail on Friday, 7 January.

Photography will be limited pooling will be applied. Pool photographers must be accredited.

A Press Card is required and must be presented upon accreditation.

Swedish Television (SVT) will serve as the host broadcaster for the ceremony and will broadcast live along with Swedish TV 4 and Swedish Radio (SR). No other TV companies will be admitted to the Blue Hall at the City Hall. Contact Ms Kerstin Danielsson at Swedish Television (SVT) for information on TV coverage, tel: +46 70 884 7802.

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PRESS RELEASE

2005-01-05

Prime Minister's Office

Ceremony in Stockholm City Hall for reflection and fellowship

On Monday, daily life will begin again for many people in Sweden. Children, young people and adults go back to pre-school, school and work.

To gather together for a moment of reflection and fellowship, the Government is holding a ceremony in Stockholm City Hall on Monday 10 January at 11.00.

Among those attending the ceremony will be the royal family, the Government, representatives of the Riksdag and the political parties, and foreign representatives in Sweden.

The ceremony, which will last about 45 minutes, will include song, music and poems as well as speeches by King Carl XVI Gustaf, Prime Minister Göran Persson and others. The programme for the ceremony will be presented later.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on SVT, TV4 and Sveriges Radio, P1. It will allow people to come together for a moments reflection in municipalities, schools and workplaces around the country.

Information regarding practical details for media representatives will be made available in a separate press release.

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Key word: 36501 Democracy and human rights

PRESS RELEASE

2004-12-27

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Prime Minister's Office

Press meeting concerning the situation in Asia after the earthquake

TIME AND PLACE

Monday 27 December, 15.00

at Rosenbad Conference Centre, entrance from Drottninggatan 1.

Prime Minister Göran Persson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Laila Freivalds and Minister for International Development Cooperation Carin Jämtin will inform about the measures taken by the Swedish Government.

Press card is required.

CONTACT

Anders Hagquist

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Key word: 36055 Foreign policy and international cooperation Carin Jämtin

PRESS RELEASE

2004-11-11

Prime Minister's Office

Statement by Göran Persson concerning the death of President Arafat

I am saddened by the news that has reached me today that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has died. For decades, President Arafat has symbolised the Palestinian struggle for justice and self-determination. He has played a historic part in creating a national Palestinian identity. With his death, the Palestinian people have lost forever an important force for unity. My sympathy goes to his family and to the Palestinian people.

The parties in the Middle East conflict and the international community must now work with renewed vigour to realise the goal that we all share an independent, democratic and robust Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza, existing side by side with Israel, within secure and recognised borders.

CONTACT

Anna Helsén

Key word: 33432 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2004-10-30

Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson to meet with Nordic-Baltic Prime Ministers and Nordic colleagues in connection with the Nordic Council session in Stockholm

In connection with the session of the Nordic Council on 1-3 November, Nordic and Baltic Prime Ministers will be gathering in Stockholm for a series of meetings.

TIME AND PLACE

Sunday 31 October - Rosenbad

18.00 Joint press briefing. Please bring your press credentials. Assembly at 17.45 Venue: Rosenbad Conference Centre, Drottninggatan 1

Monday 1 November Rosenbad

10.30 Nordic Prime Ministers press conference.

Please bring your press credentials. Assembly at 10.15 Venue: Rosenbad Conference Centre, Drottninggatan 1

On Sunday 31 October, the three Nordic countries and Baltic countries that are members of the EU will be meeting to discuss current EU issues ahead of the European Council meeting on 5 November. Further, the five Nordic and three Baltic Prime Ministers will take part in a joint meeting followed by a working dinner. The agenda includes current EU and EEA issues, Nordic-Baltic cooperation, the situation in the region and international issues.

On Monday 1 November, the five Nordic Prime Ministers will take part in a meeting led by Iceland's Prime Minister, Halldór Ásgrímsson. The Nordic Prime Ministers will also be meeting representatives of the autonomous areas and the Presidium of the Nordic Council.

Sweden's Prime Minister will also take part in the opening of the 56th session of the Nordic Councils and the General Debate.

Sunday 31 October - Rosenbad

16.30 Nordic-Baltic Prime Ministers meeting ahead of the European Council meeting

17.30 Nordic-Baltic Prime Ministers meeting, NB 8

18.00 Joint press briefing. Please bring your press credentials.

Assembly at 17.45 Venue: Rosenbad Conference Centre, Drottninggatan 1

18.30 Prime Ministers dinner

Monday 1 November Rosenbad

08.00 Nordic Prime Ministers meeting

09.45 Meeting with representatives of the autonomous areas

10.30 Nordic Prime Ministers press conference.

Please bring your press credentials. Assembly at 10.15

Venue: Rosenbad Conference Centre, Drottninggatan 1

11.00 Prime Ministers meeting with the Presidium of the Nordic Council

12.30 Lunch Host: HM The King. Venue: The Royal Palace

14.30 Opening of the 56th session of the Nordic Council

approx.14.45 Prime Ministers report from the General Debate

The press conference can also be followed at the Governments website: www.regeringen.se

Key word: 32643 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2004-10-21

Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson presents government reshuffle

Prime Minister Göran Persson today presented three new ministers: Jens Orback, district council chairman in Stockholm, Ibrahim Baylan, regional ombudsman, and Sven-Erik Österberg, member of the Riksdag. Four ministers in the present Cabinet move to new areas of responsibility and there will be some reorganisation of the ministries.

The changes are as follows:

Prime Ministers Office

The new Deputy Prime Minister is former Minister for Finance Bosse Ringholm, who will also be responsible for sports issues.

Ministry of Finance

The new Minister for Finance and overall head of the ministry is Minister Pär Nuder, who will also be responsible for international economic affairs. Local government finances and financial market issues: Sven-Erik Österberg.

Ministry of Justice

Integration, metropolitan and gender equality issues: Jens Orback.

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

The new Minister for Industry and Trade and overall head of the ministry is former Minister for Education and Science Thomas Östros.

Ministry of the Environment

The ministry will be reorganised to become an environment and community development ministry that will take over responsibility for community development, housing and energy issues. Minister Mona Sahlin will head the ministry and have responsibility for housing and energy issues.

Minister Lena Sommestad will be responsible for environment issues.

Ministry of Education and Science

The ministry will be reorganised to become a ministry of education and culture. The head of the ministry will be former Minister for Industry and Trade Leif Pagrotsky, who will be responsible for culture, higher education and research. The minister responsible for primary and secondary schools will be Ibrahim Baylan.

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For Sven-Erik Österberg: Johanna Hållén, 08-405 33 26,
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Key word: 32283 Employment and gender equality Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2004-07-19

Prime Minister's Office

The Swedish Prime minister Göran Persson express his concern for the situation in Darfur in a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

He has also invited the new special Advisor Juan Méndez.

Statsminister Göran Persson har i ett brev till FN:s generalsekreterare Kofi Annan uttryckt sin oro för situationen i Darfur. I brevet välkomnar han att generalsekreteraren utsett Juan Méndez till särskild rådgivare för frågor som rör arbetet med att förhindra framtida folkmord.

Vidare inbjuder Göran Persson Juan Méndez till Sverige för att diskutera uppföljningen av Stockholm International Forum.

Stockholm, 19 July 2004

H.E. Mr. Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

In relation to your recent timely visit to Sudan, I would like to share with you my concern over the urgent crisis in Darfur.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the United Nations, and to you personally, for the engagement you have shown in dealing with the serious situation in Darfur. In the spirit of our joint commitment at the Stockholm International Forum earlier this year, we must all shoulder our responsibility to protect groups identified as potential victims of genocide, mass murder or ethnic cleansing.

In this connection, I very much welcome your recent decision to appoint Mr. Juan Méndez as your Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. We look forward to work closely with him in his important duty.

It is crucial that the Security Council takes its responsibility towards the situation in Darfur. The international community must continue to give high priority to influencing the Government of Sudan to take the necessary measures, as well as to provide assistance to those in need in Darfur. It is encouraging that the African Union is taking such great responsibility towards peace and security on the African continent by sending an observer mission to the area. As you know, Sweden, together with a number of other EU member states, is participating in that mission.

We have also traditionally been, and still are, a large financial contributor to the UN and other humanitarian organisations in Sudan. In addition Sweden is, through our active membership in SHIRBRIG, closely involved in the preparations for a UN observer mission to southern Sudan, following a comprehensive peace agreement. In order to be able to follow and assess more closely the developments in Sudan, we will shortly increase our diplomatic presence in the country.

My government has tried to be instrumental in making sure that the European Union demonstrates its full support to your efforts, as reflected in the encouraging communiqué signed between the United Nations and the Government of Sudan, during your visit to the country. In particular, one of the EU:s demands is that the Government of Sudan must co-operate with the United Nations on the protection of human rights. The normalisation of EU-relations with Sudan will depend on immediate and verifiable progress in Darfur, in particular through disarmament of the militia.

One issue that needs to be efficiently addressed is that of impunity. As suggested by Sweden, the European Union has called for measures to ensure that those responsible for breaches and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Darfur will be brought to justice. We stand ready to co-operate with all relevant parts of the United Nations to ensure that Darfur will not become a place where impunity prevails. I would suggest that our officials keep in touch on this matter.

There is still a need for urgent action in many fields to respond properly and efficiently to the crisis in Darfur. I am encouraged by the leadership that you have shown in managing the crisis. The Swedish government will continue to support and work with the United Nations in all of its continued efforts in Darfur and Sudan.

Yours truly,

Göran Persson

Stockholm, 19 July 2004

Mr. Juan Méndez
Special Adviser on the Prevention
of Genocide
Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Méndez,

It is with great pleasure that I have received word from the Secretary-General of the United Nations of your appointment as his Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Your distinguished background in the field of human rights makes you an excellent choice for this important post. I congratulate you to this appointment and would like to express the willingness of my government to work closely together with you in the future.

I would like to extend an invitation to you to visit Stockholm at your earliest convenience. My

government is fully committed to the follow up of the Stockholm International Forum, which this year, as you know, was devoted to the issue of preventing genocide. We would like this follow up to be closely linked to your efforts and look forward to a close partnership with you.

Yours sincerely,

Göran Persson

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Key word: 27784 Foreign policy and international cooperation Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2004-03-11
Prime Minister's Office

Statement by Göran Persson in connection with the terrorist acts in Madrid

I feel sorrow and anger at the terrible attacks that have taken place in Madrid. My thoughts go first to the victims of these acts of terrorism and their families. They have my deepest sympathy. The Government of Sweden condemns all terrorism, no matter who is responsible for it. Terror seeks to hurt our democracies and threaten people's freedom. The people of Spain have our full support in defending their open society.

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Key word: 16634 Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2004-03-05
Prime Minister's Office

Programme for Göran Persson's visit to Japan, South Korea and Mongolia

On 8#12 March, Prime Minister Göran Persson will visit Japan, South Korea and Mongolia. In Japan on 8#9 March, Mr Persson will meet Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi, will lecture at Yomiuri International Economic Society, and will make company visits. In South Korea on 10#11 March, he will meet President Moo-hyan Roh and former President Kim Dae-Jung, and will lecture and receive an honorary doctorate at Dankook University. In Mongolia, Mr Persson will have talks with Prime Minister Nambaryn Enkhbayar.

The programme includes:

Monday 8 March, Japan # Tokyo

10.00 Visit to mobile communications company NTT DoCoMo

Address: Kokusai Akasaka Bldg. 4-5,

Akasaka 2-chome, Minato-ku

Photo opportunity

12.00 Lunchtime lecture at Yomiuri International Economic Society

Address: Silver Room, Tokyo Kaikan 2-3-1,

Marunochi, Chiyoda-ku

14.30 Visit to Roppongi Hills housing and office complex

Address: Roppongi Hills, floors 52+53, More Tower

16.00 Press conference at the Swedish Embassy with some 30 design journalists

Address: 1-10-3 Roppongi, Minato-ku

p.m. Talks with the Prime Minister of Japan

Mr Junichiro Koizumi

Doorstep

Tuesday 9 March, Japan # Tokyo

08.45 Breakfast meeting at International House with the Swedish business community

Host: Swedish Chamber of Commerce

Address: International House of Japan, 5-11-16,

Roppongi, Minato-ku

10.00 Opening speech at the ISA biotech seminar at the Swedish Embassy

12.00 Lunch with leaders of Japanese industry

14.20 Press conference at the Japan National Press Club

Address: 9F, Nippon Press Club, Uchisaiwaicho 2-2-1

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Swedish journalists must give advance notice of their intention to attend

18.30 Reception at the Swedish Embassy

Wednesday 10 March, South Korea # Seoul

10.45 Talks with President Roh Moo-hyun

Photo opportunity

12.00 Lunch with President Roh Moo-hyun

Venue: Blue House, Dining Hall, Choong mu Room

13.50 Lecture at Dankook University, ceremony to receive honorary doctorate

Address: San 8, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul 140-714

15.15 Talks with South Korea#s Minister of Unification

Jeong Se-hyuan

Venue: Hyatt Hotel

16.00#17.00 Ceremony at City Hall

19.15 Reception at the Ambassador#s Residence

Thursday 11 March, South Korea # Seoul

09.00 Breakfast meeting with former President Kim Dae-Jung

Address: 176-1, Dongkyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul 121-818

Photo opportunity

10.30 Speech at a seminar on welfare policy at Ehwa

Women#s University

Address: 11-1, Daehyun-dong, Seodaemun-gu,
Seoul 120-750
12.00 Lunch with leading representatives of Korea's business community
Address: Seoul Club 208, 2-ga, Jangchoong-dong, Joong-gu,
Seoul 100-392
Friday 12 March, Mongolia
p.m. Meeting with Prime Minister Enkhbayar in Ulan Bator, Mongolia

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Key word: 16571 Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2003-12-17
Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson to Thailand, India and Singapore

Unofficial translation

Prime Minister Göran Persson will visit Thailand, India and Singapore between 7 and 13 January. The purpose of the visits is to deepen and broaden political and economic relations. Alongside political discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues, there will be a series of events aimed at strengthening trade and investment between Sweden and the three countries.

Preliminary programme (further information will follow):

7#9 January: Thailand. Discussions with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, events with the business community and a visit to ABB's plant in Bang Na.

9#11 January: India. Discussions with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, events with the business community and the inauguration of Ericsson's new headquarters in Gurgaon.

12#13 January: Singapore. Discussions with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, a visit to President S R Nathan, events with the business community and a visit to the Biopolis biotechnology centre.

Notification of intention to attend: Swedish journalists wishing to participate at one or more of the venues should notify the Prime Minister's Office no later than 23 December: Margareta Brandting 08-405 48 72, margareta.brandting@primeminister.ministry.se or Ingegerd Wendel, 08-405 48 30,

ingegerd.wendel@primeminister.ministry.se. Please state your name, personal identity number, passport number and details of any technical equipment. The Government Offices will not be arranging journeys to the different countries or local transport in the countries. Please note that visas are required for travel to India. Accreditation is normally required for the various prime ministers# offices in order to have access to doorsteps and photo opportunities.

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Key word: 10896

PRESS RELEASE

2003-12-15
Prime Minister's Office
Stockholm International Forum

Accreditation for Stockholm International Forum: Preventing Genocide 26-28 January 2004

Unofficial translation

Representatives for the media who wish to cover the international conference about preventing genocide on 26-28 January next year can now fill in the accreditation application on the conference#s website .

The application is to be submitted no later than 9 January 2004.

The conference will be the fourth and last in the Stockholm International Forum series that began in 2000 with the conference on the Holocaust. Representatives for close to 60 governments and international organisations have been invited to Stockholm by Prime Minister Göran Persson, as well as a large number of academics, researchers and other experts. The conference in Stockholm will be the first major intergovernmental conference on this subject since the UN adopted its Convention against Genocide in 1948. It will be held at Stockholm City Conference Centre at Norra Latin and Folkets Hus in Stockholm.

A brochure containing general information has been prepared (in Swedish and English) and can be ordered using the e-mail address:

sb.mediaforum2004@primeminister.ministry.se

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PRESS RELEASE

2003-10-31

Prime Minister's Office

Stockholm International Forum: International conference against genocide, 26-28 January 2004

Prime Minister Göran Persson has invited representatives of around 60 governments to take part in an international conference on preventing genocide to be held in Stockholm on 26-28 January next year. The conference, which is the fourth arranged within the framework of the Stockholm International Forum, will be the last of its kind, completing the series that began with the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust in 2000.

As well as government representatives, international organisations, academics, researchers and other experts are being invited. The conference aims to take a comprehensive view of the problem of genocide and will be the first major intergovernmental conference on this subject since the UN adopted its Convention against Genocide in 1948. The venue for the conference will be the Stockholm City Conference Centre at Norra Latin and Folkets Hus in Stockholm.

In his invitation the Prime Minister calls attention to the fact that the world has witnessed several episodes of genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing since the Holocaust and that world leaders have a responsibility to protect human life and prevent further atrocities.

#Can we prevent genocide by making more effective use of diplomatic, humanitarian, economic and military means?# asks the Prime Minister in his letter of invitation.

Additional information is available on the website www.motfolkford.com / www.preventinggenocide.com.

CONTACT

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Key word: 10455

PRESS RELEASE

2003-10-03

Three new ministers at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Laila Freivalds will be the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will have two additional ministers. Barbro Holmberg will be appointed minister responsible for migration and asylum issues. Carin Jämtin will be appointed minister responsible for development cooperation issues.

They will all take up their new positions on 10 October 2003.

Deputy Prime Minister Margareta Winberg will leave the Government on 31 October and will later be proposed as Sweden's new ambassador to Brazil.

The Minister for Development Cooperation, Migration and Asylum Policy, Mr Jan O. Karlsson, will leave the Government on 10 October. He is going to stand for the chairmanship of the International Commission on Migration.

Mona Sahlin will be the new Minister for Gender Equality Affairs. She will continue to be responsible for democracy, sports, integration and metropolitan affairs in the Ministry of Justice.

* * *

Laila Freivalds, new Minister for Foreign Affairs

Laila Freivalds was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1942. She took a Bachelor of Laws degree at Uppsala University in 1970. After a district court clerkship, she served as a judge. For twelve years Laila Freivalds worked at the Swedish Consumer Agency, first as a senior executive officer and then as Director-General and Consumer Ombudsman. In 1988 she was appointed Minister for Justice, a post she held until 2000 with the exception of the period 1991-94, when she worked as an attorney. Since 2000 she has been Director of Swedish Performing Arts, the employers' organisation for music, dance and theatre.

Barbro Holmberg, new Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy

Barbro Holmberg, born in 1952, has been the Director-General of the Swedish Migration Board since June 2003. Before that she was state secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for migration and asylum issues. Barbro Holmberg has a degree in social work and has previously been an information officer at RFHL (the National Association for Aid to Drug Abusers) and editor of *PsykologTidningen* and the magazine *Socialpolitik*. She has worked as a secretary to the parliamentary Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the committee appointed to review the activities of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman.

Carin Jämtin, new Minister for Development Cooperation

Carin Jämtin was born in Stockholm in 1964. Since September 1999 she has been Deputy Secretary General of the Olof Palme International Center, where she had been working as a policy officer for several years. Carin Jämtin has worked as the Treasurer and Secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League. She has held a number of elected offices, including chairmanship of the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU) and membership of the boards of *Frihets förlag* and *Lotteribyran*.

Temporary press officers for the new ministers:

Laila Freivalds: Jens Odlander, political adviser, Prime Minister's Office, 070-813 57 41

Carin Jämtin: Peter Akinder, political adviser, Prime Minister's Office, +46 70-593 72 91

Barbro Holmberg: Jenny Åkervall, political adviser, Prime Minister's Office, +46 70-690 42 79

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PRESS RELEASE

2003-09-11

Prime Minister's Office

Joint statement by the leaders of the seven parliamentary parties

Joint statement by the leaders of the seven parliamentary parties

We wish to express our sorrow and dismay at the act of violence that has taken the life of Sweden's foreign minister.

This act was also an attack on our open society, our democracy.

The parliamentary parties have resolved to take a joint stand for democracy, against violence.

The upcoming referendum will therefore go ahead as planned. The outcome will be respected.

We are breaking off our campaigns. Our organisations, however, will continue to provide information and answer questions from the general public.

We urge everyone to vote on Sunday.

Göran Persson

Bo Lundgren

Lars Leijonborg

Alf Svensson

Ulla Hoffman

Maud Olofsson

Peter Eriksson

Maria Wetterstrand

Key word: 9970 Göran Persson

PRESS RELEASE

2003-07-23

Prime Minister's Office

Statement by the Ministers for Gender Equality of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania opposing Greek

It is with indignation and surprise that we have learned that Greece plans to increase brothel activities during the Olympics in Athens 2004. This will lead to more women being exploited and abused.

We, the Ministers for Gender Equality in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will in this way express our abhorrence and

protest your plans, which we do not feel to be compatible with the fundamental ideals behind the Olympics. The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised without discrimination of any kind, in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play (Quote from IOC website).

We agree on that. It is therefore crucial that the opposition to all forms of commercial exploitation even includes the women and children that are made vulnerable around the sport and athletes.

CONTACT

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PRESS RELEASE

2003-05-14
Prime Minister's Office
Lena Hjelm-Wallén

Lena Hjelm-Wallén presses for new agricultural policy

In a proposal to the EU Convention on the future of Europe, Lena Hjelm-Wallén today presents a treaty text containing new objectives for the EU's agricultural policy.

#The present agricultural policy objectives are designed for the situation that existed in Europe in the 1950s,# says Lena Hjelm-Wallén. #These objectives are no longer relevant so they should be reformed.

#The new objectives should be based on the demands raised by society and consumers, they should satisfy ambitious requirements for animal welfare and health, environmental considerations and sustainable development, and they should contribute to a living countryside. The goal of global food security must also be taken into account.

#The EU must not use agricultural policy to take back with one hand what it gives with the other in the form of development assistance and trade facilitation,# says Lena Hjelm-Wallén.

If the Convention on the future of Europe adopts the proposed objectives, the European Parliament should have co-decision rights on matters of agricultural policy. This is a radical change. At present the Council of Ministers, acting on proposals from the Commission, has sole decision-making power on agricultural issues.

#The European Parliament would be able to back the Commission up where modernisation is concerned,# says Lena Hjelm-Wallén.

Even if the new objectives are not accepted, in her view the European Parliament should be given a say in the guidelines for the common agricultural policy. This could be done by joint adoption by the Council and the Parliament of multi-year framework programmes.

Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Dutch Convention member Gijs de Vries have jointly tabled a proposal giving the European Parliament greater influence over the budget for agriculture, on condition that the Council decides on multi-year budget ceilings.

The proposal to the Convention on the future of Europe may be found on the homepage of the EU 2004 Committee <http://www.eu2004.se>.

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Key word: 9133

PRESS RELEASE

2003-04-12
Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson comments on the referendum in Hungary

"I am very pleased about the results. The Hungarian people have agreed unequivocally to the EU and to a strong Union with the countries of Europe. Their positive vote for the EU is also a vote for the common currency.

I hope the next six referendums will give the same results.

The EU will be strengthened when the EU is enlarged and an increasing number of countries are using the single currency."

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PRESS RELEASE

2003-01-11
Prime Minister's Office

Breakthrough for nuclear agreement at the Barents Summit

Preliminary translation from Swedish

The Prime Ministers of the Nordic countries and Russia meet under Swedish chairmanship in Kirkenes, Norway, on 10-11 January on the occasion of the Barents Euro-Arctic 10 Year Anniversary. The Summit discussed e.g. economic development, environmental- and nuclear safety issues, and health- and social affairs. Representatives from the 13 member counties in the Barents Region did also participate, together with observers and invited guests.

Among other things, it was decided to:

Management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste must start. The Russian Prime Minister Mr. Kasianov and the Nordic Prime Ministers reached an agreement during the Summit regarding tax exemption on goods and equipment needed for management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Russia. There are therefore good possibilities to start a programme regarding radioactive waste clean-up during 2003. The final agreement will be signed in Sweden later this year.

Transport in the eastern and western directions will be improved. Border crossings and customs procedures should be facilitated. All border crossings in the Region should fulfil the objective that goods should pass in no more than two hours. A common standard for rail gauge switches should be developed. Possibilities to travel across the borders should also be facilitated. The modernised Norwegian-Russian border border-crossing point Storskog-Borisoglebsk was opened in relation to the Summit.

The fight against organised crime and trafficking in human beings will be strengthened. The Prime Ministers intends to reinforce co-operation among, customs police, immigration and border authorities, thus starting a process to fight organised crime and trafficking in women and children. The co-operation for a better environment will be developed. The climate changes affects on the region risk to become very serious because of the sensitive arctic environment. Within the region there is therefore a great demand for a close co-operation to implement measures that reduce mitigation and environmental damage. The Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of the aims in the Kyoto protocol and its early entry into force.

The co-operation between emergency- and rescue services will be improved. During the Swedish presidency efforts have been made to improve co-operation between rescue services within the region. Norway will host a major civil-military exercise, #Barents Rescue# in 2004 or 2005.

Sweden hosted the first exercise of this kind in the Barent Region in September 2001.

The spread of Tuberculosis must be stopped. The Prime Ministers urged their health and social authorities to gain full control of the spread of tuberculosis in the region within 10 years.

See the entire declaration on www.beac.st

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-10-21

Prime Minister Göran Persson presents new government

#A number of major tasks await us in the upcoming term of office. Two areas featured particularly prominently in the election campaign: the high rate of sick leave and the integration of immigrants. #We face other great challenges in the next few years as well. Growth issues are always a crucial concern for any Social Democratic government. We must make a concerted effort to reduce drug abuse. Consumer policies need strengthening. Equality between women and men must be brought more to the fore. EU cooperation will become more far-reaching and intense.

#The composition of the new government is a good reflection of the issues we Social Democrats focused on in our election campaign. #

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Prime Minister Göran Persson

Deputy Prime Minister Margareta Winberg

Minister for Policy Coordination Pär Nuder

#In view of her long political experience, Margareta Winberg is a natural choice for the post of Deputy Prime Minister. She will deputise for me whenever necessary and will also be responsible for gender equality policy. Pär Nuder will be in charge of overall coordination of the Government's policies and of constitutional and administrative policy. #

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström

Minister for Democracy and Integration Issues Mona Sahlin

#Democracy and integration issues are closely related. It's all about breaking down social exclusion, expanding democracy and asserting the equal rights of all members of society. Mona Sahlin's strong interest in this area makes her particularly well suited to take on this task. #

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister for Foreign Affairs Anna Lindh

Minister for Development Cooperation,
Migration and Asylum Policy Jan O Karlsson

#Now that Leif Pagrotsky is leaving the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Jan O Karlsson will take over responsibility for cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe. #

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Minister for Defence Leni Björklund

#Leni Björklund, who is 58, meets the stringent requirements that must be made of a Minister for Defence. She has many years of experience of politics and administration and has served most recently as Secretary-General of the Church of Sweden. I am pleased that Leni Björklund has agreed to take on the great responsibility of being Minister for Defence. She will assume office on 4 November. #

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lars Engqvist

Minister for Children and Families Berit Andnor

Minister for Public Health and Social Services Morgan Johansson

#Policies for children and families are an important area for reform in the coming years. As chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Insurance, Berit Andnor, who is 47, is a natural choice for this assignment. One particularly important asset is her good command of pensions issues. #

#The fight against drugs is being highlighted by the appointment of a special Minister for Public Health and Social Services. Morgan Johansson, who is 32 and a member of the Riksdag, has performed valuable work on these issues in the Riksdag and as chair of the National Council for Crime Prevention. #

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Minister for Finance Bosse Ringholm

Deputy Minister for Finance Gunnar Lund

Minister for Local Government and Housing Lars-Erik Lövdén

#Details regarding the division of responsibilities between Bosse Ringholm and Gunnar Lund, aged 55, our present Ambassador to the EU, will be presented later. However, one thing that is already settled is that Gunnar Lund will be responsible for the issues associated with Sweden's possible entry into the third stage of EMU.#

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Minister for Education and Science Thomas Östros

Deputy Minister for Education and Science Lena Hallengren

#Thomas Östros will continue as Minister for Education and Science, with overall responsibility for compulsory, upper secondary and higher education, and for research policy.

#More resources will be allocated to the pre-school system over the next few years. The responsibilities of the Deputy Minister for Education and Science will also include popular and formal adult education. The appointment of Lena Hallengren, aged 28, is a mark of the Government's rejuvenation. She has distinguished herself as Secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League.#

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Ann-Christin Nykvist

#Agricultural policy faces enormous challenges. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy is to be reformed in conjunction with the enlargement of the EU. At the same time it will become more consumer-oriented. This factor is reflected in the appointment of the Director-General of the Swedish Competition Authority, Ann-Christin Nykvist, aged 54, as the new Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.#

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Minister for Culture Marita Ulvskog

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Minister for the Environment Lena Sommestad

#Lena Sommestad has stood in as Minister for the Environment during Kjell Larsson's convalescence. In other words, she is very familiar with these issues and is therefore a natural choice as Minister for the Environment.#

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Minister for Industry, Employment and

Communications Leif Pagrotsky

Minister for Infrastructure Ulrica Messing

Minister for Working Life Hans Karlsson

#Leif Pagrotsky has been a successful Minister for Trade. So it is natural that he should continue to be responsible for trade policy and export promotion, though now in his new role as Minister for Industry, Employment and Communications. He will also be responsible for industrial policy and energy policy and for state-owned enterprises.#

#Ulrica Messing will be the new Minister for Infrastructure. All issues relating to communications, including IT, will be brought together under her responsibility. Besides this, she will continue to be in charge of regional policy.

#There will be a new Minister for Working Life, one of whose tasks will be to tackle the high sickness rates. All issues relating to working life # labour market policy, working environment issues, labour legislation, unemployment benefits # will be brought together under the authority of a single minister. Furthermore, the responsibility for sickness insurance and work injury insurance will be transferred to the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications. The former collective bargaining secretary at the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, Hans Karlsson, aged 56, has the broad experience of union affairs and industrial policy to make him the right person for this important task.#

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-10-11

Prime Minister's Office

Göran Persson comments on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to ex-President Carter

#Jimmy Carter is a worthy prize winner. He has shown an enduring, steadfast commitment to human rights and democracy. During his time as President of the United States and subsequently, he has worked untiringly as a mediator and played an active part in conflict resolution and peace-keeping throughout the world.

#I look forward to inviting him to Sweden, as is our tradition with Peace Prize winners#, says Göran Persson.

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-09-02

Prime Minister's Office

Programme for Göran Persson's visit to Johannesburg

On Tuesday 3 September, Prime Minister Göran Persson is scheduled to take part in the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Programme:

10.00 (approx.) Speech at the general debate

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre

11.00 (approx.) Press briefing with Minister for the Environment Lena Sommestad

Venue: Hotel Hilton Sandton, 138 Rivonia Road: #Li-Duba#

12.00 Meeting with Swedish participants in Johannesburg

Venue: Ubuntu Village, Wanderers Precinct:

#Wild Olive#

13.30 Host for presentation of cooperation initiative between Sweden and the countries of the East African Community (EAC), Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, "From Baltic Sea to Lake Victoria # Innovative Regional Partnerships for Transboundary Solutions to Sustainable Development"

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre

15.00 Chairman of round-table discussions with other heads of government and leaders of

delegations "Making it Happen"

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre

The round-table discussions may be seen on wide-screen, one of which is at the press centre

For information on accreditation and daily reporting, including photos: or

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-04-18

Prime Minister's Office

Nabil Shaath to visit Sweden

Unofficial translation

The Palestinian Minister and Chief Negotiator Nabil Shaath will visit Sweden on 18-19 April.

During his visit to Stockholm Nabil Shaath will meet the Prime Minister,

Göran Persson, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Anna Lindh and the Minister for Development Cooperation, Migration and Asylum Policy, Jan O Karlsson.

Photo opportunity at the meeting with the Prime Minister Göran Persson on Friday 19 April. Media representatives assemble at 10.30 at the entrance to Rosenbad. Notification of attendance to

Margareta Brandting, Prime Minister's Office.

Telephone 08-405 48 72, 070-560 32 42,

e-mail:

Nabil Shaath will hold a press conference on Friday 19 April at 11.45 # 12.15, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Press Centre, Fredsgatan 4-6.

Please bring your press credentials!

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-03-11

Prime Minister's Office

Information for the EU summit in Barcelona

The ordinary spring meeting of the European Council (the EU summit) during the Spanish Presidency will be held on 15-16 March at the Catalonia Congress Hall in Barcelona, Wednesday 13 March

10.00 Briefing on the summit with State Secretary Lars Danielsson, Prime Minister's Office
Venue: Press room at Rosenbad. Please bring your press credentials!

The press briefing can also be seen on the Internet: www.regeringen.se

Thursday 14 March

20.30 Prime Minister Göran Persson and Minister for Foreign Affairs Anna Lindh to take part in the meeting of the Party of European Socialists (PES) meeting in Casa Batlló.

Friday 15 March

European Council meeting

08.30-09.00 Arrival of heads of state and government at the congress hall

09.00-09.30 Meeting with the President of the European Parliament

09.30 First session of the European Council

11.15 Family photo with heads of state and government of the candidate countries

11.30 Working session with the candidate countries

14.15 Lunch for heads of state and government, foreign ministers

and finance ministers. Hosts: HM King Juan Carlos and HM Queen Sophia

16.30 Second working session

21.00 Working dinner at the Hotel Rey Juan Carlos I

Saturday 16 March

09.00 Arrival

09.30 Family photo

09.45-13.00 Third working session

13.00 Concluding press conference of the Presidency,
press centre, Catalonia Congress Hall

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-02-19

Prime Minister's Office

Bilateral meetings in connection with the Stockholm Progressive Summit

In connection with the Stockholm Progressive Summit on 22-23 February, Prime Minister Göran Persson will have the following bilateral meetings:

Friday 22 February

08.00-08.40 Breakfast talks with New Zealand's Prime Minister Ms Helen Clark, Sager House, Strömgatan 18

09.10-09.50 Talks with Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Rosenbad

10.20-11.00 Talks with Chile's President Ricardo Lagos, Rosenbad

12.30-14.00 Lunch talks with South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki, Sager House, Strömgatan 18

15.00-15.40 Talks with Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Rosenbad

For all these meetings:

There will be a photo opportunity on arrival at the respective addresses, assembly 10 minutes before the time of the meeting and the possibility of asking questions at the end of the meeting.

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-01-31

Prime Minister's Office

Government representatives appointed to the EU Convention on the Future of Europe

Today Lena Hjelm-Wallén has been appointed as ordinary Government representative and Lena Hallengren as alternate member of the EU Convention on the Future of Europe.

Lena Hjelm-Wallén who is Deputy Prime Minister has long and extensive political experience, both nationally and internationally. Her previous posts include that of Minister for Foreign Affairs. Lena Hallengren who comes from Kalmar, is Secretary for the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League.

The Convention which will consist of government representatives, representatives from the Commission, European Parliament and the national parliaments of Member States and candidate countries has the task of initiating debate on the future of the EU and in this manner, preparing for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in 2004.

The Convention's first meeting will be held on 28 February. According to the Laeken Declaration, the Convention's discussions should be concluded during the spring of 2003.

The Convention should ensure broad and transparent preparations for the next intergovernmental conference. Its conclusions should contain various alternatives or recommendations and together with the results of debates taking place nationally provide the point of departure for the coming intergovernmental conference.

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-01-25

Prime Minister's Office

Lena Hjelm-Wallén to visit Turkey

The Deputy Prime Minister, Lena Hjelm-Wallén, will visit Turkey on 29-30 January 2002 for talks with the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, Mesut Yilmaz, President Ahmed Necdet Sezer, the chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kamran Inan, and representatives of the media and human rights groups. Current political issues relating to Turkey's EU adaptation, human rights, the situation in the region and bilateral relations are among the issues on the agenda.

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PRESS RELEASE

2002-01-16

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Göran Persson comments on the recent Government reshuffle

Prime Minister Göran Persson made the following comments in connection with the Government reshuffle announced on 16 January 2002:

#The Minister for Education and Science, Thomas Östros, will now assume responsibility for the entire spectrum of education policy in Sweden # from pre-schools, compulsory and upper secondary schools and adult education to the higher education system and research policy.

#This means that Thomas Östros will be responsible for the Nobel laureates of today and tomorrow; for the youngest citizens# need of knowledge and upbringing, and the adults# quest for in-depth and cutting edge knowledge. I am convinced that he is the right person for this assignment. As the father of small children he is familiar with both the workings of pre-schools and schools, and the scientist#s constant desire to break new ground and acquire new knowledge.

#The second change involves Lena Sommestad, Professor in Economic History and head of the Institute for Futures Studies.

#During the convalescence of Kjell Larsson, Lena Sommestad will take over as Minister for the Environment. As a member of the board of the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, MISTRA, and as a futures scholar she has solid knowledge in the environmental field.

#When Kjell Larsson returns to his post later this spring Lena Sommestad will be entrusted with other tasks in the Cabinet. I will describe these in more detail at the appropriate time.

#Lena Sommestad has expertise in a broad range of fields # economics, the environment and demographics. More than most of us she has tried to see what lies beyond the horizon, what the future has to offer.

#By appointing Lena Sommestad to a ministerial post I want to emphasise the importance of launchin a serious discourse about the major issues for the future: environmental threats, demographic developments, the link between growth and prosperity, education and research. As she takes up her post Lena Sommestad brings a futures dimension to the Swedish Cabinet.#

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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