



Government Offices of Sweden

# Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency to run broad information campaign for increased IT security

On Tuesday 1 March, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson held a press conference on cyber security preparedness in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Director General of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency Charlotte Petri Gornitzka and Head of the Swedish Security Service Charlotte von Essen also took part.

“We know that Russia has extensive capabilities to conduct cyber attacks against countries, companies and public authorities. Even if Sweden is not a primary target, it can't be ruled out that we won't be affected, and we must have contingency plans prepared,” said Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

To increase public preparedness and awareness regarding cyber security, the Government, together with the Swedish Police Authority, will task the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency with conducting a broad public information campaign. The campaign will provide information on what each of us can do here and now to increase our own information and cyber security. The government will return to the Parliament with a proposal to allocate SEK 40 million for this purpose. Planning of the campaign will begin immediately.

The Government and Swedish public authorities are closely following developments. Swedish public authorities have intensified their national and international information exchanges.

Ms von Essen stated that the security situation in Europe has seriously deteriorated and that events are unfolding rapidly. At present, there is no

concrete information on an increased threat to Sweden's internal security, but the unfolding events are complex and serious, and could affect Sweden's security in the long term.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency supports the coordination of relevant authorities in the event of a crisis or increased preparedness. The Agency also supports society's efforts to manage information and cyber security incidents. Ms Gornitzka reported on the contingency planning that has been prepared and the cooperation taking place with other actors. She also encouraged extra vigilance in light of the security situation.

Published 02 March 2022



# A year of the 34-point programme – efforts to combat gang crime are well under way

It has been a year since the Government presented its 34-point programme of measures to combat gang crime. The programme represents the largest package of measures to combat gang crime ever in Sweden. The Government is working hard to ensure that measure after measure enters into force and produces results.

The measures in the 34-point programme will enable the Government to impose more severe penalties for gang-related crime and offer the Swedish Police wider possibilities to conduct searches. Reduced sentences for young adults involved in serious crime will be abolished. The culture of silence surrounding criminal gangs must be broken. The Government has therefore appointed an Inquiry Chair to examine matters such as a crown witness system, improved witness protection, increased penalties for e.g. threatening witnesses, and the need to introduce the possibility to testify anonymously. Youth supervision as a sanction enters into force on 1 January 2021 and the Government is taking long-term measures to stop gangs from recruiting. The multi-agency cooperation to combat organised crime is being enhanced and stepped up.

"To increase safety and security in our nation and strengthen our society, we must mobilise in the fight against organised crime. Early interventions, including equal schooling and more robust social services and welfare, are absolutely vital in the fight against crime, as are stricter legislation and effective tools for the police and law enforcement authorities," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

Over the past year, the Government has made it easier to seize gang members' property, watches, cars and cash, and is now reviewing legislation

to make it even more effective in seizing the proceeds of crime – money or property obtained through crime.

One measure from the 34-point programme that entered into force this year has enabled the police to hack into the telephones of hardened criminals and read their encrypted communications. Since police in Europe cracked the EncroChat app in 2020, the Swedish Police have arrested around ten people in Swedish criminal gang networks, and according to the Swedish Police Authority, more than ten murders have been prevented.

"We need to see much more success of this kind as law enforcement authorities gain access to more and better tools," says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Another measure that has entered into force has made it easier for the Swedish Police to use interception equipment. This means that the connection of a new interception will take place faster, reducing the gap that arises when criminals change numbers or devices, or use several.

Alongside the work on the 34-point programme and other reforms to increase safety and security, the largest ever expansion of the Swedish Police is also under way. The Swedish Police Authority is currently halfway to achieving the target of expanding by 10 000 police employees by 2024, and the Authority now has more resources at its disposal than ever before. Increasing numbers of new constables are joining police operations every six months. Two new police training programmes have started – one in Malmö and one in Borås. All in all, three times more police are being trained today than in 2014, when the Government took office. At the same time as the Government is reinforcing the police, other parts of the judicial chain are also being reinforced, especially the Swedish Prison and Probation Service.

In January, new acts on sanctions will enter into force, and at the end of 2021, the majority of the programme's 34 measures will have been presented or entered into force.

"The 34-point programme is not the only, the first or the last of the measures the Government is working on to fight serious crime. More proposals are under way on everything from more efficient court proceedings to stricter rules on expelling people involved in crime. But the work doesn't end there, either. Above all, more politicians need to listen to the police's message that our entire society must be on board to stop recruitments to criminal environments," says Mr Damberg.

Published 30 October 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

# Right of UK nationals to continue living and working in Sweden under the Withdrawal Agreement

Here you find more information about the right of UK nationals to continue living and working in Sweden under the Withdrawal Agreement.

## **The withdrawal begins with a transition period**

The UK left the EU on 1 February, but up to and including 31 December 2020 a transition period applies when EU law still applies to the UK. This means that the situation for UK nationals living in Sweden will not change during this period. Up to 31 December, they will thus be able to continue to work and live here, and enjoy their right to freedom of movement within the EU in the same way as before.

It is envisioned that at the end of transition period, the future partnership between the EU and the UK will take effect. Negotiations on the future partnership are currently ongoing. The transition period may be extended if the parties agree, but not beyond 2022.

## **Following the transition period, the special provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement on citizens' rights will apply**

The right of all EU citizens and their family members to live, work or study in other EU Member States is one of the cornerstones of the EU, and many EU citizens and UK nationals have made their life choices based on this right to freedom of movement. Protecting these people's life choices was an important priority during the negotiation of the Withdrawal Agreement. The Withdrawal Agreement therefore contains special provisions that protect the rights of citizens who have taken advantage of their right to freedom of movement within the EU.

These special provisions to protect the affected citizens will come into effect

after the transition period. In Sweden this means, in brief, that UK nationals who have taken advantage of their right to freedom of movement within the EU to move to Sweden before the end of the transition period will have the right to continue living and working here, essentially on the same terms that applied to them while they were still EU citizens.

Therefore, this not only concerns those who were living in Sweden at the time of the actual withdrawal, but also those who come to Sweden during the transition period.

**The Government proposes that UK nationals must apply for a new residence status**

The Government presented a bill to the Riksdag containing proposals for provisions that supplement the Withdrawal Agreement in Sweden with regard to the right of UK nationals to continue living and working in Sweden. The proposals mean that, among other things, UK nationals and their family members living in Sweden at the end of the transition period, and who want to continue living here, must apply for a new residence status in accordance with Article 18(1) of the Withdrawal Agreement. Residence status confers the rights included in the Withdrawal Agreement.

Residence status will be granted to UK nationals and their family members who at the end of the transition period are living in Sweden under the terms for freedom of movement that apply within the EU. It is not necessary for applicants to actually be present in Sweden exactly at the end of the transition period. Temporary absence that does not affect right of residence is permitted.

A person who is granted residence status will have the right to live and work in Sweden on essentially the same terms that apply to an EU citizen. These terms mean, in brief, that the person in question must:

- be employed or self-employed;
- have sufficient assets and sickness insurance;
- be a family member to another person who meets the requirements; or
- have received right of residence (i.e. have legally lived in Sweden for more than five years, therefore no longer needing to meet any requirements).

A person with residence status who has legally lived in Sweden for five years will, just like an EU citizen, have permanent right of residence here. A person who has received permanent right of residence under the Withdrawal

Agreement can only lose it if he or she is absent from Sweden for more than five years.

The Swedish Migration Agency is proposed to be the agency responsible for making decisions concerning residence status. In the ministry memorandum 'Supplementary provisions to the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union concerning citizens' rights' (Ds 2020:5) it is proposed that those affected should apply for a new residence status within 10 months.

An equivalent system is in place for Swedes and other EU citizens residing in the UK.

**UK nationals who come to Sweden after the transition period**

Unless otherwise decided during the negotiations between the EU and UK, any UK nationals who want to move to Sweden after the transition period will have to apply for a residence permit here in the same way and on the same terms as other people who are not EU citizens.

Published 07 May 2020





Government Offices of Sweden

# Several Ministers participated in commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January

On Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27 several representatives from the Swedish Government participated in memorial services to honour the victims of the Holocaust and to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven attended a memorial ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation. The memorial service began in Auschwitz and ended with a candle lighting ceremony in Birkenau.

Minister for Education Anna Ekström spoke at a memorial service arranged by the Council of Roma representatives in Malmö and then at a memorial service arranged by the Jewish Community of Malmö in the Synagogue of Malmö.

Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg spoke at a ceremony arranged by The Living History Forum at Raoul Wallenberg's Square and then at the memorial ceremony in the Great Synagogue of Stockholm. Minister for Environment and Deputy Prime and Climate Isabella Lövin, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Financial Markets and Housing Per Bolund also participated at the ceremony in the Great Synagogue.

Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind visited the Jewish Community of Gothenburg and spoke at the memorial ceremony in the evening.

Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation Åsa Lindhagen spoke at the memorial ceremony at the

Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Further Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman and Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson participated in a memorial service at the The Royal Dramatic Theatre.

Published 30 January 2020



# Government proposes tougher terrorist legislation

In a proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration, the Government proposes that it should be made a punishable offence to participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation. It also proposes making it a punishable offence to collaborate with a terrorist organisation, for example by selling weapons, vehicles or other similar equipment to such an organisation.

“Sweden has comprehensive criminalisation in the area of terrorism, but it is not actually a punishable offence to participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation such as Daesh. With this proposal, it will be,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

Combating terrorism is a top priority for the Government, and a number of amendments to tighten legislation have been introduced in recent years. To further improve opportunities to prevent and combat terrorism, the Government proposes making it a punishable offence to participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation. The legislative proposal contains two new offences: participation in a terrorist organisation and collaboration with a terrorist organisation. In addition, it is proposed to make public provocation to commit a terrorist act and recruitment for terrorism punishable offences, as well as travel abroad for the purpose of participating in the activities of a terrorist organisation. Financing such participation will also be criminalised.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 August 2019.



# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the car fires: “Society will always respond strongly to such acts”

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson met police in Västra Frölunda today to learn about their work following the car fires in western Sweden on 13 August. Chairman of the Municipal Executive Board of the City of Gothenburg Ann-Sofie Hermansson was also at the meeting.

"Society will always respond strongly to such acts. We have made the penalty for gross vandalism much tougher. In the autumn we will also present a bill on attacks against emergency services staff that may follow in the wake of such incidents," says Mr Löfven.

Last year the Government increased the penalty for gross vandalism, which can now lead to six years' imprisonment.

"We now hope that these thugs can be caught so that they can receive the punishment they deserve," says Mr Johansson.

Since the current electoral period began in the autumn of 2014, the Government has proposed more than 30 stricter penalties related to organised crime.



# Government agencies and authorities respond to effects of drought and heat

Rescue services, government agencies and local authorities are engaged in intensive efforts in response to the forest fires raging around the country, the widespread drought and the ongoing heat wave. More information about these efforts is available below. Crisis preparedness is part of the remit of every government agency and authority.

## **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency**

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) manages coordination and national priorities for international support. The MSB maintains constant preparedness and can provide reinforcement resources, both equipment and expertise, if requested by rescue operations leaders or county administrative boards. The MSB is also in regular dialogue with neighbouring countries and the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre concerning international resources.

The MSB has forest fire depots (with hoses, motor pumps and six-wheel ATVs) located around the country, which are being used for several of the fires.

The MSB can also provide personnel with collaboration and leadership expertise to reinforce actors' management functions.

The MSB reinforces relevant county administrative boards' staffing and their reception of international support. Moreover, the MSB can provide housing solutions, hygiene facilities such as showers and toilets, and high-capacity pumps – resources that include accompanying expertise.

[More information about ongoing events and measures relating to the forest fires is available on the MSB website](#)

Information about the forest fires from county administrative boards, municipalities and rescue services is gathered at [www.krisinformation.se](http://www.krisinformation.se), the national website for emergency information. Important public announcements (in Swedish only) are published on this website.

- [Krisinformation.se website](#)

#### **Swedish Armed Forces, including the Home Guard**

Swedish Armed Forces, including the Home Guard  
The Swedish Armed Forces is providing continued support in the form of personnel and equipment, in response to expressed needs.

[More information is available on the Swedish Armed Forces website](#)

#### **Swedish Transport Administration**

The Swedish Transport Administration is assisting with firefighting equipment and staffing resources, especially tracked vehicles equipped with water tanks and fire suppression equipment, and personnel to staff this equipment. At the moment, the Swedish Transport Administration is supporting rescue services at forest fires in Gävleborg, Dalarna and Jämtland counties. Traffic is impacted in the affected counties and traffic information is being updated regularly.

[More information is available on the Swedish Transport Administration website](#)

#### **Swedish Coast Guard**

The Swedish Coast Guard has specially equipped marine patrol aircraft, two of which are now being used to assist rescue services and the MSB with patrolling, documentation and directing other aircraft resources in connection with the forest fires. The Coast Guard has also produced special maps of the fires.

[More information is available on the Swedish Coast Guard website](#)

#### **Swedish Police Authority**

The Swedish Police Authority is providing local support from each region

and police from unaffected regions. The Police Authority's main task in connection with the fires is to save lives and reduce injuries. This involves cordoning off areas, directing traffic and evacuating residents in accordance with rescue service decisions. The National Operations Department has taken decisions concerning nationwide special events in order to support regions with national resources, where necessary, and prepare for potential decisions concerning nationwide special events. The fires are primarily affecting the Mitt, Nord and Bergslagen police regions. The Police Authority has decided to reinforce resources in the central police region Mitt with a number of police officers from the Öst, Väst Syd and Stockholm police regions.

[More information is available on the Swedish Police Authority website](#)

#### **County administrative boards**

The county administrative boards are monitoring the forest fires and coordinating efforts between local actors and national level. They are also coordinating county information to the media and the public. County administrative boards also take decisions about fire bans and provide information to the public. All county administrative boards are closely monitoring access to animal feed and water in each county. The grazing and hay harvesting situation is extremely serious in several counties. Some county administrative boards have provided resources to other affected counties. The MSB's assessment is that resources to deal with the ongoing forest fires are currently available at county administrative board level.

[County administrative board website](#)

#### **Municipal rescue services**

All municipal rescue services are providing assistance based on their capacity. The number of firefighters and other personnel working to contain the ongoing fires in Sweden is constantly changing. A large number of volunteers, Home Guard personnel, police, and others are also assisting.

#### **Svenska kraftnät**

Svenska kraftnät is the government agency that ensures Sweden has a secure electricity supply. Its remit includes ensuring that the country's electricity supply is prepared to handle extreme events, such as fires, that may entail serious strains on society. The electricity system is monitored around the clock. Svenska kraftnät is monitoring the ongoing forest fires closely and is

in dialogue with rescue services on the ground and, when necessary, can provide emergency equipment to restore the power grid. This includes tracked vehicles equipped with wireless communications, such as the Rakel system. These mobile command and communication units (MOLOS) are operated by Sweden's Voluntary Radio Organisation as instructed by Svenska kraftnät.

[Svenska kraftnät website](#)

#### **Swedish Board of Agriculture**

The Swedish Board of Agriculture is working actively to find solutions to alleviate the situation for affected farmers. These solutions include exemptions from regulations, higher advance payments from support funds to help liquidity, and more. For example, the Board has granted an exemption allowing farmers to take feed from grassland that otherwise must not be harvested.

[More information is available on the Board of Agriculture website](#)

#### **National Food Agency**

The protracted drought in large parts of the country is creating major problems for agriculture. This also means that everyone must conserve drinking water. At present, around 80 municipalities have introduced a ban on watering. Thus, it is equally as important to save municipal drinking water as private well water. Water is needed for many important activities, such as food production, hospitals and agriculture.

The National Food Agency is cooperating with the Swedish Board of Agriculture and other authorities to manage the difficult situation of farmers.

[More information is available on the National Food Agency website](#)

#### **Swedish Forest Agency**

The Swedish Forest Agency is supporting firefighting efforts by providing map data, landowner contact information and equipment such as hoses, pumps and drones. The Agency can also provide staffing resources and coordinate the exchange of information between the forestry sector, the MSB and other government agencies and actors, as well as provide status reports to landowners and the public. The Agency can also conduct inventories and offer support and guidance to affected forest owners.



[More information is available on the Swedish Forest Agency website](#)

#### **Swedish Work Environment Authority**

Heat can impact employee attentiveness and judgement, which can lead to an increased risk of accidents. The Swedish Work Environment Authority is responsible for issues regarding work environment and working hours, and monitoring legal compliance. At present, the Authority is providing information about relevant risks, work environment responsibilities, preventive measures and applicable regulations. For example, the Authority has gathered information on its website about temperature and climate conditions at workplaces. The Authority is monitoring and analysing developments to prepare for additional measures.

More information is available on the Swedish Work Environment Authority website.

The social partners are monitoring compliance with labour legislation such as the Annual Leave Act and collective agreements that may regulate working hours, for example.

[Swedish Work Environment Authority website](#)

#### **SOS Alarm**

Response times for the emergency number 112 are increasing, and the system is under pressure. SOS Alarm has heightened its level of preparedness, producing status reports each day (at 06.00, 09.00, 15.00 and 20.30) and enabling measures to be taken when necessary. SOS Alarm is urging people to refrain from calling the emergency number 112 if they are not in acute or immediate need of help.

[More information is available on the SOS Alarm website](#)

#### **National Board of Health and Welfare**

The National Board of Health and Welfare works to strengthen the preparedness of health, medical care and social service providers before, during and after serious incidents. In light of the ongoing heat wave and the many serious forest fires in the country, the Board is working with other government monitoring agencies.

[More information is available on the National Board of Health and Welfare](#)

[website](#)

### **Public Health Agency of Sweden**

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides targeted advice for municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors to use in their efforts to reduce health risks associated with heat waves. This advice is then passed on to the individuals concerned.

[More information is available on the Public Health Agency of Sweden website](#)

### **Lantmäteriet**

Lantmäteriet, the government agency that produces maps of Sweden, is currently using its expertise to support other agencies. It has established a 'geo cell' in Färila, Sweden, staffed by Lantmateriet personnel with GIS expertise, and equipped with hardware such as computers, printers and plotters that can compile, analyse and print out maps based on the needs of rescue services, the police, county administrative boards and the MSB. Lantmäteriet takes part in regional collaboration conferences and the national collaboration conferences for government agencies.

[Lantmäteriet website](#)

### **Swedish Post and Telecom Authority**

The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS) is collaborating with other government agencies and societal actors, providing regular status reports on electronic communications. PTS is in regular contact with sector actors and has convened a meeting of the National Telecommunications Coordination Group (NTSG). PTS has also assigned a radio frequency permit to Polish rescue services.

[More information is available on the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority website](#)

### **Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth**

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is reaching out to businesses and organisations in the hospitality industry to enable them to inform tourists about the serious situation in Sweden and current conditions.

[Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth website](#)

## **Swedish Maritime Administration**

The Swedish Maritime Administration has had an ongoing dialogue with the MSB for the past week concerning the type of support the Administration can provide to fight the fires raging around Sweden. The Administration is supporting the MSB by coordinating society's combined resources. This involves overall planning, leadership and strategies for system managers, staff functions and prioritising society's resources from a national perspective. It also includes aircraft coordination and logistics support, which may entail optimising fuel supplies of the aircraft resources taking part.

[More information is available on the Swedish Maritime Administration website](#)

## **Meteorological and Hydrological Institute**

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) issues heat warnings when a period of high or extreme temperatures is expected. High temperatures put a strain on the body, creating problems particularly for risk groups.

[Heat warnings on the SMHI website](#)

SMHI and the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) collaborate and provide continuous updates on the risk of water shortages in their 'water shortage risk' service.

[Water shortage risk service \(in Swedish\) on the SMHI website](#)

## **Geological Survey of Sweden**

The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) monitors groundwater trends and publishes up-to-date maps showing how much groundwater levels differ from normal monthly levels.

[Groundwater levels on the SGU website](#)

## **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management**

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has national responsibility for supervision guidance on drinking water and groundwater protection, and water-related activity (including withdrawing water for watering/irrigation).

[Water guidelines on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management website](#)

[Information about water shortages on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management website](#)

**Swedish Environmental Protection Agency**

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency provides general information about water shortages, drought and actions individuals can take.

[Information about water shortages \(in Swedish\) on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website](#)

**Medical Products Agency**

The Medical Products Agency is responsible for approving and regulating medicinal products and natural remedies, and for the supervision of medical devices. Advice from the Medical Products Agency about storing medicinal products during periods of prolonged heat is available on the 1177 Vårdguiden website.

[More information is available on the 1177 Vårdguiden website](#)

Published 09 August 2018



Government Offices of Sweden

# Morgan Johansson and European Commissioner Christos Stylianides visited Färila

On Monday 6 August, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson visited Färila in Hälsingland, Sweden, together with European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides.

There they heard about the experiences of the rescue services, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and national and international personnel deployed to fight this summer's forest fires. They also heard about the measures carried out using both Swedish and international resources.

Through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Sweden has activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and thus enabled support from the crisis mechanisms of all of the other 27 EU countries.

After their meeting, Mr Johansson and Mr Stylianides held a joint press briefing.

Published 07 August 2018



# EU Civil Protection Mechanism

The EU Member States have agreed to assist each other when crisis or disaster strikes. Sweden has requested this assistance, activating the Civil Protection Mechanism, and is receiving help from several countries to fight the forest fires currently raging in Sweden. Assistance mobilisation has been coordinated through the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

In the event of a crisis, the affected country's emergency response authority can request assistance from the ERCC, which in turn communicates with the contact points of other EU Member States. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is Sweden's emergency response authority, and can therefore request assistance from the ERCC. The MSB also receives all requests from the ERCC and regularly mediates Swedish support to other organisations working in countries affected by disasters and crises.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was established in 2001, and is able to provide support both within and outside the EU. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism provides potential support from all EU Member States' crisis mechanisms. Sweden received support from the ERCC during the forest fires in Västmanland County in 2014.

The MSB has requested assistance, activating the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, for the forest fires raging across Sweden in July 2018. This assistance includes planes, helicopters and firefighting personnel from the EU (Germany, Lithuania, Poland, France, Italy and Portugal).

Swedish rescue services and the MSB have joint operational responsibility for firefighting activities. They are continuously assessing the resources they may need to request from abroad. The MSB has requested even more aircraft and resources. Within the framework of Nordic cooperation, Norway, Denmark and Finland have been involved in the firefighting.

[Emergency Response Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#)

Published 24 July 2018



# Cooperation to combat effects of drought and heat

The prolonged heat and drought have impacted many sectors of society. There have been numerous forest fires, the agricultural sector has been severely affected by the drought and groundwater levels have dropped. The extreme temperatures can also cause health problems, especially among older people and the sick. The Government is following developments closely and taking the necessary decisions. The Government Offices is in continuous contact with the responsible government agencies.

In view of the forest fires around the country, the widespread drought and the ongoing heatwave, intensive efforts are under way among rescue services, government agencies and municipalities.

## **Efforts to stop the forest fires**

At present, several forest fires are raging around the country and the rescue services are making tremendous efforts to protect people, property, forests and the functioning of society.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is coordinating relevant agencies and supporting municipal rescue services, together with the Swedish Armed Forces and the county administrative boards, by providing reinforcements in terms of equipment, staff and expertise.

Via the EU, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has requested assistance in the form of firefighting aircraft from other European countries.

The work of the authorities is crucial to combating the fires. But everyone also carries a personal responsibility. In many parts of the country, fire bans



are in place. Remember to check whether a fire ban is in place where you are.

[EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#)

[Information about the forest fires at krisinformation.se](#)

[Information about the forest fires on the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency website](#)

### **Efforts to support agriculture**

The Government is closely following developments in the agriculture sector and continues alongside government agencies and other actors to seek solutions to the challenges emerging so as to alleviate the situation for farmers. For example, the Government will provide SEK 1,2 billion in national funds to strengthen the liquidity of our farmers. Sweden is also an active dialogue with the EU about exemptions and other solutions to alleviate the situation for Swedish farmers.

### **Heatwave and health**

The heatwave can cause problems for people's health. Exposure to heat carries with it different risks for different individuals. Risk groups are above all elderly people, the chronically ill, people with disabilities, young children, pregnant women and people on medication.

The Government has ongoing contact with the relevant government agencies and local authorities. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs holds weekly meetings with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. These meetings bring the Government up to date on what the government agencies are doing to help older people and others cope with the heat. The meetings will continue as long as the current situation persists.

Private individuals can contact their county council and 1177 Vårdguiden for information and advice about various heatwave-related health risks.

[Advice about the heatwave \(in Swedish\) on the 1177 Vårdguidens website](#)

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides advice for different target groups that can be used by municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors in health and medical care services.

High temperatures can influence the growth of bacteria in drinking water and food. The National Food Agency website has information and advice.

### **Water levels and water supply**

The Government is closely following developments in groundwater levels and water supply and has continuous contact with the responsible agencies. Municipalities are responsible for the public supply of drinking water.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency provides general information about water shortages, drought and what measures people can take themselves.

[Information about water shortages \(in Swedish\) on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website](#)

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and the Geological Survey of Sweden collaborate and provide continuous updates about the risk of water shortages in their 'water shortage risk' service.

[Water shortage service \(in Swedish\) on the SMHI website](#)

Published 20 July 2018



# Summary: National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women

Stopping men's violence against women is a priority issue for Sweden's feminist government. The Government is therefore now presenting a national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women.

The strategy contains measures that strengthen protection for and support to women subjected to violence, measures to combat violence in same-sex relationships as well as measures that counteract destructive masculinity and notions of honour. The strategy also emphasises the participation and responsibility of men in stopping the violence.

With a long-term strategy and a targeted action plan, the Government is laying the foundation for increasingly goal-oriented and coordinated action on men's violence against women. Developing violence prevention measures is particularly important. These measures must reach all groups in society and be developed in a variety of arenas. The national strategy is included in the Government's gender equality policy communication to the Riksdag (2016/17:10). The strategy spans a ten-year period and will come into force on 1 January 2017.

## **The strategy's four objectives**

- Increased and effective preventive work to combat violence.
- Improved detection of violence and stronger protection for and support to women and children subjected to violence.
- More effective crime-fighting.
- Improved knowledge and methodological development.

## **Special emphasis on preventive measures and men's participation**

To date, measures have tended to deal with the consequences of violence rather than the causes. The Government's ambition is to shift the perspective and focus on preventing violence. This requires effective measures to prevent both the use and reoccurrence of violence. It also requires broader and more constructive involvement of men and boys than previously, and breaking with the norms that justify violence, the purchase of sexual services and other restrictions on the freedom of action and life choices of women and girls.

There are major challenges with regard to men's violence against women, honour-related violence and oppression, and action to combat prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. Society must become better at detecting violence, and knowledge about the extent of the violence and effective practices needs to improve. Action to prevent violence must be well coordinated between relevant actors at all levels. Therefore, the control, coordination and follow-up of the measures to stop men's violence against women will be strengthened.

### **Long-term action plan for goal-oriented, coordinated and effective action**

As a part of the strategy's implementation, the Government is allocating SEK 600 million to an action plan containing new measures for 2017–2020, in addition to SEK 300 million in development funds to municipalities and county councils. The role of the county administrative boards as regional coordinators will be clarified. The gender equality agency to be established by the Government will eventually be given overall responsibility for the work to end men's violence against women. Within the framework of the action plan, the Government intends to:

*For increased and effective preventive work to combat violence*

- support the development and spread of universal violence preventive efforts with the objective of reaching all young people,
- conduct a review of sex and relationship education in schools,
- counteract demand for the purchase of sexual services,
- strengthen professional treatment of men who have been violent and investigate the ability of municipalities to work with perpetrators of violence early on, and
- further strengthen prevention of reoffending by convicted perpetrators of violence, both within the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and with other stakeholders.

*For improved detection of violence and stronger protection of and support to women and children subjected to violence*

- provide training to professionals, in social services and health and medical care for example, and on routines for asking about exposure to violence,
- strengthen protection of and support to children who have witnessed or been exposed to violence,
- strengthen expertise in the field of honour-related violence and oppression,
- continue the development of knowledge support on prostitution targeted at health and medical care and social services.

*For more effective crime-fighting*

- develop police methods and practices for preventing repeated violence,
- evaluate the 2014 legislative amendments on forced marriages and child marriages,
- prevent online threats and abuse.

*For improved knowledge and methodological development*

- survey the extent of honour-related violence and oppression,
- develop national statistics on measures in social services and health and medical care, and provide guidance to municipalities on calculating the cost of violence,
- strengthen knowledge about effective violence prevention,
- amend the degree descriptions in the Higher Education Ordinance so that men's violence against women and domestic violence are included in education and training for professional groups who may encounter victims of violence,
- allocate funds for skills development for relevant professional groups.

### **Extensive initiative since Government took office in 2014**

Since taking office, the Government has decided on a long list of measures to counter men's violence against women and domestic violence (these measures are presented on the Government website). For instance, the Government has provided increased support to local women's shelters for 2015–2019 totalling SEK 425 million. In addition, the Government has decided on, or in other ways taken, more than 20 measures directly related to proposals from the National Coordinator on Domestic Violence.

Published 14 November 2016



# Conference with mock trial in the Nordic–Baltic regional division of the Unified Patent Court

On Thursday 11 February 2016, the Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Bar Association and the Swedish Courts held a conference on the Nordic–Baltic regional division of the European Unified Patent Court. Work is in progress to prepare and establish the regional division in Stockholm.

The purpose of the conference was to provide information about the current state of play in the implementation of the unified patent system and to demonstrate how a trial in the regional division will be conducted. The mock trial took up a case between two parties, one claiming patent infringement concerning medical equipment and the other bringing a counter-claim of invalidity.

The conference was opened by Catharina Espmark, State Secretary to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson. Ms Espmark explained that the Unified Patent Court will simplify legal proceedings, reduce legal costs and improve legal certainty. Given the positive effects the patent reform is expected to have for the European single market, the Government has made the reform a priority and is active in the preparatory work.

The speakers included Alexander Ramsay, Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent Court, and Louise Petrelius, Swedish representative on the Preparatory Committee, both from the Ministry of Justice.

The Committee aims to complete its preparations by mid-2016. If the Member States do as they are supposed to and fast-track their ratification

processes, provisional application of the Court Agreement can begin as early as this autumn. Only four more countries need to ratify the Court Agreement before the new patent system can begin to apply. The conference brought together around 130 participants from many different organisations and companies from ten different countries.

The conference was moderated by Stefan Johansson from Stockholm District Court, and Carl Josefsson from the Svea Court of Appeal led the concluding discussion and question-and-answer session. Other participants included Kevin Mooney, who chaired the committee that drafted the Court's rules of procedure, British judge David Kitchin, and two Swedish judges from Stockholm District Court, Tomas Norström and Rune Näsman.

Published 19 February 2016





Government Offices of Sweden

# International certification system to combat unethical recruitment of migrant workers

On Tuesday 3 November, the Government and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised a seminar on labour migration and ethical recruitment. Supported in part by the Swedish Government, IOM is currently developing the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), a certification system that will help companies ensure the ethical and sustainable recruitment of international labour.

IRIS aims to strengthen the protection of migrant workers on the global labour market by combating their exploitation and indebtedness in connection with the recruitment process. Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson emphasised in his opening address that labour migration can be fundamentally positive for all concerned but there is a risk people may be taken advantage of and end up in a parallel shadow society.

“Labour migration must never lead to social dumping or people being exploited. Strengthening migrants’ rights on the labour market, in Sweden and the world, is a priority for the Government, and Sweden consequently supports this project,” says Mr Johansson.

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing spoke about the positive aspects of migration in his address, but stated that many migrants are tricked and trapped into debt by unethical recruiters who take advantage of their weak position. According to Mr Swing, an international certification system would also lead to positive outcomes for companies and countries.

The seminar was attended by representatives of companies, trade unions and non-governmental organisations, and a concluding panel debate discussed

how IRIS can be used and how the private sector, social partners and public sector can cooperate to ensure ethically sustainable conditions for migrant workers.

Published 12 November 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

# German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth visited Sweden

On Thursday, 22 October, Germany's Minister of State for Europe, Michael Roth, visited Sweden and had a meeting with the Minister for Employment, Ylva Johansson, and the Minister for Justice and Migration, Morgan Johansson. The aim was to exchange experiences on the occasion of the refugee situation in Europe.

One item on the agenda was the Swedish answer to the refugee crisis including labour market integration and cooperation with social partners. During his visit in Sweden, Michael Roth also met representatives of think tanks and NGOs engaged in issues regarding refugees and integration.

Published 26 October 2015



# Measures for more short-term accommodation for asylum seekers

There are large numbers of asylum seekers coming to Sweden. The responsible agencies have the capacity to deal with the situation, but things are strained. Above all, it is important to ensure access to accommodation for asylum seekers. This needs to be dealt with quickly.

In view of the situation, and to ensure that Sweden can continue to handle large numbers of asylum seekers in the country, the Government is taking a number of measures.

## **Inventory of state-owned properties**

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is supporting the Swedish Migration Agency in carrying out an inventory of government agencies' possibilities of providing asylum accommodation. The state-owned companies are also being consulted.

## **Bringing forward planned legislation**

The time frame for a bill on shared responsibility for the reception of newly arrived immigrants (the referral act) is being revised with a view to bringing it into force as soon as possible. As part of this work, the Government is already urging municipalities to provide places during the rest of the autumn. There are currently over 10 000 people stuck in asylum centres because they have not been offered a place in a municipality. The time frame for the bill on supported accommodation is being revised with a view to bringing it into force earlier.

## **County administrative boards conducting regional coordination**

The county administrative boards are holding regular national collaboration conferences and conducting regional coordination. The municipalities are contacted continuously about the availability of properties.

### **More precise remit for the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency on the coordination of refugee measures**

The Government has identified a need to strengthen the coordination of measures to deal with the refugee situation. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has the task of supporting the coordination of relevant agencies' measures in a crisis situation. We consider that the Agency's remit should be made more precise and are therefore working on a clarification along these lines.

### **Review of procurement rules**

The National Agency for Public Procurement has been tasked with drawing up a guidance document to support government agencies and other actors involved in procurement processes. This guidance document is to complement and make more tangible the European Commission's communication on public procurement. Moreover, changes are being considered to the procurement legislation with the aim of preventing the Swedish Migration Agency's problems with procurement processes being delayed in court proceedings through interim decisions.

Published 30 September 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

# EU migration ministers decide to relocate 120 000 asylum seekers

Four countries voted against the proposal and one Member State abstained. Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson, who took part in the meeting, welcomes the decision.

“This decision is an achievement for the EU.“ ”Moreover, during the course of the discussion, the majority in favour of relocating the 120 000 asylum seekers grew,” says Mr Johansson.

The Government’s position in the negotiations has been that it considers it important for all Member States to take part in relocating the 120 000 asylum seekers and as far as possible the option to refrain from receiving people in need of protection should be limited.

Published 24 September 2015



# Member States meet users in patent reform

The European Court of Justice's dismissal of Spain's actions for annulment of the EU's patent regulations gives fresh impetus to the ongoing pan-European patent reform.

Two years ago, Spain brought actions before the European Court of Justice for annulment of the EU's two patent regulations. On Tuesday 5 May, the Court of Justice dismissed these actions.

The judgments signify the removal of the final hurdle to a much-needed European patent reform. A reform package made up of unitary patent protection and the unified patent court will thus be introduced. This is good news for the internal market.

The judgments constitute a rallying call to participating Member States to complete their preparations and put the new system into place as soon as possible. Sweden and Germany are cooperating closely to work for user-friendly and swift implementation of the package.

The reform addresses a fragmented European patent system. Today, European patents granted by the European Patent Office must be validated in each country separately, under laws that differ from one country to another. In addition, a dispute over a European patent can currently be settled by multiple courts in different countries, with the risk of varying outcomes and inconsistent case law.

The current system is expensive by comparison. Moreover, it is complicated and legally uncertain for users wishing to obtain, defend or challenge a European patent with regard to several countries. The adverse conditions in Europe encourage innovative industry to instead invest in competing American or Asian markets, where GDP is growing faster and patent regimes are more favourable.

The new system, however, offers pan-European patent protection under a single procedure with limited translation requirements. Additionally, it launches a common, highly specialised court with exclusive competence to settle disputes relating to European patents. Simplification, cost reduction and legal certainty will be achieved.

These overall improvements will close competitive gaps with the world at large and help businesses grow throughout the internal market. And new investments mean market growth and the creation of new jobs. To meet its political aims, the system must be implemented so as to allow users to utilise its economic potential. In our preparations, we need to encourage use by meeting user expectations and making the system attractive.

The ongoing process for setting the fees for unitary patent protection is an important point in this regard. The fee level will need to provide a proper balance – it will need to be attractive to users of varying sizes while ensuring the financial stability of the patent system.

The new system will not be launched until common preparations are finalised and thirteen Member States have ratified the agreement on a unified patent court. When the regulations were adopted and the agreement signed, the participating Member States committed themselves to fulfil these requirements as quickly as possible. We stand firmly behind this commitment and will continue to take responsibility for the implementation of this important reform.

By the same token, we are devoting ourselves to meeting users and working effectively to attain a patent system that will contribute to innovation, growth and jobs in the EU.

Morgan Johansson, Minister of Justice and Migration, Sweden  
Heiko Maas, Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, Germany

The article in Swedish: ["Sverige och Tyskland driver på för patentreform i EU"](#)

The article in German: [Neues Patentrecht in Europa nutzt der Wirtschaft](#)

Published 24 June 2015





Government Offices of Sweden

# Global cooperation on migration and mobility - a key for sustainable development

On the occasion of the visit to Stockholm by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development Mr. Peter Sutherland, a seminar was hosted by the Swedish Minister for Justice and Migration Mr. Morgan Johansson to discuss global cooperation on migration and mobility, the new UN development agenda and ways to stop the tragedies in the Mediterranean

Published 29 May 2015



# Assisted fertilisation for single women

For many people, becoming a parent is an important stage in life. It is important that involuntarily childless single women also have possibilities to have children. The legislation regulating these possibilities must be based on the best interests of the child and the principle of equal treatment, and develop as society develops.

Society's contribution to fulfilling an individual's desire to have children must always focus on the best interests of the child.

The Government is now proposing that single women be given the same access to assisted fertilisation within the Swedish health care system as married couples, registered partners and cohabiting partners. If the bill is approved, a single woman who undergoes such treatment would be the child's sole legal parent.

“Families can take different forms, and many children today grow up in family groups other than the traditional nuclear family. It is high time that single women are given the same access to assisted fertilisation as married couples, registered partners and cohabiting partners. With this bill, Sweden can finally achieve modern legislation in this area,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

It is proposed that the bill enter into force on 1 April 2016.

Published 25 May 2015