



Article from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice

Mikael Damberg and Peter Hultqvist visited national cyber security centre

Published 17 June 2021

Sweden's security, competitiveness and prosperity rest largely on digital foundations. For the Government, it is important that the opportunities of digital transformation are harnessed while the risks are managed. On Wednesday 16 June, Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist visited the national cyber security centre to see how the new centre is taking shape.

Cyber threats to Sweden and Swedish interests are significant. With the rise of technological development and digital transformation, threats and vulnerabilities are increasing, requiring security to be strengthened.

In December 2020, the Government decided to instruct the National Defence Radio Establishment, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the Swedish Security Service to establish a national cyber security centre.

The cyber security centre's mandate is to:

- coordinate the work to prevent, detect and manage cyber attacks and other IT incidents;
- provide advice and support on threats, vulnerabilities and risks;
- be a national platform for cooperation and information exchange with private and public actors in the cyber security area.

By 2023, the centre will progressively develop in areas including:

- Targeted and coordinated warnings about threats and cyber attacks.
- Coordination of the support to preventive protective measures, for example cyber security assessments and mapping of operational preparedness in the event of IT incidents.
- Exchange of knowledge, skills and information and cooperation with public and private actors, for example on detection, vulnerabilities, threats, risks, analysis, tools and methods, as well as international cooperation.
- Provision of skills enhancement initiatives, for example exercises and training of identified target groups.
- The overarching objective of the cyber security centre is to strengthen Sweden's overall ability to prevent, detect and manage hostile cyber threats. Cooperation with private and public actors will be a central part of the mandate to strengthen cyber security in society.

“The national cyber security centre will make Sweden safer by increasing the overall ability to respond to cyber threats, reduce vulnerabilities and increase the ability to effectively support public and private actors,” says Mr Damberg.

“With the establishment of the national cyber security centre, an important step has been taken to strengthen the protection of Sweden and Swedish interests against hostile cyber threats. The cyber security centre has come a long way in a short period of time. The Government will cooperate closely with relevant government agencies on the centre's continued development and work,” says Mr Hultqvist.

The cyber security centre is to regularly report to the Government on its activities, and in 2023 the Government will decide on its continued direction.



Article from Ministry of Justice

New statistics show record numbers of police employees

Published 09 February 2021

According to the Swedish Police Authority's latest annual statistics, the Authority has a total of 33 726 employees as of 31 December 2020. This is a record-breaking increase of 5 463 new police employees since the start of the major investment in the Police in 2016.

“The number of police officers and civilian employees in the Swedish Police Authority is at an all-time high. The number increased in every police region in 2020. Our expansion of the Swedish Police will continue and we have now passed the halfway point in our efforts to add 10 000 employees to the Authority between 2016 and 2024. Additional colleagues will make the police service safer and ensure more effective law enforcement,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Seven hundred new students have recently begun their training on one of the five police training programmes around the country. Some 1 400 new police officers are expected to complete police training this year. This is more than twice the number of students compared with ten years ago, when the number was only 600.

The increase is partly due to the Government's investment in additional higher education institutions. As a result, the training is now available in two more cities – Borås and Malmö. Another factor is that police service conditions have improved, with more colleagues and a base salary increase of SEK 5 000 per month since 2015.

Of the 33 726 employees within the Swedish Police Authority, 20 942 are police officers and 12 784 are civilian employees. The number of newly

qualified employees this year marks a turning point for police growth. In a shift from a workforce that previously consisted of more civilian employees, the police training programme is starting to make an impact with a greater number of police officers in the field.

As interest in the police service has increased, the Government has initiated a new, accelerated admissions process for the police training programmes. Introduced in 2020, the process is more flexible and allows admitted students to choose one of the three upcoming semesters to start their training.

Another important reason for the increased number of police employees is that fewer have left. During 2020, 628 police officers left, which is 200 fewer than the previous year. More than one in four police officers who left before 2015 have also been rehired. Operational training has also been introduced for civilian experts – people with an appropriate background who will work in investigative units and other specialised areas. This is an accelerated programme from which more than one hundred graduates are expected annually.

As the number of police employees steadily increases, the police presence in both disadvantaged and rural areas will increase, which is a prerequisite for effective law enforcement.

Background

Police presence is critical to law enforcement. The Swedish Police Authority must grow to be able to investigate and solve more crimes and thereby increase security in society. For this reason, the Government has launched a historic investment in the Swedish Police Authority, which entails an increase of 10 000 employees by 2024. The halfway point of 5 000 employees was passed in 2020. Several thousand police officers will begin their employment around the country in the coming years.

The funding to finance the initiative has increased successively and the Swedish Police Authority will have more than SEK 30.5 billion at its disposal in 2021. This is approximately SEK 6 billion more than 2018. Giving the police more resources increases pressure in other parts of the judicial chain. The Government therefore proposed investments to enhance the entire judicial system in the Budget Bill for 2020. The Police will continue to need increased resources. The appropriation for 2021 is over SEK 1 900 million more than in 2020. Additional funding of SEK 1 650 million is proposed for 2022.



Article from Ministry of Justice

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

Published 30 October 2020 Updated 09 December 2020

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 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.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Infrastructure

Several Ministers participated in commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January

Published 30 January 2020

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.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Justice

More police employees with better conditions

Published 13 May 2019

All actors in society need to make a combined effort to support the police in its work to safeguard people's freedom and security according to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Jobs and security in focus when Stefan Löfven visited the United States

Published 07 March 2018

Growth, innovation, job creation and security were on the agenda when Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and US President Donald Trump held talks at the White House in Washington DC.

The aim of the meeting on 6 March was to further deepen relations between Sweden and the United States. Another important area of discussion was Sweden–US cooperation in external relations, defence and security.

Following the talks, Mr Löfven and Mr Trump held a joint press conference at the White House. "As we celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations, we are also planning for shared prosperity and security for many, many years to come," said Mr Löfven, who also stated that Sweden builds security by building ties.

"Sweden is a great country"

Mr Trump said that Sweden is a great country that the US has cooperated with for about 200 years. "Our relations have never been better," said Mr Trump, who also said that Swedes are terrific people.

Mr Löfven is the first European head of government to meet the US President since he announced his intention to impose tariffs on steel and aluminium. "I am convinced that increased tariffs will hurt us all in the long run, and as a Swede I of course support the efforts of the European Union to achieve trade with as few obstacles as possible," said Mr Löfven.

Following the press conference, the Swedish Embassy in Washington hosted a reception to celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations between Sweden and the United States.

Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, who also took part in the visit, had a meeting with US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross on 6 March.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Innovation partnership programmes impact Swedish innovative environments

Published 04 September 2017

The collaborations, initiatives and projects that have resulted so far from the five innovation partnership programmes were presented when the National Innovation Council met on Monday 28 August. Together, the project managers and the Council looked to the future and discussed critical success factors, goals and opportunities for developing these partnerships. The experiences of partnership working, where the business sector, academia and organisations work together strategically, were highlighted and discussed by the Council.

The innovation partnership programmes originated from the three social challenges that the National Innovation Council highlighted at the beginning of the electoral period: digitalisation, life sciences, and environmental and climate technologies. The Council has followed the work over the year and provided input, stressing for example the importance of joining forces to increase skills supply.

The innovation partnership programmes were launched on 1 June 2016. The partnership groups associated with the programmes focused on identifying challenges and opportunities for each programme and priority setting of important areas for joint action. Several working groups have been established and a number of concrete partnership projects have been

developed.

Within the framework of a partnership project, available public resources and co-financing from the business sector can be used jointly to meet specified priorities. Even so, the Government has provided additional funds for measures related to the innovation partnership programmes, including through the Research and Innovation Bill adopted by the Riksdag in early 2017. These funds are primarily channelled through programmes and calls for projects from the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Research Council Formas.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Greater focus on the link between innovation and globalisation

Published 29 August 2017

Innovation and globalisation – two areas that go hand in hand for Sweden’s continued national growth and development. Since Prime Minister Stefan Löfven established the National Innovation Council in February 2015, several initiatives have been taken aimed at promoting Sweden’s exchanges with leading innovation communities. There is greater focus today on the link between innovation and globalisation, and this was discussed at the National Innovation Council’s meeting on 28 August.

Moving from idea to innovation requires learning and collaboration between countries. This is why the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation has taken over responsibility for innovation and research councils at Sweden's embassies in important regions such as the United States, China, India, Japan and Brazil.

The aim is to promote more effective networking with people and communities of interest to Swedish innovation, research and higher education. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg and Sweden's newly appointed Ambassador to the United States Karin Olofsdotter described how this policy can be developed to increase synergies between various promotion initiatives and foster Sweden's exchanges with leading innovation communities.

Several international comparisons, including the Global Innovation Index, the European Innovation Scoreboard and the Bloomberg Innovation Index,

identify Sweden as a global leader in innovation. The Government is working to ensure Sweden continues at the forefront. The National Innovation Council, including representatives of the Government, business, trade unions and the research community, can serve as a contact point to strengthen Sweden's innovation capacity, thereby attracting the interest of other countries.

"Sweden is a global leader in innovation, and doors are opening in many countries for both the Government and the businesses accompanying the many promotional trips we carry out," says Mr Damberg.

In 2017, the Government has made several international visits and trips focusing on innovation, globalisation and new inter-country cooperation. On 31 July, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Mr Damberg travelled to Paris for meetings with President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. Discussion topics included jobs and growth, Swedish-French cooperation, the future of the EU, migration and security.

Press release: Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to meet President Emmanuel Macron

On 26–28 June, Prime Minister Löfven visited China, accompanied by Ministers Mikael Damberg, Ann Linde and Karolina Skog, and a business delegation within the framework of the Government's Team Sweden initiative. The visit focused on green innovation and sustainability, an area in which Sweden leads the world. Several agreements were signed in connection with the visit to promote bilateral trade and continued cooperation between Sweden and China.

Press release: Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to visit China

On 31 January, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Sweden. In connection with her visit, Germany and Sweden agreed on extensive innovation cooperation in digitalisation, eHealth and future mobility. A new innovation partnership was forged between the two countries involving a unique agreement on cooperation to promote innovative social solutions, new export products and stronger competitiveness.

Article: Innovation, digitalisation and asylum cooperation on the agenda as Löfven meets Merkel

Press release: Sweden and Germany in unique innovation partnership



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Innovation and cooperation for a sustainable future

Published 02 February 2017 Updated 02 February 2017

On the afternoon of 31 January, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg held roundtable discussions focusing on innovation and cooperation for a sustainable future at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. Among the participants were representatives of German and Swedish businesses, institutions and government agencies.

Mr Damberg opened the talks by presenting the new agreement on an innovation partnership between Germany and Sweden. The innovation partnership focuses on innovation and cooperation within four themes: mobility, test beds, digitalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises, and eHealth.

"I am proud to be here today and to be able to launch the new innovation partnership between Germany and Sweden. This is a unique agreement on cooperation between our countries to promote innovative solutions for society, new export products and stronger competitiveness," said Mr Damberg.

Germany and Sweden addressing common societal challenges through innovation

Sweden and Germany are similar in many ways and face common societal challenges, including climate change, an ageing population and increased global competition. The two countries are already cooperating at many levels, and the new innovation partnership will take cooperation to the next

level.

Within the framework of the innovation partnership, Sweden and Germany will conduct a joint study on the electrification of roads, enable strengthened cooperation between Swedish and German testing facilities, strengthen the digitalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises, and exchange knowledge and forms of technical infrastructure in the area of eHealth.

From agreement to innovative solutions

The discussions focused on the four themes of the agreement: mobility, test beds, digitalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises, and eHealth. The participants represented German and Swedish businesses, including Siemens and Scania, institutions such as the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM) and the Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), and authorities, such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Vinnova (the Swedish agency for innovation systems) and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

"Where others see obstacles, German and Swedish businesses see new markets," said Mr Damberg.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Chinese investors visit Sweden

Published 22 September 2016 Updated 22 September 2016

On Monday 12 September, the Government welcomed a Chinese business delegation consisting of some thirty corporate leaders and some twenty Swedish companies to Rosenbad for talks on investment opportunities in Sweden. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg hosted the meeting, along with Business Sweden and the Sweden China Trade Council. The aim of the meeting was to highlight the qualities that make Sweden unique as an investment country, and to show the Government's engagement in business relations with China.

China has increased its investments in Sweden in recent years. For example, the Chinese company Geely took over Volvo Cars in 2010 and launched the China Euro Vehicle Technology (CEVT) in Gothenburg in 2013. The CEVT's operations are growing quickly, encompassing more than 500 employees and 1000 consultants at present. The delegation that visited the Government on Monday had the same objective: to find new investment opportunities in and to Sweden.

The Government has recently launched a number of initiatives that make Sweden more attractive for foreign investment. Among these are the strategic collaborative programmes: five programmes that focus on innovative solutions in their specific areas. These areas are next-generation travel and transport, smart cities, a circular and bio-based economy, life sciences, and connected industries and new materials.

– The Government wants to point the way for more international investments in Sweden. The high turnout at today's meeting shows there is a

potential that Geely's purchase of Volvo and launch of the CEVT can help point the way for more major investments in Sweden, said Mr Damberg.

To follow up on the Chinese delegation's interest in Sweden, the Government will carry out a number of targeted measures in both China and Sweden.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden rounds off chairmanship of EUREKA innovation network

Published 30 June 2016 Updated 30 June 2016

Today, June 30, Sweden rounds off its chairmanship of EUREKA, an international innovation network. Based on the values of transparency, openness, simplification and efficiency, the Swedish Chairmanship worked to adapt and develop EUREKA on the basis of current global conditions. Sweden will now hand over the chairmanship to Spain.

"During our chair, we set clear goals for developing the EUREKA network. We introduced the tool 'Global Stars' to facilitate multilateral collaboration with countries outside the European Union. 'Global Stars' gives the network and its participating companies and organisations a standardised framework that helps them meet challenges likely to occur when they enter a global market, for example regarding intellectual property rights," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Three main priorities achieved

Sweden had three main priorities during its chairmanship:

- to create a leaner, more efficient organisation;
- to create a new toolbox for international R&D cooperation with partners that are not members of the network; and
- to further establish EUREKA's role in European innovation policy.

During the year, Sweden has prepared proposals for changes to modernise and adapt EUREKA's organisation to current demands. Sweden has also

created new conditions for more interactive and efficient meetings in the network.

Other results of the work are that Sweden initiated calls for projects with emerging economies outside Europe and that a plan was produced involving concrete measures to strengthen EUREKA's position in the Member States and at European level to achieve greater influence on research and innovation issues in the EU.

The Swedish Chairmanship also pushed developments forward in areas that are important to the network. Examples of this are EUREKA 2.0, which is a new process involving IT support for calls for projects among more countries, and E!nnoVest, which is a programme to match companies with experienced investors.

The practical work during the year as chair

During the year, Sweden represented the network externally, led the work in EUREKA's various groups and monitored activities at the EUREKA Secretariat. Sweden took over the chairmanship on 1 July 2015 and hands it over to Spain on 30 June 2016.

During its year as chair, Sweden organised three major management and decision meetings. They were held in Gothenburg, Malmö and Stockholm. In addition, the Swedish Chairmanship also held a EUREKA Innovation Event called 'Smart Cities – Sustainable & Attractive Communities'. This event, at which the EUREKA Innovation Award was presented, took place in Stockholm on 26–28 April 2016.

The chairmanship has been jointly held by the Swedish Government Offices and the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA).



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Chilean State Visit ends

Published 18 May 2016 Updated 13 June 2016

On the afternoon of 12 May, Chile's President Michelle Bachelet left Sweden following a three-day State Visit. The President was in Sweden at the invitation of HM the King. This was the first State Visit by a Chilean president to Sweden. Several of the Government ministers took part in the programme. The purpose of the visit was to broaden and deepen bilateral relations between Chile and Sweden.

Swedish companies have long had a strong presence in Chile. Bilateral trade has increased over the past 15 years. Cooperation exists in various areas, such as mining, forestry, environment and CSR. Further steps to enhance cooperation were taken during the State Visit. Chile and Sweden have a common view on many foreign policy issues, not least with regard to the rights of smaller countries, UN cooperation, gender equality, marine issues and free trade. Several global challenges were discussed. Representatives of both countries also discussed issues concerning cooperation for social and gender equality.

The State Visit began on Tuesday with the traditional welcoming ceremony at the Inner Courtyard of the Royal Palace. The King and Queen, many members of the Government and other representatives of the Swedish public sector were present to welcome the President. This was followed by a lunch at the Royal Palace which was also attended by Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel.

Talks on increased trade and investment

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received the President for talks at Rosenbad. Topics discussed by the President and the Prime Minister included the conditions for increased trade and investment. Within this framework, memorandums of understanding were signed on sustainable mining, forestry, urban development and CSR. Political, economic and cultural cooperation was another area in which memorandums of understanding were signed on welfare and holiday agreements. Issues concerning multilateral cooperation in gender equality, human rights and peacebuilding were also addressed. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for Rural Affairs Sven-Erik Bucht, Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér and Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson also took part in the talks.

Following a visit to Olof Palme's grave at Adolf Fredrik's Cemetery, President Bachelet travelled to Fryshuset where she and the King and Queen were met by the managing director of Fryshuset, Johan Oljeqvist. This part of the visit was also attended by Anja Frey, head of Fryshuset in Stockholm, and Camila Salazar Atias, responsible for social projects, as well as Stockholm City Commissioner Emilia Bjuggren.

The day concluded with a state banquet at the Royal Palace.

Wednesday's programme included a Swedish-Chilean Business Forum, a gender equality seminar, lunch at Stockholm City Hall and a meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin. President Bachelet delivered a speech in the Riksdag and took part in a ceremony at which a bust of Swedish diplomat Harald Edelstam was unveiled. During the afternoon, the President met part of the Chilean diaspora in Sweden. Afterwards, she took part in a seminar on social dialogue and the Global Deal, together with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Research and innovative companies in Gothenburg

On Thursday morning, the King and Queen and President Bachelet left for Gothenburg, where they were welcomed by the County Governor of Västra Götaland County Lars Bäckström and President of the Gothenburg City Council Lena Malm. Minister for Infrastructure Anna Johansson was also present. The first programme point was a visit to Astra Zeneca, where the President and the King and Queen learned about the work done there on research, development and cooperation with smaller, innovative companies. This was followed by visits to Volvo Torslanda and Lindholmen Science Park. The day concluded with lunch at the County Governor's residence.

In the afternoon, the King and Queen bid farewell to President Bachelet and the Chilean delegation at Landvetter Airport.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

State Visit from Chile under way

Published 12 May 2016 Updated 12 May 2016

On 10 May, Chile's President Michelle Bachelet began her State Visit to Sweden. The President is visiting Sweden at the invitation of HM the King. The Visit will last from 10 to 12 May and is the first incoming State Visit from Chile to Sweden.

The purpose of the visit is to broaden and deepen bilateral relations between Chile and Sweden. Swedish companies have long had a strong presence in Chile.

The first day of the State Visit began with an official welcoming ceremony at the Inner Courtyard of the Royal Palace, as is tradition. Following an inspection of the guard of honour of the Life Guards, the President, the King and the Queen greeted the Speakers of the Riksdag, the Prime Minister and the ministers present.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven then received the President at Rosenbad for talks.

Several memorandums of understanding were signed during the visit to Rosenbad.

Following a visit to Olof Palme's grave at Adolf Fredrik's Cemetery, President Bachelet travelled to Fryshuset where she and the King and Queen were met by the managing director of Fryshuset, Johan Oljeqvist. This part of the visit was also attended by Anja Frey, head of Fryshuset in Stockholm, and Camila Salazar Atias, responsible for social projects, as well as Stockholm City Commissioner Emilia Bjuggren.

The day ended with a state banquet at the Royal Palace.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Life sciences and policy innovations in focus at National Innovation Council meeting

Published 26 February 2016 Updated 05 December 2016

The Government's efforts to strengthen Sweden's life sciences and the significance of policy innovations in developing the reception and introduction system for newly arrived immigrants were two of the topics discussed when the National Innovation Council held its first meeting of the year on Thursday 25 February.

The National Innovation Council is tasked with advancing Sweden as a country of innovation and strengthening Sweden's competitiveness. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven chairs the Government's National Innovation Council, which was founded one year ago.

"The National Innovation Council's first year has been very valuable for the Government's efforts to strengthen the innovation climate in Sweden. Innovation is about the 'new' – about how Sweden as a country can become a winner in global competition and how we as a country can jointly tackle the major challenges facing society. Together in the Council we have highlighted major broad themes, such as digitalisation, life sciences, and climate and environmental policy, and we have strengthened our policy in these and other areas as a result. The Council is a clear example of the power of collaboration. I am looking forward to the Council's strong commitment in 2016, too, to ensure a more competitive Sweden," says Mr Löfven.

Life sciences – a priority for the Government

Anders Lönnberg, the Government's national life sciences coordinator, was invited to the meeting to discuss the work on the life sciences action plan that started in 2015. Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström attended the meeting and explained why the life sciences are a priority for the Government.

"Modern health and medical care demands that we also invest in innovation and life sciences. These investments also contribute to human health, welfare and quality of life. Through collaboration and development work we can strengthen entrepreneurship, create more jobs and improve health care at the same time. This is why the life sciences are a natural priority for the Government. It is a perspective we have with us in our work, linked to pharmaceutical products, eHealth and much more," says Mr Wikström.

Innovations for developing the system of reception and introduction of newly arrived immigrants was another topic on the agenda. Lisa Lindström, CEO of Doberman and member of the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation's advisory board, was invited to the meeting to talk about how policy innovations can create opportunities for developing the system of reception and introduction of newly arrived immigrants.

Can you explain what policy innovations means?

"There are many definitions of this. As I see it, it is regulatory frameworks, projects and new services that solve societal challenges in new or better ways. I think the quality of policymaking increases when policies are created jointly with citizens, companies, public sector actors, associations and others who are affected by the specific regulatory framework or policy in question," Ms Lindström says.

Can you give a specific example of a policy innovation?

"That Laholm Municipality has now chosen to let users order their own time for using companion services is a fantastic example. They quickly arrived at a good solution through creative and multidisciplinary participation within the framework of the service innovation project Förändra radikalt (Radical change)."

What benefits can policy innovations have in the

reception and establishment of newly arrived immigrants?

"Making use of the capacity and skills of new arrivals and combining these with the resources and the driving force of wanting to join in and contribute that is found in the business and non-profit sectors. And that in this way we are able to more quickly and concretely create new regulatory frameworks, new services and new ways of working. We don't have time to work in a linear fashion. We need ways to quickly understand problems, jointly create new solutions and test them at an early stage in order to more effectively and efficiently tackle the societal challenges we face and with a higher level of quality," Ms Lindström says.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Inauguration of Consulate-General in New York

Published 01 February 2016 Updated 01 February 2016

Sweden's new Consulate-General in New York was inaugurated yesterday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg and Sweden's new Consul-General Leif Pagrotsky. Also in attendance were representatives of the US Department of State and the City of New York.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the offices of the Consulate-General, the inauguration continued at the Swedish Residence on Park Avenue. In front of an audience of more than 130 people representing the business, culture and media sectors and other important partners of the Consulate-General, Mikael Damberg and Leif Pagrotsky gave speeches in which they stressed the significance of renewed Swedish diplomatic representation in the city.

"In light of Sweden's new export strategy, we have seen that there is a need for a Swedish public presence in New York to promote contacts, trade and investment with the US. It is therefore gratifying that we have now once again opened a Swedish Consulate-General in New York, which is one of the most important cities in the world for the promotion of Brand Sweden," says Mr Damberg.

The inauguration of the Consulate-General in New York has also been marked with a number of activities in New York in which Mr Damberg has participated. On Tuesday, along with representatives of Swedish promotion organisations in the US, he closed the NASDAQ Stock Market, and yesterday he spoke at a breakfast seminar on Swedish start-ups.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

“Intense, fruitful days in Vilnius” – The State Visit to Lithuania 7-9 October

Published 13 October 2015 Updated 13 October 2015

Friday 9 October was the final day of the Swedish State Visit to Lithuania. Since the State Visit began on Wednesday 7 October, the Swedish delegation has had a fruitful and busy visit on the other side of the Baltic Sea.

The theme of the State Visit was ‘The Baltic Sea unites us’. Environment, sustainability, research and innovation have been in focus. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg began his part of the State Visit by discussing the business and investment climate with business sector representatives, Minister of Economy Evaldas Gustas and Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius.

Following a warm welcome by Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, the King and Queen, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Mr Damberg visited Antakalnis Cemetery to honour the victims of the struggle for independence and place a wreath there. The King and Queen stressed Sweden’s sympathy and solidarity with the Lithuanian people’s struggle throughout history.

The first evening concluded with a banquet at the Presidential Palace; before it commenced, the King and Queen inaugurated the ‘AccessAbility’ photo exhibition, that highlights openness and inclusion through personal stories by Swedes and Lithuanians who live with impairments.

The second day continued in the same spirit: the King and Queen began their day by meeting the business community and discussing the Lithuanian business climate and the opportunities and challenges Swedish companies who become established there may encounter. Ms Wallström, Mr Damberg, the CEO of Business Sweden Ylva Berg, and a number of other business representatives were also present.

This was then followed by Swedish Business Forum and Awards, where the King presented awards to business community actors who had distinguished themselves in various sectors. Afterwards, the King and Mr Damberg continued to the company TEO LT AB, which is an industry leader in ICT and wireless connection. Parallel with these visits, Queen Silvia and Ms Wallström took part in a round-table meeting on trafficking with a Lithuanian parliamentary committee.

The conclusion of the second day of the State Visit also marked the end of a successful visit for Mr Damberg and Ms Wallström, who said about the visit:

- We have had two intense and fruitful days in Vilnius. I met my foreign minister colleague, Linas Linkevičius, and we announced that we will visit Ukraine jointly in November. I also visited the parliament, met students and took part in a round-table discussion on trafficking.

The King and Queen and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist began their third and final day on the sand dunes of the Curonian Spit, near the harbour town of Klaipėda, where experts from Region Skåne talked about the cooperation around the Baltic Sea to check negative climate impact along the coast.

In addition to environment discussions, the visit to the Curonian Spit included a stop at the local dolphinarium, which provided information about the dolphin therapy developed to help children with various types of impairments. Later in the afternoon, a visit was paid to the NordBalt project's transformer station ahead of the ground-breaking operational launch in Vilnius on 14 December, which will lead to a change of direction in the energy flow on the Baltic market.

The final State Visit stop was at the Amber Museum in Palanga, where President Grybauskaitė was warmly thanked for an inspiring visit in the spirit of sustainability, research and innovation.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

State Visit to Lithuania begins

Published 07 October 2015 Updated 08 October 2015

The three-day State Visit to Lithuania of Their Majesties The King and Queen of Sweden begins today. The Swedish Government is represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg and (on Friday) by Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist. A Swedish business delegation will also take part in the Visit.

Relations between Sweden and Lithuania are very good, and have been so since Lithuania regained its independence. Sweden was the first country to open an embassy in Vilnius in August 1991.

The Swedish delegation was met when it landed today with the same genuine and warm welcome as during the Swedish State Visit to Lithuania 23 years ago. A welcome ceremony took place at the Presidential Palace.

Ms Wallström and Mr Damberg also participated as the King placed a wreath at the Freedom Monument in the Antakalnis Cemetery to honour the victims of the struggle for independence.

The King and Queen, Ms Wallström and Mr Damberg later visited the Seimas, the Lithuanian Parliament, for a meeting with Speaker Loreta Graužinienė.

During the morning, Ms Wallström met with her Lithuanian colleague Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius.

Mr Damberg met Minister of Energy Rokas Masiulis.

Accompanying business delegation

Sweden is by far the largest foreign investor in Lithuania, accounting for over a quarter of the market. Some 30 business leaders are taking part in the delegation in connection with the State Visit. The delegation's day started early with Mr Damberg, discussing the business and investment climate in Lithuania with Chairman of the Bank of Lithuania, Vitas Vasiliauskas, Minister of Economy Evaldas Gustas and Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius.

The President will host a dinner during the evening. The State Visit will continue tomorrow and conclude on Friday.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden chairing international innovation network

Published 07 July 2015 Updated 07 July 2015

On Wednesday 1 July, Sweden assumed the Chairmanship of EUREKA, an international network that aims to promote transnational cooperation projects in market-driven research and development.

– Based on the latest Innovation Scoreboard, things are going well for Sweden, but we need to keep strengthening our ability to develop innovations that benefit the business sector and society. For a small, export-dependent country like Sweden to maintain its competitiveness, it is important to participate in international research and innovation networks. The EUREKA network facilitates international coordination between the business sector, universities and research institutes in over forty countries and provides access to as many markets, says Oscar Stenström, State Secretary to the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation.

Three main priorities

Sweden has identified three main priorities for its Chairmanship. The starting point for these priorities is the EUREKA 2020 Strategic Roadmap the network adopted during Norway's Chairmanship in 2014. The Strategic Roadmap explains the goals of the network and which action points are needed to achieve these goals. The priorities are:

Priority 1: Towards a lean and efficient governance model

Goal: Achieve a more appropriate organisational structure that promotes greater efficiency and transparency.

Priority 2: Creating a toolbox for Smart Globalisation

Goal: Deliver a general methodology and toolbox for the implementation of a new tool and to carry out pilot calls.

Priority 3: Further establish EUREKA in European Innovation Policy

Goal: Establish EUREKA as an important stakeholder in European Innovation Policy and contribute to the implementation of the European Research and Innovation Area.

The Chairmanship in practice

Sweden's responsibility as Chair includes representing the network externally, leading work in EUREKA's various groups and monitoring activities at EUREKA's Secretariat. Sweden took over the Chairmanship on 1 July 2015 and will pass it on to Spain on 30 June 2016.

During its year as Chair, Sweden will organise three major management and decision meetings. These will be held in Gothenburg, Malmö and Stockholm. In addition, the Swedish Chairmanship will also hold a EUREKA Innovation Event titled 'Smart Cities – Sustainable & Attractive Communities'. This event will take place in Stockholm on 26–28 April 2016 and will include the presentation of the EUREKA Innovation Award.

The Chairmanship is held jointly by the Swedish Government Offices and the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA).

EUREKA's goals and the benefit for Sweden

EUREKA's main goal is to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of European industry on the international market. The network is of great interest for Swedish industry, since it facilitates cross-border cooperation. EUREKA is VINNOVA's most important instrument for internationalisation of small and medium-sized companies in market-driven R&D.

EUREKA's history

EUREKA was established in June 1985 at a ministerial conference with the

participation of ministers from seventeen European States and the European Commission. Currently, EUREKA has expanded to forty member countries, as well as the European Commission. In addition, South Korea, Canada and South Africa are associated members. EUREKA is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Indian State Visit concluded

Published 04 June 2015 Updated 04 June 2015

On the evening of 2 June, India's President Shri Pranab Mukherjee left Sweden following a State Visit of three days. The President was in Sweden at the invitation of HM the King. The Government was represented, with the majority of ministers participating. The main themes of the visit were innovations and sustainable development, with a focus on urban development, science and research.

India is one of the leading countries in Asia, the world's fourth largest economy and an emerging global actor. The State Visit by the Indian President – the first ever – was therefore an important milestone in our bilateral relations.

The State Visit began on Sunday with the traditional welcoming ceremony at the Inner Courtyard of the Royal Palace. The King and the President inspected a guard of honour from the Life Guards and many members of the Government, as well as other Swedish public representatives, were present to welcome the President.

Monday began with a visit to the Riksdag, where the President was received by the Speaker of the Riksdag and met with Members of the Riksdag.

In the morning, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven also received the President for talks at Rosenbad. Mr Mukherjee and Mr Löfven discussed issues such as growing trade between Sweden and India and broad bilateral cooperation covering such areas as the environment, renewable energy and health. Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson, Minister for Foreign

Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan also took part in the talks.

In connection with the meeting at Rosenbad, a number of agreements between India and Sweden were signed, including a memorandum of understanding on sustainable urban development. The aim of the memorandum of understanding is to promote cooperation on matters concerning sustainable and integrated urban planning and land use, waste management, sustainable transport systems, water and sanitation.

Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan joined the President and the King later in the afternoon for a boat tour of Hammarby Sjöstad. During the boat tour, a roundtable discussion was held with business representatives on how cities can be built in more sustainable and environmentally friendly ways.

Sustainable cities in focus during the Indian State Visit

Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research, was present at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, when a number of cooperation agreements were signed between Indian and Swedish higher education institutions.

On Monday evening, the King and Queen hosted a gala dinner for the President.

Visit to Karolinska Institutet and Uppsala University

The theme on Tuesday, the final day of the visit, was mainly research and science. Minister Helene Hellmark Knutsson was in attendance when the President and the King and Queen visited Karolinska Institutet. The focus lay on scientific cooperation, and included visits to Nobel Forum and Aula Medica. The President was also given a presentation of Nya Karolinska Solna (NKS) and Hagastaden.

Before lunch, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg took part in a roundtable discussion between representatives of the Swedish and Indian business sectors. The President and the King were also present.

Mr Damberg gave a speech entitled *India-Sweden Partnership – Co-creating a Brighter Future*.

In connection with the business forum, the President announced that Swedish passport holders will now be granted an 'eTourist visa' when visiting India, leading to more expedient visa handling for Swedish citizens.

In the afternoon, the President visited Uppsala University together with Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. Ms Wallström gave the opening address and the President held a lecture on the theme 'Tagore and Gandhi: Do they have contemporary relevance for Global Peace?'.

Speech by Margot Wallström at Uppsala University

On Tuesday evening, Ms Wallström was in attendance when Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel bid farewell to the President at Arlanda airport.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Historic State Visit from India

Published 28 May 2015 Updated 28 May 2015

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will pay a State Visit to Sweden from 31 May to 2 June 2015 at the invitation of His Majesty the King. The Government will be represented, with the majority of ministers participating. The main themes of the visit are innovations and sustainable development, with a focus on urban development, science and research.

India is one of the leading countries in Asia, the world's fourth largest economy and an emerging global actor. The State Visit by the Indian President – the first ever – is an important milestone in our bilateral relations.

Focus of the State Visit

The focus of the State Visit will be on creating conditions for greater exchange in the areas of trade and science, and strengthening Sweden's presence in the Indian market.

There is growing demand in India concerning issues such as innovation, urban development and sustainable development. The State Visit will provide the opportunity to promote potential business opportunities in these areas in both directions.

Sweden already has broad cooperation with India in a number of areas: environment, renewable energy, research, health, etc. This cooperation will be deepened further in connection with the visit, which will include the signing of a number of cooperation agreements.

Programme points

India's President will land in Stockholm on Sunday afternoon and will be welcomed at Arlanda Airport by Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel. The King and Queen will receive the President at the Royal Mews for a horse-drawn cortège to the Royal Palace, where the traditional welcoming ceremony will take place. Representatives of the Riksdag and the Government will be present.

Monday's programme will begin with a visit to the Riksdag and a meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will then welcome the President at Rosenbad. Stockholm City will host a lunch at Stockholm City Hall, during which sustainable urban development will be the focus of discussions. The afternoon programme will continue along the same theme with a visit to Hammarby Sjöstad. Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan will take part. In the evening, the King and Queen will host a banquet at the Palace.

The theme for Tuesday will be research and science, with a visit to Karolinska Institutet, with Minister for Higher Education and Research Helène Hellmark Knutsson in attendance. This will be followed by seminars and meetings with Swedish and Indian business representatives. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg will also take part in the programme.

The programme will continue in the afternoon in Uppsala, where the President will deliver a speech at Uppsala University. Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will be present.

The State Visit will conclude late on Tuesday afternoon.

Follow the visit on social media: use #sweindia2015



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Team Sweden to coordinate export support

Published 20 May 2015 Updated 26 May 2015

Swedish businesses wanting to enter the export market regard current export support as confusing, given the various government agencies, companies and boards involved. Team Sweden has consequently been tasked with coordinating export support and making things simple and straightforward for companies wanting to enter the export market. As its first destination, Team Sweden recently visited Brazil.

Swedish exports are one of the Government's focus areas and an important element in getting more people into jobs and safeguarding Swedish welfare. The Government has an ambitious employment objective: by 2020 the number of people in work and the number of hours worked in the economy must increase to such an extent that Sweden achieves the lowest unemployment rate in the EU. Increased investments in housing, infrastructure and knowledge as well as an active business policy are needed to achieve this objective. And Swedish exports must increase. Part of the Government's export strategy is to make it easier for businesses to set up operations abroad by coordinating export support through Team Sweden.

Team Sweden is an umbrella for all Sweden's government agencies, boards and companies currently working on export promotion initiatives for Swedish businesses. Team Sweden aims to make things simple and straightforward for companies wanting to enter the export market. Team Sweden includes the most important ministries and government agencies working in the area of exports.

As its first destination, Team Sweden recently visited Brazil together with Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg. The choice of Brazil was no coincidence. Brazil is one of the most important growth markets in the world and an important cooperation partner for Sweden in a number of areas. More than 200 Swedish companies already have a presence in Brazil, and together they employ more than 70 000 people and turned over around SEK 130 million in 2013. Discussions were held during the three-day visit about how the extensive bilateral cooperation, not least in the area of innovation, can be advanced to the next stage.

The visit also included meetings in Brasilia with Minister of Development, Industry and Trade Armando Monteiro, Minister of External Relations Mauro Vieira and Minister of Strategic Affairs Roberto Mangabeira Unger. During the visit, the bilateral commission for economic, technical and industrial cooperation was re-launched with the aim of advancing bilateral trade, innovation, education and research between the two countries.

The Government's new export strategy, focusing on job growth in Sweden, will be presented this summer. Team Sweden is part of this strategy and is an initial response to the business sector's views on Swedish export support.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

New Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation as of 1 January 2015

Published 01 January 2015 Updated 03 March 2015

The Government's objective is that Sweden will have the lowest unemployment in the EU by 2020. The new Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation will be the hub of activities to create jobs and sustainable growth throughout the country.

"The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation will drive the Government Offices' work to create jobs and sustainable growth throughout the country. The new organisational structure brings closely related issues together and I am convinced that we will reap many synergy benefits. At the Ministry, we will now shape and develop this work together. I am very much looking forward to this process," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation will have a whole new organisational structure, divided into four departments. These will play a central role in the new Ministry:

- Housing and transport
- Sustainable growth
- Innovation and state-owned companies
- Enterprise and conditions

Mr Damberg points out that rural issues are an important part of the Government's growth strategy in which it sees great potential. He also raises trade and export issues as important elements in the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

A further purpose of the new ministerial structure is the opportunity to work on common targets and strategies and to use the combined resources of the Government Offices, government agencies and other actors efficiently.

"I very much look forward to leading the new Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, including rural issues, responsibility for the state-owned companies and export promotion. We are taking a holistic view of what makes Sweden strong, and in this respect our Ministry has an important role," concludes Mr Damberg.



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden and Italy united for a more competitive and digital Europe

Published 26 May 2016 Updated 26 May 2016

The world has gone digital. In an increasingly connected world, the distance between nations, markets and individuals is shrinking. This digitisation enhances our vision of the single market, one economy without barriers. The question of how to adapt the single market to a modern digital economy continues to be a top priority for Europe, its tech companies and for more traditional industry. Sweden and Italy now join forces to promote a more competitive and digital Europe acting as a multiplier of opportunities and innovation for all our citizens.

Cross-border E-commerce

An increasingly high proportion of European consumers regularly shop online. However, whilst e-commerce within Member States is popular, only a small share of e-commerce in the EU takes place across borders. In 2015, only around 15% of European consumers made cross-border purchases online. We need to work to remove obstacles in this area to allow companies to reach wider audiences, to grow and to innovate further.

Consumers should be able to access a wide range of goods and services safely and affordably, with clear information about their rights and the offerings available, and without any discrimination on the basis of nationality

or place of residence. We are in a Single Market: let us get rid of obstacles and barriers and let us unlock all its growth potential.

Prevention of unjustified geoblocking, when a consumer's access to commercial offers is denied or hindered due to her or his nationality or place of residence, should be one way forward. The Governments of Sweden and Italy look forward to seeing an ambitious legislative proposal on geoblocking this spring, acting to prevent this type of discrimination. This proposal needs to provide European e-traders with legal clarity on how cross-border consumers should be treated, and to facilitate consistent application.

Sweden and Italy believe the Commission is on the right track thus far and that Member States need to collaborate to boost cross-border e-commerce for the benefit of both European consumers and companies.

A related issue concerns the right of consumers to bring digital content that they subscribe to in their Member State of residence, such as streaming services for film or music, across borders when travelling in Europe. Today it is possible to use these services when travelling from Palermo up to Bolzano or from Kiruna down to Malmö but the consumer risks losing them when taking a take trip from Bolzano to Innsbruck or from Malmö to Copenhagen. This simply does not make sense in a true single market.

Free flow of data

For the EU, exports of digitally deliverable services to the world represent 25 per cent of the value of exports. Business and trade are totally dependent on data flows. Data has to be moved to make trade happen, and to run companies efficiently. Cross-border data flows are needed to secure the potential of big data, cloud services and the internet of things, all technologies which allow companies to present consumers with better tailored offerings. Free flowing data is not only essential for e-traders and digital start-up companies but also to more traditional industrial companies. While data must be able to flow freely to stimulate innovation and competitiveness, respect for proper protection of personal privacy must also be maintained.

A proposal from the Commission on free data flows is scheduled to come out this year. It is important that the proposal removes any unjustified limitations of the free flow of data in the single market. It should also take into account the need for free data flows in a wider international context. Openness to the rest of the world is crucial for European companies, facilitating trade,

collaboration and innovation. It is of critical importance that, as global trade becomes increasingly digital, we do not slide into new forms of protectionism.

Ultra fast broadband, Research and Development

The European Digital Agenda set broadband coverage targets by 2020 for all the EU MS, i.e. that all citizens have access to internet speeds of 30Mbps and that 50% of the households subscribe to internet connections of 100Mbps. Italy and Sweden believe, considering the innovation speed we are facing today, that Europe should start to facilitate the diffusion and investments in future proof ultrafast networks able to provide services at 1Gbps. In this regard a key role will be also played by the R&D sector.

Collaborative economy

The collaborative economy presents promising new ways of doing business, identifying spare capacity to bring together supply and demand. New start-ups and new tech-companies are increasingly using these new platform-based collaborative business models, many of which offer consumers increased transparency and wider choice. In 2014, a report by PWC valued the global collaborative economy at approximately €11bn, predicted to increase to €287bn by 2025.

Sweden and Italy welcome the approach in the Commission's Single Market Strategy on the collaborative economy. We should not hasten new legislation and any future action in this area should aim to facilitate innovative entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises and start-ups, and new and innovative business practices that provide opportunities for growth.

We have developed good practices in our countries which could contribute to the approach taken at EU-level.

Focus must be on clarifying how existing rules are applicable to companies in the collaborative economy: new entrepreneurs, more traditional providers and consumers all seek to understand their place in a changing market. As Member States have seen in broader discussions on platforms, diverse business models entail different benefits and risks for consumers, and need targeted assessment and response. In areas where new measures are deemed necessary, attention should be paid to specific regulatory gaps or legal uncertainties that might impede innovative business opportunities.

Rapid technological developments in the global digital economy offer us new opportunities for sustainable growth and competitiveness. Europe must create the best conditions for exploiting these opportunities, in order to strengthen the single market, create new jobs and improve conditions and offerings for consumers.

This is the union we want: a Union capable to deliver and able to make a real difference for all our citizens.

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden

Sandro Gozi, State Secretary for European Affairs, Italy



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Boosting CSR in China

Published 09 September 2015 Updated 11 September 2015

The recent turbulence in China is also having an effect on Swedish companies. I am signing a new memorandum of understanding between Sweden and China to deepen our cooperation on corporate social responsibility, writes Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, who begins a visit to China today.

Despite some turbulence, China remains important for Swedish trade and Swedish exports and it will continue to be so in the future as well.

On Tuesday I begin a visit to China and Hong Kong to promote Swedish exports and support Swedish companies. I am also there to bolster the unique cooperation that Sweden and China have in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR), linked to the Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility in Beijing.

China is Sweden's largest trade partner in Asia and one of the markets to which the Government gives high priority in trade promotion. There are around 500 Swedish companies operating in China, and this figure is growing; at the same time, over 10 000 Swedish companies trade with China. Sweden's total trade in goods with China amounted to almost SEK 90 billion last year.

However, we are seeing a slowdown in the Chinese economy. This is a concern for Sweden and for the entire world economy in view of the importance China's growth has for the rest of the world. Although the slowdown in China is moderate, Sweden will be affected. We will be directly affected by a fall in Chinese demand for Swedish goods and also indirectly by the fact that many of our important trade partners will experience lower

economic growth as a result of decreased demand in China.

The Government will shortly be presenting an export strategy to strengthen export and internationalisation opportunities for Swedish companies in important growth markets such as China. The aim of the strategy is to contribute to increased exports, a larger number of exporting companies, greater attractiveness for investments, skills and tourists, and increased participation from Swedish companies in the global economy.

Many Swedish companies currently face challenges when they try to do business in complex markets. These can include issues linked to the environment, trade union rights, human rights, corruption or diversity and gender equality. This is why it is particularly important to have an active and well-considered CSR policy.

But it is also important that the Swedish Embassy provides concrete help on the ground where companies operate, such as in China.

Since 2010 there has been a Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility at Sweden's Embassy in Beijing, providing a platform for cooperation between Sweden and China on CSR issues. But support to the Centre was phased out under the last Government and it was due to be closed.

The Government has now decided to allocate SEK 3 million per year to enable the Centre to continue the important work it is doing.

The Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility organises courses, seminars and study visits on issues such as working conditions, worker protection, overtime, environmental considerations, combating corruption, wage formation and discussions on trade union relations. Over the years, the Centre has provided training to several hundred key figures linked to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the agency responsible for state-owned companies, and also to representatives of chambers of commerce, industry federations and regional and local authorities.

Ultimately, this is about being able to increase understanding between Swedish and Chinese companies on sustainability, and to simplify and promote Swedish companies' business opportunities in the Chinese market and trade between the two countries.

Our commitment does not stop there. I will also be signing a new memorandum of understanding between Sweden and China to deepen our

cooperation on CSR issues.

Sweden is one of the few countries to have an agreement with China in the area of CSR, dating back to 2007. This gives us a unique opportunity to regularly discuss and exchange experience of CSR with representatives of the Chinese Government.

The new agreement will extend cooperation on policy issues such as procurement, waste and water management, human rights in enterprise, transparency and responsible investments. We will also include new actors in the agreement, such as trade union organisations and civil society, and we will work to expand cooperation between companies from both countries.

Corporate social responsibility is about trying to help Swedish companies remain at the forefront, and be innovative, modern, competitive and attractive to their employees, consumers and investors. This is something that I and the Government will continue to work for.

The Government's CSR initiative in China will help to increase exports and create more jobs in Sweden. It will also help to create sustainable global development.



Opinion piece from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

“Worrying that Swedish exports are losing market shares”

Published 06 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Dagens Nyheter 6 februari 2015

Four challenges. Swedish exports are too EU-oriented. Too few small companies export their goods and services, and exports are too low in the value chain. In addition, we are threatened by a growing protectionism, write Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Globalisation means that the economies in countries throughout the world are becoming increasingly closely interwoven. For a small, export-dependent country such as Sweden, this creates major opportunities. Exports are a linchpin of our economy; they create growth, employment and greater prosperity.

The Government’s overarching objective is to increase the number of people in employment and the number of hours worked to such an extent that we achieve the lowest unemployment in the EU by 2020. Sweden’s exports of goods and services will play a key role in how well we succeed in this.

Exports of goods are currently worth SEK 1 127 billion and exports of services are worth approximately SEK 500 billion. This corresponds to almost half of Sweden’s gross domestic product. In simple terms, we can say that around half of what we produce in Sweden is exported.

However, in view of the fact that trade is so important for Sweden’s welfare, it is worrying that it has shown weak growth. In recent years, Sweden’s GDP has been driven by consumption, not exports. Between 2000 and 2013, Sweden’s export growth was 93 per cent measured in US dollars. This can be compared with global export growth of 166 per cent.

The state of Swedish exports worries us. The figures may show a certain rise over time, but compared with other countries' export growth and looking at the prospects in the longer term, the situation is troubling. Put simply, Sweden finds itself in the foreign trade 'comfort zone'. Of Sweden's exports, 70 per cent go to the EU internal market. Trade with our closest neighbours is very significant in this regard, and it is important for our economy. But we consider that trade in the internal market needs to be supplemented so that Sweden as an export nation does not lose market shares.

We have identified four challenges for Sweden's foreign trade:

- Swedish exports do not focus enough on the new growth markets in Asia.
- Far too few small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) export their goods and services.
- Swedish exports must, to a greater extent, comprise downstream goods and services, to help create growth and jobs in Sweden.
- Protectionist tendencies in other parts of the world, not least the G20 countries, risk having a negative impact on Swedish exports.

1.

The first challenge is that Swedish exports do not focus enough on new growth markets in Asia, Africa and South America. A large proportion of current exports of goods and services go to the EU. It is natural that we export most to our neighbouring countries, but the fact that Sweden does not have much trade with other parts of the world means that we have not been able to make full use of the growth generated in the new growth countries, especially in Asia.

The fact that the economies in the EU have not picked up speed has direct consequences for Swedish export companies. Sweden would gain from increased exports to parts of the world where economies are actually growing. Up to 2020, Asia is expected to account for almost half of the world's combined economic growth.

New development trends are emerging on the horizon, with a number of growth markets growing strong and starting to pave the way for a new world order. This is not about a strict shift from west to east or from north to south; rather, it means that we will be living and working in a global economy, with more economic centres around the world. This, of course, brings with it both challenges and opportunities for Swedish companies.

2.

The second challenge is that by far too few SMEs export their goods and services. Small companies now enjoy entirely new opportunities for exports. Thanks to technological developments and internationalisation, even a small company can, with the right product, make sales on the international market. However, when it comes to the level of internationalisation among small and medium-sized enterprises in the form of foreign trade, our SMEs perform relatively well compared with the EU average, but compared with countries in our immediate neighbourhood we see that we perform less well than Germany, and substantially worse than Denmark.

Since many new jobs are created in small and medium-sized enterprises, it is extremely important that SMEs also increase their exports. Studies suggest that SMEs that start to export also increase their number of employees.

3.

The third challenge lies in the fact that too small a proportion of Swedish exports consists of goods and services high up the value chain that help create jobs and growth and thereby ensure our prosperity. The higher up the value chain our exports are, the more profitable they are. The service industries have become increasingly important for manufacturing, and help create value in processing. To ensure growth and jobs, goods and services higher up the value chain need to constitute a larger proportion of exports.

4.

The fourth challenge to Swedish exports is the increasing protectionism that we are seeing in the aftermath of the financial crisis. Sweden is a country that supports free trade and stands up for free and fair global trade. The Swedish Government believes that it is important to dismantle trade barriers, while at the same time standing up for the environment, employees' interests and people's health. The current negotiations between the EU and the United States on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) could create the world's largest regional free trade area. Together, the EU and the US account for approximately half of the world's GDP and a third of global trade flows. Once negotiated, the TTIP will serve as a model for future free trade agreements around the world. The Government's goal is to achieve as ambitious a result as possible to support growth and employment – without impairing protection of the environment, the interests of wage earners and the health of people and animals. For this reason, it is important that the TTIP is a deep and comprehensive agreement that respects democratic decisions.

Developing trade relations with other parts of the world is high on this Government's agenda. Our international visits therefore have a clear focus on increasing Sweden's exports.

Sweden cannot afford to let exports take a back seat. They are far too important for jobs and growth in our country. For this reason we are now launching a project for a new export strategy that will tackle the increasingly exciting challenges facing Swedish foreign trade. However, we do not think that a national export strategy is a matter only for politicians and officials at the Government Offices. Sweden's new export strategy will therefore be drafted in collaboration with the country's entrepreneurs. The work is now beginning, and we will be inviting representatives of all of the different business sectors to work with us to produce a strategy that will provide a boost for Swedish exports.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to the entry ban for people travelling to Sweden from certain countries outside the EU/EEA and extended ban on entry to Sweden from countries within the EU/EEA

Published 25 November 2021

The Government has today decided to extend the temporary ban on entry to Sweden from countries within the EU/EEA due to the continued uncertainty concerning transmission of COVID-19. The Government has also adopted amendments to the ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA concerning exemptions for people who live in or can present vaccination certificates issued in certain specified countries. These amendments are in line with the updated recommendations and decisions at EU level.

Entry from countries within the EU/EEA

The ban on entry for travellers to Sweden from countries within the EU/EEA will be extended until 31 January 2022.

The Government had previously decided that the entry restrictions within the EU/EEA should be scaled back cautiously to reduce the risk of a setback

that would necessitate new restrictions. The restrictions should remain in place a while longer, particularly since certain European countries have recently experienced increased transmission. This means that to enter Sweden from these countries, a traveller will still have to present the EU Digital COVID Certificate or a corresponding certificate showing that they have either been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative within 72 hours prior to arrival or recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months.

As previously, travellers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway are not subject to the entry restrictions and thus do not need to present any certification when entering Sweden.

The ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA that was previously adopted also remains in effect until 31 January 2022.

Exemption for fully vaccinated travellers from certain countries outside the EU/EEA

The Government today also decided that people travelling to Sweden who can present a vaccination certificate issued in Georgia, Moldova, New Zealand, Serbia and Singapore are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement.

According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in these countries are equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical systems as the EU certificate.

The amendments will enter into force on 30 November 2021.

Amendments to the entry ban for people residing in certain countries

The Government has also decided today that Ukraine and Singapore will be removed from the list of countries where residents are generally exempt from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there, while Indonesia will be added to the list. The decision applies as of 30 November.

This means that the entry ban will be reintroduced for people residing in the countries removed from the list, while people residing in Indonesia will generally be exempt from the entry ban.

Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to people who reside in those countries. For example, people who can present vaccination certificates issued in countries such as Ukraine and Singapore will also continue to be exempt from the entry ban and test requirement for entry to Sweden.

The amendments are the result of an update of the EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

The amendments will enter into force on 30 November 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Vaccinated people travelling to Sweden from Armenia are exempted from the entry ban and test requirement

Published 11 November 2021

The Government today adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments primarily mean that additional people who can present a vaccine certificate issued in Armenia are exempted from the entry ban and test requirement.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban on entry into Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA means that the entry ban now applies until 31 January 2022.

The entry ban means that a foreign citizen departing from a state other than an EEA State or Switzerland travelling to Sweden will be denied entry into Sweden and turned away. There are a number of exemptions from the ban, but travellers are normally required to present a negative COVID-19 test result even if they are covered by one of the exemptions.

The Government's decision today means that people travelling to Sweden who can present a vaccination certificate issued in Armenia are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement. According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in Armenia are equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical

systems as the EU certificate.

The amendments will enter into force on 15 November 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Continued border control at internal borders

Published 03 November 2021

The Government today decided on continued border control at the internal border for six months. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

The Government has decided to reintroduce border control at the Swedish internal border for six months. Border control will continue until 11 May 2022. The decision was taken in accordance with common EU legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

“The Swedish Security Service has decided not to change the assessment that the terrorist threat level remains elevated, and we make the assessment that Sweden should also retain internal border controls. Border control at internal borders can help detect potential perpetrators who intend to damage Sweden and prevent them from committing serious offences. Shortcomings also persist in the control of the external borders in the Schengen Area,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

A number of other Schengen countries, such as Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark, have also temporarily reintroduced internal border controls and have announced that they, like Sweden, intend to continue with the controls for as long as a serious threat to public order and internal security remains.

As previously, the Swedish Police Authority decides where and how the border control will be conducted. The control and checks will be adapted to

what is necessary to safeguard public order and internal security.

Please note that the decision of reintroduced border control at the internal border is not related to the temporary travel ban to Sweden that is in place due to the Covid-19-pandemic situation.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendment to exemptions from entry ban for residents of Argentina, Colombia, Namibia and Peru

Published 03 November 2021 Updated 04 November 2021

(New version) The Government has decided on an amendment to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendment concerns an exemption for residents of a certain specified non-EU country and is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban on entry into Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA means that the entry ban now applies until 31 January 2022.

There are several exemptions to the entry ban, one of which applies to residents of certain specified non-EU countries. As a result of today's decision, residents of Argentina, Colombia, Namibia and Peru are exempted from the entry ban solely on the basis that they reside there. Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to residents of Argentina, Colombia, Namibia and Peru.

Foreign citizens who are exempted from the entry ban, such as residents of Argentina, Colombia, Namibia and Peru, are still required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result upon entry into Sweden.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and a coordinated response. It is important that we coordinate action in the EU to ease entry restrictions in the best way possible as the epidemiological situation improves.

Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendment will enter into force on 8 November 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extended ban on entry to Sweden and exemptions for fully vaccinated travellers from US and other countries

Published 28 October 2021

The Government is extending the ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside and within the EU/EEA, effective 31 October. The Government has also decided on changes to the effect that travellers who can present a vaccine certificate issued in the US, Guernsey, Isle of Man or Jersey are exempted from the entry ban and test requirement when entering Sweden.

The Government today decided to extend the ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside and within the EU/EEA. The Government's decision to extend the ban on entry to Sweden is primarily due to the continued uncertainty concerning transmission of COVID-19.

Entry from countries within the EU/EEA

The ban on entry to Sweden from countries within the EU/EEA will be extended until 30 November 2021.

The Government had already decided that the entry restrictions within the EU/EEA should be scaled back cautiously to reduce the risk of a setback that would necessitate new restrictions. The restrictions should remain in place a while longer, particularly since certain European countries have recently experienced increased transmission. This means that to enter

Sweden from these countries, a traveller will still have to present the EU Digital COVID Certificate or a corresponding certificate showing that they have either been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative within 72 hours prior to arrival or recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months.

As previously, travellers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway are not subject to the entry restrictions and thus do not need to present any certification when entering Sweden.

Entry from countries outside the EU/EEA

The ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA will be extended until 31 January 2022.

This entry ban is based on a recommendation from the Council of the European Union that is in effect indefinitely. The extension is thus in line with the recommendation.

Accordingly, the regulations stipulating that a foreign national who travels to Sweden from a country outside the EU/EEA may only enter if they are covered by one of the exemptions from the entry ban and can also present a negative COVID-19 test result, or are exempted from the test requirement, still apply. There are also exemptions from the entry ban and test requirement for several categories of travellers.

Exemption for fully vaccinated travellers from US and other countries

The Government today decided that people travelling to Sweden who can present a vaccination certificate issued in the US are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement.

Sweden enjoys close and good relations with the US, and cooperates on important matters in many areas. Travel between Sweden and the US is therefore of major importance in many different ways. For example, it plays an important role when it comes to companies' competitiveness and opportunities to conduct their activities. The US intends to allow entry to fully vaccinated travellers from all 26 Schengen countries as of 8 November. It is therefore very important that vaccinated travellers from the US can also travel more easily to Sweden.

Finally, the Government has also decided that travellers who can present a vaccine certificate issued in Guernsey, Isle of Man or Jersey are completely exempted from the entry restrictions. This supplements the Government's decision of 7 October regarding vaccine certificates issued in the United Kingdom.

These amendments will enter into force on 5 November 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendment to exemptions from entry ban for residents of Bahrain and United Arab Emirates

Published 15 October 2021 Updated 15 October 2021

The Government has decided on an amendment to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendment concerns an exemption for residents of a certain specified non-EU country and is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban on entry into Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA means that the entry ban now applies until 31 October 2021.

There are several exemptions to the entry ban, one of which applies to residents of certain specified non-EU countries. As a result of today's decision, residents of Bahrain and United Arab Emirates are exempted from the entry ban solely on the basis that they reside there. Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to residents of Bahrain and United Arab Emirates.

Foreign citizens who are exempted from the entry ban, such as residents of Bahrain and United Arab Emirates, are still required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result upon entry into Sweden.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and a coordinated response. It is important that we

coordinate action in the EU to ease entry restrictions in the best way possible as the epidemiological situation improves.

Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendment will enter into force on 19 October 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Vaccinated travellers to Sweden from the UK to be exempted from entry ban and test requirement

Published 07 October 2021

The Government today adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The changes mean that travellers who can present a vaccine certificate issued in the UK will be exempt from the ban on entry to Sweden and the COVID-19 test requirement.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March 2020 and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended on several occasions, and under the latest such decision, the entry ban now applies until 31 October 2021.

The entry ban means that a foreign citizen departing from a state other than an EEA State or Switzerland travelling to Sweden will be denied entry into Sweden and turned away. There are a number of exemptions from the ban, but travellers are normally required to present a negative COVID-19 test result even if they are covered by one of the exemptions.

The Government's decision today means that people travelling to Sweden who can present a vaccination certificate issued in the United Kingdom are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement.

Sweden and the UK have close ties and a long history of cooperation in many important areas. Travel between Sweden and the UK is of major importance for both countries from a range of perspectives, not least to facilitate mutual trade and increased investment. The UK has allowed entry to fully vaccinated Swedes (on certain conditions) for some time. By

contrast, travellers from the UK cannot currently travel directly to Sweden unless they are covered by a special exemption. It is therefore very important that vaccinated UK nationals can also travel more easily to Sweden.

The amendments enter into force on 11 October.

For more information on how the ordinances on a temporary ban on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to the entry ban for people travelling to Sweden from certain countries outside the EU/EEA

Published 30 September 2021

The Government today adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments mean that the general exemption from the entry ban for people living in certain specified countries will be adapted to align with the latest recommendation from the Council of the European Union to the EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban entered into force on 19 March 2020 and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended on several occasions, and under the latest such decision, the entry ban now applies until 31 October 2021.

The entry ban means that a foreign citizen departing from a state other than an EEA State or Switzerland travelling to Sweden will be denied entry into Sweden and turned away. There are a number of exemptions from the ban, but travellers are normally required to present a negative COVID-19 test result even if they are covered by one of the exemptions.

The Government's decision today means that Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova will be removed from the list of countries where residents are generally exempt from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there, while Chile, Kuwait and Rwanda will be added to the list. The decision applies as of 4 October. This means that the entry ban will be

reintroduced for people residing in the countries removed from the list, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova, while people residing in Chile, Kuwait and Rwanda will generally be exempt from the entry ban.

Regarding foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova as of 4 October, only those covered by another exemption from the entry ban may enter Sweden. This includes, for example, foreign citizens who have a Swedish residence permit, people with an essential need or function in Sweden and who can also present a negative COVID-19 test.

Regarding foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from Chile, Kuwait and Rwanda as of 4 October, those who can provide proof of residence in one of these countries and in addition can present a negative COVID-19 test result are exempt from the entry ban and allowed to enter Sweden.

These amendments are the result of an update of the EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries adopted on 23 September 2021, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The amendments enter into force on 4 October 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Vaccinated people travelling to Sweden from Albania, Andorra, Faroe Islands, Israel, Morocco, Monaco and Panama are exempted from the entry ban and test requirement

Published 23 September 2021

The Government today adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments primarily mean that additional people who can present a vaccine certificate issued in certain specific countries and territories are exempted from the entry ban and test requirement.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March 2020 and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended on several occasions, and under the latest such decision, the entry ban now applies until 31 October 2021.

The entry ban means that a foreign citizen departing from a state other than an EEA State or Switzerland travelling to Sweden will be denied entry into Sweden and turned away. There are a number of exemptions from the ban, but travellers are normally required to present a negative COVID-19 test result even if they are covered by one of the exemptions.

The Government's decision today means that people travelling to Sweden who can present a vaccination certificate issued in Albania, Andorra, the

Faroe Islands, Israel, Morocco, Monaco and Panama are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement. According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in these countries are equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical systems as the EU certificate.

Additional countries, including the United Kingdom, are awaiting a decision from the European Commission in the near future. The intention is to continuously add more countries to the Swedish rules following Commission decisions. The Government will provide information about this on an ongoing basis.

As a result, travel to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA will now be easier. At the same time, the Government will continue to monitor the situation and retain the test requirement for travellers from other countries outside the EU/EEA. This is due to the continued uncertainty concerning infection rates and transmission of particularly significant variants of the virus, and taking into account the difficulties in checking and verifying the wide range of different vaccination certificates that these travellers may present. This should be considered a step in the successive and responsible reopening of travel to Sweden for vaccinated people from other countries.

The amendments enter into force on 27 September 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to the entry ban for people travelling to Sweden from certain countries outside the EU/EEA

Published 17 September 2021

The Government has adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments primarily mean that people who can present a vaccine certificate issued in certain specific countries and territories are exempted from the entry ban. The decision also means that the ban will be reintroduced for entry from a number of countries in accordance with the Council of the European Union's updated recommendations for travel to into EU Member States. Certain amendments have also been made to make the entry ban rules more uniform and to simplify the entry process for both travellers and border police.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March 2020 and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended on several occasions, and under the latest such decision, the entry ban now applies until 31 October 2021.

The entry ban means that a foreign citizen departing from a state other than an EEA State or Switzerland travelling to Sweden will be denied entry into Sweden and turned away. There are a number of exemptions from the ban, but travellers are normally required to present a negative COVID-19 test

result even if they are covered by one of the exemptions.

Vaccination certificates issued by certain countries outside the EU/EEA

The Government's decision means that people travelling to Sweden who can present a vaccination certificate issued in North Macedonia, San Marino, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine or the Vatican City are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement. According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in these countries are equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical systems as the EU certificate. Additional countries, including the United Kingdom, are awaiting a decision from the European Commission in the near future. The intention is to continuously add more countries to the Swedish rules following Commission decisions. The Government will provide information about this on an ongoing basis.

As a result, travel to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA will now be easier. At the same time, the Government will continue to monitor the situation and retain the test requirement for travellers from other countries outside the EU/EEA. This is due to the continued uncertainty concerning infection rates and transmission of particularly significant variants of the virus, and taking into account the difficulties in checking and verifying the wide range of different vaccination certificates that these travellers may present. This should be considered a step in the successive and responsible reopening of travel to Sweden for vaccinated people from other countries.

The EU Digital COVID Certificate for travellers from third countries and extended time limit for negative test results

Under this decision, travellers from third countries who can present the EU Digital COVID Certificate will also be exempt from the test requirement, which means that the entry restrictions are the same for travel from countries inside and outside the EU/EEA. This simplifies the entry process for both travellers and border police.

To make it easier for long-distance travellers and to make the entry ban rules more uniform, the decision also includes an extension of the time limit for a

negative COVID-19 test that people travelling to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA who are covered by any of the exemptions from the entry ban must present to enter the country. The decision means that the test must not be older than 72 hours upon entry. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions.

Amendments to the entry ban for people residing in certain countries

Finally, the Government has decided that Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Japan and Serbia will be removed from the list of countries where residents are generally exempt from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there, while Uruguay will be added to the list. The decision applies as of 20 September. This means that the entry ban will be reintroduced for people residing in the countries removed from the list, while people residing in Uruguay will generally be exempt from the entry ban. Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to people who reside in those countries. These amendments are the result of an update of the EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries adopted on 9 September 2021, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The amendments enter into force on 20 September 2021.

For more information on how the ordinances on a temporary ban on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

The Government to reintroduce ban on entry to Sweden for travellers from the US, Israel, Kosovo, Lebanon, Montenegro and North Macedonia

Published 02 September 2021

The Government today adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments concern the exemption for residents of certain designated non-EU countries and are in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March 2020 and initially applied for 30 days. It was subsequently extended on several occasions, and the latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 31 October 2021.

The entry ban means that a foreign citizen travelling to Sweden from a state other than an EEA State or Switzerland will be denied entry into Sweden and turned away. There are a number of exemptions from this – for example, the entry ban does not apply to foreign citizens who are resident of certain countries. The exempted countries are specified in an annex to the Ordinance.

The adopted amendment means that the US, Israel, Kosovo, Lebanon, Montenegro and North Macedonia will be removed from the annex to the Ordinance. This means that residents of these countries will no longer be

exempted from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there.

Regarding foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from the US, Israel, Kosovo, Lebanon, Montenegro and North Macedonia as of 6 September, only those covered by another exemption from the entry ban may enter Sweden. This could concern foreign citizens who have residence permits in Sweden, have particularly urgent needs or are to carry out essential functions, and who can also present a negative COVID-19 test. The negative COVID-19 test result may not be older than 48 hours. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions.

The amendment is the result of an update of EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries adopted on 30 August 2021, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the severely deteriorated epidemiological situation in these countries.

The Ordinance has been adjusted regularly and at short notice to reflect EU recommendations, and the Public Health Agency of Sweden has stated that changes to the Swedish measures should be based on the work carried out at EU level to coordinate the Member States' measures directed at travellers from third countries.

The amendment will enter into force on 6 September 2021.

The Government is now examining the possibility – taking into account the process at EU level – of exempting fully vaccinated residents of certain third countries from the entry restrictions. The Government intends to return to this issue at a later date.

For more information on how the ordinances on a temporary ban on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Ban on entry to Sweden extended

Published 26 August 2021

The Government is extending the ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside and within the EU/EEA. The main rule remains that travellers from countries in the EU/EEA – apart from the Nordic countries – cannot enter Sweden without presenting a vaccine certificate, a negative COVID-19 test result or a certificate confirming recovery from COVID-19. Travellers from countries outside the EU/EEA can only enter Sweden if they are covered by one of the exemptions from the entry ban and can also present a negative COVID-19 test result. The extended entry bans apply until 31 October 2021 or until further notice.

The Government's decision to extend the ban on entry to Sweden is primarily due to the continued uncertainty concerning COVID-19-infection and the spread of particularly significant variants of the virus.

The Government had already decided that the entry restrictions within the EU/EEA should be scaled back cautiously to reduce the risk of a setback that would necessitate new restrictions. In June, the Swedish regulation was adapted to the EU regulation on COVID-19 certificates, which allows travel within the EU without restrictions if a traveller can present a certificate showing that they have:

- been vaccinated against COVID-19,
- tested negative within 72 hours prior to arrival; or
- recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months.

As previously, travellers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway are not subject to any entry restrictions and thus do not need to present any certification upon entry into Sweden.

The extension of the ban on entry from countries outside the EU/EEA is in line with EU recommendations. In addition, the Public Health Agency of Sweden considers that entry restrictions remain important for travellers from countries outside the EU/EEA, where vaccination rates in many cases are lower than in EU/EEA countries, and where the epidemiological situation regarding transmission and particularly significant virus variants is more difficult to assess.

The regulations stipulating that people who travel to Sweden from a country outside the EU/EEA may only enter the country if they are covered by one of the exemptions from the entry ban and can also present a negative COVID-19 test result still apply. A negative COVID-19 test result is only valid for 48 hours. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions.

For more information on how the ordinances on a temporary ban on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

For media questions, please contact the Minister for Home Affairs' press secretary.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice

Increased possibilities for participants in international elite competitions to enter Sweden

Published 19 August 2021

The Government has today adopted an amendment to the temporary ban on entry from third countries that expands the possibilities for participants in international elite competitions to enter Sweden.

A temporary ban on entry from third countries (i.e. countries other than EEA countries or Switzerland) has been in effect since March 2020. The entry ban is a joint action at EU level to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus. There is already an exemption from the ban for people taking part in or performing necessary tasks at international elite sports competitions.

“The exemption that the Government has now adopted is important to be able to increase possibilities for holding international elite competitions in eSports and similar events in Sweden,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The decision means that the exemption for international elite sports competitions will also apply to other similar elite competitions. There is still a requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result on entry.

“I am glad that this decision now opens up the possibility of holding international eSports events even during the pandemic. Sweden has long been a leader in eSports, which is a position we must preserve,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The amendment/exemption will enter into force on 23 August 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Supplementary provisions as a result of Brexit entering into force

Published 15 July 2021

Today, 15 July 2021, the Act containing supplementary provisions on cooperation in criminal matters between the European Union and the United Kingdom enters into force.

The provisions of the Act supplement certain parts of the agreement between the EU and the UK and concern cooperation on the surrender of suspected or convicted persons and the enforcement of decisions on confiscation of property.

The surrender of suspected or convicted persons is carried out in essentially the same manner as under the European arrest warrant. However, Sweden will not surrender its own citizens to the UK. In addition, surrender for political offences may be refused.

In Sweden, prosecutors and general courts are judicial authorities with the competence to take decisions in cases involving the surrender of suspected or convicted persons to and from Sweden.

The supplementary provisions also include cooperation in the enforcement of decisions on confiscation of property in both Sweden and the UK. This means for example that the Swedish Enforcement Authority can request that a Swedish decision on confiscation be enforced in the UK.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence

Sweden's new Government

Published 09 July 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Justice

The Government presents package of measures to stop men's violence against women

Published 24 June 2021

Men's violence against women must end. The Government is today presenting a package of measures for future work to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The package includes measures to prevent the use of violence, support and protection to those affected and stricter legislation regarding prosecuting those who subject their partner or former partner to violence.

Stopping men's violence against women has been a priority for the Government in both the current and previous electoral periods. In 2016, the Government adopted a ten-year national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women, with an accompanying programme of measures for 2017–2020. Since then, the focus has been building a long-term sustainable structure at national, regional and local level. The package of measures now being presented intensifies this work.

“As long as one single woman is murdered by her partner or former partner, we have not done enough. No teenage girl should be subjected to violence by their boyfriend. The Government is today presenting measures to put an end to violence here and now, give affected women support and protection, and take preventive action so that no more women are beaten and no men resort to violence,” says Märta Stenevi, Minister for Gender Equality.

The package of measures to stop men's violence against women that the

Government is now presenting contains 40 points. It includes measures to help achieve all four of the objectives in the national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women:

- 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 law enforcement
- Better knowledge and methodological development.

“In recent years, the Government has taken a number of important measures to impose stricter punishments on men who commit crimes against women. The punishment should reflect the seriousness of the crime, and further proposals in line with this are presented here. Men's violence against women can never be accepted, and the judicial system must take a severe view of these crimes,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“Men's violence against women is a high priority for the Government. The authorities in the judicial system are central to the efforts to combat men's violence against women. Making progress in these efforts requires our authorities to join forces and cooperate, based on their different areas of responsibility. It is important that the authorities have the right tools and the right expertise so that we can put our full strength into achieving the objectives in the package of measures and stopping the violence,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Entry ban on travel to Sweden extended

Published 21 June 2021

The Government has decided to extend the entry ban on travel to Sweden from EU/EEA countries. The Swedish regulations are also being adapted to the EU regulation on a COVID certificate. This mainly entails an entry ban on travel to Sweden unless a vaccination certificate, a negative COVID-19 test result, a certificate confirming recovery from COVID-19 or a corresponding certificate can be presented. The extension enters into force on 30 June and remains in effect until 31 August. Entry from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway is still not subject to any entry restrictions.

The Swedish Government has decided to extend the entry ban on travel to Sweden primarily due to the continued uncertainty concerning COVID-19-infection.

The Government had already decided that the entry restrictions within the EU/EEA should be scaled back cautiously to reduce the risk of a setback that would necessitate new restrictions. Now the Swedish regulation is being adapted to the EU regulation and the entry ban is being extended until 31 August. The EU regulation enables travel within the EU without subsequent restrictions if the traveller has a certificate verifying that they have either:

- been vaccinated against COVID-19,
- tested negative for COVID-19, or
- recovered from COVID-19.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendment to exemptions from entry ban for residents of Japan

Published 11 June 2021

The Government has decided on an amendment to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendment concerns an exemption for residents of a certain specified non-EU country and is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban on entry into Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA means that the entry ban now applies until 31 August 2021.

There are several exemptions to the entry ban, one of which applies to residents of certain specified non-EU countries. As a result of today's decision, residents of Japan are exempted from the entry ban solely on the basis that they reside there. Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to residents of Japan.

Foreign citizens who are exempted from the entry ban, such as residents of Japan, are still required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result upon entry into Sweden.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and a coordinated response. It is important that we coordinate action in the EU to ease entry restrictions in the best way possible as the epidemiological situation improves. Today's decision is in line with the

Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendment will enter into force on 14 June 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Entry ban on travel to Sweden extended, but entry restrictions from Nordic countries lifted

Published 28 May 2021

The Government has decided to maintain the entry ban to Sweden for travel from third countries, i.e. outside the EU/EEA. The entry ban on travel from EU/EEA countries, which involves a ban against entering Sweden unless a negative COVID-19 test result can be presented, will also be extended. However, the Nordic countries will be exempted from the entry restrictions as of 31 May.

The Swedish Government has decided to extend the entry ban to Sweden primarily due to the continued uncertainty concerning infection. The extension of the entry ban from third countries is in line with EU recommendations. In addition, the Public Health Agency of Sweden considers that entry restrictions remain important for travellers from countries outside the EU/EEA, where vaccination efforts have in many cases not come as far as in the EU/EEA countries, and where the epidemiological situation regarding transmission and virus variants of particular importance are more difficult to assess. The Government considers that the entry restrictions within the EU/EEA should be scaled back cautiously and gradually to reduce the risk of a setback that would necessitate new restrictions.

“Opening up for travel in the Nordic region is the first step in the opening of travel to and from Sweden, which must be done gradually and responsibly. At the same time, the Government is maintaining a close dialogue with the

Public Health Agency of Sweden,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The decision taken by the Government means that the temporary entry bans to Sweden will be extended. Entry bans apply both to people who travel to Sweden from countries outside EU/EEA (third countries) and to people who travel to Sweden from EEA countries. At the same time, entry restrictions to Sweden from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway will be lifted.

This means that as of 31 May, people who travel to Sweden from the Nordic countries will no longer be covered by any special entry restrictions.

However, entering Sweden from other EEA countries will still require a negative COVID-19 test result. A negative COVID-19 test result is only valid for 48 hours. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions.

The entry ban on travel to Sweden from EEA countries will be extended until 30 June 2021. The changes that involve lifting the entry restrictions for Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway will take effect on 31 May.

The regulations stipulating that people who travel to Sweden from a country outside the EU/EEA may – as previously – only enter the country if they are covered by one of the exemptions from the entry ban and can also present a negative COVID-19 test result. A negative COVID-19 test result is only valid for 48 hours. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions.

The extension of the entry ban to Sweden for travel from countries outside the EU/EEA will apply until 31 August this year.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Proposal for supplementary provisions to the agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom

Published 17 May 2021

The Government has today presented a bill to the Riksdag containing certain supplementary provisions on law enforcement and police cooperation to the agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom.

The proposals concern cooperation on the surrender of suspected or convicted persons and enforcement of decisions on confiscation of property.

Surrender of suspected or convicted persons will primarily be carried out in the same manner as under the European arrest warrant. In contrast to the cooperation within the EU, the proposals stipulate that Sweden will not surrender its own citizens to the UK and that surrender for political offences may be refused.

The supplementary proposal also means that prosecutors will be competent to issue arrest warrants in Sweden, and that prosecutors and general courts will be competent to decide on surrender cases to and from Sweden.

Supplementary rules are also proposed to the cooperation concerning enforcement of decisions on confiscation of property in both Sweden and the UK. This means for example that the Swedish Enforcement Authority can request that a Swedish decision on confiscation is to be enforced in the UK.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 15 July 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendment to exemptions from entry ban for residents of Israel

Published 12 May 2021

The Government has today decided on an amendment to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendment concerns an exemption for residents of a certain specified non-EU country and is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 31 May 2021.

There are several exemptions to the entry ban, one of which applies to residents of certain specified non-EU countries. As a result of today's decision, residents of Israel are exempted from the entry ban solely on the basis that they reside there. Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to residents of Israel.

Foreign citizens who are exempted from the entry ban, such as residents of Israel, are still required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result upon entry into Sweden.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and a coordinated response. It is important that we coordinate action in the EU to ease entry restrictions in the best way possible as the epidemiological situation improves. Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendment will enter into force on 17 May 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary ban on entry into Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the website of the Police Authority. See the adjacent links.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Agreement entered into to improve possibilities to investigate crimes committed by Da'esh/ISIL

Published 07 May 2021

To facilitate efforts by Swedish law enforcement authorities to investigate crimes committed by ISIL terrorists, Sweden today entered into a cooperation agreement with UNITAD.

ISIL supporters have left behind a great deal of evidence in Iraq, which UNITAD* has been mandated to collect, catalogue and store. This evidence is being gathered for use in national trials against ISIL supporters in Iraq or other countries related to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The agreement signed today between Sweden and UNITAD aims to simplify and streamline for Swedish law enforcement authorities to cooperate and to facilitate access to the evidence UNITAD collects.

"To prosecute and ensure accountability for ISIL terrorists is a priority for the Government. Those who participated in the terrible crimes committed by ISIL must not be led to believe that they can escape punishment, and ISIL victims are entitled to justice. UNITAD is an important player in these efforts, which is why we today have entered into this agreement with them," says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The agreement means that it will be easier for Swedish law enforcement authorities to access all the evidence that UNITAD gathers. The agreement also stipulates that, when Swedish legislation allows, Swedish authorities may provide information that they have gathered to UNITAD.

As a result of the agreement, the Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Prosecution Authority have been designated as national contact points for cooperation in Sweden.

The agreement was signed in New York on 7 May by Sweden's ambassador to the UN Anna Karin Eneström, since Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg was unable to attend in person due to the pandemic.

"I am happy that Sweden strengthens its cooperation with the UN mission UNITAD and supports the important operational work in Iraq to promote accountability for these heinous crimes and atrocities", says Sweden's ambassador to the UN Anna Karin Eneström.

* Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Continued border control at internal borders

Published 06 May 2021 Updated 06 May 2021

The Government today decided on continued border control at the internal border for six months. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

The Government has decided to reintroduce border control at the Swedish internal border for six months. Border control will continue until 11 November 2021. The decision was taken in accordance with common EU legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

“The Swedish Security Service has decided not to change the assessment that the terrorist threat level remains elevated, and we make the assessment that Sweden should also retain internal border controls. Border control at internal borders can help detect potential perpetrators who intend to damage Sweden and prevent them from committing serious offences. Shortcomings also persist in the control of the external borders in the Schengen Area,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

A number of other Schengen countries, such as Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark, have also temporarily reintroduced internal border controls and have announced that they, like Sweden, intend to continue with the controls for as long as a serious threat to public order and internal security remains.

As previously, the Swedish Police Authority decides where and how the border control will be conducted. The control and checks will be adapted to

what is necessary to safeguard public order and internal security.

Please note that the decision of reintroduced border control at the internal border is not related to the temporary travel ban to Sweden that is in place due to the Covid-19-pandemic situation.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Supplementary provisions to agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom

Published 16 April 2021

The Government decided today [15 April] to refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation containing certain supplementary provisions on law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters to the agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom.

The proposal referred to the Council on Legislation concerns cooperation on surrender of suspected or convicted persons and enforcement of decisions on confiscation of property.

Surrender of suspected or convicted persons will primarily be carried out in the same manner as under the European arrest warrant. In contrast to the EU cooperation, the proposals stipulate that Sweden will not surrender its own citizens to the UK and that surrender for political offences may be refused.

The supplementary proposal also means that prosecutors will be competent to issue arrest warrants in Sweden, and that prosecutors and general courts will be competent to decide on surrender cases to and from Sweden.

Supplementary rules are also proposed to the cooperation concerning enforcement of decisions on confiscation of property in both Sweden and the UK. This means for example that the Swedish Enforcement Authority can request that a Swedish decision on confiscation is to be enforced in the UK.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 15 July 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Entry ban to Sweden – this is what applies from today

Published 31 March 2021

At midnight last night, the extension of the general entry ban entered into force. The requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result remains in place for entry from all countries. At the same time, the separate entry restrictions on travel from Denmark and Norway were also lifted. The requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result also applies for entry from these countries. The entry ban has been extended until 31 May.

“Extending the general entry ban and the requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result on entry into Sweden from all countries reduces the risk of further spread of the COVID-19 virus and of more people in Sweden falling ill. The separate restrictions on travel from Denmark and Norway are being lifted in a responsible manner, in line with a request from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, to accommodate those who live and work in our border regions,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The general entry ban and the requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result on entry into Sweden will apply following the extension until 31 May 2021. However, the Government has decided to lift the separate entry restrictions for travel from Denmark and Norway. From today, a negative COVID-19 test result is a requirement – with certain exceptions – for entry from these countries into Sweden under the same regulations that apply to other European Economic Area (EEA) states.

Thus, a general entry ban continues to apply for foreign citizens. For entry

from EEA states, the entry ban means that you may not enter the country if you cannot present a negative COVID-19 result on arrival in Sweden. For countries outside the EU/EEA, known as ‘third countries’, only people who belong to a category of people who are exempt may enter Sweden and only if they can also present a negative COVID-19 test result. The requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions. Now that the Brexit transition period has come to an end, the UK is a ‘third country’ and, according to EU recommendations, entry from the UK should be regulated in the same way as entry from other third countries.

As before, a negative COVID-19 test result is only valid if taken within the previous 48 hours. For those who commute for work or study, the requirement has been relaxed: they will be able to present test results that are no older than 7 days.

Swedish citizens always have the right to enter Sweden and are not subject to entry bans or required to present a negative COVID-19 test result. But everyone who has been abroad – including Swedish citizens and people who are exempt from the entry ban or the requirement for a negative COVID-19 test result – should follow the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Sweden for people entering Sweden from abroad on what to do after arrival.

For more information, please see the questions and answers via the adjacent [link](#).



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of general entry ban and testing requirement for travel from all countries, and lifting of separate entry restrictions for travel from Denmark and Norway

Published 24 March 2021

The Government decided today to extend the general entry ban, and that the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test will remain in effect for entry from all countries. At the same time, the separate entry restrictions on travel from Denmark and Norway will be lifted. The entry ban has been extended until 31 May. The amendments apply from 31 March.

“The purpose of extending the general entry ban is to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and more people in Sweden from falling ill. In light of the thorough analysis conducted by the Public Health Agency of Sweden, we consider that the particularly strict restrictions that have applied to travel from Norway and Denmark can be lifted without potentially increasing the risk of infection,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Today, the following decisions were made.

- The general ban on entry to Sweden remains in place. Only people who qualify for an exemption and can present a negative COVID-19 test result are allowed to enter Sweden from countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA). People travelling from an EEA country are allowed to enter Sweden if they can present a negative COVID-19 test

result upon arrival. The requirement of a negative COVID-19 test result applies to travel from all countries and to all foreign citizens aged 18 and over, with certain exceptions.

- The separate entry restrictions that apply for travel from Denmark, Norway and the UK will be lifted on 31 March. After 31 March, Denmark and Norway will be subject to the same rules that apply to other EEA countries, and the UK to the same rules as other countries outside the EEA.

As a result of the amendments, Danes and Norwegians can travel to their holiday homes in Sweden, families living on different sides of the border can meet in Sweden, and people who need to transit through Sweden by road can do so, as long as they can present a negative COVID-19 test result upon arrival. For travel to Sweden from Denmark and Norway, the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test result still applies, but the previous additional requirement of belonging to a category of people who are exempt has been lifted.

As previously, a negative test result must not be more than 48 hours old, but commuters will be able to use test results that are no older than 7 days. This relaxation of the test requirement has been expanded through the Government's decision today to also apply to people who regularly cross the border to study in Sweden.

As previously, the requirement to present a negative test result does not apply to certain categories of people arriving in Sweden; these include Swedish citizens and people living in Sweden, children under the age of 18 and transport workers.

The current entry restrictions on travel from the UK to Sweden apply until 31 March. After 31 March, travel from the UK will no longer be regulated separately; instead the general entry ban will apply. Now that the Brexit transition period has come to an end, the UK is a 'third country' and, according to EU recommendations, entry from the UK should be regulated in the same way as entry from other third countries. As previously, only people who qualify for an exemption and can present a negative COVID-19 test result are allowed to enter Sweden from the UK. The exemptions differ slightly but most are the same as those that currently apply.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Negative COVID-19 test required for entry into Sweden

Published 03 February 2021

The Government today decided that foreign nationals will have to present a negative test result for ongoing COVID-19 infection upon entry into Sweden, regardless of where they are arriving from. The aim is to reduce the risk of spreading the new variants of the COVID-19 virus that have been detected in a number of countries.

On 29 January, the Government received a proposal from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, requesting a government decision requiring foreign nationals to present a negative test result for ongoing COVID-19 infection before they are permitted to enter Sweden, with any exemptions that the Government might decide. The background to this is that new variants of the COVID-19 virus have recently been detected, and that it is currently difficult to fully determine in which countries the variants are prevalent.

The Government sent the proposal to the Swedish Police Authority, the Swedish Coast Guard and the Swedish Migration Agency under an accelerated consultation procedure. At the same time, the EU has presented new recommendations for travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

Following very intensive preparations, the Government today approved a general entry ban for foreign nationals who cannot present a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival in Sweden. As a general rule, the test must not be more than 48 hours old. Foreign nationals aged 18 and older are subject to the test requirement, with the exception of certain categories of travellers so as to ensure that there are no unintended consequences.

The regulations differ depending on whether a person is travelling from a

third country or from an EU or Schengen country. There are also separate regulations for travel from Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom. However, the common feature is an exemption from the test requirement for people under the age of 18, those who live in Sweden and staff in the transport sector.

“Today’s decision is important to reduce the influx of the new variants of the virus that have been detected in several countries. According to the Public Health Agency of Sweden, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the new variants, and even if they have now spread to some extent in Sweden, it is important that we take this step, which will reduce the risk of further spread,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The regulations will enter into force on 6 February, i.e. at midnight on Friday, and will apply up to and including 31 March.

Today’s decision does not affect the period of validity of the temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden, which still applies until 31 March.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to ban on entry from United Kingdom, Norway and Denmark

Published 28 January 2021

The Swedish Government decided today on certain amendments to the ban on entering Sweden from the United Kingdom, Norway and Denmark. The amendments include an exemption from the entry ban for people who are to receive certain types of care in Sweden.

In an earlier decision, the Government instituted a ban on travel to Sweden from the UK, Denmark and Norway. The aim of these strong measures is to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus and its new variants so that fewer people fall ill.

There are some exemptions from the entry ban, such as for people who live or work in Sweden. The Government's decision today broadens an earlier exemption for travel between Bornholm and another part of Denmark. It also includes an exemption for defence cooperation and clarifies the already existing exemptions on humanitarian grounds and for reindeer husbandry. People who are to receive certain types of care and parents who are to meet their children in Sweden are also exempted.

New EU recommendations are expected soon and may necessitate changes to the current rules.

The amendments enter into force on 1 February. The entry ban applies until 14 February.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Temporary ban on entry from Norway

Published 26 January 2021

The Government decided today (24 January) to expand the temporary entry ban that has been in effect for Denmark to also include Norway. The entry ban enters into force at midnight on Sunday 24 January and remains in effect until 14 February. Today's government decision also means that the temporary ban on entry from Denmark and the United Kingdom has been extended until 14 February 2021. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has also decided today to reinstate the advice against unnecessary travel to Norway.

The Norwegian health authorities suspect a major outbreak in the Oslo area of the mutated variant of the COVID-19 virus that was previously reported in the United Kingdom. The Public Health Agency of Sweden's assessment is that the suspected outbreak in combination with extensive lockdown measures may risk a massive influx of people to the Swedish side of the border. This increases the risk of congestion in nearby Swedish municipalities and, consequently, of further spread of the mutated virus in Sweden.

For this reason, the Government decided today to expand the temporary entry ban that has been in effect for Denmark to also include Norway. The Public Health Agency of Sweden submitted a proposal to the Government requesting such an entry ban yesterday afternoon. The temporary entry ban comes into force on 25 January and remains in effect until 14 February. The Government has also decided to extend the temporary ban on entry from Denmark and the United Kingdom until 14 February.

The ban on entry from Norway is formulated in the same way as the earlier ban in effect for Denmark. The same exemptions also apply, which means that people who live or work in Sweden, personnel transporting goods and other staff in the transport sector, and people with imperative family reasons are exempt.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has also decided today to reinstate the advice against unnecessary travel to Norway. The decision applies until further notice.

“The reason for these strong measures is to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and more people in our society falling ill. The Government is closely monitoring the developments with the mutated virus variant and remains in continuous contact with the Public Health Agency of Sweden,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Yesterday, the Public Health Agency of Sweden announced quarantine and ongoing COVID-19 infection testing recommendations for people arriving in Sweden from Norway, as is the case for people arriving from the United Kingdom. All people entering Sweden who have been in Norway in the past 14 days are encouraged to stay at home for at least seven days, avoid contact with others as far as possible and to get tested as soon as possible after arrival in Sweden, with a subsequent test five days after arrival. Other people in the household should also stay at home until a negative test result has been received. People who commute to Norway should avoid meeting people from outside their household when they are not at work.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Certain amendments to the ban on entry from the UK and Denmark

Published 14 January 2021

The Government decided today on certain amendments to the ban on entry into Sweden from the United Kingdom and Denmark. The amendments have been made to enable children and parents to spend time together and to facilitate certain medical transport services from Denmark. In addition, the time-limited ordinance will be extended until 31 January 2021.

The aim of the powerful measures introduced in December is to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus and its new variants so that fewer people become infected. Among these measures is the general ban on entry from Denmark and the UK. However, it is important that children are not unduly affected as a result of this ban, which could happen if they and one of their parents live in Denmark or the UK or are there for some other reason. The Government is consequently introducing an exemption to the entry ban so that children travelling to be with a parent who lives in Sweden or on Bornholm, and the person accompanying the child on such trips, can enter the country. In addition, people who are the subject of, or involved in, medical transport services, from Denmark are also exempt from the ban.

“Even during a pandemic, it’s very important that children are able to spend time with both their parents. That’s why the Government has introduced this exemption. We’re also ensuring that medical transport services are not affected at a time when the health care system is already struggling,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The revised ban on entry from the UK and Denmark will enter into force on Saturday 16 January and apply until 31 January.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to the exemption from the entry ban for residents of Uruguay

Published 14 January 2021

The Government has today decided on amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments concern the exemption for residents of a certain specified non-EU country and is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 31 March 2021.

There are several exemptions to the entry ban, one of which applies to residents of certain specified non-EU countries. As a result of today's decision, residents of Uruguay are no longer exempted from the entry ban on the basis that they are residents of that country. However, other exemptions from the entry ban may continue to apply to residents of Uruguay.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and a coordinated response. Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendments will enter into force on 20 January 2021.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to

Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Negative COVID-19 test result required for entry into Sweden from UK

Published 30 December 2020

The Government decided today on a change to the entry ban that applies for travel to Sweden from the UK. The aim is to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, especially the new variant of the virus discovered in the UK.

The Government recently instituted an entry ban that severely restricts the right to travel to Sweden from the UK. Swedish citizens and everyone transporting goods from the UK are exempt from the ban. The same applies to people who live or work in Sweden, people with imperative family reasons and diplomats.

The Government decided today that aliens who are covered by the exemption from the entry ban must present a negative test result for ongoing COVID-19 infection before they are allowed to enter the country. The requirement does not apply to those transporting goods – who may therefore enter the country without presenting a negative test result. This is to avoid impeding the transport of essential goods, such as pharmaceuticals or medical equipment.

Nor does the requirement apply to Swedish citizens, who always have the right to enter Sweden. However, the recommendation of the Public Health Agency of Sweden still applies, i.e. that everyone who has been in the UK should get tested for COVID-19 immediately upon arrival to Sweden, remain at home and get tested again after five days.

“Today’s decision is an important tool for reducing the risk of the spread of infection and is also in line with the European Commission’s new recommendation. It is important that we strive to act together with the rest of the EU in this special situation with regard to the UK in particular”, says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The Government’s decision on a requirement for a negative test result is linked to the lifting of the flight ban for traffic from the UK on 1 January.

The change applies from the day after tomorrow, 1 January.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Changes to the ban on entry when travelling to Sweden from the United Kingdom and Denmark

Published 23 December 2020

The Government decided today to make certain changes to the entry ban into Sweden from the United Kingdom and Denmark. Regarding travel from the United Kingdom, exemptions will be made for people who live or work in Sweden. Regarding travel from Denmark, exemptions will be made to make it easier for Bornholm and those who live there. In addition to this, people with imperative family reasons will also be exempted.

The reason for the strong measures that were introduced is to try to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and that more people in our society are falling ill. But after discussions with Denmark and within the EU, certain minor adjustments are now being made to the entry ban.

Regarding the United Kingdom, it is important that we try to act together with the rest of the EU in what is a special situation. The changes to the entry ban are in line with the common EU approach. It is also reasonable that people who live and work in Sweden are able to return here.

As before, people who come from Denmark but who live and work in Sweden are exempted from the entry ban. The changes primarily mean that people who work in the health care sector on Bornholm or live there can travel between Bornholm and another part of Denmark via Sweden.

People from both the United Kingdom and Denmark who are considered to have imperative family reasons may also be exempted from the entry ban.

The revised ban on entry for the United Kingdom and Denmark will enter into force at midnight today and be in effect until 21 January or until further notice.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Ban on entry into Sweden from the United Kingdom and Denmark

Published 22 December 2020

The Government decided today* to severely restrict possibilities to travel from the United Kingdom and Denmark to Sweden. The entry ban from the United Kingdom is due to the spread and mutation of COVID-19 that have been reported there. The entry ban from Denmark is mainly to reduce the risk of congestion and the spread of the virus in shopping centres and restaurants in Skåne County.

“The reason for such strong measures is naturally that we must try to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and that more people in our society are falling ill,” says Mikael Damberg, Minister for Home Affairs.

An initial measure preventing flights from the United Kingdom will enter into force today*. An entry ban from the United Kingdom and Denmark will enter into force from midnight today and apply until 21 January 2021 or until further notice.

The ban primarily means that everyone travelling from the United Kingdom or Denmark, except for Swedish citizens, will be refused entry if they attempt to enter Sweden. Exemptions will be possible for people transporting goods or similar. People from Denmark who work or live in Sweden may also be exempted.

Swedish citizens have an unconditional right to enter Sweden and accordingly will not be affected by the entry ban.

The aim of these measures is to prevent further spread of the virus and the

potential spread of new strains to Sweden.

* Monday, 21 December 2020



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Temporary entry ban extended until 31 March 2021 and amended due to Brexit

Published 17 December 2020

Since March, a temporary ban on entry to the EU via Sweden has been in force. The Government today decided to extend the entry ban until 31 March 2021. At the same time, the Government has adopted a new exemption from the entry ban due to Brexit.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended several times following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. Today's extension is in line with the recommendations issued by the Commission and Council to maintain the entry ban for an additional period.

At the end of the year, the post-Brexit transition period comes to an end. The United Kingdom will then become a third country in relation to the EU and, as a main rule, the entry ban will apply. The Government therefore today adopted a new exemption from the entry ban for people who are entitled to residence status in Sweden following Brexit. This amendment applies to entry into Sweden after 31 December 2020.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Maximum of eight people permitted at public gatherings and events

Published 23 November 2020

The Government has decided that as a general rule, it is now prohibited to organise public gatherings and events with more than eight participants. The aim is to counter the spread of COVID-19.

'These are very intrusive measures that are unprecedented in modern times. We don't take limiting people's right to assemble for gatherings and events lightly, but considering the situation we currently find ourselves in, it's necessary. We must reduce the spread of infection in order to support health care and save lives,' says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

During the autumn, the spread of COVID-19 has increased dramatically and the situation in Sweden is currently very serious. The ordinance prohibiting the holding of public gatherings and events has been and remains an important tool to counter the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The Government has therefore decided to further limit the possibility of organising public gatherings and events.

Today's decision means that it is prohibited to organise public gatherings and events with more than eight participants. The previous exemption for gatherings and events held at eating and drinking establishments is removed. This is in line with the proposal to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages after 22.00, which enters into force today. The idea is to tackle the spread of infection at bars and restaurants, environments where the Public Health Agency of Sweden considers there is a risk of transmission.

The Government has also decided on an exemption for religious gatherings

held in connection with a death, provided that no more than 20 people participate. The exemption means that it will be possible to hold funeral services, urn interments and the like. The exemption is applicable regardless of faith.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Decision on reintroduction of border control at internal borders

Published 05 November 2020

The Government has decided to reintroduce border control at Sweden's internal borders. Border control will be imposed between 12 November 2020 until 11 May 2021. Border controls will contribute to national security and help detect threats from potential perpetrators and prevent terrorist attacks.

The Government assesses that other measures are insufficient against the background of, among other things, shortcomings at the Schengen area's external border. These shortcomings continue to be significant due to controls that are either insufficient or inadequate. Furthermore, many people who enter the Schengen area do not remain in the country of arrival; they move relatively freely to other Member States.

'The terrorist threat level in Sweden remains elevated and our overall assessment is that border control at Sweden's internal borders is still required,' says Mikael Damberg.

Above all, the border controls have had the positive effect of enabling a response to the serious threat to Sweden that the Government, since 2015, has deemed to exist. They have enabled us to see which people want to enter the country, establish and verify their identity, and prevent people with malicious intentions from entering Sweden. This has given us control; we have been able to fight crime and respond more effectively to threats of terrorism.

The Swedish Security Service also decided in February 2020 that the overall threat level in Sweden remains elevated (level three of five), and this

decision remains in place.

The location, scope and duration of the border controls will be limited to what is needed to respond to the above-mentioned threat.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to the exemption from the entry ban for residents of certain countries

Published 29 October 2020 Updated 29 October 2020

The Government has today decided on amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments concern the exemption for residents of certain specified non-EU countries and is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following recommendations by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. The latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 22 December 2020.

There are several exemptions to the entry ban, one of which applies to residents of certain specified non-EU countries. As a result of today's decision, residents of Canada, Georgia and Tunisia are no longer exempted from the entry ban on the basis that they are residents of one of the countries. However, other exemptions from the entry ban may continue to apply to residents of these countries. The decision also means that residents of Singapore are exempt from the entry ban.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and a coordinated response. Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendments will enter into force on 2 November 2020.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent links.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice

Changes to the ordinance prohibiting the holding of public gatherings and events

Published 23 October 2020

To address the crowding that has been seen in nightclubs, the Government has decided that public dance events for more than 50 people will once again be prohibited. The Government has also adopted a new exemption from the ordinance, allowing public gatherings and public events with a maximum of 300 seated attendees, rather than the 500 previously discussed. The changes come into effect on 1 November.

In light of the increased transmission in recent months, the Government had previously chosen to delay the introduction of an exemption from the ordinance with respect to public gatherings and public events for a maximum of 50 people. Following recent dialogue with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the Government today decided to introduce this exemption.

Holding events for a maximum of 300 seated attendees is conditional on every attendee being allocated a seat at a distance of at least one metre from other attendees, and that it is possible for attendees to maintain that distance throughout the event. Two people in the same party may be placed less than one metre apart, however.

To address the crowding seen on nightclub dancefloors, the Government today also decided that public dance events will once again be subject to the ordinance's limit of 50 attendees.

The Government also proposes that the temporary act on communicable disease control measures at eating and drinking establishments, which is due to expire at the end of the year, be extended by five months to the end of May 2021. This is because the risk of transmission is particularly high when people gather in small areas for extended periods of time. Restaurants, bars and cafés are examples of such environments.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of temporary entry ban to Sweden until 22 December 2020

Published 22 October 2020 Updated 22 October 2020

To mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 a temporary ban on entry to the EU via Sweden is in force. The Government today decided to extend the entry ban until 22 December 2020.

The COVID-19 virus is a matter of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordinated measures. Today's decision is in line with the EU Commission and the Council of the European Union recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It was subsequently extended following European Commission recommendations.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions there are, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent link.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Measures to protect Sweden's security when security-sensitive activities are sold

Published 28 August 2020

The Government has decided to submit proposals to the Council on Legislation for amendments to the Protective Security Act regarding the transfer of security-sensitive activities. The aim of the proposals is to prevent sales that may harm Sweden's security.

“We know that some foreign states use strategic acquisitions of companies worthy of protection as a strategy to gain security benefits. Under the Government's proposals, those planning to sell this type of activity must consult with the relevant authority, a consultation authority that can ultimately decide that the transfer will not be allowed,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The Swedish Security Service and other agencies warn that foreign takeovers of sensitive infrastructure and technology in Sweden can harm Sweden's security. The risk has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic as many companies are suffering financially and may be exposed to unwanted takeover bids from foreign players. The European Commission has also emphasised that the spread of the COVID-19 virus has increased the risk of foreign players trying to acquire companies, for example in the health care sector.

The Government proposes that new requirements be introduced for operators planning to transfer the whole or any part of their security-sensitive activities or certain property.

Before initiating a transfer, the operator will be required to conduct and document a special security assessment and a suitability assessment. Operators will also be required to consult with a consultation authority ahead of a transfer. The consultation authority should be able to order operators to take measures to fulfil their obligations under the Act and, ultimately, be able to decide on a prohibition, i.e. that a transfer may not be effected. If activities or property are sold in violation of the prohibition, the transfer will be void. Decisions on prohibition should be appealable to the Government

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 January 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of temporary entry ban to Sweden until 31 October 2020

Published 27 August 2020

To mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the outbreak, a temporary ban on entry to the EU via Sweden is in force. The Government today decided to extend the entry ban until 31 October 2020.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It was subsequently extended following European Commission recommendations. The Government has now decided to further extend the entry ban until 31 October 2020.

The COVID-19 virus is a matter of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordinated measures. Today's decision is in line with the EU Commission and the Council of the European Union recommendation to EU Member States.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions there are, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent link.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Change to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden

Published 13 August 2020

The Government has today decided on a change to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. As a result of this change, residents of Morocco will no longer be exempted from the entry ban. Today's decision is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following European Commission recommendations. The latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 31 August 2020.

Since 19 March, the Government has decided on several occasions to adjust the entry restrictions. On 4 July, the list of people allowed to enter was expanded, including by exempting residents of certain specified non-EU countries from the entry ban.

As a result of today's decision, residents of Morocco are no longer generally exempted from the entry ban (however, other exemptions from the entry ban may continue to apply to them).

The COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordination. Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The changes enter into force on 15 August 2020.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to

Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the links.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Change to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden

Published 03 August 2020

The Government has today decided on a change to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. As a result of this change, residents of Algeria will no longer be exempted from the entry ban. Today's decision is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following European Commission recommendations. The latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 31 August 2020.

Since 19 March, the Government has decided on several occasions to adjust the entry restrictions. On 4 July, the list of people allowed to enter was expanded, including by exempting residents of certain specified non-EU countries from the entry ban.

As a result of today's decision, residents of Algeria are no longer generally exempted from the entry ban (however, other exemptions from the entry ban may continue to apply to them).

The COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordination. Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The changes enter into force on 5 August 2020.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to

Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the links.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Change to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden

Published 17 July 2020

The Government has today decided on a change to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. As a result of this change, residents of Serbia and Montenegro will no longer be exempted from the entry ban. Today's decision is in line with the Council of the European Union's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended following European Commission recommendations. The latest decision to extend the ban means that the entry ban now applies until 31 August 2020.

Since 19 March, the Government has decided on several occasions to adjust the entry restrictions. On 4 July, the list of people allowed to enter was expanded, including by exempting residents of certain specified non-EU countries from the entry ban.

As a result of today's decision, residents of Serbia and Montenegro are no longer exempted from the entry ban on the basis that they are residents of one of the countries. Other exemptions from the entry ban may continue to apply to residents of Serbia and Montenegro.

The COVID-19 virus is an emergency of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordination. Today's decision is in line with the Council's latest recommendation to EU Member States.

The changes enter into force on 19 July 2020.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the links to the right.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of temporary entry ban to Sweden until 31 August 2020 and easing of restrictions for more travellers

Published 02 July 2020

To mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the outbreak, a temporary ban on entry to the EU via Sweden is in force. The Government today decided to extend the entry ban until 31 August 2020. At the same time, the Government decided to ease the restrictions for more travellers. Today's decision was taken following a Council of the European Union recommendation.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It was subsequently extended following European Commission recommendations. The Government has now decided to further extend the entry ban until 31 August 2020.

The Government also decided to ease the entry restrictions. Previously, EU citizens and their family members, and people with Swedish residence permits, were allowed to enter Sweden if the purpose was to return home. Today's decision means that the requirement that the purpose of entry must be to return home is removed. Entry is thus allowed for EU citizens and people with Swedish residence permits regardless of the purpose of travel. The requirement that those entering Sweden must be returning home is also removed for their family members. The group of people allowed to enter has also been expanded since people living in certain specified countries outside

of the EU are now exempted from the entry ban.

Today's decision also means that more examples are added to the list of people who may be exempted from the entry ban if they have an essential need or function. These include people who enter for the purpose of study.

The COVID-19 virus is a matter of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordinated measures. Today's decision is in line with the Council of the European Union recommendation to EU Member States.

The amendments will enter into force on 4 July 2020.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions there are, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent link.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden extended until 7 July 2020

Published 25 June 2020

Today the Government decided to extend the temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden until 7 July 2020. As previously, the aim of the entry ban is to mitigate the effects of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and reduce the outbreak of COVID-19.

The temporary entry ban came into force on 19 March 2020 and initially applied for 30 days. It has since been extended three times in accordance with European Commission recommendations. The Government has now decided to further extend the entry ban until 7 July 2020.

Today's decision does not entail any material changes to the entry ban. As previously, the entry ban applies, as a rule, to all foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from countries other than EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The entry ban does not apply to Swedish citizens, nor does it restrict travel within the EU. Furthermore, there are two important exemptions to the entry ban. Firstly, EU citizens and individuals with a Swedish residence permit may still enter the country for the purpose of returning home. Secondly, people with an essential need or function in Sweden may enter the country. These people include health care professionals, transport personnel engaged in haulage of goods, or passengers travelling for imperative family reasons.

In its communication of 11 June 2020, the Commission recommends that from 1 July 2020, EU Member States gradually lift the travel restrictions to

the EU from third countries, based on a common, coordinated approach. The Government intends to address this issue in the near future.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the links.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden due to COVID-19

Published 12 June 2020

Today the Government decided to extend the temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden until 30 June. The decision was taken following a recommendation of the European Commission. The aim of the entry ban is, as previously, to mitigate the effects of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and reduce the outbreak of COVID-19.

The temporary entry ban began to apply on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It has subsequently been extended twice in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission. The Government has now decided on a further extension of the entry ban until 30 June.

There have been no material changes to the entry ban by today's decision. In the same way as before, the entry ban essentially applies to all foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from all countries except EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Swedish citizens are not affected by the entry ban. Nor does the entry ban prevent travel within the EU. In addition, there are two important exemptions to the entry ban. Firstly, EU citizens and people who have a residence permit in Sweden may still enter the country for the purpose of returning to their homes. Secondly, people with particularly urgent needs or who are to carry out essential functions in Sweden may enter the country. This may be healthcare professionals, staff transporting goods or people with imperative family reasons, for example.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions there are, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent link.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Government to take action against foreign direct investments in sensitive areas

Published 08 June 2020

At the government meeting on 4 June, the Government decided to refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation with the aim of strengthening efforts against foreign direct investments that threaten Swedish security and public order. At the same time, the Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP) and the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) have been given assignments to further develop these efforts.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could increase the risk of foreign actors making investments in the Swedish business sector and strategic infrastructure with the aim of gaining access to valuable technology and information in a way that threatens Sweden's security. The ISP and FOI have therefore been given assignments to further strengthen efforts against foreign direct investments in sensitive areas.

In 2019, the EU adopted a regulation on screening of foreign direct investments into the European Union. The aim of the regulation is to create a legal framework for how the Member States can screen foreign direct investments into the Union with regard to security or public order. The EU regulation outlines how cooperation in the Union regarding the screening of foreign direct investment is to be carried out, including through the Member States designating authorities to act as contact points. The regulation enters into force on 11 October 2020, which requires adjustments in Swedish legislation. In the proposal referred to the Council on Legislation, the

Government, proposes a new act with provisions to supplement the EU regulation. It is proposed that the act enter into force on 1 December 2020.

Assignment to the ISP

To meet the requirements of the EU regulation and to strengthen efforts against foreign direct investments that threaten security and public order, the Government has decided the following:

- The ISP will be designated as Sweden's contact point in accordance with the EU regulation on foreign direct investments.
- Through this, the ISP will have the authority to collect certain information on foreign investors and the relevant Swedish companies, since direct investments risk affecting security and public order in the EU.
- Together with the Swedish Armed Forces, the Swedish Security Service, the Swedish Defence Research Agency and the Defence Materiel Administration (FMV), the ISP will also strengthen efforts against foreign direct investments that threaten security. A report on this assignment is to be presented on 1 October 2020.

Assignment to FOI

FOI, in consultation with the ISP, the Swedish Armed Forces, FMV and the Swedish Security Service, is tasked with conducting a study on foreign investments [JG1] in sensitive activities. FOI will also cooperate with the Direct Investment Inquiry (Ju 2019:06) and the National Board of Trade. Under the decision, FOI is instructed to:

- Outline the risks associated with foreign direct investments in sensitive activities.
- Specify general qualities and circumstances among investors whose investments may entail a security risk.
- Identify the areas and sectors where foreign direct investments could have adverse security consequences.

A report on this assignment is to be presented to the Government Offices by 30 November 2020



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden

Published 04 June 2020

To mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the outbreak, a temporary ban on entry to the EU via Sweden is in force. The Government today adopted certain amendments clarifying the ban.

Under today's government decision, seasonal workers in the agricultural, forestry and horticulture sectors are added to the list of groups with essential functions in Sweden who can be exempted from the entry ban. This clarification is in line with the European Commission's practical guidance of 30 March, in which seasonal agricultural workers are mentioned as one such group.

The Government has also clarified the regulations to reduce the risk of families being separated and to facilitate family reunification. The exemption for Swedish citizens' family members has been simplified, which will make it easier, for example, for families living abroad to travel home to Sweden. The clarification has also been made with a view to making it easier for people with Swedish residence permits to join their families in Sweden. This could apply, for example, to spouses, partners or children of someone who lives in Sweden.

Certain clarifications have also been made concerning the validity of refusal-of-entry orders issued due to the entry ban.

The amendments will enter into force on 8 June 2020.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden due to COVID-19

Published 14 May 2020

Today the Government decided to extend the temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden until 15 June. The decision was taken following a recommendation of the European Commission. The aim of the entry ban is, as previously, to mitigate the effects of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and reduce the outbreak of COVID-19.

The temporary entry ban began to apply on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. It was subsequently extended until 15 May in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission. The Government has now decided on a further extension of the entry ban until 15 June.

There have been no material changes to the entry ban. In the same way as before, the entry ban essentially applies to all foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from all countries except EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Swedish citizens are not affected by the entry ban. Nor does the entry ban prevent travel within the EU. In addition, there are two important exemptions to the entry ban. Firstly, EU citizens and people who have a residence permit in Sweden may still enter the country for the purpose of returning to their homes. Secondly, people with particularly urgent needs or who are to carry out essential functions in Sweden may enter the country. This may be healthcare professionals, staff transporting goods or people with imperative family reasons, for example.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions there are, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent link.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Decision on continued border controls at internal borders

Published 30 April 2020 Updated 30 April 2020

The Government decided today to reintroduce border controls at internal borders for six months. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

The Government has decided to continue border controls at internal borders for six months. The controls will continue until 11 November 2020. The decision was taken in accordance with common EU legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

“Sweden must retain internal border controls. The head of the Swedish Security Service has decided not to change the assessment of the terrorist threat level, which remains elevated. Border controls at internal borders can help detect potential perpetrators and in this way also help prevent terrorist attacks. Shortcomings also persist in the control of the external borders across the Schengen Area” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

A number of other Schengen countries, such as Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark, have also temporarily reintroduced internal border controls and have announced that they, like Sweden, intend to continue with the controls for as long as a serious threat to public policy and internal security remains.

As previously, the Swedish Police Authority decides where and how the border controls are to be conducted. The controls are to be adapted to what is necessary to safeguard public policy and internal security.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Extension of temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden due to COVID-19

Published 16 April 2020 Updated 16 April 2020

Today the Government decided to extend the temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden until 15 May. The decision was taken following a recommendation of the European Commission. The aim of the entry ban is, as previously, to mitigate the effects of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and reduce the outbreak of COVID-19.

The temporary entry ban began to apply on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. The entry ban has now been extended up to and including 15 May in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission.

There have been no material changes to the entry ban. In the same way as before, the entry ban essentially applies to all foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from all countries except EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Swedish citizens are not affected by the entry ban. Nor does the entry ban prevent travel within the EU. In addition, there are two important exemptions to the entry ban. Firstly, EU citizens and people who have a residence permit in Sweden may still enter the country for the purpose of returning to their homes. Secondly, people with particularly urgent needs or who are to carry out essential functions in Sweden may enter the country. This may be healthcare professionals, staff transporting goods or people with imperative family reasons, for example.

For more information on how the ordinance on a temporary entry ban to Sweden is to be interpreted and which exemptions there are, please contact the Swedish Police Authority or visit its website. See the adjacent link.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Temporary ban on travel to the EU via Sweden due to COVID-19

Published 18 March 2020 Updated 27 March 2020

In response to the European Council's and the European Commission's call for travel restrictions, the Government decided on 17 March to temporarily stop non-essential travel to Sweden from all countries except those in the EEA and Switzerland so as to mitigate the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and reduce the spread of the disease.

The decision takes effect on 19 March and will initially apply for 30 days. This is an exceptional measure that will not apply for longer than necessary.

All travel to Sweden will not be stopped. Swedish citizens and people who are resident in Sweden will be able to return to Sweden. Nor will the entry ban apply to people who have particularly important grounds for travelling to Sweden. This includes diplomats, people in need of international protection and people who are to carry out essential functions in Sweden, such as health care professionals and people transporting goods to Sweden.

The entry ban applies primarily to foreign citizens attempting to enter Sweden from all countries except those in the EEA and Switzerland. Travel to Sweden from the following countries is therefore allowed: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The entry ban does not affect travel from another EU country to Sweden,

nor does it apply to Swedish citizens.

The COVID-19 virus is a matter of international concern that requires cross-border cooperation and coordinated measures. Today's decision is in line with the European Council's and the European Commission's call to EU Member States to introduce a temporary travel restriction on non-essential travel to the EU from third countries.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Continued border controls at internal borders

Published 08 November 2019

The Government has decided to reintroduce border controls at internal borders for six months. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

The Government has decided on continued border controls at internal borders for six months. The controls will continue until 12 May 2020. The decision was taken in accordance with common EU legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden.

“The Swedish Security Service has not changed its assessment on the level of terrorist threats, which remains elevated. Deficiencies also persist in the control of the external borders all over the Schengen Area. All in all, this means that Sweden must retain internal border controls,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Sweden's decision is in line with other Schengen countries, such as Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark. These countries have also temporarily reintroduced border controls and all of them have announced that they, like Sweden, intend to make decisions that apply for six months and that they plan to continue with the controls for as long as a serious threat to public policy and internal security remains.

As previously, the Swedish Police Authority decides where and how the border controls are to be implemented. The controls are to be adapted to what is necessary to safeguard public policy and internal security.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Swedish Minister for Home Affairs to visit Washington

Published 07 June 2019

Between Monday 10 June and Wednesday 12 June, Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg will visit Washington DC. The purpose of the visit is to discuss issues within the framework of positive cooperation between the United States and Sweden in the area of law enforcement.

In Washington, Mr Damberg will meet the US acting Interior Secretary and other representatives of Homeland Security to discuss cooperation between the two countries in the area of cyber security and efforts to combat terrorism. Mr Damberg will also take part in a panel discussion about foreign influence operations and security surrounding democratic elections.

For more information, please contact Press Secretary Natalie Sial.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Sweden hosted expert meeting on tribunal

Published 03 June 2019

Today, Sweden hosted a meeting of experts at senior official level, with participants from eleven EU countries, including Sweden, Germany, France, the UK and the Netherlands, and representatives of the EU and the UN. During the meeting in Stockholm today, the senior officials discussed matters related to accountability for crimes committed in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

“The crimes committed during the conflict in Syria and Iraq demand that we do all we can to ensure that justice is done. There must be no impunity for murder, terrorist offences, war crimes or crimes against humanity,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Sweden considers that the conditions for establishing a possible tribunal or some other legal mechanism must be thoroughly investigated. This would be an important complement to help ensure that justice is done. Sweden wants a tribunal to be able to sentence those responsible for committing crimes within the framework of the conflict in Syria and Iraq. The next step should be to agree on which alternatives could be explored further. Naturally, countries in the region must also be consulted.

On Friday, Mr Damberg will meet relevant ministerial colleagues at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg. In connection with this meeting, Mr Damberg will report on what was discussed by the countries' experts at senior official level.

“We will take today’s expert meeting and the senior officials’ discussions forward with us. In many countries, a growing political interest has been

seen in exploring different ways to increase accountability. Establishing a tribunal or some other legal mechanism is no simple matter, and the path to a possible process would take time and would require cooperation between many parties. This was the case for previous tribunals and would naturally be the same in this case, too. But because something is hard is no reason for failing to investigate the possibilities,” says Mr Damberg.

An effective system for obtaining evidence is a prerequisite for accountability. For this reason, Sweden supports the UN's mechanisms for collecting evidence, the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) in Iraq and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) in Syria. UNITAD representatives will also visit the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on Tuesday.

At national level, Sweden has implemented around 40 measures to combat terrorism since 2014. The Government has criminalised more areas and increased the penalty for several offences. In connection with today's media appearances, Mr Damberg also announced that the Government intends to begin legislative work to:

- enable the extradition of Swedish citizens to states outside the European Union and Nordic countries; and
- ensure that the legislation on international penal law cooperation allows Sweden to assist foreign actors other than states, for example UN organisations, with the investigation of offences. Sweden currently supports these mechanisms, but legislative amendments are needed to enable Swedish authorities to assist these organisations with collecting evidence in Sweden. This may include searching or questioning people who have moved to Sweden.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Sweden to host expert meeting on ISIS tribunal

Published 03 June 2019 Updated 31 May 2019

On Monday 3 June, civil servants from Sweden, Germany, France, the UK, the Netherlands and other countries and organisations will take part in an expert meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a tribunal or some other legal mechanism to prosecute people who fought for the terrorist group ISIS on the ground in Syria and Iraq. Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg will be available for comment in connection with the meeting.

Tid: 3 juni 2019 at 14.00

Plats: Bella, Rödbodgatan 6, Stockholm

Citizens from many European countries travelled to Syria and Iraq to join the terrorist group ISIS. The geographical distance to evidence and testimony constitutes a challenge for the Member States' national legal systems to prosecute these individuals. Administering justice in the region, by means of a tribunal or some other legal mechanism, could complement national legal proceedings and contribute to accountability for the crimes committed during the conflict in Syria and Iraq. This could ultimately lead to more convictions. The Swedish Government has therefore taken the initiative to, and will host, a meeting of civil servant experts to discuss possible ways forward. Representatives of Sweden Norway, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and the UK will take part in the meeting, as will representatives of the EU and UNITAD.

Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg will be available for comment in connection with the meeting.

To register for the media briefing, please contact Press Officer Joakim Höjer.

For more information, please contact Press Secretaries Natali Sial or Mikael Grinbaum.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Reinstated border control at Sweden's internal border

Published 07 February 2019 Updated 07 February 2019

The Government has decided to reinstate internal border control for three months. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a threat to public policy and internal security.

The Government has decided to reinstate internal border control for three months. The control will continue until 11 May 2019. The decision was taken in accordance with EU common legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a threat to public policy and internal security. The assessment of the Swedish Security Service is also that the threat level from terrorism remains elevated. Deficiencies in the external border controls around the Schengen area mean that Sweden must maintain its own internal border control.

The Swedish Police Authority decides where and how to carry out this border control, which must be adapted to what is necessary to safeguard public policy and internal security.

Sweden's actions are in line with other Schengen Member States such as Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark. These countries have also temporarily reinstated internal border controls and have notified the other Member States and European Commission that they will continue the controls as long as a serious threat to public policy and internal security remains.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices

New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi.

Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government invests in space – Esrange to have testbed

Published 09 July 2018

The Esrange Space Centre should remain a strategic resource for national and international research, and the Government and the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) are therefore investing SEK 80 million in a new test facility at the centre in Kiruna.

"Esrange has enormous expertise and 50 years' experience working with sounding rockets and research balloons – naturally we must be involved in these rapid technological developments and try to attract high-tech activities to Sweden from both commercial and institutional actors around the world," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

It is not currently possible to test and develop reusable rockets in Europe. The market for launching small satellites is expanding, and demand for developed rocket technology is increasing.

This is why the Government and the SSC are now investing in a testbed for the development of in-demand technologies: reusable launch technology for small and large rockets, more environmentally friendly engines, test flights and satellite technology. It will also be possible to use the facility to demonstrate new components for space applications, for example.

"The launch of small satellites is a growing market with good prospects of creating new jobs and businesses. The Government is now investing SEK 60 million in the production of new technologies to allow rockets to be reused and launched several times," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation

Mikael Damberg.

The investment is in line with the Government's space strategy presented earlier this year, and will consist of SEK 60 million from central government and SEK 20 million from the SSC. The project will begin immediately, with a view to starting operational testing in the summer of 2019.

Sweden is prominent in space research and this, coupled with Estrate's geographical location in Kiruna, means that the facility can compete in the growing global market. A number of major projects on specific space technology areas in which Estrate's capacity could prove unique and significant are currently ongoing in Europe.

"Space activities are necessary for public services that use satellite data: weather forecasting, communication and navigation. They also contribute to knowledge and measures on the environment, climate change, forestry and agriculture, navigation, the state of the seas, and natural disasters. By investing in space, we can better understand the Earth," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

Government financing is regulated by the EU's state aid rules. The project is therefore dependent on state aid approval from the European Commission.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Decision on application from Nord Stream 2 AG

Published 07 June 2018

The Government today granted permission for the delineation of the course proposed by Nord Stream 2 AG for the laying of two pipelines on the continental shelf in the Swedish Exclusive Economic zone in the Baltic Sea.

As a coastal state, Sweden cannot impede the laying of pipelines in the Swedish exclusive economic zone. The delineation of the course for the laying of a pipeline is subject, to the consent of the coastal State. . The exclusive economic zone is international waters and examination of the permit application has been conducted in accordance with national and international law, in particular the Swedish Continental Shelf Act and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"The starting point in international law is that all States are entitled to lay pipelines, through the 'exclusive economic zone' of the coastal State. The Government has now examined the application and notes, as Finland has recently done, that national and international law do not give the Government scope to reject the application," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

"At the same time, the Government has made clear that Sweden is critical to the Nord Stream 2 project as it risks contravening the goals of the EU's Energy Union and not complying with applicable EU legislation. Sweden, together with Denmark, has played a crucial role in raising the issue on the EU's agenda in order to shed light on the project's energy policy, legal and security aspects at European level." continues Minister for Enterprise and

Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Nord Stream 2 project comprises two parallel gas pipelines from Russia to Germany, each with a length of approximately 1 200 km, and the application examined by the Government concerns the section that runs outside Swedish territory but within the 'Swedish exclusive economic zone'.

The pipelines will be placed alongside the existing pipelines, Nord Stream 1, which received permission from the Government in 2009 and were constructed between 2011 and 2012. The company plans to carry out the project during 2018 and 2019 and bring it into commercial operation at the beginning of 2020.

According to the Government's decision, the permit includes a consultation condition aimed at safeguarding the possibility of using and repairing existing underwater cables and pipelines. The company must, in good time before laying the pipelines, consult with owners of existing cables and pipelines on the continental shelf on technical aspects that arise where the pipelines cross each cable and pipeline. In addition to this, the company has made a number of commitments on precautionary measures and safety precautions that mainly target the sensitive environment of the Baltic Sea, shipping, maritime safety and fisheries.

With regard to the defence interests that have been brought to the fore by the request to use Swedish ports for the storage of pipes during the construction phase, security enhancement measures have been taken through collaboration by the Swedish Armed Forces and other relevant authorities in the Karlshamn area. In March 2017, the Government appointed an inquiry with instructions to review the regulatory framework that aims to protect Sweden's total defence activities. The presence of the Swedish Armed Forces on Gotland has also been strengthened, including through the establishment of a new regiment.

During its examination of the application, the Government has consulted closely with Finland and Denmark. Finland has already granted its consent for the pipeline in the Finnish exclusive economic zone, while Denmark, with a starting point in domestic law, is conducting a special security policy examination since the proposed route passes through Danish territorial sea. Germany has granted permits and Russia is examining the permits issue.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden and India agree to deepen their innovation cooperation

Published 17 April 2018

Sweden and India today signed a joint innovation partnership to deepen the collaboration between the two countries and contribute to sustainable growth and new job opportunities. The partnership was signed in connection with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Stockholm.

"The innovation partnership with India will strengthen our exchange with one of the world's most important emerging economies. It will boost our prospects of developing joint solutions to face global societal challenges, while at the same time strengthening Sweden's competitiveness and innovation capacity," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The partnership in brief:

- The partnership covers several areas, including smart cities, transportation and eMobility, energy, clean technologies, new materials, space, circular and bio-based economy, and health and life sciences.
- Sweden and India will cooperate to develop and implement joint innovation projects. Indian and Swedish enterprises and other key innovation players will work together to find solutions to common challenges and make use of each other's strengths.
- Sweden and India will cooperate on support to innovative start-ups, for

example through exchanges between incubators. The two countries will also step up their collaboration regarding research infrastructure and test beds.

- The partnership is intended to deepen the bilateral dialogue on innovation issues through increased cross-sectoral, cross-ministerial and cross-agency cooperation, to discuss innovation from a system perspective.

"The partnership will make it easier for Swedish companies to increase their knowledge of India's needs and strengthen the prospects for both new collaborations and new business opportunities," says Mr Damberg.

"Supporting Swedish knowledge-intensive companies to spread sustainable technology and develop green solutions in collaboration with countries such as India could be one of the most effective ways to make the world a better place," says Peter Eriksson, Minister for Housing and Digital Development.

As part of this partnership, on Thursday 19 April the Government will task Vinnova (the government agency for innovation) with strengthening innovation cooperation between Sweden and India in the field of smart cities. The Government intends to allocate up to SEK 50 million to Vinnova for this assignment up to the year 2021.

The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation is responsible for the development of the partnership, in close cooperation with the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Eight Swedish cabinet ministers to the Social Summit in Gothenburg

Published 15 November 2017

The Prime Minister, together with the EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has invited to a social summit focusing on the promotion of Fair Jobs and growth, in Gothenburg on Friday 17 November. Heads of State and heads of Governments together with other EU-member ministers will be in place.

Apart from the Prime minister the Swedish Government participates are:

- **Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson**
- **Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll**
- **Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin**
- **Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde**
- **Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg**
- **Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér**
- **Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Anna Ekström**

All government ministers will be available for media during the summit, contact respective press secretaries. In addition to the Swedish government, representatives from the EU Commission and EU countries, more than 30 different organizations and actors will attend the Summit on Fair Conditions and Growth in Göteborg, November 17, 2017.

The summit will bring together EU leaders, the social partners and other key stakeholders to discuss how to promote fair jobs and growth.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Swedish Transport Administration to move forward on electric roads

Published 26 October 2017

The Government has now instructed the Swedish Transport Administration to investigate and report on whether electric roads could eventually become part of the national road network in Sweden. The Transport Administration will also manage the part of the Sweden-Germany innovation partnership dealing with electric roads.

The aim is to support the development of a variety of technical solutions for electric roads. The work in Sweden will take place alongside the Sweden-Germany innovation partnership, and cooperation between the countries is expected to improve the outcome.

"We are now connecting Sweden and Germany with the latest technology. Together we will lead Europe on climate-smart and innovative solutions," says Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

Estimates indicate that electric roads could lead to lower carbon dioxide emissions, greater energy efficiency in the transport system and reduced transport costs. The construction of electric roads could lead to job creation in the short term and increased economic efficiency in the longer term.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Denmark and Sweden reach agreement on PostNord

Published 20 October 2017

Today the Danish and Swedish governments have reached an agreement to support the implementation of the new production model for the Danish business of PostNord.

Minister for Finance Kristian Jensen says:

– I am pleased that we and our Swedish colleagues have reached a good solution, which ensures the implementation of the transformation of Post Danmark. This way the company will be well equipped for the future challenges in the postal market.

Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg says:

– Through this agreement we begin a new chapter for the company. Starting now, focus will be on quality and how to grow the whole company stronger for the future. I would like to express my gratitude to the Danish state for showing re-sponsibility in this difficult situation.

The agreement entails that both the Danish and the Swedish states will inject capital into PostNord to support the new production model, the Swedish state will inject SEK 400 m whilst the Danish state will inject SEK 267 m. Also, the Danish State will compensate PostNord SEK 1,533 m for the cost of redundancy pay to employees on 'special terms' in Post Danmark.

In addition to the capital injection from the Danish and Swedish states the company will explore other options to strengthen the company's financial position.

The states recognize and are attentive to the changing nature of the postal markets and continued digitalisation process. Each state has the regulatory responsibility for USO in its home market. The states agree that a model to mitigate future financial exposure of each party to the USO requirements should be analysed. In the event that, due to falling mail volumes, the USO in Sweden cannot be performed at cost, the Swedish state shall compensate the Company provided that the Company has been assigned to perform the USO.

As a commitment to the on-going, strong corporate governance of the Group, the states also agree to enact a strategic review of the Company in order to ensure that its activities will be developed and improved to the highest standards.

The agreement is subject to the consent of the Danish Parliament's Finance Committee, the Swedish Government, the Swedish Parliament and, as regards the state aid elements, approval from the European Commission.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Focus on EMA as Minister for Enterprise and Innovation visits Tallinn and Riga

Published 16 October 2017

Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg travels to Tallinn and Riga today to seek support for Sweden's candidacy to host the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

"The EMA is strategically important for the European Union's global competitiveness and, quite simply, it must be fully functional straight away when it moves out of London. Sweden's ability to ensure a seamless transition, with a focus on EU citizens' patient safety, is our strongest argument for bringing the EMA to Sweden. The strong position that Stockholm, and Sweden as a whole, occupies in life sciences, the proximity to world-class research, and the Stockholm-Uppsala region's excellent links make Stockholm a good and secure location for the EMA in the long term, too," says Mr Damberg.

During his visit, Mr Damberg will meet Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas, as well as other representatives of the governments of Estonia and Latvia.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to meet President Emmanuel Macron

Published 18 July 2017 Updated 18 July 2017

On 31 July, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will travel to Paris for meetings with President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. The agenda for talks includes Swedish-French cooperation, the future of the EU, migration and security, and jobs and growth. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg will also travel to Paris, as one important issue to be discussed is innovation cooperation and the business sector.

Times and venues

16.00 Meeting with President Emmanuel Macron, Elysée Palace.

17.00 Photo opportunity and statements by President Macron and Prime Minister Löfven, Elysée Palace.

17.30 Meeting with Prime Minister Philippe.

18.30 Prime Minister Löfven to make comments to the media, Swedish Embassy in Paris.

Media are welcome to attend the opportunity for photo and statements following the meeting with President Macron, and to come to the Swedish Embassy where Mr Löfven will be available for comments following his meeting with Prime Minister Philippe. For further information and

accreditation, please contact the Swedish Embassy in Paris.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Löfven to receive Japan's Prime Minister Abe

Published 04 July 2017

On 8–9 July, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Sweden at the invitation of Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. They will meet to discuss deeper economic cooperation, including innovation, the UN Security Council – of which both Sweden and Japan are members in 2017 – and the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sweden and Japan which will be celebrated next year.

Programme for the visit

Saturday 8 July

Evening Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives in Sweden. He is received at Arlanda Airport by Minister Mikael Damberg. Photo opportunity.

Evening The Prime Minister receives Prime Minister Abe and Mrs Abe for dinner. Photo pool.

Sunday 9 July

Morning The Prime Minister receives Prime Minister Abe for talks at Rosenbad. Photo opportunity at the entrance.

Tête-à-tête and start of talks. Photo pool.

Joint press statement by the Prime Minister Löfven and Prime Minister Abe

in the entrance to Rosenbad. Languages: English and Japanese.

The press statement will be webcast on www.regeringen.se

After taking leave of Prime Minister Abe, Prime Minister Löfven will be available to the media for comments concerning the meeting.

To editorial offices

Accreditation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is required to cover the visit. The deadline to apply for accreditation is 18.00 on Thursday 6 July. More detailed information about times and venues will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Accreditation application



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to visit China

Published 12 June 2017

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will be in China on 26–28 June. He will be joined on the trip by several ministers and a business delegation with a focus on green innovation and sustainability. Mr Löfven will also have talks with China's Premier Li Keqiang and speak at the World Economic Forum.

China is one of the world's largest economies and accounts for a large proportion of global growth. There is also a great deal of demand in China for green innovation to move society in a more sustainable direction.

Sweden is a world leader in this area, and Mr Löfven is therefore heading a delegation within the framework of the Government's Team Sweden initiative, with companies and agencies that have the expertise in demand in China. Mr Löfven will also be accompanied by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog.

Mr Löfven has also been invited to speak at the World Economic Forum in Dalian and will have talks with China's Premier Li Keqiang. In addition, Mr Löfven will meet Chinese business representatives and civil society actors.

A press briefing will be held ahead of the visit. The date and a more detailed programme will be published later.

Questions about visas should be put to the Swedish Embassy in Beijing.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden and Germany in unique innovation partnership

Published 31 January 2017 Updated 31 January 2017

Sweden and Germany are now joining forces in a new innovation partnership between the two countries. This is a unique agreement on cooperation to promote innovative societal solutions, new export products and stronger competitiveness. The agreement will be concluded in connection with the visit of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel to Sweden on Tuesday 31 January.

"Sweden has a great deal in common with Germany, and I am delighted about the agreement that has been reached. Our countries are alike in many ways, and we already enjoy close cooperation at many levels. In light of the great challenges that our societies are facing, including climate change, ageing populations and increased global competition, we have now chosen to take our cooperation to the next level. In the longer term, it is also about strengthening our countries' competitiveness and laying the foundations for new export successes and new jobs," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Mr Damberg will be there to welcome Chancellor Merkel when she arrives in Sweden on Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. In connection with the visit, a new innovation partnership between Sweden and Germany will be initiated.

In concrete terms, this means:

- Sweden and Germany will jointly conduct a study into the electrification

of roads, including analysing their financing, business models and operation. The technology is still very new and in need of development. Cooperation between two countries with different circumstances may enable more rapid technological development. This cooperation will be led by the Swedish Transport Administration and its German counterpart.

- The innovation partnership will reinforce cooperation between Swedish and German test facilities, with the two countries gaining access to each other's test beds. The main actors on the Swedish side will be the RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, along with KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology and Vinnova (Sweden's innovation agency).
- Innovation partnerships to boost the digitalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be stepped up. Many SMEs need to digitalise their production, products and business models. The aim of this cooperation will be to match Swedish and German SMEs on digitalisation, so that they can exchange experiences. The partnership will be coordinated by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.
- In the area of eHealth, the main aim of cooperation will be to exchange knowledge on the countries' different forms of technological infrastructure (for example, electronic patient records and ePrescriptions). Health service digitalisation is a continuous project in which skills and knowledge need to be shared between countries facing similar challenges. The exchange will be coordinated by the Swedish Government's Life Science Coordinator in collaboration with relevant government agencies and with German government bodies under the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, which will be supported by the German Federal Ministry of Health.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government takes European Commission to court over lead chromates decision

Published 28 November 2016 Updated 28 November 2016

The Swedish Government considers that the European Commission broke the rules when it authorised the continued use of lead chromates in the EU. The decision is bad for people's health and distorts competition for responsible businesses that have stopped using these hazardous substances. The Government therefore decided today to refer the Commission's decision to the Court of Justice of the European Union for a preliminary ruling.

In September, the European Commission decided to authorise a business to sell pigments containing lead chromates for use within the EU, despite the fact that adequate alternatives are available. By referring the Commission to the Court, the Government is defending common EU regulations, people's health and those businesses that live up to their environmental responsibilities.

Because lead pigments are often cheaper than the alternatives, businesses that choose to sell these paints will gain a competitive advantage over businesses that have chosen to remove hazardous lead chromates. The Commission's decision thus sends a signal that it is not worthwhile for businesses to phase out particularly hazardous substances. By referring the decision for a preliminary ruling, the Government is also standing up for healthy competition in the European Single Market.

Lead is one of the most poisonous substances known to humankind. The chemicals regulations in the EU clearly state that authorisations for this kind of hazardous substances may only be granted where there are no available alternatives. Such alternatives are available in the case of lead chromates, a fact demonstrated by Swedish businesses and others that have phased out their use.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government and Stockholm City to invest SEK 180 million in Nobel Center

Published 25 November 2016 Updated 25 November 2016

The central government will contribute SEK 40 million per year to the Nobel Center's operations from the day it opens and the following three years. In all, with increased support from Stockholm City, the Center will receive SEK 60 million per year over a three-year period. This amounts to SEK 180 million the first three years. This was announced today by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson and Stockholm's Commissioner of the City Planning and Culture Division, Roger Mogert.

In December 2011, the Nobel Foundation and Stockholm City signed an agreement in principle to work for the establishment of a Nobel Center on city-owned land in Stockholm. The idea is for this Center to house an expanded, modernised Nobel museum with premises for symposiums, seminars, school activities etc., and to form the base of a broad international operation.

The Government expects the Nobel Center to assume a significant role and have a positive impact on research and education throughout Sweden. The Center can also be expected to fulfil a central function for culture and science. A new building for the Nobel Center will provide better

opportunities to develop the museum's activities, represent an important tourist attraction and can be a national and international meeting place where focus is on science, humanism, literature and peace, in the spirit of Alfred Nobel. It is expected that activities conducted by new Nobel Center will be considerably more extensive than at present.

Activities conducted by the Nobel Center are of national interest and the Government therefore intends to increase its share of co-financing. In all, with increased contributions from Stockholm City, the Center will receive SEK 60 million per year over a three-year period. This amounts to SEK 180 million the first three years.

"The Nobel Prize plays a vital role in the image of Sweden as a leading research nation and the Nobel Center will be the base for the outward-looking activities, where the importance of research and innovation is highlighted," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

"The Government takes a positive view of contributing to operations, together with Stockholm City, at a new and prominent Nobel Center. Sweden should make better use of the Nobel Prize. Here the main focus is on the festivities in December, while the rest of the world concentrates on the prize winners. A Nobel Center can be a huge asset in helping Sweden attract investments, visitors and talent," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

"The Nobel Foundation and the Nobel Prize are among Sweden's and Stockholm's most important institutions. A Nobel Center, with a museum and the opportunity to present lectures and receive school visits, will be a great asset to Stockholm and its citizens," says Stockholm's Commissioner of the City Planning and Culture Division, Roger Mogert.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government supports proposed sale of Vattenfall's lignite operations

Published 02 July 2016 Updated 02 July 2016

On 18 April this year, the Government received a request from Vattenfall's governing board for owner coordination regarding the sale of Vattenfall's lignite operations in Germany. The transaction comprises the sale of the two companies that wholly or jointly own four lignite-fired power plants (Schwarze Pumpe, Lippendorf, Boxberg and Jänschwalde in Germany, located in the states of Brandenburg and Saxony), and the lignite mines that supply three of these power plants with fuel.

Owner coordination involves approving or rejecting the transaction decided on by Vattenfall's governing board. The point of departure for the Government's deliberations is the company's remit. Since 2010, Vattenfall has been tasked by the Riksdag with generating commercial returns by conducting energy operations commercially so that the company is among those leading developments towards environmentally sustainable energy production. The issue the Government has therefore had to consider is whether the transaction is in line with the Riksdag's remit in terms of its direction and business rationale.

The Government process for handling owner coordination has been extensive. The transaction has been closely reviewed by the Government Offices with the assistance of an external financial adviser. Vattenfall's own analyses regarding the alternative scenarios of selling the lignite operations or retaining them and continuing to run them in line with the Riksdag's

business rationale requirement were also analysed in the process.

During the analysis process we have requested more in-depth information on hedging, buyers, future commitments concerning land restoration, and any financial repercussions of such a scenario.

The Government supports the proposed sale of Vattenfall's lignite operations.

The Government has analysed the proposed transaction and shares the assessment of Vattenfall's governing board that it is in line with the company's remit and the strategy whereby Vattenfall is to take the lead in developments towards a greater proportion of fossil-free electricity production. In summary, the divestment is strategically correct and the best financial alternative.

In the major energy transition that Sweden is facing, Vattenfall is an important actor and an important asset for the Swedish people. Through this transaction, the Government is providing better conditions for Vattenfall to take an active role in the transition towards environmentally sustainable energy production on a commercial basis – all in accordance with the remit set by the Riksdag.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

State Visit to Germany

Published 22 June 2016 Updated 30 June 2016

King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will pay a State Visit to Germany on 5–8 October 2016 at the invitation of Federal President Joachim Gauck. The Government will be represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The State Visit is an opportunity to further strengthen the close political, cultural and economic ties between Sweden and Germany. Innovation, sustainability and openness are the main themes of the visit.

Germany is Sweden's most important trading partner, and a Swedish business delegation will accompany the State Visit, which will offer Swedish companies the opportunity to further build on already strong trade relations.

The four-day visit will take place in the cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Wittenberg and Leipzig.

Further information about the programme and participants will be published nearer the time of the visit.

To editorial offices

Swedish media representatives need special accreditation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to cover the State Visit. The deadline for accreditation applications is Friday 23 September 2016.

Accreditation application for State Visit to Germany

For German and international media representatives, accreditation will be

dealt with by the German Federal Press Office.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

2015 Music Export Prize

Published 25 February 2016 Updated 25 February 2016

The Government's award for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports in 2015 goes to artist, songwriter and lyricist Tove Lo. The Government's 2015 Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports goes to composer Anders Hillborg. The 2015 Commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music goes to conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen. The winners will accept their awards on 29 February 2016 at the International Press Centre.

"Sweden's music exports are an essential part of the modern image of Sweden abroad and therefore not only constitute an important industry but, from my perspective, a very important component of the broad and successful efforts to promote Sweden," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Tove Lo was awarded the nineteenth Music Export Prize with the following explanatory statement:

For many years now, songwriters and producers have been responsible for the success of Swedish music exports. As one of the greatest in Sweden in 2015, this year's winner is not just sought-after as a composer and lyricist for international artists; she has also made her breakthrough as an international artist in her own right, in particular with her unique, historic top-of-the-charts achievements in the United States. Tove Lo, as she calls herself, takes the hits factory that emerged from the legendary Swedish Cheiron Studios one step further. She herself is part of the Cheiron tradition through her work with the studio's more recent group of stars – the young songwriter collective

Wolf Cousins – that is already responsible for numerous international hits. Tove Lo belongs to a generation of musicians that views co-creation and collaboration in the studio as self-evident. She is a great role model for songwriters and artists and puts Sweden on the map with her creativity and natural stage presence – a deserving winner of the Government's 2015 Music Export Prize.

The other nominees for the Music Export Prize were Ghost, Max Martin, Shellback and Nina Stemme.

The Special Prize goes to a figure in the music industry who has made a long-standing contribution to Swedish music exports or has spread Swedish music abroad, thus helping promote a positive image of Sweden.

The explanatory statement reads:

In 1995, Anders Hillborg was awarded Composer of the Year at the Swedish Grammy Awards (Grammisgalan) for his musical compositions on Eva Dahlgren's album *Jag vill se min älskade komma från det vilda* (I want to see my beloved coming from the wild). But already twelve years earlier, he had composed *Mouyayoum* – the unique pioneering choral work that is now by far his most performed piece internationally. Before its planned premiere performance in 1985, the work was at first considered to be "both impossible and unsingable", but thirty years later *Mouyayoum* is a cherished work performed frequently as a matter of course by choirs around the world. There are around ten different recordings available and, with its tones, moods and compelling power, it is an excellent example of the composer's ability to captivate and take the audience on a journey into the future. Anders Hillborg is not only one of Sweden's most prominent composers, he is also among the foremost and most distinguished names in international art music. His broad palette spans orchestral, choral and chamber music as well as film and popular music. He works on a global basis and music capitals such as Los Angeles, Berlin and Stockholm are currently only three of the hubs around which Anders Hillborg's musical universe revolves.

This year, the commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music is awarded to Esa-Pekka Salonen. The prize is intended for people who have made an important contribution to the international success of Swedish music. This prize will only be awarded when there are special grounds to do so.

The explanatory statement reads:

Like no one else, he has made newly written music a matter of interest for others than just those who are already believers. He stands up unremittingly for contemporary music. Playing Beethoven, Bruckner and Brahms is not enough for Esa-Pekka Salonen, who, besides writing and performing his own music, also stands up for the music of his composer colleagues, not least his Nordic and Swedish colleagues. Esa-Pekka Salonen has performed music by Anders Hillborg, ranging from his collaboration with Eva Dahlgren on her album *Jag vill se min älskade komma från det vilda* to the premiere performances in Los Angeles and Berlin of *Eleven Gates*, *Cold Heat* and *Sirens*. As a conductor at the highest international level, Esa-Pekka Salonen has functioned as one of the foremost enablers of newly composed – not least Swedish – music reaching a larger audience.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Nominees for the 2015 Music Export Prize

Published 18 February 2016 Updated 18 February 2016

The Government's 2015 Music Export Prize will be presented on 29 February 2016 by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg. Today the nominees will be presented.

The nominees for the 2015 Music Export Prize are:

Ghost

The anonymous Papa Emeritus III and his Nameless Ghouls in Ghost have gone from strength to strength since the band was formed in Linköping in 2008, and the song 'Cirice' from their third album *Meliora* won a Grammy Award for Best Metal Performance. With a grandiose display accompanied by brilliant musical talent, hard work and assiduous touring, Ghost rapidly established itself internationally not just as a new successful Swedish band, but also as a conceptual phenomenon. The band's bio includes collaborations with producers such as Klas Åhlund and Dave Grohl, and they shared the stage early on with international names such as Slayer, Iron Maiden and Metallica. Ghost's captivating yet progressive hard rock music is difficult to define – the band members themselves have described their music as a mixture of pop and death metal. Whatever the definition, the Swedish band Ghost appears to be absolutely unstoppable.

Anders Hillborg

In 1995, Anders Hillborg was awarded Composer of the Year at the Swedish Grammy Awards (Grammisgalan) for his musical compositions on Eva

Dahlgren's album *Jag vill se min älskade komma från det vilda* (I want to see my beloved coming from the wild). But already twelve years earlier, he had composed *Mouyayoum* – the unique pioneering choral work that is now by far his most performed piece internationally. Before its planned premiere performance in 1985, the work was at first considered to be "both impossible and unsingable", but thirty years later *Mouyayoum* is a cherished work performed frequently as a matter of course by choirs around the world. There are around ten different recordings available and, with its tones, moods and compelling power, it is an excellent example of the composer's ability to captivate and take the audience on a journey into the future.

Anders Hillborg is not only one of Sweden's most prominent composers, he is also among the foremost and most distinguished names in international art music. His broad palette spans orchestral, choral and chamber music as well as film and popular music. He works on a global basis and music capitals such as Los Angeles, Berlin and Stockholm are currently only three of the hubs around which Anders Hillborg's musical universe revolves.

Tove Lo

For many years now, songwriters and producers have been responsible for the success of Swedish music exports. As a composer and lyricist for international artists she has also made her breakthrough as an international artist in her own right, in particular with her unique, historic top-of-the-charts achievements in the United States. Tove Lo, as she calls herself, takes the hits factory that emerged from the legendary Swedish Cheiron Studios one step further. She herself is part of the Cheiron tradition through her work with the studio's more recent group of stars – the young songwriter collective *Wolf Cousins* – that is already responsible for numerous international hits. Tove Lo belongs to a generation of musicians that views co-creation and collaboration in the studio as self-evident. She is a great role model for songwriters and artists and puts Sweden on the map with her creativity and natural stage presence.

Max Martin

Max Martin is the only music maker in the history of the Music Export Prize to have won the Music Export Prize and the Special Prize in the same year. But then again, he has achieved success on an almost absurd, historic scale. With 21 number-one hits on Billboard Hot 100, he is surpassed as a composer and producer only by Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Martin. The year 2015 was another successful one internationally for this

perhaps most played pop music maker of the 21st century. Taylor Swift, The Weeknd, Ellie Goulding and Adam Lambert are just some of the megastars that have made the charts with a little help from one of the greatest producers and songwriters of our time. The unparalleled achievements of the former French horn and hard rock musician this year as well can only be ignored by a pop history denier.

Esa-Pekka Salonen

Like no one else, he has made newly written music a matter of interest for others than just those who are already believers. He stands up unremittingly for contemporary music. Playing Beethoven, Bruckner and Brahms is not enough for Esa-Pekka Salonen, who, besides writing and performing his own music, also stands up for the music of his composer colleagues, not least his Nordic and Swedish colleagues. Esa-Pekka Salonen has performed music by Anders Hillborg, ranging from his collaboration with Eva Dahlgren on her album *Jag vill se min älskade komma från det vilda* to the premiere performances in Los Angeles and Berlin of *Eleven Gates*, *Cold Heat* and *Sirens*. As a conductor at the highest international level, Esa-Pekka Salonen has functioned as one of the foremost enablers of newly composed – not least Swedish – music reaching a larger audience.

Shellback

When Johan 'Shellback' Schuster was awarded the 2012 Music Export Prize for his contributions to Swedish music exports, the producer and songwriter also met Refused, one of his favourite bands and that year's Special Prize winner. This resulted in the hardcore punk band's internationally acclaimed album, the first in 17 years, released in 2015. These songs, along with hits for Adam Lambert and Maroon 5, not only signified a comeback by one of Sweden's great international music makers, who had taken time away to recover from hectic, successful years. They also demonstrated his ability to work in musical genres other than those suited for the dance floor and radio.

Nina Stemme

With her warmth, drama and radiance, she is yet another of Sweden's exceptional singers through the ages. Nina Stemme consistently delivers on opera stages around the world. In 2015, she demonstrated her breadth and fearlessness by taking on well-established works as well as singing newly written works such as Hans Gefors's opera *Notorious* at the Göteborg Opera,

and playing Turandot in the large open air theatre Dalhalla, a former limestone quarry. She has also been nominated for an International Opera Award in the category Readers' Award, and a Bachtrack Opera Award in the category Best Female Singer for her role in Tristan und Isolde at the Royal Opera House in London. Nina Stemme's voice has a magical quality. The combination of clarity, depth, intimacy and passion renders her characters unforgettable and moves opera audiences around the world to tears and exultation.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Important success at World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in Nairobi

Published 20 December 2015 Updated 21 December 2015

Following five days of intensive negotiations in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, the 162 member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were able to reach a new global trade agreement. The agreement includes regulations for export support for agricultural products, preferential treatment for least-developed countries and a separate agreement to eliminate tariffs on technology products. Liberia and Afghanistan were welcomed as new members.

"The agreement is a major and significant success for a trade-oriented country such as Sweden," says Mikael Damberg, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, who attended the conference in Nairobi.

The ministerial declaration also opens the way for Sweden's wish to negotiate new issues in the future. "If the WTO is to keep up with developments it is important that we also start to negotiate new issues such as eCommerce and the digital agenda," says Mr Damberg.

Minister for Rural Affairs Sven-Erik Bucht welcomes the fact that the promise to eliminate export subsidies and reduce other forms of export support has finally been kept. "This is something that developing countries have been demanding for a long time, and an issue that Sweden has long pursued in the EU and the WTO", he concludes.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Updated Information Technology Agreement gives cheaper electronic products

Published 16 December 2015 Updated 18 December 2015

The negotiations on an updated Information Technology Agreement (ITA) have now been concluded between 53 WTO members, including the EU and Sweden. The agreement will mean duty-free access to an additional 201 technology products and so covers 10 per cent of the value of total world trade – more than global trade in agricultural products.

"This is a major and long-awaited agreement, not least for Swedish consumers who will have access to cheaper electronic products in the future. An updated ITA is also important for Swedish exports and Swedish electronics companies such as Ericsson," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The first version of the ITA was concluded in 1996 between WTO members who had a common interest in eliminating import duties on technology products. The agreement covered products such as computers, semiconductors and telecommunication equipment. It had a major impact on world trade and contributed to our transition to an information society. However, the agreement itself became out-dated as a result of the technological developments. Therefore, during the Swedish Presidency of the EU in 2009, the EU decided to modernise the ITA. The negotiations were launched in Geneva in 2012. The update includes 201 new products, which are estimated at an export value of EUR 82 billion for the EU alone.

"Sweden has been pushing for an update of the agreement and stands to be

one of those who gains the most. More than 80 per cent of our prioritised information technology products have been included. The agreement strengthens our competitiveness; the products covered by the ITA expansion represent 6.8 per cent of Sweden's total exports of goods in 2014 to countries outside the EU. This is an achievement that will have a clear impact on our companies," says Mr Damberg.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swedish support has enabled Liberia's accession to the World Trade Organisation

Published 16 December 2015 Updated 18 December 2015

Liberia was today accepted as a new member at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference in Nairobi. At the accession ceremony, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf personally thanked Sweden for the support it provided via the National Board of Trade and Sida, and through the role Joakim Reiter played as the chair of the accession group.

Sweden has a unique status as a partner with Liberia in its accession process and Sweden's involvement has received considerable attention, both in Liberia and the WTO. Sweden's previous WTO Ambassador Joakim Reiter (currently Assistant Secretary-General of the UNCTAD) was chair of the working group for the accession process. The National Board of Trade, funded by Sida, supported Liberia through the process and helped strengthen its institutional capacity.

"Sweden's support to Liberia's accession to the WTO is fully in line with the Government's policy to promote free and fair global trade. A key part of this policy deals with giving developing countries – particularly the least developed countries – a chance to benefit from the open and rule-based trading system that the WTO offers. We therefore take great pleasure in welcoming Liberia as a new member of the WTO," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The accession process was initiated when Liberia applied for membership of the WTO in 2007. In 2012, Liberia's president officially announced that its

goal was to become a member of the WTO within five years, which was then seen as a very ambitious goal. The fact that Liberia overcame this challenge despite



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Billion kronor investment in next generation biologics

Published 14 December 2015 Updated 14 December 2015

Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg and Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson presented a national programme for protein research, method development and biologics production.

The research programme, which aims to make Sweden a leader in the development and production of biologics, will be established at VINNOVA, the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, which will run the programme in close collaboration with the Swedish Research Council. The research programme will extend over a period of eight years and state funding will total SEK 320 million.

The research programme is part of the Government's strategic investment in the life sciences that aims to improve health, meet societal challenges and strengthen Sweden's competitiveness in an international context.

"Sweden has a strong base in biologics production and we have a proud tradition of protein research that we want to build on. The research programme will strengthen Sweden's competitiveness in an international context," says Mr Damberg.

"Strategic and long-term investments in life sciences research are key to discovering and producing new medicines. In the long run, it is crucial for our well-being and for improving human health," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

"Collaboration between academia and industry, and between small and large companies, is essential to managing health-related societal challenges. Life sciences are a priority of the Prime Minister's Innovation Council and as such have the Government's full attention," says Mr Damberg, who like Ms Hellmark Knutsson, is a member of the Innovation Council.

"The Government is taking steps to strengthen Swedish research and innovation. This investment in next generation biologics is part of efforts to make Sweden a leading research nation. Sweden will not settle for less," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

The Government is presenting the initiative jointly with the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation and AstraZeneca. At the same time, AstraZeneca will present its research collaboration on proteins and biologics.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government decides to open new embassies

Published 11 December 2015 Updated 11 December 2015

The Government has decided to open embassies in Lima, Manila and Tunis. The new missions abroad will be inaugurated in 2016.

The main focus of the new embassies will be to strengthen trade and investment promotion and the political dialogue.

"We see these embassies as a way to also create jobs in Sweden. It is important to improve opportunities in these markets which are somewhat farther away and somewhat harder to enter. In this, the embassies play a very important role," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Government announced its intention to open an embassy in Tunis in connection with the State Visit by the Tunisian President back in November. The formal decision has now been taken by the Government.

"This signals that we want to take part in consolidating peaceful developments in the country and an inclusive democratic process," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Tunis

Tunisia is the country where the Arab Spring began in 2010. The country's president recently conducted a State Visit to Sweden. Swedish companies have long experience of the Tunisian market. Exports are worth some SEK 750 million per year, with considerable potential to grow when Tunisia's economy becomes more stable. The aim of establishing an embassy in Tunis

is to strengthen promotion, and in particular trade promotion, and to further develop the political dialogue and follow-up of efforts for human rights and democratic development.

Lima

With 30 million inhabitants, Peru is the fourth largest country in South America in terms of population. Its economic growth is among the highest in the region. At the same time, substantial investments are needed in infrastructure, education and welfare services. The positive economic and political developments in recent years have led to increased interest in trade and investment in the Peruvian market. Last year, Swedish exports to Peru amounted to just over SEK 1.3 billion. Initially, the promotion activities in Peru will mainly focus on sectors such as infrastructure, health and medical care, mining and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The embassy's tasks will also include political monitoring.

Manila

The Philippines has a population of more than 100 million and is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. Swedish exports to the Philippines amount to nearly SEK 1 billion. Almost 22 000 Swedes visited the country last year and this number is expected to increase as the national tourism industry grows. The embassy's main task will be to promote trade and investment exchange with the Philippines. It will also conduct political monitoring.

Each of the new missions abroad will be staffed by two staff members posted abroad from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and a number of locally employed staff.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Every three days, the Government travels to promote Sweden

Published 12 November 2015 Updated 16 February 2016

The Government's aim is to increase exports. As part of these efforts, a new export strategy for Sweden has been drawn up

The Government launched Sweden's export strategy in late September. The 26 countries regarded to have particular priority include several important growth markets such as Japan, Brazil, South Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia. In total, SEK 800 million will strengthen Swedish exports over five years.

Export promotion is a matter that concerns the whole Government and in principle all ministers are or have been involved in promotion activities. To date, the ministers have conducted a total 129 international visits to 44 countries for the purpose of business promotion. Ministers have visited nearly all of the 26 prioritised countries. There are currently a further 48 visits to 36 countries in the pipeline.

"Major enterprises may need help with political contacts at the highest level, or else they manage on their own. However, the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises engaging in exports is currently too low, and that is where I believe the export strategy is an important tool. We are investing in regional export centres that can help enterprises start exporting," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Mr Damberg also sees great potential in foreign-born Swedes with their language skills and knowledge of other countries' cultures. For this reason, SEK 20 million extra will be invested to make use of newly arrived immigrants' contact networks to open doors to new markets.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government decides to open a Consulate General in New York

Published 29 October 2015 Updated 29 October 2015

The Government decided today to upgrade the Swedish presence in New York by opening a salaried Consulate General. The Consulate General will open in December and replace the honorary consulate currently there.

The focus of the Consulate General in New York will be to promote the image of the innovative, creative and competitive Sweden of today. Trade and investment promotion at the Consulate General is expected to largely focus on conveying knowledge and offering a network and platform for promotion activities for Swedish companies.

“In light of Sweden’s new export strategy, we see a need of a Consulate General in New York, one of the world’s most important cities for promoting Sweden as a brand. The business sector would like to see an official Swedish presence on the ground to promote contacts, trade and investments with the United States,” says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Consulate General will also work with cultural promotion and contribute to increased cooperation between Sweden and the United States in the area of culture, and also strengthen opportunities for Swedish cultural practitioners to work in New York. It will also conduct consular activities.

“Having a Consulate General in one of the world’s most important cities means that we can create greater knowledge about, and confidence in, Sweden and Swedish solutions. New York is a priority city for Sweden with a large number of Swedes and numerous Swedish companies there”, says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

For a time, the Consulate General will use the premises that currently house

the honorary consulate. Next year, the Consulate General plans to move to new offices. The new mission abroad will be staffed by two people from the MFA and a number of locally employed staff. The Government has not yet decided who will be appointed Consul General.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Additional SEK 800 million to increased exports

Published 29 September 2015 Updated 29 September 2015

Compared with other countries' export growth, it is clear that Sweden can perform better. Of Sweden's exports, 70 per cent go to the EU internal market. Trade with our closest neighbours is very significant and important to our economy. But trade in the internal market must be supplemented so that Sweden as an export nation does not lose market shares.

After the downturn that followed the financial crisis in 2008–2009, recovery in the area of exports has been slow and in recent years, domestic consumption has been the growth engine of the Swedish economy. In light of this, the Government has produced an export strategy with measures to strengthen the export and internationalisation opportunities of Swedish companies in important markets, and to increase the number of exporting companies.

Yesterday, Mikael Damberg presented Sweden's new export strategy.

Through the export strategy, the Government addresses the challenges facing Swedish foreign trade:

- Swedish exports must have better access to growth markets;
- more small and medium-sized enterprises must be willing and able to export;
- Swedish goods, services and systems must come even higher up in the value chain;
- Sweden's attractiveness for investments, expertise and tourists must increase; and

- global trade must be kept open.

The export strategy contains initiatives in 22 prioritised areas, based on the needs and wishes expressed by large companies as well as SMEs. It includes providing export support on the ground in growth markets, of ensuring that more companies are aware and make use of the export support available, and that Swedish companies win major business contracts and procurements around the world. But the Government is also taking a broader approach, with initiatives to increase tourism and foreign investments in Sweden, to make Sweden better known outside of Europe and to attract foreign talent in education and research to Sweden. At the same time, work against protectionism is continuing.

The export strategy is to help achieve the Government's overall objective of Sweden having the lowest unemployment rate in the EU by 2020. The strategy's objectives are to:

- increase exports, both in absolute figures and as a percentage of GDP;
- increase Sweden's attractiveness for investments, expertise and tourists;
- increase the proportion of exporting companies; and
- increase the participation of Swedish companies in the global economy.

To ensure that implementation of the measures begins in 2015, the Government allocated SEK 75 million to an export campaign in the spring amending budget. The Government has allocated SEK 150 million for 2016, and a total of SEK 800 million until the end of 2019.

The export strategy was drawn up in dialogue with the Swedish business sector. It contains initiatives to encourage more Swedish companies to enter new markets, to increase exports and a presence in growth markets, to facilitate global trade and to promote Sweden's attractiveness for investments, expertise and tourists.

“Strong exports are necessary to increase employment in Sweden. But our exports have lost ground in comparison with other countries, and we must reverse this trend. There is a risk of Swedish companies missing out on large portions of the expected growth around the world. This is why the Government is now taking action to increase Sweden's presence in tomorrow's export markets,” says Mr Damberg.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

More Swedish enterprises to win international procurements

Published 27 September 2015 Updated 16 February 2016

More Swedish enterprises will participate in and win procurements of goods and services at the major international organisations, such as the United Nations, international financial institutions and the European Union. This is one of the Swedish export strategy measures being launched on Monday.

To increase exchange with international organisations, the Government is launching a coherent strategy that will increase Swedish sales of goods and services to the UN system, international financial institutions and the EU. In 2014, for instance, the UN system purchased goods and services for more than SEK 150 billion. However, only 0.16 per cent of this was invoiced from Sweden (Swedish goods and services, but also foreign goods).

"Sweden has untapped potential, not least with regard to Swedish small and medium-sized enterprises that have good field solutions in the areas of energy, security, health and sanitation for peacekeeping operations, refugee camps, crises and disasters," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Government also proposes initiating long-term work to influence and change UN system procurement requirements to pay greater attention in decision-making to a long-term approach and sustainability.

"The UN procurement system is being modernised, which will provide new openings for Swedish suppliers, who often represent sustainable solutions and favourable life-cycle costs," says Mr Damberg.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swedish enterprises to achieve the largest global deals

Published 25 September 2015 Updated 16 February 2016

More Swedish export enterprises will compete for the largest global deals. This initiative, which is part of the Government's new export strategy for increased trade and more jobs, entails a broader mandate for Business Sweden.

"Together with the entire Team Sweden, we will focus on business deals that can give particularly large dividends in the form of exports and new jobs in Sweden," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Under the initiative, Business Sweden, together with interested enterprises, will be tasked with identifying the largest global deals over the course of the next ten years that have the greatest potential for Swedish exports and employment in Sweden.

"There is great interest in other countries in Swedish solutions to challenges in society. These include how to design traffic systems, public transport, energy supply, environmental protection or how to use digital solutions in daily life. Many Swedish enterprises have solutions to these challenges, but they do not market themselves together. In addition, they often lack access to the highest ranking decision-makers who formulate procurements," says Mr Damberg.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden's national action plan for business and human rights to support Swedish exports

Published 24 August 2015 Updated 24 August 2015

Today, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg launched the Swedish Government's action plan for business and human rights, which has been drawn up in dialogue with businesses, trade union organisations, government agencies and civil society.

The action plan has been developed based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

“I am very pleased that Sweden is the sixth country in the world to adopt a national action plan for business and human rights. The plan is a step towards supporting Swedish businesses in their corporate social responsibility efforts in Sweden and abroad. Active CSR work is a competitive advantage that helps to strengthen Swedish export companies,” says Mr Damberg.

Sweden's national action plan for business and human rights



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government honours Max Martin and Spotify

Published 19 March 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

The Government's 2014 Music Export Prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports goes to songwriter and producer Max Martin, whose real name is Martin Sandberg. Uniquely this year, the winner of the Music Export Prize is also awarded this year's Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music and for spreading a positive image of Sweden abroad. Spotify is awarded the commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music.

“Sweden's music exports are an essential part of the modern image of Sweden abroad and therefore not only constitute an important industry but, from my perspective, a very important component of the broad and successful efforts to promote Sweden,” says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

Max Martin behind some of last years biggest hit songs

Max Martin, who will come in person to the MFA Bank Hall on 19 March to accept the prize, was awarded the eighteenth Music Export Prize with the following explanatory statement:

“Max Martin is one of the writers behind some of last year's biggest hit songs, such as ‘Dark Horse’ with Katy Perry and the two songs ‘Shake It

Off' and 'Blank Space' with Taylor Swift. All three have topped the US Billboard Hot 100 list in 2014. He has once again shown that he is one of the most prominent names in international pop music. The fact that in the same year he was also awarded a Grammy for 'Producer of the Year', an ASCAP Pop Music Award for 'Songwriter of the Year' and a Swedish Grammy for 'Composer of the Year' only strengthens his unique position. He was also involved in the version of the Swedish national anthem used in the Volvo advertisement with Zlatan that was shown all over the world. His 19th number one hit on the Billboard list in 2014 makes him the third most successful songwriter in the history of the list."

The other nominees for the Prize were Anders Hillborg, First Aid Kit, Sabaton and Tove Lo.

Special Prize

For the first time in the history of the Prize, the winner of the Music Export Prize is also awarded this year's Special Prize. The Special Prize goes to a figure in the music industry who has made a long-standing contribution to Swedish music exports or has spread Swedish music abroad, thus helping promote a positive image of Sweden.

The explanatory statement reads:

"Martin Sandberg, alias Max Martin, is one of the world's most successful songwriters and producers. For over 15 years, this pop music genius has provided the world with songs, melodies and productions that have triumphed on all imaginable top lists around the world. Due to his exceptional feeling and creativity for harmonies and details, every superstar today wants to work with him. As a journalist for the New Yorker expressed it, he has fundamentally changed the way we perceive melodies. He is also a pioneer who for decades has been a role model and inspiration for other talented people; as a result, Sweden has produced some of the world's most prominent songwriters. He has opened the way for what we call 'the Swedish music sensation' and placed Sweden on the map as one of the world's most successful countries when it comes to writing and exporting music. With 19 number one hits on the Billboard list he is one of the most successful music creators of all time, and now belongs to a top trio alongside Beatles icons Paul McCartney and John Lennon."

Commendation for achievements of particular importance

This year, the commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music is awarded to Spotify. The prize is

intended for recipients who are not composers, songwriters, producers, musicians or other practitioners, but who have nonetheless made an important contribution to the international success of Swedish music. This prize will only be awarded when there are special grounds to do so.

The explanatory statement reads:

“This year’s commendation goes to a ground-breaking company that has markedly changed our way of consuming music. Its service has initiated a development that has spread around the entire world and provides hope to an industry that has been in crisis for many years. All eyes are now on Sweden, which, thanks to this music service, has become a bellwether for the global music industry. This year’s commendation goes to Spotify.”

Time and place: Bank Hall, Malmtorgsgatan 3, Stockholm, 15.30–16.30



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Justice

The 2021 OSCE Counter-Terrorism Conference

Published 21 April 2021

Speech by H.E. Mikael Damberg, Minister for Home Affairs, Sweden, in the Closing Session of the 2021 OSCE Counter-Terrorism Conference. The conference was held virtually, 21 April 2021.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am particularly pleased to address you here today. I have devoted a lot of my time to strengthen Swedish policies and laws as well as introduced new practices to prevent and strengthen our society's resistance against violent extremism and terrorism. International cooperation with partners is strong and needs to be developed continuously to ensure that our societies can protect our populations from terrorist attacks.

During the past two days, you as participants have discussed preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in a changing global security landscape. The devastating proliferation of Covid-19 has contributed to increased polarization. New technologies are used not only to facilitate our daily lives, but also misused by terrorists. To meet the new landscape, we have to adjust and develop our tools to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism.

To do exactly that, I, together with my colleagues in the EU, adopted a joint statement last November on how to take the EU's counter terrorism agenda forward. Yesterday the EU counter terrorism coordinator gave an in-depth overview of the EU approach.

The respect for international law, including human rights and fundamental freedoms, is the basis on which all our work is built. We have heard

numerous examples on why the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is critical, also when countering the misuse of the internet for terrorist purposes. Corruption, the lack of respect for rule of law, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms increase the risk of grievances, which might lead to radicalization and violent extremism. States have the primary responsibility to combat terrorism, but we do also have an obligation to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and the rule of law. This perfectly illustrates what is meant by the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

We must continue to pay attention to root causes of violent extremism. Terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum try to exploit grievances and vulnerabilities to polarize, divide and erode trust in democratic institutions. Existing socio-economic and political challenges, real or perceived feelings of victimization, are used to recruit followers and expand the support base of terrorist groups. The pandemic has worsened the situation, which has been highlighted by several speakers. Promoting tolerance and inclusive societies is pivotal to tackling root causes.

In the online world, we as participating States need to find ways to address harmful and illegal content online while protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Examples of how to go about this have been discussed. We have heard about the challenges for small and medium-sized tech companies to remove content online, but also positive stories on media literacy and how smaller companies work with bigger ones. I believe a multi-stakeholder approach with the involvement of civil society and the private sector is a way forward.

Regarding rehabilitation and reintegration. Developing and maintaining safe and orderly prisons, avoiding overcrowding and understaffing, establishing links between prison and probation, and developing rehabilitation and reintegration programs are essential. There is a need to support not only the individual, but also the community as a whole. A community that lacks housing, infrastructure, schools and employment opportunities will most probably face more challenges when reintegrating returning individuals. And we need individualized age- and gender- responsive approaches to create sustainable solutions. As has been highlighted during the conference, there is a huge demand to be met.

On the important issue of gender; the conference has emphasized that women can have a variety of roles in terrorist organizations. We need to take this into account when developing policies for preventing violent extremism

as well as for countering terrorism. If we fail to recognize this, women's radicalization might go undetected and women's access to rehabilitation and reintegration programs will be insufficient. That being said, women are often victims of terrorism and their roles can differ over time. Gender responsive analysis is a necessity in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism and should be mainstreamed throughout.

As we are soon coming to the end to this conference, I would like to thank the close to 600 participants for making it a success. We would not have had such a rich discussion without the diversity of participants representing governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and international and regional organizations.

Thanks.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Justice

Speech by Mikael Damberg at UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my warmest gratitude to the Government of Japan for your hospitality and dedication in hosting this congress, despite the challenges of a global pandemic.

I also would like to thank the UNODC Secretariat and the Executive Director for all their efforts in organizing the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Sweden supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union by Commissioner Ylva Johansson. I would now like to elaborate on one of the important topics she addressed.

Men's violence against women must end. Worldwide, we are currently facing a grim pandemic that has exposed inequalities and increased the gap between women and men. Violence against women and girls has increased, which is one of the ultimate expressions of inequality.

We welcome that the Kyotodeclaration contains a paragraph on domestic violence, marking our common determination to prevent and counter violence against women.

Our goal as a feminist government is equal power for women and men to shape society and their own lives, and to end violence against women. In line

with this, Sweden is currently implementing a ten-year National Strategy for preventing and combating Men's Violence against Women. The strategy raises the importance of preventive measures and men's participation and responsibility in the work against violence. I can give you a few examples:

The Government has tasked the Swedish Police Authority to integrate gender aspects in all its work. This has resulted in more resources and investigators to fight domestic violence and crimes against women.

Prosecutors with special skills and experiences are put in the lead.

Sweden's sexual offences legislation criminalises all sexual acts which are not based on consent. The purchase of sexual services is also criminalised, which has proven to be a valuable tool in the prevention of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Compliance with international obligations is crucial and the Istanbul Convention offers an important device for follow-up. Sweden works for enhanced prevention, including treatment programmes for perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence.

However, the problems go further. Crimes of violence against women is an international problem. It is used as a weapon in war and terrorism, and as a tool in organised crime through trafficking of human beings.

We need to make full use of the international tools and channels of cooperation to deal with these urgent issues and to reinforce accountability.

I invite you all to work with us.

When we invest in gender equal conditions, we strengthen our democracies and promote peace and social cohesion in society.

I would like to conclude by thanking you all for your attention. We highly appreciate the possibility to participate in the discussions this week.