



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.