



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Government reshuffle, 27 July 2017

Published 27 July 2017

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven today announced a government reshuffle. Three ministers have chosen to leave their posts, two new ministers have been appointed, and two ministers have been entrusted with revised areas of responsibility.

Ministers Anna Johansson, Anders Ygeman and Gabriel Wikström are leaving their posts.

Newly appointed ministers

Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Migration, and Deputy Minister for Justice: Heléne Fritzon

Changes by ministry

Ministry of Justice Minister for Justice and Home Affairs: Morgan Johansson

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Minister for Health and Social Affairs: Annika Strandhäll



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Internal border controls prolonged

Published 15 May 2017

The Government has decided to prolong the reinstated border controls at certain ports in Skåne and Västra Götaland, and at the Öresund Bridge.

The Swedish Police Authority will continue to carry out border controls on 11 May. On the same day, the European Council of Ministers plans to adopt a recommendation on prolonging internal border controls, in line with Article 29 of the Schengen Borders Code (1). On the condition that the Council adopts this decision, the Swedish Police Authority will also continue to carry out border controls as of 12 May and during the entire period the Council recommends.

The Council's recommendation is based on the proposal of the European Commission of 2 May to prolong internal border controls for six months at most (2). The Commission bases its proposal on the assessment that there is still a serious threat to public order and domestic security, and to the overall functioning of the Schengen area. The Government shares the Commission's assessment.

Border controls will continue to be limited to what is necessary, and regular reviews will be conducted to adapt controls to the existing need.

1) Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

2) Proposal for a Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation for temporary internal border control in exceptional circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk. COM (2017) 226 final.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Justice

Government tightens border controls

Published 03 May 2017 Updated 15 May 2017

The Government has decided to tighten and strengthen border controls and to phase out ID checks across the Öresund strait.

We need good order at Sweden's borders to maintain security. The decisions on border controls and ID checks will expire in the next few days. There are many reasons why it is important that we have good control of our border crossing points.

The Government will strengthen and extend the Swedish Police's border controls. We will also tighten controls using vehicle X-ray inspections and camera surveillance. This will also make it possible to phase out the temporary ID checks, which will make everyday life easier for people who commute on a daily basis between Sweden and Denmark. The ID checks will be discontinued on the Öresund ferries but will remain in place on all other ferries, in line with the current maritime security legislation. The Government is of course fully prepared to quickly reinstate ID checks if necessary. We are in close dialogue with our agencies to monitor this.

The Government did what was necessary to get Sweden out of the situation that prevailed in autumn 2015, and we will take responsibility to ensure we do not end up there again



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Assignment to Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency to increase people's knowledge regarding preparations for crises and situations of heightened alert

Published 20 March 2017

The Government has instructed the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency to develop national information materials containing concrete tips for what every private individual can do to prepare themselves for crises and situations of heightened alert, and to increase knowledge of the information influence that may be exerted on people in Sweden. To strengthen the preparedness of the whole of society, planning for civilian defence continues on an ongoing basis at the agencies that have a particular responsibility before and during situations of heightened alert.

The assignment to the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency also includes strengthening support to municipalities in their information campaigns. Many municipalities already provide citizens with information on how to prepare for crises. However, this information can be developed and should also include situations of heightened alert.

"Many people today are not aware of their responsibilities and how they can prepare for various crises. Most people have no idea of what 'heightened

alert' means either. We want to change this. The information material will contain concrete and clear information on the preparations that can be made by each person," says Anders Ygeman.

In implementing the assignment, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is to collaborate with relevant actors, such as country administrative boards, non-governmental organisations and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is to consult with the Swedish Armed Forces on those parts of the implementation that relate to heightened alert.

The assignment is to be reported by 1 March 2018.



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Press release from Ministry of Justice

Government decides to prolong internal border controls again

Published 13 February 2017 Updated 13 February 2017

The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls from 11 February to 10 May 2017.

Thursday 9 February, the Swedish Government decided to prolong internal border controls again, from 11 February up to and including 10 May 2017.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Government decides to prolong internal border controls again

Published 11 November 2016 Updated 11 November 2016

The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls from 12 November 2016 to 11 February 2017.

Today, Friday 11 November, the Swedish Government decided to prolong internal border controls again, from 12 November 2016 up to and including 11 February 2017.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Measures for more efficient returns

Published 03 October 2016 Updated 03 October 2016

The Government has presented a number of measures to ensure legally secure and more efficient returns of people whose asylum applications have been rejected.

"We must be able to maintain a long-term, sustainable and humane migration policy that safeguards the right of asylum. It is vital that a person who has been issued a final and non-appealable refusal-of-entry order after their grounds for asylum have been examined returns as soon as possible," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

"The Swedish Police need better tools to establish the identity of people residing in Sweden. The police also need clearer support to better be able to enforce returns," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman

Below are nine new measures presented by the Government:

1. Expanded possibilities to implement risk-based workplace inspections;
2. The possibility to take fingerprints when conducting internal controls of aliens;
3. Expanded opportunities to confiscate passports or identity documents;
4. The Swedish Migration Agency to notify the Swedish Police Authority when it has contact with a person who has been issued an enforceable order;
5. The Swedish Police Authority to be able to refer enforcement cases back to the Swedish Migration Agency when voluntary return is possible;
6. The Swedish Police Authority to be the enforcing authority regarding renewed enforcement;

7. Greater opportunities to place detainees in facilities other than special detention centres;
8. Regarding detention of children, refusal-of-entry orders by government agencies to be processed in the same way regardless of the authority that took the decision; and
9. Legislation regarding the competent authority to be clarified.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Measures against car burnings and criminality in vulnerable areas

Published 29 August 2016 Updated 29 August 2016

On Wednesday 17 August, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman presented the Government's measures against car burnings and criminality in vulnerable areas. Reversing the trend requires both long-term welfare initiatives and forceful action against crime.

"The car burnings over the summer were worrying. The fires are invasive for those whose cars are destroyed, but also mean that people are exposed to danger," says Mr Johansson.

"It is unacceptable that the police and emergency services are subjected to attacks. The insecurity and risks that people living in vulnerable areas are exposed to must be combated in all possible ways," says Mr Ygeman.

"Reversing the trend in our vulnerable areas requires continued investments in welfare, long-term crime prevention measures and forceful action against crime here and now," says Mr Johansson.

The Government is taking the following measures to strengthen the ability of judicial authorities to prevent these crimes:

- **Faster legal action:** Young people who commit crimes and people who repeatedly commit new crimes are examples of groups where a quick, clearer and legally secure reaction on the part of society is particularly important. The Government wants to conduct a broad review to analyse the possibilities of bringing about faster legal action, where such matters

as a fast track for petty crimes and on-call courts will be considered.

- Tougher penalties for attacks against emergency services staff: A review will be conducted to assess the need for legislative changes to further increase protection for emergency services staff and other important actors in society. This will include considering whether attacks on professional groups tasked with guaranteeing safety, life and health should be seen as being particularly serious.
- Clear sanctions for young people: New sanctions for young people are needed with regard to serious crime or when a young person repeatedly relapses into crime. These may involve an obligation regarding contact instead of fines, or youth supervision by means of an electronic ankle tag in the case of serious crime.
- Scale of penalties for inflicting damage: A government inquiry has proposed that such penalties should be designed similarly to other crimes against property and where fines are not included in the scale of penalties for a normal offence. The Government is therefore considering whether the sanctions for the offences 'inflicting damage' and 'gross infliction of damage' should be made more severe.

During the summer, the Prime Minister also presented a long-term reform programme to reduce segregation. A central government delegation has been appointed that is to cooperate with municipalities, civil society, government agencies and researchers. The reform programme will run between 2017 and 2025 and focus on five policy areas:

1. Combating crime.
2. Finding a solution to long-term unemployment.
3. Improving the outcomes of schools and pupils.
4. Enhancing social services and reducing housing segregation and overcrowding.
5. Supporting civil society and efforts to promote democratic values.

In addition, the following reforms were presented:

- Resources for the Swedish Police Authority's inter-agency collaboration in socially vulnerable areas.
- The Swedish Public Employment Service is tasked with increasing employment among foreign-born women;
- Support groups to prevent relapsing into crime.
- Support to preschools where conditions are difficult.
- Increased support to schools with low learning outcomes Form of tenure in the detailed development plan to reduce housing segregation.

- Government agency services provided in socially vulnerable areas.
- Increased support to activities by civil society organisations and municipalities to combat violent extremism.
- Sport and youth leaders in socially vulnerable areas.

Next year, the Government will invest SEK 110 million in these reforms, a sum that will gradually increase to SEK 250 million from 2020.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Border controls prolonged until November

Published 03 June 2016 Updated 03 June 2016

The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls from June 8th up to and including November 11th 2016. Following a decision in the Council of the European Union, internal border controls are no longer prolonged on a monthly basis.

"The European Union has confirmed Sweden's view, and our need for border controls, which means we can take a more long-term decision to maintain border controls until November 11th," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman.

Sweden has continuously followed up and evaluated border control, thereby providing a basis for each decision to prolong. In future, the Government will inform the European Commission every second month on how border controls are progressing and how Sweden views the situation going forward.

Sweden's objective is to have effective external EU borders and a return to free movement in the Schengen area.

Within the framework of the Council Implementing Decision, border controls will be maintained at certain ports, selected by the Swedish Police Authority, in police regions South and West, and at the Öresund Bridge. With regard to scope, frequency, location and time, border controls are to be limited to what is absolutely essential for securing public order and domestic security. The Swedish Police Authority decides how border controls are to be maintained.

"How the EU's external borders are handled, and the actions of our

neighbouring countries and other EU countries have a major impact on Sweden's overall assessment of future border controls," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman.

The Swedish border controls recommended by the European Council correspond to the border controls maintained by the Swedish Police Authority under a previous government decision.

This decision was taken under Article 29 of the Schengen Borders Code.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Government decides to prolong internal border controls again

Published 04 May 2016 Updated 04 May 2016

The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls from 9 May to 7 June 2016.

Today, Wednesday 4 May, the Swedish Government decided to prolong internal border controls again, from 9 May up to and including 7 June 2016. The Government's assessment is that the conditions on which the earlier decisions were taken still apply.

The Government intends to review whether there is still a need after 7 June to further prolong the internal border controls.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Government decides to prolong internal border controls again

Published 07 April 2016 Updated 07 April 2016

The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls from 9 April to 8 May 2016.

Today, Thursday 7 April, the Swedish Government decided to prolong internal border controls again, from 9 April up to and including 8 May 2016. The Government's assessment is that the conditions on which the earlier decisions were taken still apply.

– The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls until 8th of May. Our authorities make the same assessment as previously regarding how order and security could be affected if we abolish the controls, says Anders Ygeman Minister for Home Affairs.

The Government intends to review whether there is still a need after 8 May to further prolong the internal border controls.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

Government decides to prolong internal border controls again

Published 03 March 2016 Updated 03 March 2016

The Swedish Government has decided to prolong internal border controls from 10 March to 8 April 2016.

Today, Thursday 3 March, the Swedish Government decided to prolong internal border controls again, from 10 March up to and including 8 April. The Government's assessment is that the conditions on which the earlier decisions were taken still apply.

"Europe has not managed to maintain its external borders. Until we see a joint European solution, Sweden will be forced to use short-term national measures. Internal border controls continue to offer us better control over who is entering the country and the possibility to maintain public order and domestic security," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman.

The Government intends to review whether there is still a need after 8 April to further prolong the internal border controls.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Internal border controls in Sweden

Published 12 November 2015 Updated 12 November 2015

The Swedish Government decided today to temporarily reintroduce internal border controls. The Government also proposes identity checks for ferry passengers.

— Sweden receives an exceptionally large share of the refugees coming to Europe. Internal border controls gives the police better possibilities to uphold law and order in a situation where 2000 persons a day seeks asylum, says Anders Ygeman minister of Home Affairs.

The Government decided today to reintroduce internal border controls. These controls began 12.00 pm on Thursday 12 November and will initially be in force for ten days, up to and including 21 November. The police will determine where and how border controls will be implemented.

More refugees are now trying to reach Sweden than ever before. This migration brings opportunities for Sweden, but great challenges as well. The Government's overall assessment is that it is necessary to reintroduce internal border controls since the present situation poses acute challenges to vital functions in society.

This assessment is based on analyses by the Swedish Migration Agency and the Swedish Police Authority, and on the national status report produced by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. The Police Authority considers that in the present situation, public order and domestic security are under threat. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency points to major strains on several vital public services.

The Government intends to review the issue of whether there is a need to extend the controls a while longer after the first ten days of border controls.



Press release from Ministry of Justice

Bergwall Commission report submitted

Published 05 June 2015 Updated 05 June 2015

“It is important for us to learn from previous legal cases and develop both police work and legislation,” says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman, who today received the report of the Bergwall Commission.

The Report of the Bergwall Commission (SOU 2015:52) was submitted today, Friday 5 June, to Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman. This press release summarises the Commission’s conclusions.

The Bergwall Commission, chaired by Professor Emeritus Daniel Tarschys, was tasked with investigating and reporting on the conduct of the judicial and health care systems in connection with the criminal proceedings that led to Sture Bergwall being convicted of eight murders. The Commission was also instructed to analyse whether there were flaws in this conduct and, if such flaws were structural in nature, determine whether changes need to be made.

“It all started with Sture Bergwall’s own confessions, which were followed by many mistakes that contributed to his convictions,” says Inquiry Chair Daniel Tarschys.

According to the Bergwall Commission, a key factor in the murder convictions was that Sture Bergwall himself told police about the murders and subsequently confessed to the crimes in the court hearings.

The examination revealed that police and prosecutors took great account of Sture Bergwall’s distinctive character and particular circumstances, and that this affected how the investigation was conducted and how the information he provided was assessed. Initially, Sture Bergwall provided very vague and

often incorrect information about the murders. The Commission further notes that there was overly uncritical adjustment to Sture Bergwall's own explanation for this. With a view to helping Sture Bergwall to remember and enabling him to provide an account, police and prosecutors departed in several respects from regular interview and investigation methods. Sture Bergwall's account became directed in various ways. The trials were also adjusted to the particular circumstances that were deemed to exist in the case, which resulted in the district courts accepting a less sound basis for their assessment.

The preliminary investigations were not sufficiently unbiased, and the investigators and prosecutor deviated on several occasions from the statutory principle of objectivity. The key figures maintained their roles throughout the investigation. It appears that groupthink and a pursuit of consensus developed within this group.

“Several of the flaws identified by the Commission were not due to flaws in the regulatory framework, but rather to the fact that the regulations were not followed,” says Inquiry Chair Daniel Tarschys.

The Commission's report contains a number of proposals. The importance of police officers' and prosecutors' duty of objectivity should be more strongly emphasised. Better scrutiny and controls of the investigative process are needed. The Police Authority's instructions for reconstructions in preliminary investigations of crimes should be supplemented, and possibly reworked. The possibility of establishing a system for quality-assurance of expert statements cited in court should be investigated. Central government and the county councils need to devote greater attention to forensic psychiatry and compulsory psychiatric care. A review should be conducted of forensic psychiatric research in Sweden from an international perspective. The areas of forensic psychiatry requiring systematic knowledge reviews should be identified.