



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Changes to the subscription service for content concerning health care, public health and sport

Published 01 June 2017

Changes will be made to the subscription service for some areas on government.se from 2 June. This includes 'Health care' becoming a subscription area of its own, while 'Public health and sport' will be combined within a single area. In order to continue to receive the content you want, you may need to update your subscription on government.se.

As a result of the changes:

- If you wish to continue to subscribe to content on public health, you will need to add the area 'Public health and sport' to your subscription.
- If you wish to continue to subscribe to content on health care, you do not need to do anything: you will continue to receive it, but under the category of 'Health care'.
- If you wish to continue to subscribe to content on sport, you do not need to do anything: you will continue to receive it, but under the category of 'Public health and sport'.

How to change your subscription

You can change your subscription from Friday 2 June, as follows:

1. Click on the 'Change your subscription' link found at the bottom of any subscription email from the Government. You will be taken straight to the web page entitled 'Subscribe via email'.

2. Click on 'Select area'. Your previous choices will already be checked. You can now add or remove your areas of interest, e.g. 'Public health and sport' or 'Health care'.

3. Click on 'Create/change subscription'.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gabriel Wikström visited London and the European Medicines Agency

Published 09 March 2017

As part of the Government's continued efforts to relocate the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to Sweden, Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström visited London on 6–7 March.

The Government has set up a secretariat tasked with leading Sweden's candidacy for relocating the EMA from the UK to the Stockholm/Uppsala region. The secretariat is working closely with the Government's life sciences coordinator, Anders Lönnberg. Mr Wikström visited the EMA to meet with staff and management.

"I am looking forward to meeting the people working at the EMA. I want to know what they think is important in a new country and a new workplace, while also having the opportunity to talk about everything that Sweden has to offer," Mr Wikström said ahead of his visit.

On Tuesday, Mr Wikström met his British counterpart, Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt, to discuss Brexit, the EMA and antibiotic resistance.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gabriel Wikström led the Swedish delegation at the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance at the UN General Assembly

Published 07 October 2016 Updated 07 October 2016

On 21 September 2016, a high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was held during the UN General Assembly. AMR – and antibiotic resistance in particular – is a global health threat that is increasing in scale. AMR also entails costs for society and consequences for sustainable development throughout the world. Sweden has long been a driving force behind raising the AMR issue on the global agenda.

The fact that this high-level meeting has taken place shows that the AMR issue is very important. The few but serious health issues previously discussed in the UN General Assembly have been HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases and Ebola. The meeting is an opportunity to send a strong political signal to all countries and relevant sectors about the need for further measures to combat AMR.

Measures needed from world leaders

International awareness of AMR has increased in recent years. But a great deal of work remains to be done to increase awareness, develop capacity and

take measures within relevant sectors. If world leaders do not take measures, the problem will increase in scale, in terms of human suffering, costs for society and consequences for sustainable development.

Gabriel Wikström led the Swedish delegation

Sweden has long been a driving force behind raising the issue of AMR on the global agenda and intended to use this opportunity to continue pursuing the issue. The Swedish delegation was led by Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström and included participants from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

Declaration approved at the meeting

Prior to the meeting, a political declaration was negotiated in New York for approval at the meeting. Sweden was involved in the preparatory work so that the meeting would:

- show the importance of the issue and the need for additional measures and a multi-sectoral approach that links human and animal health and the environment;
- reaffirm existing commitments, particularly regarding the global action plan from 2015 and the drawing up of national action plans by May 2017; and
- establish a mechanism for promoting cooperation/coordination between relevant actors (above all various UN bodies) and follow up developments in the area.

Declaration: Draft political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance

The situation in Sweden is relatively good

As regards AMR, the situation in Sweden is relatively good among both humans and animals. Sweden therefore has a good reputation in this area. This is the result of active engagement in various sectors and at various levels over a long period of time. But in Sweden too, continued measures are needed to maintain and further improve the situation. Sweden is also affected by the deteriorating situation globally, as resistance can spread

internationally.

Updated Swedish strategy

In April 2016, the Government adopted an updated strategy to combat antibiotic resistance. The updated strategy has seven objective areas staking out the direction of future work. Compared with the previous strategy, the updated strategy places greater emphasis on international efforts, on the basis of the 2030 Agenda and the Policy for Global Development, for example.

Sweden has an international leading role

Sweden has a leading role in international AMR work and has helped lift the issue onto the global agenda, in the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and, most recently, the United Nations.

For example, Sweden has worked to bring about the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was adopted by the countries of the world in 2015. In connection with this, Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström launched a ministerial alliance against AMR together with his counterpart from the United Kingdom. The alliance includes 16 ministers from different countries.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden conducts activities in the area of AMR. The Agency is responsible for supporting WHO in its work on the global action plan in terms of developing a global resistance surveillance system. For this purpose, a WHO cooperation centre for AMR was established at the Agency in August 2016.



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 Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sport – an arena for integrating new arrivals

Published 17 March 2016 Updated 17 March 2016

Sweden's Government believes that it is particularly important to provide good opportunities for new arrivals to participate in Swedish society. The sports movement offers meeting places for everyone and thereby an arena for integration. The Government is therefore giving SEK 64 million annually to support the sports movement's work with new arrivals in Sweden.

In conjunction with the Swedish Sports Confederation's conference on sport and integration on 3 February 2016, football coach Sara Nadif, Swedish Sports Confederation Chair Björn Eriksson and Minister for Sport Gabriel Wikström and others spoke about the importance of sport to enable new arrivals to become established in society. A short film, in which they explain how, is available [here](#).



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 of Health and Social Affairs

Sweden and Chile aim to enter social welfare agreement

Published 08 December 2015 Updated 08 December 2015

On 23–25 November Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström visited Chile to exchange experiences with his Chilean counterparts and President Michelle Bachelet. Sweden and Chile want to learn from each other in order to build egalitarian and sustainable welfare nations. The ambition is to produce a comprehensive memorandum of understanding in the welfare sector.

This interest in listening to each other's experiences is based in part on the historically strong ties between the countries that resulted from Sweden's solidarity with Chile's population during the time the country was a dictatorship. The relations between Sweden and Chile and current political issues in each country were discussed at a meeting between Mr Wikström, President Bachelet and Minister of Foreign Affairs Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela.

They also discussed the planned memorandum of understanding, which is intended to encompass cooperation on health and medical care, and alcohol, narcotics, doping substances and tobacco (ANDT), as well as gender equality and the rights of the child. The hope is that an agreement can be signed in connection with the Chilean State Visit to Sweden in May 2016.

Desire to cooperate on a number of different health issues

In addition to meeting President Bachelet and Mr Muñoz Valenzuela, Mr

Wikström met four ministers and the director of the government agency with responsibility for ANDT issues.

The meeting with Minister of Health Carmen Castillo Taucher demonstrated that there is great interest in cooperating in the area of equitable health, which is an issue of high priority for Sweden. Mr Wikström described the Swedish commission for equitable health and the importance of addressing health in all policy areas. Other areas of mutual interest include ANDT, chronic diseases, obesity, antimicrobial resistance and skills supply.

"We had the opportunity to examine many topics, in both global health and national issues. There are several areas in which our two countries can learn from and help each other," says Mr Wikström.

Consensus on the importance of preventive efforts

To gain insight into how Chile works on ANDT issues, Mr Wikström met the minister responsible – Minister of the Interior and Public Security Jorge Burgos Varela – and the director of the agency responsible – SENDA's Mariano Montenegro.

Chile is fighting problems related to the unsafe use of alcohol and narcotics among young people. To strengthen its preventive work, Chile wanted to hear about Sweden's experience of coordinated preventive efforts, which encompass all addictive substances and permeate every sector of society. Mr Wikström also made a study visit to an out-patient clinic for people with substance abuse problems.

"The visit was very worthwhile. The clinic works actively with social inclusion, that is, trying to see the person's entire life situation, such as housing, employment, family relations and self-motivation," says Mr Wikström.

Mr Wikström discussed the challenges facing a sedentary population with Chile's Minister for Sport Natalia Riffo Alonso. About 70 per cent of the children in Chile are considered to have a sedentary lifestyle. The Chilean Government was in the process of implementing a series of dialogues with citizens across the country to identify problems and solutions. Unlike Sweden, Chile's governance, both in this area and in general, is much more centralised.

"Although there are a number of differences between Sweden and Chile,

there is much we can continue our discussions on, not least activity and exercise among children and young people," says Mr Wikström.

Gender equality an area of mutual interest

As a representative of Sweden's feminist government, Mr Wikström also met the Director of the National Women's Service Claudia Pascual Grau. She presented various gender equality reforms and initiatives the Chilean Government is working on. These include the legalisation of abortion in certain cases, combating violence against women, and efforts to improve financial equality between women and men, women's integration in the labour market and their representation in decision-making bodies. Gender equality is one of the areas that Sweden and Chile want to include in the broad memorandum of understanding on welfare issues and continue exchanging experiences on.

"I am pleased that we had the opportunity to discuss gender equality in greater depth and continue the discussion that I know my colleague Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér and Ms Pascual Grau had conducted earlier. I would like to see closer cooperation between Chile and Sweden in this important area," says Mr Wikström.

In addition to meeting the ministers, Mr Wikström met local representatives of Swedish companies and listened to their experience of working in Chile. Their discussions included the challenges of finding forums in which politicians, companies and representatives of the research and education communities can meet so that everyone – based on their respective roles and expertise – can contribute to building strong welfare systems.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gabriel Wikström visited Australia to discuss issues including health and medical care

Published 04 November 2015 Updated 04 November 2015

On 11–14 October, Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström visited Australia to discuss issues including health and medical care with his Australian counterparts at federal and state level.

The agenda included discussions on cancer, mental health and tobacco prevention. Mr Wikström travelled in turn to Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra and visited the National Mental Health Commission, New South Wales Ministry of Health and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Cancer – a shared challenge

Given a growing number of cancer diagnoses among the population, challenges are tough and tangible in Australia as well. The visit to Cancer Australia in Sydney was of particular interest in view of the extensive initiative currently under way in Sweden to reduce waiting times in cancer care. Cancer Australia advises the Australian Government on issues of cancer policy and priorities and operates under the slogan ‘prevention, treatment, care’. The need for a holistic approach was emphasised throughout, as well as a focus on factors such as obesity, an ageing population and life-style related issues.

High-level meeting in Canberra

In connection with the high-level meeting that took place during his visit to Canberra, Mr Wikström met his Australian counterpart, Minister for Health

Sussan Ley, for bilateral talks. During the talks, Mr Wikström expressed how he had been struck during his visit to Australia by how similar Sweden and Australia are in the health area, and that the countries are characterised by the same type of challenges.

“There are great opportunities for cooperation, for instance within AMR* and e-health solutions,” said Mr Wikström during the talks.

During his talks with Ms Ley, Mr Wikström further expressed his appreciation of Australia for also having signed the ministerial declaration ‘Call to Action on AMR’ and thus joining the ‘Alliance of Champions against AMR’ – the association of ministers from a current total of fifteen countries that Sweden and the United Kingdom successfully united in a joint declaration in connection with the meeting of the World Health Assembly in early 2015.

Cooperation to combat antimicrobial resistance

Speech at the Swedish Australian Health Care Forum

The high-level meeting was preceded by a forum entitled the Swedish Australian Health Care Forum, which gathered high-level officials from Australia and Sweden as well as representatives from the academic and private sectors. Mr Wikström held an opening address in connection with the opening of the Forum, which is provided in the attached file.

Speech by the Minister for Health Care and Public Health at the Swedish Australian Health Care Forum

* Antimicrobial resistance.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

A commission for equitable health

Published 01 October 2015 Updated 01 October 2015

The Government has appointed Professor Olle Lundberg to chair the commission for equitable health that was announced in the Statement of Government Policy. The task of the commission is to submit proposals that can help to reduce health inequalities in society.

A commission for equitable health has been established and it is to submit a report by 31 May 2017 containing proposals that can help to reduce health inequalities in society. The Government has appointed Professor Olle Lundberg to chair the commission, which was announced in the Statement of Government Policy.

Mr Lundberg most recently held a position at the Centre for Health Equity Studies (CHESS), which is a collaboration between Stockholm University and Karolinska Institutet. The focus area of research at CHESS is inequalities in health.

The main focus of the commission will be health disparities between various socioeconomic groups, and the commission's work will also pay consistent attention to gender health disparities. The basis for the commission's remit is the Government's goal to close avoidable health gaps within one generation.

The commission is to also consider other health disparities in society, for example between people with impairments, LGBTQ people, people with foreign backgrounds, people belonging to national minorities and the rest of the population. Consideration will also be given to health disparities between those who are in gainful employment and those who are disconnected from the labour market.

The commission is to consider the significance of both general measures and measures aimed at specific target groups in efforts to reduce health inequalities. Particular attention is to be given to children's prospects of growing up in secure and favourable conditions. Health-promotion measures and preventive measures early in life are crucial for the health of children and young people and for public health in the long term. The health situation of older people is also to be considered.

The commission's work is to result in proposals intended for the State, municipalities and county councils, and other relevant stakeholders in society. Using an outreach-oriented and inclusive approach, the commission is to work actively to ensure that the proposals presented have good prospects of gaining traction in various decision-making processes, above all among stakeholders in society who can help reduce health inequalities in society.

As far as possible, the proposals are to cover various future time frames: the short term (2–4 years), the medium term (8 years) and a generation (25–30 years).



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gender equality in health

Published 21 July 2015 Updated 21 July 2015

Avoidable health inequalities will be eliminated in a generation. The long-term goal is to eliminate the disparities between women's and men's sick leave, while reducing sick leave rates in general to a low and stable level. Men's violence against women must stop.

Current challenge

Sick leave

Sick leave in Sweden, as in many other countries, exhibits a considerable bias in its gender distribution. Women are off sick to a far greater extent than men; two out of three people on sick leave are women. This is a historic pattern that has persisted over time.

Psychiatric diagnoses are now the most common cause of sick leave and are increasing among both women and men; however, the increase is greater among women.

Mental ill health

The risk of a young woman attempting to take her own life is three times as high as the risk of a young man doing so. Self-reported mental and somatic problems are increasing, particularly among girls aged 13 to 15. In addition, the difference between girls' and boys' perceived health increases with age.

Men's violence against women

Many women are still subjected to abuse. In 2014, a total of 28 200 cases of

abuse of women were reported to the police. This is an increase of 5 per cent compared with 2013. The number of reported rapes increased by 13 per cent between 2013 and 2014, to 6 620 reported offences. Around 17 women are killed each year by a man they have or have had a close relationship with.

HeForShe goals

Avoidable health inequalities will be eliminated in a generation. The long-term goal is to eliminate the disparities between women's and men's sick leave, while reducing sick leave rates in general to a low and stable level. Men's violence against women must stop.

HeForShe initiatives

- The Government has appointed a national commission for health equity. Consistent attention will be given to gender health disparities in this work.
- To respond to women's higher sick leave rates, all relevant stakeholders in society need to be mobilised. This includes public authorities, employers, and health and medical care, as well as measures for women's work environment.
- The Government is considering a future long-term initiative to strengthen preventive work in the area of mental health and improve early action for young people suffering from mental health problems.
- The Government is investing in sport and expects the sports movement, at all levels, to redouble its efforts to achieve gender equality in sports to give those who are actively involved the same opportunities to realise their interest in participating, regardless of gender.
- A national strategy will be drawn up for work on men's violence against women. The Government will strengthen its support to women's shelters that support and protect women subjected to violence. The rape legislation will be reviewed so that more sexual offences are cleared up. Sentences for aggravated sexual offences will be made tougher. More will be done to promote increased participation by men in these efforts to promote change. The Government has extended support to a national telephone line which people, primarily men, who risk committing sexual assaults can call for advice and assistance in obtaining treatment. Work will be stepped up on changing gender stereotypes surrounding masculinity, violence and destructive masculine behaviour.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Organisations support the Government's tobacco policy

Published 21 July 2015 Updated 21 July 2015

“Closing the preventable health gap in a generation is one of the Government’s most important jobs. It is an ambitious goal and we need to take measures in a number of different areas, not least tobacco policy,” said Minister for Public Health Gabriel Wikström on 1 June, when he received a petition containing more than 10 000 signatures in support of the Government’s tobacco policy.

World No Tobacco Day was observed on 31 May. On 1 June, in connection with the occasion, eleven stakeholder organisations presented a petition with more than 10 000 signatures endorsing the ‘Tobacco Endgame’. Mr Wikström received the petition and described the Government’s work to the organisations.

“I am pleased to receive this petition and look forward to continuing working together to achieve health equity,” said Mr Wikström.

Supplementary terms of reference on smoke-free environments, retail display ban and plain packaging

On 19 February, the Swedish Government issued the Inquiry on the implementation of the EU Tobacco Products Directive with supplementary terms of reference to investigate:

- more smoke-free environments;
- retail display ban;
- plain packaging.

The Government's new steps in tobacco-prevention efforts are the first in ten years. At the meeting, the lobbying organisations supported the Government's initiative.

Facts: Organisations that support the Government's tobacco policy

Tobacco Endgame is an initiative to urge Sweden's politicians to set an end date for smoking in Sweden and present a plan on how to achieve this objective. The organisations involved and represented at the meeting were:

- VISIR -Tobaksfri duo
- Hälsoäventyret Uppsala
- Tobaksfakta -Tobak eller Hälsa
- Lärare mot Tobak (Teachers against tobacco)
- KSAN
- Swedish Dental Association
- Yrkesföreningar mot Tobak (Professional associations against tobacco)
- Sluta Röka Linjen -Tandläkare mot tobak (Dentists against tobacco)