



# Press conference in light of Russia's illegal annexation of additional regions in Ukraine

On 30 September, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson held a press conference in light of Russia's illegal annexation of a further four Ukrainian regions. Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist also took part.

“Illegal annexation has no legal force. Like Crimea, these four regions therefore remain within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders. Sweden condemns Russia's actions in the strongest possible terms,” said Ms Andersson.

An eighth package of sanctions is now being prepared at EU level. Sweden and the EU will continue to provide financial, military and humanitarian support to Ukraine for as long as is necessary. Russia's decision to annex additional areas will also be the focus of next week's informal meeting of the European Council.

Ms Linde announced that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will summon Russia's Ambassador to formally convey Sweden's strong condemnation.

The current caretaker government has full powers to act for the security of Sweden and the Swedish people until the new government takes office. Sweden always has a functioning government in place.



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister comments on Wednesday's security policy council meeting

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde gave their comments following the meeting of the Government's security policy council on Wednesday 28 September. Head of the Swedish Coast Guard's Operations Department Johan Norrman was also present.

The Government gathered for an extraordinary meeting of the security policy council in view of the leaks in the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea.

“It is likely that a deliberate act – in other words, sabotage – caused the leaks, which are located in the Swedish and Danish economic zones. This is thus not a direct attack on Sweden,” said Ms Andersson.

The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and representatives of the Swedish Security Service and the Military Intelligence and Security Service attended the meeting, along with representatives of the Swedish Coast Guard, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the Swedish Energy Agency. Ms Andersson emphasised that contact with international partners within the EU and NATO and with the United States had been maintained throughout the day.

“The Government and, of course, other countries take a very serious view of this situation, because these explosions must be seen against the backdrop of the security situation. The Government and the relevant authorities are now working flat out to investigate what happened and take necessary measures,” Ms Andersson said.

The Prime Minister also reminded the Swedish people to seek information from credible sources, and not to spread information that does not come from such sources.

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# Likely deliberate act behind leaks in Nord Stream 1 and 2 Baltic Sea gas pipelines

On Tuesday 27 September, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist outlined the Government's views on the explosions that have caused leaks in the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea.

The Government considers that a deliberate act is behind the explosions, and takes a serious view of the incident given the security situation. Ms Andersson stated that Sweden is in close contact with Denmark and Germany in particular, but also with the EU, NATO, Norway, Finland and the United States.

“I will be convening the Government's security policy council, and the relevant Swedish authorities are taking all necessary measures. The Swedish Police Authority has also launched a preliminary investigation into possible sabotage. At the same time, I would like to emphasise that this is not an attack on Sweden. The explosions did not take place on Swedish territory, but rather in our economic zone,” Ms Andersson said.

The Prime Minister also urged the Swedish people to be vigilant, to seek information from credible sources and not to spread information about Swedish Armed Forces activities. The current caretaker government has full powers to act for the security of Sweden and the Swedish people until the new government takes office. Sweden always has a functioning government in place.



Government Offices of Sweden

# Joint letter on energy measures

The prime ministers of Sweden, Denmark and Finland have jointly written a letter to President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on the importance of urgent action to tackle soaring energy prices.

High electricity prices, which are a consequence of Putin's energy war on Europe, are best dealt with jointly in the EU. In the letter, the three prime ministers stress the need to save energy, the importance of minimising the impact of gas prices on electricity prices and the need to continue the green transition.

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# SEK 1 billion in additional support for Ukraine

On Monday 29 August, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson received Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba to discuss additional Swedish support for Ukraine.

At the joint press conference, Ms Andersson began by welcoming Mr Kuleba back to Stockholm and subsequently reflected on her strong memories from her trip to Kyiv in July.

”It’s heartbreaking to see the atrocities and the destruction of your vast, fertile country.”

[Article: Magdalena Andersson visits Ukraine](#)

“You are defending yourselves and your country, but you are also defending our common European values and international regulations. Borders must never be changed by force and war. This is a massive undertaking, and it’s our duty and honour to support you in every possible way. My Government will therefore approve new economic support to Ukraine in the amount of SEK 1 billion – approximately USD 100 million,” said Ms Andersson.

## **Two-part support package**

Ms Andersson described the support as having two parts:

“The first part is new military support in the amount of SEK 500 million. The content of the new economic support package corresponds to your requests and complements donations from other nations. A decision on the issue will be made in the near future.”

The second part of Sweden’s support consists of SEK 500 million to promote Ukraine’s economy, resilience and recovery. Ms Andersson described the support in several points:

“Sweden will increase its support to aid Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction, not least through management and reuse of destroyed infrastructure. Recycling destroyed buildings and infrastructure can be dangerous and explosive. Sweden, together with international partners, is well-suited to help Ukraine in this area. We will also buy Ukrainian wheat, which will support Ukraine’s economy and ensure continued food transports from the country.

“We will continue to give funding to the UN World Food Programme to purchase, transfer and deliver wheat that is currently stuck in Ukraine to countries that are threatened by famine. Sweden’s contribution will enable fully loaded ships to transport 30 000 tonnes of Ukrainian wheat to millions of recipients who are at risk of starvation. Since this increases the country’s self-sufficiency, it’s also critical for Ukraine’s independence.”

Ms Andersson concluded the press conference by emphasising that Ukraine is a part of Europe:

“Ukraine is a part of the European family, and this family will help you win the war.”

During his visit, Mr Kuleba will also meet with his colleague, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, and Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans.

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# Magdalena Andersson visits Ukraine

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson met with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday in Kyiv. She also paid a visit to the cities Borodyanka and Bucha.

“It was very important to me to come here in person to show Sweden's and the Swedish people's support for Ukraine in their fight for freedom and democracy. Now I've been able to see the destruction suffered by Ukraine with my own eyes,” said Ms Andersson during a press conference via video link from the presidential palace in Kyiv.

Ms Andersson also visited Borodyanka and Bucha on Monday. In Bucha she met with the local priest and visited the location of mass graves where hundreds of civilians were buried.

“I am convinced now more than ever of the importance of the humanitarian, financial and military support we give to Ukraine. It is essential that this support be long-term so that Ukraine can continue exercising its legal right to defend itself,” said Ms Andersson.

Together with partners from the EU and beyond, Sweden has consistently condemned Russia's brutal, unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine, a peaceful and democratic neighbour. Sweden has also strongly condemned Russia's attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, and its indiscriminate violence.

“It is critical that this violence not produce political gains for Moscow. Together with other EU countries, Sweden will therefore continue to work tirelessly to demand accountability for the crimes committed and to bring the perpetrators and those responsible to justice,” said Ms Andersson.



# Sweden invited to join NATO at Madrid Summit

On 29–30 June, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson took part in NATO's Madrid Summit. During the Summit, NATO members decided to invite Sweden and Finland to join.

After the Summit, Ms Andersson said that it had been three important days for Sweden's security, but she began with a few words about Ukraine.

“We must not forget the Ukrainian people who continue to fight not only for their country, but also for the fundamental right to self-determination. That's why we must continue to support the defence of Ukraine,” said Ms Andersson.

She announced the Government's decision to send additional weapons and materiel valued at SEK 500 million to Ukraine. The support requested by Ukraine includes mine clearance equipment and anti-tank weapons.

## **Signing of accession protocol planned for next Tuesday**

Ms Andersson said that the Madrid Summit was a milestone not only for Sweden and Finland, but for NATO as a whole, and that support for Sweden and Finland has been “almost deafening”.

“The plan is to sign the accession protocol next Tuesday. I will send Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde to Brussels. After that, we will be able to participate with very few restrictions as an observer. Technical discussions with NATO are also planned for next week.”

“Sweden will be more secure as a NATO member – and NATO will be stronger with Sweden as a member country,” concluded Ms Andersson.



Government Offices of Sweden

# Stockholm IHRA plenary 20-23 June

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has successfully concluded its first plenary meetings under the Swedish Presidency. Guided by the motto, “Together for impact,” more than 200 experts, political representatives, and representatives of international organizations and civil society met in Stockholm over four days to advance education, remembrance, and research of the Holocaust and the genocide of the Roma.

In her address to the IHRA Plenary, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said: “We must remain steadfast in our efforts to counter violence, hatred and ignorance, which are increasingly undermining peace and democracy. Holocaust denial and distortion are gaining ground – we cannot allow this to happen.”

[Watch the address by Prime Minister on the opening of IHRA Plenary](#)

“We mustn’t forget that we are bound together in this work not only by choice, but also by the facts of history,” IHRA Chair Ambassador Ann Bernes underlined in her welcome address. “Our meetings are critical reminders of how important it is to face this history and protect the facts, so that we can develop policies and foster societies that can move forward together.”

The Stockholm plenary meetings were held four months into Russia’s unjustified military aggression against Ukraine and gave considerable focus to the issue, with statements in keeping with the IHRA Chair’s statement on Ukraine and Babyn Yar made on 3 March 2022, deploring the extensive loss of life and rejecting the gross Holocaust distortion being used to justify it. Member Countries reaffirmed their commitment to democratic principles

and efforts to counter Holocaust distortion, antisemitism, and antigypsyism, and engaged in extensive discussions on possible initiatives to address the situation and assist Ukraine within the areas of expertise of the IHRA, and in dialogue and collaboration with its Permanent International Partners, as well as with the wider international community.

The IHRA's expert Working Groups and Committees made several concrete proposals that will be brought forward and put into action, in keeping with continued discussions between Member Countries.

IHRA Honorary Chairman Professor Yehuda Bauer stressed the importance of all IHRA Member Countries showing their support for Ukraine. "The IHRA has an important voice, the voice of 35 countries. We should say what we think, and we must inform the world that we stand behind the Ukrainian efforts to resist an unprovoked aggression by a major power," he said.

The meetings' impact-oriented approach was also highlighted during discussions on progress made in relation to the concrete pledges presented at the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism – Remember-ReAct, as well as various IHRA tools, including the IHRA Toolkit Against Holocaust Distortion and the Protect the Facts campaign, the working definition of antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and the Guidelines for Identifying Relevant Documentation for Holocaust Research, Education and Remembrance.

Furthermore, and importantly, the IHRA secured the long-term sustainability of its work by adopting a new financial model for membership contributions.

The Plenary also welcomed Aotearoa New Zealand as a new Observer Country. The IHRA now consists of 35 Member Countries, 9 Observer Countries, and 8 Permanent International Partners.

In addition, the Plenary confirmed that Israel will take on the Presidency of the IHRA in 2025, 80 years after the end of the Holocaust and 15 years after last holding the Presidency in 2010.

Special events included both an exclusive seminar by the Living History Forum and the new Swedish Holocaust Museum, which featured an address by Swedish Minister of Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter, and a reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which featured an address by the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# Address by Prime Minister on the opening of IHRA Plenary

The first plenary of the Swedish IHRA Presidency has been held in Stockholm the 20–23 June. The plenary provided an opportunity for the delegates to finally meet again after some time of digital meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plenary session with the Heads of Delegations was opened by Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

– We must remain steadfast in our national and international efforts to counter incitement to violence, hatred and ignorance, which is increasingly undermining peace and democracy, said Magdalena Andersson.

– Holocaust denial and distortion is gaining traction. We cannot allow this to happen, she continued.

Watch the entire address [here](#).

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# NATO membership and Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the agenda as Prime Minister receives NATO Secretary General

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson received NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg Monday 13 June. During their meeting, Ms Andersson and Mr Stoltenberg discussed Sweden's and Finland's applications for NATO membership, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the security situation in Sweden's neighbourhood.

At the press conference following her meeting with Mr Stoltenberg, Ms Andersson said that Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a watershed for Europe and Sweden that has changed Sweden's security situation.

“After careful consideration with the parties represented in the Riksdag, my Government decided, with broad support from the public and in the Riksdag, to apply for NATO membership,” she said.

Ms Andersson stressed that because Sweden and Finland applied together, security will improve for both countries, as well as for the Baltic Sea region, Europe and NATO. She also said that Sweden takes Turkey's views on Sweden's and Finland's applications very seriously and that she warmly welcomes Mr Stoltenberg's work to facilitate dialogue between the countries.

“We have a lot to offer NATO and its members. Both Sweden and Finland will contribute to security in the region and for the whole of NATO, including Turkey,” said Ms Andersson.



# Special meeting of the European Council, 30–31 May

The European Council is holding a special meeting in Brussels on 30–31 May. A number of issues related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine are expected to be discussed. These include continued EU support to Ukraine, energy and food security. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson is representing Sweden.

## **The situation in Ukraine**

The meeting will begin with a discussion on the situation in Ukraine, where questions concerning the country's liquidity problem and EU support for the country's reconstruction will also be discussed. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will take part in the beginning of the discussion via video link.

## **Energy**

At its meeting in March, EU leaders called on the European Commission to develop an action plan to phase out the EU's dependence on Russian energy imports and thereby also reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. The European Commission presented the action plan, REPowerEU, on 18 May. It has three main components – more diversified energy imports, faster expansion of renewables and saving energy.

EU leaders are expected to discuss matters such as electricity market initiatives to hold back rising electricity prices and achieving targets that have been set for energy efficiency and renewables.

## **Food**

EU leaders are expected to highlight the food security situation and price trends in light of the fact that Ukraine, a major supplier of agricultural

products, is being stopped by Russia from exporting to the world market. The discussion will focus on what help the EU can provide using European infrastructure and coordination.

Chair of the African Union Macky Sall will take part in the discussion via video link.

### **Security and defence**

EU leaders will discuss how EU countries can jointly continue working on better coordination and development of defence industries and defence-related technologies in the EU.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# The Government has decided today that Sweden will apply for NATO membership.

This decision is based on a security analysis that the Government invited the other Riksdag parties to take part in and its conclusions that were presented in a report on 13 May.

The Government's assessment is that NATO membership is the best way to protect Sweden's security in light of the fundamentally changed security environment following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Sweden's security policy choices today were also the subject of a special debate in the Riksdag.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# Sweden and Poland mobilised humanitarian support for Ukraine

On 5 May more than SEK 60 billion in support was announced at a donor conference for Ukraine in Warsaw co-organised by Sweden and Poland together with the EU.

To meet the increasing humanitarian needs and support Ukrainian society, Sweden is allocating an additional SEK 230 million. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Prime Minister of Poland Mateusz Morawiecki co-hosted the donor conference.

“In total, we raised SEK 60 billion, which shows that the rest of the world’s great support for Ukraine remains strong and sustainable,” said Ms Andersson.

In connection with the conference, Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans led a roundtable discussion on the economic impact of the war.

Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, humanitarian needs in the country are immense and expected to increase further. Approximately 16 million people are in need of help. Roughly eight million people are internally displaced within Ukraine, while over five million people are estimated to have fled the country. The UN’s humanitarian appeal to provide people in Ukraine with life-saving support and protection will amount to USD 2.5 billion by the end of August. To meet the increasing humanitarian needs and to support the Ukrainian people, Sweden has announced an additional SEK 230 million for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

“The war is ongoing and humanitarian needs are increasing. Sweden will therefore contribute an additional SEK 230 million. The Ukrainian people need our support and since the war started, we have contributed SEK 775 million to humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and its neighbourhood,” said Ms

Andersson.

In connection with the donor conference, Sweden and Poland also arranged a roundtable discussion on the economic impact of the war. Sweden was represented by Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans.

“While we focus on the acute humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, we also need to manage the long-term economic impact of the war. The rest of the world must support early recovery and, in the long-term, reconstruction,” said Ms Ernkrans.

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# Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson in talks with German Government and Finnish Prime Minister

On Tuesday 3 May, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson was at Schloss Meseberg in Germany by invitation of Chancellor Olaf Scholz to take part in talks with the German Government together with Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin.

In her speech to the media after the meeting, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson stressed the value of the opportunity to jointly discuss the new security situation in Europe and its consequences.

“This meeting is an important signal to the world of our solidarity,” emphasised Ms Andersson.

Ms Andersson also explained that during the meeting she said that Sweden is now facing decisive security policy decisions and that the Swedish Government is conducting a supplementary security policy analysis together with the parties in the Swedish Riksdag.

During the meeting, the situation in Ukraine and the brutal war that has now been going on for more than two months were also discussed, said Ms Andersson.

The joint statements can be viewed on the German Government’s website (in German and English).

[German Government website](#)



# Norway and Sweden agree to intensify cooperation on carbon capture and storage

Prime ministers Jonas Gahr Støre and Magdalena Andersson met on 5 April for talks in Stockholm. The prime ministers agreed to conclude as soon as possible an agreement between Norway and Sweden on the export/import of carbon dioxide to enable cooperation between Norwegian and Swedish companies on the permanent storage of carbon dioxide in the Norwegian continental shelf.

“I am pleased that we are working together to further develop the close cooperation between Norway and Sweden. As part of this, we have agreed to strengthen cooperation on energy and climate issues in order to succeed in the green transition and the capture, transport and storage of carbon dioxide, which is a key element of this,” says Mr Støre.

An agreement between the countries is required under the London Protocol to allow carbon dioxide to be transported across their land border. When carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is employed at facilities with biogenic emissions, called bio-CCS, it results in negative emissions to the atmosphere.

The countries have a solid foundation to build on in the form of Nordic energy and climate cooperation and the EEA Agreement. Both Norway and Sweden want to be the driving force for achieving national climate goals and carbon neutrality in the Nordic region and contribute to the achievement of the goals in the Paris Agreement by the whole world.

“Our countries have everything to gain from working together to speed up the green industrial revolution. Together with the other Nordic countries, we

can show the world how the green transition can create more jobs and secure our welfare. We need to reduce emissions, but in order to achieve our goals we also need carbon capture and storage,” says Ms Andersson.

Norway and Sweden also want to intensify their cooperation on technology development, energy infrastructure and the green transition in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the countries of the North Sea region.

### **Background:**

Norway and Sweden are pursuing an ambitious climate and energy policy based on the Paris Agreement. In order to achieve the climate goals, substantial emission reductions will be required. In addition, CCS is likely to be a necessary complement to the emission reduction efforts, as a measure where no reasonable alternatives to fossil emissions exist or as a complementary measure in the form of bio-CCS.

Norway and Sweden cooperate closely on energy and the climate, particularly through Nordic energy and climate cooperation and the EEA Agreement. Norway and Sweden were the first countries in the world to establish a cross-border certificate market to stimulate the development of renewable energy. The Norwegian and Swedish electricity markets are closely linked through a number of connections. Norway and Sweden are parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972 (London Protocol) under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and have both ratified the amendments to the London Protocol which are required for the transport of carbon dioxide from Sweden for offshore storage in Norway.

There is an increased interest in CCS in Sweden, both from industry and public agencies. The Swedish Government has instructed the Swedish Energy Agency to be the national centre ([länk till Energimyndigheten](#)) for carbon capture and storage. Sweden will also introduce operating support for bio-CCS through reverse auctions. The ambition is for an initial auction to take place at the end of 2022 in order to allow for the start of storage in 2026.

Several actors in Sweden have the potential to conduct CCS, and the Norwegian Northern Lights partnership and several Swedish companies have entered into a statement of intent. In Sweden, actors have the opportunity to

apply for central government investment support through the Green Industry Leap ([länk](#)) and a Swedish bio-CCS project has been granted funds through the EU Innovation Fund.

In 2021, the Norwegian parliament approved the Longship project, a full-scale CCS demonstration project ([länk](#)). The Norwegian Government will cover two thirds of the total costs during the first phase of the project. Northern Lights ([länk](#)) is part of Langskips infrastruktur and has status as one of the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). The project has been funded by the EU's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The storage capacity of Northern Lights will be approximately five million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year in phase 2. Norway has significant geological potential for storing carbon dioxide in addition to this.

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# EU and US stood united for Ukraine at the European Council meeting

The European Council meeting of 24–25 March, one month after Russia began its aggression against Ukraine, focused on the conflict and consequences for the EU. The US President attended the meeting for talks on Thursday evening. On Friday the focus was on Europe's strategic dependence on Russian fossil fuels, the high energy prices in the EU and the green transition.

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson emphasised that she welcomes the US and the EU presenting a united front to bring Russia's aggression to an end.

“President Biden's message to European leaders yesterday was crystal clear. It is through unity and close cooperation that we can act vigorously against Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine,” said Ms Andersson at a press conference in connection with the Council meeting. She also said that she had the opportunity to participate in talks with President Biden, which was not possible for all EU leaders.

“I stressed the importance of continuing to cooperate effectively on the sanctions and continuing to support Ukraine. We also need to prepare for the reconstruction of Ukraine and, not least, we need to collectively step up our efforts to break Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas,” she said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also addressed the Council meeting via video link. He thanked the EU for supporting Ukraine against Russia's aggression and also appealed for further sanctions against Russia and more support to Ukraine.

Discussions on the second day of the Council meeting focused on how the EU should deal with the rising energy and food prices caused by the conflict. The Council also discussed how the EU can promote the green transition while reducing Member States' dependence on fossil fuels from Russia and other parts of the world.

“Sweden has been pushing these issues for a long time and now we can see growing enthusiasm from the other Member States,” said Ms Andersson. “Our future lies in the green transition and the investments we make can also create a significant number of jobs here and now.”

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# Defence appropriation to increase to two per cent of GDP

Sweden's military defence funding is to increase to two per cent of GDP. This was conveyed by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson at a press briefing with Minister for Finance Mikael Damberg and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

The Prime Minister said that the Government has a three-track approach in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The first track involves supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian people by providing financial and humanitarian support, but also support to strengthen Ukraine's resilience. The second track involves the Government, together with other countries, imposing sanctions against the Russian regime, and the third track involves taking measures to strengthen Sweden.

“Tensions are high in our neighbourhood – the situation is worse than for several decades and we need to keep strengthening our defence capabilities,” said Ms Andersson.

## **Further military defence reinforcements**

The Prime Minister noted that Sweden's ongoing military scale-up is the largest since the 1950s, and reinstating national military service is one of the measures.

“Including the current defence resolution, expenditure on defence will have increased by 85 per cent between 2014 and 2025,” said Ms Andersson.

She also stated that there will be further reinforcements. Even before Russia's aggression against Ukraine, following talks with the Defence Commission, Mr Hultqvist had decided to strengthen national defence capabilities in the short term. In addition to this, the Government will decide on additional resources.

“Military defence funding will increase to two per cent of GDP. We will meet this objective as soon as it is practically possible. That is, when it’s possible to translate these increases into strengthened defence capabilities.

“We must also establish stable, long-term and solidarity-based financing for the scale-up that the majority of the Riksdag will support. It must have a stable basis if we’re to have a strong and secure defence,” she concluded.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# Sweden further increases humanitarian support to Ukraine

On Sunday 27 February, Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans held a press briefing on Sweden's support to Ukraine together with Göran Holmqvist, Director of Humanitarian Support at Sida.

Sweden has long been one of the biggest donors of development assistance to Ukraine, comprising both reform-oriented development cooperation and humanitarian support. In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Government has decided to provide additional funds to alleviate the suffering of the Ukrainian people.

“In light of the horrendous developments in recent days, the Government has now decided to donate an additional SEK 20 million to support the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Ukraine. Sweden has thus increased its humanitarian response to Ukraine to SEK 55 million,” said Ms Ernkrans.

Each year, Sweden provides substantial development aid to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is operating on the ground at the border between Ukraine and Moldova, where many Ukrainians are fleeing. The support can be used for swift action to help refugees, where the needs are greatest.

“In view of rapidly increasing refugee flows, the Government has also decided to bring forward a payment of SEK 50 million to UNHCR to address the humanitarian needs caused by the developments in Ukraine,” said Ms Ernkrans.

Ms Ernkrans presented disbursements and support measures worth a total of SEK 100 million. This consists of SEK 50 million to UNHCR, SEK 30 million to the UN's humanitarian country-level pooled fund and

SEK 20 million to the ICRC.

Sweden has thus contributed a total of SEK 391 million in humanitarian aid to Ukraine since 2014.

Sida's Director of Humanitarian Support Göran Holmqvist stressed the seriousness of the humanitarian situation and that the greatest needs will be among those who are unable to flee. Sida can quickly approve the transfer of resources to where they are most needed. Sida is currently awaiting needs analyses from UN bodies such as OCHA and UNHCR so as to be able to respond to the situation effectively.

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# The harshest package of sanctions the EU has ever imposed

On 24 February, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson took part in a special meeting of the European Council in Brussels in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the very serious security situation in Europe.

“Tonight we gave the green light to the harshest package of sanctions the EU has ever imposed,” said Ms Andersson at a press conference after the meeting.

According to Ms Andersson, the mood at the meeting was fateful, and she described the situation in Europe as the worst since the Second World War.

“The EU has responded swiftly – by Tuesday we had already agreed on a tough package of sanctions. The EU is united in its stance that Russia's actions must be met forcefully and resolutely.

The EU's sanctions target the financial sector, the energy sector and the transport sector, and will stop the export of key technology,” Ms Andersson explained.

“We have agreed to begin preparing the next steps without delay. And we will include Belarus due to its active role on Russia's side.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky participated in the first part of the meeting via video link.

“He described the situation in Ukraine. And when we said goodbye, we all knew there was a chance we might not see each other again,” said Ms Andersson.

**Sanctions against Russia**

**The sanctions officially adopted by the EU's foreign ministers on 25 February include:**

- Measures against loans to other private banks
- Measures against the new listing of Russian state-owned entities and against the financing of certain state-owned companies
- Prohibition on new deposits exceeding EUR 100 000 in EU banks from Russian nationals or residents
- Prohibition on the holding of accounts of Russian clients by the EU Central Securities Depositories
- Prohibition on the selling of euro-denominated securities to Russian clients
- Prohibition on exports of specific technologies to the oil sector
- Prohibition on the sale or provision of goods and services in the aviation and space industry
- Further restrictions on the export of dual-use goods from the EU to Russia
- Restrictions on the export of certain goods and technology which might contribute to Russia's technological enhancement of its defence and security sector.

The sanctions also include listings of additional individuals in the existing sanctions regime. The listings include all the members of the Russian State Duma not previously on the sanctions list, additional members of the Russian Security Council and Belarusian individuals who facilitated the invasion of Ukraine. President Putin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov are also sanctioned and any assets they have in the EU have been frozen. New criteria for listing individuals have also been proposed.

**On 23 February, the EU foreign ministers decided on the following sanctions:**

- Prohibition to finance the Russian Federation, its government and Central Bank.
- An import ban on goods from the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and prohibition on financing or financial assistance as well as insurance and reinsurance related to the import of goods from the two regions.
- Prohibition on providing financial services to and financing of entities in the regions.
- Prohibition on the export of goods, technology or services in the transport, telecommunications and energy sectors or the prospecting of oil, gas and mineral resources to entities in the regions or for use in the regions.

- Prohibition on services related to tourism activities in the regions.

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# Sweden to provide direct support and defence materiel to Ukraine

On Sunday 27 February, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist held a press conference on Sweden's support to Ukraine.

The Government announced at the press conference that it would present proposals for direct support to Ukraine's armed forces totalling SEK 500 million. Sweden plans to provide 5 000 anti-tank weapons of the model 'Pansarskott 86', 5 000 body shields, 5 000 helmets and 135 000 field rations with a total value of SEK 400 million.

"Europe, and even Sweden, now finds itself in an exceptional situation, which means that exceptional decisions must be taken," said Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and continued:

"It is not Swedish practice to send military equipment to conflict zones. The last time Sweden did so to any great extent was when the Soviet Union attacked Finland in 1939."

Ms Andersson stated that Sweden's security is best served by Sweden supporting Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russia. The extensive support to Ukraine's armed forces that the Government is moving forward with is taking place in close coordination with other countries.

In addition, Sweden will increase its humanitarian aid to Ukraine by SEK 500 million.

Published 28 February 2022



# Strengthened partnership between EU and African Union

Heads of state and government from the EU and the African Union (AU) will meet in Brussels on 17–18 February. It is the seventh time the EU and AU leaders will meet. The aim is to establish foundations for a renewed and deepened partnership between the two unions. The leaders are expected to adopt a joint declaration on closer cooperation in a range of areas. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will represent Sweden.

The leaders are expected to discuss how the two unions can work together to address common challenges and create greater prosperity. Part of the focus will be on an ambitious investment package based on opportunities and challenges in a number of areas, not least climate change and the ongoing health crisis. The summit will also deal with tools and solutions aimed at promoting peace and security.

The Government considers that human rights, gender equality and women's rights, like all other aspects of the rule of law and democracy, should be in focus when a stronger partnership with Africa is built. This establishes the actual foundations for achieving success in both peace and security, and in investments and growth. The Government also attaches great importance to a green transition focused on the climate and to the health package to be adopted at the summit.

Together with leading experts, the heads of state and government will participate in two thematic roundtable talks.

These roundtable talks cover the following themes:

- growth financing

- health systems and vaccine production
- agriculture and sustainable development
- education, culture and vocational training, migration and mobility
- private sector support and economic integration
- peace, security and governance
- climate change and energy transition, digital and transport

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will participate in roundtable discussions on growth funding and on education, culture, migration and mobility.

The declaration will guide the partnership between the EU and AU in the coming years. The declaration will include a number of annexes reflecting the themes of the roundtable discussions.

The most recent EU–AU summit took place in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire in 2017.

Published 16 February 2022



# More infection control measures to be introduced on 23 December 2021

On 23 December, more infection control measures will be introduced in accordance with the Government's action plan for introducing infection control measures. This is due to the increased community transmission of COVID-19 and the increased burden on health and medical care services.

## **Measures being introduced on 23 December 2021**

- Indoor public gatherings and events with more than 20 participants may only have a seated audience regardless of whether or not vaccination certificates are used. Without vaccination certificates, the size of groups is limited to a maximum of 8 people, with a distance of one metre between groups. There is an exemption for religious gatherings.
- Indoor public gatherings and events with more than 500 participants require vaccination certificates and the size of groups is limited to a maximum of 8 people, with a distance of one metre between groups. This means that indoor public gatherings and events with more than 500 participants cannot be organised without vaccination certificates.
- The requirements for eating and drinking establishments are that guests must be seated and that there is a distance of one metre between groups. This also applies for night clubs.
- The requirement for indoor trade fairs and shopping centres is that there must be at least 10 square metres per person.
- The requirement for indoor cultural and recreational activities, such as museums, art galleries and gyms, is that there must be at least 10 square metres per person, except for activities such as training, competitions, etc. intended for children and young people born in 2002 or later.
- Between 23 December 2021 and 16 January 2022, cultural, sport and

recreation associations are advised not to organise or take part in camps, sports cups or other larger indoor activities that involve participants who do not normally meet. Individual activities, matches and one-day competitions such as league matches or the equivalent may be conducted. This advice does not apply to professional sport.

- General advice on working from home will be reintroduced.
- Infection control measures are recommended for adult education in order to avoid crowding and large gatherings. The general rule is for education to be conducted on an in-person basis, but higher education institutions may use distance learning as a tool to prevent crowding at teaching premises.

These infection control measures will be introduced by the Public Health Agency of Sweden on 23 December 2021. For more information about the Public Health Agency of Sweden's recommendations – see [Folkhälsomyndigheten.se](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se).

#### **Instructions to government agencies on working from home**

Workplaces are a major source of infection. At its meeting on 22 December 2021, the Government will adopt stricter instructions to government agencies. Government agencies must ensure that only employees whose physical presence is necessary to conduct business are present in their premises. These stricter instructions on working from home will apply until 31 January 2022.

#### **Possible further measures**

The Public Health Agency of Sweden has also submitted requests to the Government that a limit of 50 participants should be introduced for indoor premises that can be used or made available for private gatherings, that a requirement on infection control measures should be introduced for long-distance public transport, and that a negative COVID-19 test not older than 48 hours should be required for foreign nationals to enter Sweden. The Government intends to consider these requests speedily.

#### **Background**

Recent weeks have seen a rapid increase in the spread of COVID-19 and also a greater burden on health and medical services. This is occurring at the same time as the circulation of other respiratory infections such as influenza and RS viruses is greater than in many years.

On 7 December, the Government presented an action plan for introducing infection control measures. Through the plan, the Government hopes to create increased transparency and clarity before other possible measures are introduced.

Published 22 December 2021



# EU and the Eastern Partnership to further deepen cooperation

The leaders of the EU Member States and the Eastern Partnership countries will meet for the sixth Eastern Partnership summit in Brussels on 15 December. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will represent Sweden.

The Eastern Partnership was initiated by Sweden and Poland in 2009 with the aim of deepening relations between the EU and six countries in eastern Europe and the southern Caucasus. Heads of state and government of partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine will take part in the summit together with the leaders of the EU Member States.

The aim of the Eastern Partnership is to promote democracy, prosperity, peaceful and resilient societies, and responsible institutions that have citizens' confidence. The Partnership also has a special role to play in times of security policy challenges in the region and is thus a strategically important community. It is also an arena for deepened cooperation, trade agreements and visa exemptions for Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova.

Heads of state and government of the EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries are expected to back the Partnership's priorities for the coming five years. These include socio-economic investments to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and support for democratic reforms.

For the Swedish Government, it is essential to continue to strengthen the partner countries' resilience, contribute to a green transition and support digital development. The Government attaches importance to reforms that strengthen democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality.

Belarus has decided to suspend its participation in the Partnership, but the EU maintains its support for civil society in Belarus, and its support for free and fair elections there.

Video below about the EU Eastern Partnership with Ambassador Anna Westerholm.

Published 15 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

# EU and the Eastern Partnership to further deepen cooperation



Government Offices of Sweden

# European Council meeting on COVID-19, energy prices and foreign affairs

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will take part in the European Council meeting in Brussels on Thursday 16 December.

The EU leaders will discuss continued coordination measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic, crisis preparedness and energy prices. The Strategic Compass for security and defence policy cooperation is also on the agenda.

Migration and developments at the Belarusian border will also be discussed. Other foreign affairs include the summit between the EU and the African Union in February and the current situation concerning Russia and Ukraine.

This will be the first time Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson has taken part in the European Council.

Published 15 December 2021



# Government presents action plan for introducing more infection control measures as of 8 December 2021

The Government has introduced further COVID-19 infection control measures due to increased transmission rates and somewhat growing pressure on health care services. The Government also wants to reintroduce further support and compensation to reduce community transmission. Furthermore, the Government is presenting a plan for business support that may be reintroduced if stricter social restrictions need to be reimposed. Vaccinations remain the key to reducing the risk of infection, disease and death, and to avoiding the introduction of further measures.

## **New measures to reduce transmission rates**

Infection control measures will be introduced in three stages. As of 8 December 2021, when the first stage begins, a number of infection control measures will be added to the recommendations that already apply. The assessment of the Government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden is that Sweden is experiencing increased transmission rates and somewhat growing pressure on health care services. Additional infection control measures are therefore needed in the first stage of response.

The recommendations aim to reduce contact between people, and they are directed at a range of actors as outlined below.

- Employers should, if possible, avoid holding large indoor gatherings,

enable employees to maintain a safe distance from each other and, when appropriate, to work from home to a certain extent. The Government intends to take a decision on tasking government agencies in this regard.

- Higher education institutions, including universities, university colleges, folk high schools, vocational higher education institutions and municipal adult education institutions should continue face-to-face teaching but take infection control measures, including social distancing, at large indoor gatherings.
- Schools should take preventive measures, for example, by ensuring a safe distance between people at concerts and end-of-term events in indoor settings.
- Eating and drinking establishments should prevent crowding and take other appropriate infection protection measures.
- Everyone should maintain a safe distance in public spaces, especially indoor spaces. Everyone should avoid crowded areas. This recommendation is directed at both children and adults.
- Adults should avoid crowding on public transport, if possible, by travelling at off-peak times or choosing other transport modes.
- Adults should use face masks in crowded areas or when it is not possible to maintain a safe distance on public transport, whether travelling short or long distances and regardless of transport mode (bus, train, taxi, ferry).
- Public transport should run as frequently as required to prevent crowding, and service frequency should not be reduced.

Further measures included in the action plan may be introduced in subsequent stages if the situation deteriorates. A substantial increase in transmission rates and increased pressure on health services could lead to a second stage of additional measures. Very high transmission rates and heavily burdened health services could lead to a third stage of additional measures. Read more in the Government's action plan for introducing infection control measures.

### **Financial support to reduce transmission**

Additional financial measures will be reintroduced to make it easier for people to stay home if they feel unwell.

Most of the measures will apply from 8 December. It is proposed that they all apply until 31 March.

- The requirement of a medical certificate to receive disease carrier's

allowance will be removed. (The Government will announce the date of entry in due course.)

- Compensation to at-risk groups and certain relatives of people who are in at-risk groups will be reintroduced, and temporary parental benefit for parents of seriously ill children will be extended.
- The possibility for parents to receive temporary parental benefit if schools or preschools close will be extended.
- Compensation for the standard deduction for sick days for employees and self-employed individuals will be reintroduced to make it easier for people to stay home when they are unwell.
- The State will compensate employers for higher sick pay costs than what is considered normal (retroactively from 1 December).
- The exemption from taxation for benefits of free parking will be extended to reduce crowding in public transport.

The measures will be included in the additional amending budget that the Government intends to present to the Riksdag early next year.

### **Preparedness to support businesses**

The Government wants preparedness to enable the swift reintroduction of support to Swedish jobs and businesses if new social restrictions become necessary and affect businesses' ability to carry out their activities.

The Government is therefore budgeting with a view to being able to reintroduce both the ordinary reorientation support and the turnover-based support for sole traders and trading partnerships. These forms of support would be designed along the lines of earlier support.

The Government will also announce an extension of event support until 31 March 2022. This is to eliminate uncertainty and enable organisers to continue planning their events.

The Government is also preparing a legislative amendment to remove the waiting period for aid in the event of short-time work so that employers that have received aid during the COVID-19 pandemic can apply, if necessary, for ordinary support for short-time work.



# Actions to safeguard financial stability

The Government has today (3 September) announced measures to safeguard financial stability in the face of Russia's energy war with Europe.

High and volatile electricity prices have significantly increased the securities that electricity producers must post with the central counterparty Nasdaq Clearing AB. This has led to a lack of liquidity for companies, which risk becoming insolvent in the central counterparty, even though they are fundamentally sound. The market situation also means that losses incurred by a member may cause difficulties for Nasdaq Clearing in managing those losses. Because Nasdaq Clearing is a key part of the financial infrastructure, speedy guarantees from the State are required to ensure financial stability.

“We are in an extremely serious situation where Russia is trying to break Europe by squeezing Swedish households and companies. With the news that Russian gas supplies to Germany are being cut off, urgent action is needed to secure the liquidity of electricity producers. The State must step in with guarantees to ensure financial stability and, ultimately, avoid a financial crisis,” says Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

In order for the guarantees to be in place as soon as possible, a committee initiative was taken and then adopted by the Riksdag on Monday 5 September. This decision will safeguard the liquidity of Swedish energy companies, since their liquidity is not adapted to the extreme price situation that currently prevails.

“This is an important message to reassure the financial markets in the extreme situation we are now facing following Russia's announcement of a reduced gas flow to Europe,” says Minister for Finance Mikael Damberg.



Government Offices of Sweden

# Seventh support package for Ukraine

The Government will donate artillery ammunition worth approximately SEK 500 million to help defend Ukraine.

Since February this year, Sweden has donated defence equipment to Ukraine through five different support packages. The sixth support package took the form of a training initiative. Swedish instructors are currently providing basic training for Ukrainian soldiers in the United Kingdom.

The seventh Swedish support package consists of artillery ammunition worth approximately SEK 500 million. The ammunition is compatible with the artillery systems currently in use, can be used immediately upon delivery and will contribute substantially to Ukraine's military capability.

Published 01 September 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson to receive Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba, who will be visiting Stockholm on 29 August.

During their meeting Ms Andersson and Mr Kuleba will discuss matters such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Swedish support to Ukraine, Ukraine's EU accession process and the country's reconstruction.

Minister for foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba will also meet with Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans during the visit.

## **Media programme**

09.15: Photo opportunity when Ms Andersson receives Mr Kuleba at Björnen

08.30–09.00: Admittance and security check for photographers via Kopparporten, Rödbodgatan 6

09.50: Joint press conference with Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba. Language: English

09.10–09.30: Admittance and security check for journalists via Kopparporten, Rödbodgatan 6

Advance registration to attend the photo opportunity and press conference is required. Please send an email to Nina Kefi by 07.00 on Monday, 29 August

(see Press contacts below).

Published 28 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister to take part in informal Nordic prime ministers meeting in Oslo

(New version) On Monday 15 August, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will travel to Oslo to take part in an informal meeting of Nordic prime ministers.

Norway holds the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers this year and will host the meeting. Nordic prime ministers Jonas Gahr Støre, Mette Frederiksen, Sanna Marin, Katrín Jakobsdóttir and Magdalena Andersson will discuss issues including defence, sustainable marine management and green transition.

Germany's Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz will join the prime ministers in Oslo in the afternoon for a separate German-Nordic meeting.

Three press conferences will be held in Oslo on Monday afternoon. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will participate in two of them:

[Press conference with the Nordic Prime Ministers \(14.45\) - regjeringen.no](#)

[Press Conference with the Nordic Prime Ministers and the Chancellor of Germany \(17.15\) - regjeringen.no](#)

[More information on the meeting and media accreditation will be available on the Norwegian government's web page no later than Thursday 11 August.](#)

Published 10 August 2022



# Sweden to train Ukrainian soldiers in UK

The Government has decided that the Swedish Armed Forces will send instructors to the UK to give Ukrainian citizens basic military training to enable them to serve in Ukraine's armed forces. The aim is to make it possible for Ukraine to maintain and strengthen its defence capabilities.

The initiative to offer basic military training to Ukrainian citizens comes from the UK – the country has invited other partner nations in the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and Canada to contribute.

The Government has now decided that Sweden will contribute by training Ukrainian soldiers.

Between 12 August and 31 December 2022, the Swedish Armed Forces will send up to 120 instructors to the UK to conduct basic military training for Ukrainian citizens, divided into several training courses.

“Russia's war against Ukraine has been going on for over five months, and it's immensely important that the rest of the world continues to support Ukraine in its fight for sovereignty and self-determination. It's important that Sweden is part of these efforts, and the Swedish instructors will contribute to strengthening Ukraine's defence capabilities,” says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

In total, approximately 10 000 Ukrainian citizens are expected take part in the training programme in the UK. A maximum of 60 Swedish instructors will be in the UK simultaneously – this is not expected to have any significant impact on the Swedish Armed Forces' other activities.

The Swedish part of the training programme will begin as soon as it is practically possible. For further information, please contact the Swedish

Armed Forces, +46 8-788 75 00.

Published 07 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson to meet with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday 13 June. They will discuss Sweden and Finland's NATO membership applications, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the security situation in our neighbourhood.

Stoltenberg will also take part in discussions with the Government.

## **Press programme for the visit**

12.00–12.30 Admittance and security check

Address: Harpsund

Approx. 12.55 Photo opportunity upon the arrival of the NATO Secretary General

14.15–14.45 Admittance and security check

Address: Harpsund

Approx. 15.10 Joint press conference in English (outdoors)

The press conference will be livestreamed on [regeringen.se](http://regeringen.se) and on the Government's YouTube channel.

A maximum of 2 people per editorial office. Participation is subject to available space. Press credentials are required.

Advance registration required by 14.00 on Friday 10 June to Nina Kefi (see press contacts). Give your name, the name of your editorial office, your email address and mobile phone number, and attach a photo of your press credentials.

Published 10 June 2022



# Prime Minister to receive UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Wednesday 1 June. The agenda for their bilateral meeting includes the security situation in Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the green transition.

Mr Guterres will be in Stockholm for the Stockholm+50 UN high-level conference. The conference is taking place 50 years after the first UN conference on the human environment – the Stockholm Conference – and aims to accelerate the transition to more sustainable societies. The conclusions from the conference will serve as a basis for future environment and climate negotiations.

Sweden is co-hosting Stockholm+50 with Kenya, in cooperation with the UN.

## [Stockholm+50](#)

### **Media programme**

12.00: Ms Andersson receives Mr Guterres (outside) – photo opportunity

11.00–11.30: Admittance and security checks ahead of the photo opportunity, via Rödbodgatan 6

13.20: Press conference

12.20–12.45: Admittance and security checks ahead of the press conference, via Rödbodgatan 6

A maximum of 2 people per editorial office. Participation is subject to available space. Press credentials are required.

Advance registration required by 12.00 on Tuesday 31 May to Nina Kefi (see press contacts). Give your name, the name of your editorial office, your email address and mobile phone number, and attach a photo of your press credentials.

Published 27 May 2022

# Prime Minister to receive President of the European Council

On Wednesday 25 May, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive the President of the European Council, Charles Michel.

Their discussions will concern current EU matters ahead of next week's meeting of the European Council, and the security situation in the EU in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren will also take part in the meeting.

## **Media programme**

11.30: Ms Andersson receives Mr Michel outside the entrance to Björnen – photo opportunity

10.45–11.15: Admittance and security checks ahead of the photo opportunity, via Rödbodgatan 6

12.45: Press conference in Bella Venezia

12.15–12.40: Admittance and security checks ahead of the press conference, via Rödbodgatan 6

The press briefing will be livestreamed on [government.se](http://government.se) and on the Government's YouTube channel.

## [The Government's YouTube channel](#)

A maximum of 2 people per editorial office. Participation is subject to available space. Press credentials are required.

Advance registration required by 14.00 on Tuesday 24 May to Nina Kefi (see press contacts). Give your name, the name of your editorial office, your

email address and mobile phone number, and attach a photo of your press credentials.

Published 24 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister to receive Estonia's Prime Minister

On Wednesday 25 May, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas for talks.

These will primarily concern the serious security situation in our neighbourhood. Current EU matters are also on the agenda ahead of the European Council meeting.

## Media programme

14.00: Ms Andersson receives Ms Kallas outside the entrance to Björnen – photo opportunity

14.02: Statements by both leaders (in English)

13.15–13.45: Admittance and security checks via Rödbodgatan 6

The press briefing will be livestreamed on [government.se](https://www.government.se) and on the Government's YouTube channel.

## [The Government's YouTube channel](#)

A maximum of 2 people per editorial office. Participation is subject to available space. Press credentials are required.

Advance registration required by 10.00 on Tuesday 24 May to Nina Kefi (see press contacts). Give your name, the name of your editorial office, your email address and mobile phone number, and attach a photo of your press credentials.

Published 23 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister to travel to Washington DC for meeting with US President

On Thursday 19 May 2022, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will travel to Washington DC to meet with US President Joe Biden and Finland's President Sauli Niinistö.

During their meeting at the White House, Ms Andersson, Mr Biden and Mr Niinistö will discuss the applications of Sweden and Finland for NATO membership, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and transatlantic relations in the new security environment.

Published 17 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson to receive United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson

On Wednesday 11 May, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Sweden for talks. They will discuss matters such as the serious security situation in Europe, bilateral relations and cooperation between Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Press programme for the visit:

Kl. 11.30–12.00 Admittance and security check

Address: Harpsund

Approx. 12.20 Photo opportunity upon the arrival of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Kl. 13.00–13.30 Admittance and security check

Address: Harpsund

Approx. 13.40 Joint press briefing (in English, outdoors)

The press briefing will be livestreamed on [regeringen.se](https://www.regeringen.se) and on the Government's YouTube channel.

A maximum of 2 people per editorial office. Participation is subject to available space. Press credentials are required.

Advance registration required by 17.00 on Tuesday 10 May to Nina Kefi (see press contacts). Give your name, the name of your editorial office, email address, mobile number and attach a photo of your press credentials.

Published 10 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister to receive Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin

On Wednesday 13 April, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin. During their meeting, Ms Andersson and Ms Marin will discuss the defence and security cooperation between their two countries and the deteriorated security situation in the neighbourhood.

## **Media programme**

12.00 – Photo opportunity when Ms Andersson receives Ms Marin at Villa Bonnier (outdoors)

12.10 – Press conference at Villa Bonnier (outdoors, in English)

Advance registration no later than 14.00 on Tuesday 12 April. Press credentials must be sent to Nina Kefi by email. See Press contact. Participation is subject to available space.

Admittance for journalists from 11.15.

Address: Nobelgatan 13, Stockholm

Published 12 April 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson to receive President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

On Thursday 7 April, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in Stockholm.

16.00 Photo opportunity at the entrance of Adelcrantz House. Kl. 17.30 Press conference (in English) Venue: Stockholm Exergi, Jägmästargatan 2, Stockholm (Hjorthagen).

They will discuss the security situation in Europe and the green transition, with a special focus on Swedish forestry. von der Leyen will also present the Commission's assessment of Sweden's recovery plan.

Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren will also take part in the meeting.

## **Media programme**

16.00

Photo opportunity when the Prime Minister receives Ursula von der Leyen at the entrance of Adelcrantz House.

Advance registration is required (places are limited). Send an email to Nina Kefi no later than 12.00 on Wednesday 6 April; see Press Contact below. Give your name and the name of your editorial office, and attach a photo of your press credentials.

## **Registration has closed.**

Photographers enter via Kopparporten, Rödbodgatan 6, between 15.15 and 15.45. Please bring your press credentials.

Kl. 17.30

Press conference (in English)

Entry 16.45–17.15

Venue: Stockholm Exergi

Jägmästargatan 2, Stockholm (Hjorthagen)

Advance registration to attend the press conference is required. Please send an email to Nina Kefi no later than 12.00 on Wednesday 6 April; see Press Contact below. Please give your name and the name of your editorial office, and indicate whether you are a reporter or a photographer. Please also attach a photo of your press credentials.

Published 05 April 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Comment from Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson on the security situation

The European security order is not negotiable. In Sweden, we determine our own foreign and security policy and decide whom we choose to cooperate with.

In view of developments in the security situation in our neighbourhood, I have spoken with Finland's President Sauli Niinistö and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. The Government is also in dialogue with the United States Administration.

International law must be respected and observed. This includes the right of every state to independently make its own security policy choices.

Published 07 January 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister to receive United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken

On Thursday 2 December, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Ms Andersson and Mr Blinken will discuss the close relations between Sweden and the US, common global and regional challenges, as well as the green transition.

Mr Blinken is in Stockholm to take part in the OSCE Ministerial Council.

## **Media programme**

16.45

Photo opportunity when Ms Andersson receives Mr Blinken at the entrance of Adelcrantz House.

Photographers enter via Kopparporten, Rödbodgatan 6, between 16.00 and 16.30.

Media credentials and registration are required (limited number of places) and at the latest on Thursday December 2nd at 12 am. Please contact Nina Kefi.

Published 02 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

# Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

**Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.**

## **Prime Minister's Office**

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

## **Ministry of Employment**

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

## **Ministry of Finance**

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

## **Ministry of Defence**

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

**Ministry of Infrastructure**

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

**Ministry of Justice**

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

**Ministry of Culture**

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

**Ministry of the Environment**

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

**Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation**

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

**Ministry of Health and Social Affairs**

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

**Ministry of Education and Research**

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

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Government Offices of Sweden

# Address by the Prime Minister at the Crimea Platform Summit 220823

(The spoken word applies)

President Zelenskyy, Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

In August last year, we came together in Kyiv to show our unwavering support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty in light of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in 2014.

Since then, Russia has launched an unprovoked, illegal and ruthless full-scale war of aggression. This has made an already dire situation in Crimea even more alarming. For instance, Russia uses the peninsula as a launching pad for attacking other parts of Ukraine.

Sweden is deeply concerned by the countless violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Russian authorities in the Crimean Peninsula and elsewhere on temporarily occupied Ukrainian territory. I was shaken by what I saw and heard during my field visits to Bucha and Borodyanka in July.

Russia's aggression is primarily about Ukraine. It also has alarming consequences elsewhere, in Europe and globally, including as regards energy and food supplies. For this, Russia bears full responsibility.

Sweden DOES not and WILL not recognise Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, or any other future attempts to unlawfully annex Ukrainian territory. We must continue to stand united in our support for Ukraine, now and in the long term. We must ensure that the international community continues a coordinated and principled response to stop Russia's aggression and hold those responsible accountable.

We owe it to Ukraine and its people, and we need it to prevent similar

aggression from being repeated elsewhere. Might does not make right.

Sweden will continue its steadfast support to Ukraine. My government will shortly present additional comprehensive support packages that will strengthen Ukraine's resilience. The stronger Ukraine is, the safer the rest of us are.

Thank you. Slava Ukraini.

Published 24 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Speech by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson following meeting with NATO Secretary General in Brussels

On Monday June 27, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. In conjunction with a joint press conference, Ms Andersson delivered a speech.

Thank you, Mr. Stoltenberg,

And thank you for receiving me here, at the NATO headquarters on the eve of the Summit in Madrid.

It's been four months since Russia launched an unprovoked, illegal and unjustifiable war against its neighbour – the peaceful and democratic state of Ukraine.

Russia has not beaten Ukraine, but they hope we will lose our focus. They want a war of attrition. I told president Zelensky last Friday, that our support for the Ukrainian people should not and will not be weakened over time.

This war is not just a threat against Ukraine. Russia's war has created a far more dangerous reality for Europe, including Sweden. This existential threat to the European security order will be there for a long time to come. And we must act accordingly.

We are just in the middle of the biggest build-up of Swedish defence capabilities since the 1950's. Sweden will reach two percent of GDP as soon as practicably possible and by 2028 at the latest. We are re-establishing regiments, reinforcing Gotland, reactivating national military service. We are

speeding up defence equipment procurements and strengthening our cyber defence and intelligence capabilities.

But we know that that's not enough. Building security requires cooperation with others. We conducted a two-month deliberation involving all the parties of our Parliament. In a broad majority we came to the conclusion that the best way to protect Sweden and Swedish citizens is not only to be a friend and a partner – but also as an ally in NATO. On 18 May Sweden applied for membership, hand in hand with our closest partner, Finland.

With Sweden and Finland as NATO members, the security of all NATO countries would be strengthened. Sweden would commit to the Washington Treaty in its entirety, as well as to all NATO doctrines.

Our applications have received very broad support from NATO Allies. Sweden fulfills all criteria. But consensus within NATO is required to take Sweden and Finland's applications forward.

Our vulnerability to external threats is increased until we formally become a member. In response to this uncertainty, several Allies – including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain, Norway and Denmark have extended Sweden clear assurances of support during the application period. For this we are very grateful.

Türkiye has raised some questions regarding Sweden and Finland's applications. Our ambition is to come to an understanding on the raised issues, together with Finland and NATO. I spoke with President Erdogan this Saturday. I would say it was a good and constructive talk.

Earlier today, senior officials from Sweden, Finland and Türkiye met here in Brussels for a new round of talks. My strong hope is that this dialogue can be successfully concluded in the very near future, ideally at the Summit. Crucially, this would make it possible to immediately launch Sweden's and Finland's accession processes. Such an outcome would be good news for Sweden and Finland, and for NATO and the security of Europe.

Let me make some things clear.

- As a member, Sweden will contribute to the security of NATO as a whole, including Türkiye, in a spirit of solidarity. We would embrace NATO's 360 degrees approach to security.
- As was presented in my government's extra foreign policy statement on

10 June, Sweden condemns terrorism in the strongest possible terms. We are unequivocally committed to the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As Allies, we will be fully committed to NATO counter terrorism policy and take active part in these efforts.

- Our stance regarding the PKK is crystal clear. It is listed as a terror organisation in the EU and is regarded as such by Sweden.
- During the last years we have strengthened the laws against funding terrorism. And Sweden's terrorist legislation is undergoing its biggest overhaul in 30 years. A new and tougher Terrorist Offences Act enters into force on 1 July, with broadened scope and higher scales of penalties.
- Moreover, constitutional amendments are being prepared which would pave the way for criminalisation of participation in terrorist organisations. There should be no doubt that Sweden will continue to stand firm alongside other like-minded countries in the fight against terrorism.
- Our NATO membership will have implications with respect to export control of defence materiel to all NATO Allies. Alliance solidarity will be reflected within our national regulatory framework.
- One of the issues raised by Türkiye concerns Sweden's response to Türkiye's requests for extraditions. These matters are handled swiftly and carefully by our legal system in accordance with European Convention on Extradition.
- Sweden is not and will not be a safe haven for terrorism. The relevant authorities work intensively in order to expel persons who could be a security threat. And there are a substantial number of cases which are currently processed.

So, I am very much looking forward to continuing from here to Madrid and the discussions there with all Allied leaders. I am hopeful that these discussions can pave the way for launching our accession process – and put Sweden on the path to NATO membership. This would benefit all of us.

Thank you.

Published 28 June 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Stockholm +50 opening address by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

Stockholm, 2 June 2022. Check against delivery.

Your Majesty,

Your Royal Highness, Secretary General,

Fellow heads of State and Government, Excellencies,

Distinguished representatives of the youth, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Sweden and to Stockholm+50.

I am proud that Sweden and Kenya are the co-hosts of this meeting convened by the United Nations.

We are here to deliver on the promises made to the world's population and future generations.

We are at a crucial crossroad.

Heat waves, water scarcity, droughts, storms, floods, wildfires,

melting glaciers, rising sea levels, warming oceans

– soon containing more plastic than fish.

We are hurting our planet.

The crisis for our environment and climate affects people all around the world.

The developed countries are the ones who pollute and have polluted the most. But the poorest are hit the hardest.

We must ensure that no country is left behind. And we must ensure that no person is left behind. The climate transition can only be done if it's made in a social and inclusive way.

This is not just an option. This is our moral obligation.

\* \* \*

So, what needs to be done?

First of all, we must all live up to our commitments.

We must start delivering on the declarations we have signed, and the pledges we have made.

We have already talked the talk,

Now it's time to walk the walk.

And as Greta Thunberg said;

“The moment we decide to fulfil something, we can do anything.”

\* \* \*

We shall not ignore the current geopolitical state of the world,  
including Russia's brutal war against Ukraine.

But as leaders, we must never let one crisis overshadow another. We just  
have to work harder.

The war in Ukraine has also made it very clear: fossil fuel dependency is not  
only a climate risk, it's a security risk.

It has to end now.

\* \* \*

Our countries have put in place global, regional, and national frameworks to  
stop the climate and environmental crisis. The Paris Agreement and the  
Sustainable Development Goals are two examples.

We have made commitments to reduce emissions, halt biodiversity loss and  
stop ocean pollution.

But we are nowhere near achieving these goals. We are lagging behind. As  
UN Secretary-General António Guterres put it:

“...we need to do much more. And much faster.”

And the world demands it from us leaders.

Industry demands it, because if it is to get new technology and new solutions  
in place quickly enough it needs political leadership that sets out the  
direction, and provides the right conditions.

People demand it, because they see a risk of slipping behind or losing their  
jobs as demand for sustainable solutions, green energy, and new technologies

increases.

The young demand it of us, and rightfully so. Civil society and not least the youth movement are a decisive force in the climate transition. We need you. But we – the political leaders of this generation – are the ones who must do what it takes.

\* \* \*

In Sweden, we have chosen a long-term and determined approach to accelerate the green transition.

We have made policy changes to enable companies to make the transition. And we have also made investments to enable people to keep up: investments in education and training, and security in the midst of change.

Climate action is one of my government's priorities in the years ahead.

We will speed up this process.

And hear me when I say: we won't speed up the green transition to be kind – but to be smart.

\* \* \*

Right now, we are witnessing the start of a green industrial revolution in Sweden. It creates thousands of jobs through investments in battery factories, green mining, and fossil-free steel production.

And what we are seeing in Sweden right now is that previously neglected areas are no longer struggling with unemployment or depopulation, but how to build housing, infrastructure, and schools quick enough to meet up with

the expansion.

And yesterday, right outside these doors, the very first vehicle built using fossil-free steel was presented. This project is the result of a public- private partnership supported by the Swedish Government.

We see that it's possible to combine reduced emissions with economic development.

Sweden's message is plain and clear:

Going green is not only possible, it is the path to create growth, jobs and prosperity for all.

\* \* \*

Excellencies,

Fifty years have passed since the very first UN Conference on the Human Environment was held here in Stockholm. It went down in history. Climate and environment entered world politics.

The 1972 UN Stockholm Conference led to the birth of a global responsibility for the climate, the environment and sustainability.

It is my hope and expectation that Stockholm+50 will accelerate our actions.

No nation can tackle the climate and environmental crisis alone. But every nation must do its part.

Let's make this meeting a success by going home, doing more - much faster.

I'm counting on you.

On your commitment, your leadership, and your support.

Let our work be guided by the words spoken at the 1972 Conference by the Prime Minister, Olof Palme,

“There is no individual future, neither for human beings, nor for nations.

Our future is common. We must share it together.

We must shape it together.”

It is my great pleasure to declare the meeting officially open. Thank you.

Published 02 June 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Speech by the Prime Minister following meeting with US President Joe Biden

Rose Garden, White House, 19 May 2022. Check  
against delivery.

Mr President, thank you for welcoming President Niinistö and me to the White House.

The bonds between Sweden and the United States are strong and long-standing. As you know, Swedes first set foot in your home state of Delaware in 1638. We were one of the first countries to recognise the United States as an independent nation in 1783.

Since then, our countries have developed a deep and long-standing friendship through family ties, trade, and mutual interests. And I personally am very much a part of this.

But most of all, we share values and beliefs in democracy and freedom – values and beliefs that are now being put to the test.

Today, the situation in Ukraine reminds us of the darkest days of European history. And I must say that during dark times, it is great to be among close friends.

Over these past months, we have shown transatlantic unity and strength at its best. Together, we have responded forcefully to Russia's aggression and provided unprecedented support to Ukraine. We have not flinched.

Mr President, I want to thank you for the massive US support to Ukraine, and for your sustained engagement in European security.

President Niinistö and I have come here at a historic moment for our countries. And for Sweden, after more than 200 years of military non-

alignment, Sweden has chosen a new path. Yesterday, Sweden and Finland submitted our formal requests to join NATO.

Russia's full-scale aggression against a sovereign and democratic neighbour was a watershed moment for Sweden. My Government has come to the conclusion that the security of the Swedish people will be best protected within the NATO alliance. And this is backed by very support in the Swedish Parliament

And with Sweden and Finland as members, NATO will also be stronger. We are security providers, with sophisticated defence capabilities. We are champions of freedom, democracy, and human rights. We have a long tradition of extensive military cooperation with NATO, including in all missions. We are right now ramping up our defence spending, and we will reach 2 percent of GDP as soon as practically possible.

Mr President, your support for our countries' NATO aspirations, and for our security, are of fundamental importance.

We now look forward to a swift ratification process by NATO members. The United States and the Senate are crucial in this regard. We are right now having a dialogue with all NATO member states, including Turkey, on different levels to sort out any issues at hand.

In the United States, the Senate is crucial in this regard. Last Sunday, I hosted a delegation headed by Senate Republican Leader McConnell in Stockholm. Later today, President Niinistö and I will meet Senate Majority Leader Schumer and other leading members of Congress. We greatly appreciate the broad and strong support expressed by both parties in Congress.

Mr President, our countries also work closely together when tackling global challenges.

Sweden – like the other Nordic countries – has shown that emissions reductions can go hand in hand with economic growth. In Sweden right now, the green transition creates thousands of jobs through investments in battery factories, green mining, and fossil-free steel production. I actually brought the President a unique example of this: a candle holder made of the world's first fossil-free steel.

And what we are seeing in Sweden right now is that previously neglected

areas are no longer struggling with unemployment or depopulation, but how to build housing, infrastructure, and schools quick enough to meet up with the expansion. Here I see fantastic opportunities for cooperation between the Nordic countries and the United States.

I am also proud that Sweden contributes to the U.S. economy and the prosperity of the American people. Swedish companies are active in every single state, creating more than 350 000 jobs in the United States. We are the 15th largest investor.

Mr President, I want to thank you for your leadership in our joint efforts to promote democracy throughout the world. Because democracy requires constant work and safeguarding - we have to win every new generation.

Allow me to conclude where I started:

Peace and stability in our part of the world is a common security interest – for us, for you and for the rest of Europe. We stand here today more united than ever, and we are committed to strengthening our bonds even further. Sweden is prepared to shoulder its responsibility as an ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Thank you.

Published 27 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson received President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

Stockholm, 7 April 2022 Check against delivery.

It is a pleasure to welcome President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to Stockholm and to Stockholm Exergi.

At this facility, 99 per cent of the district heating generated comes from renewable or recycled fuels. Stockholm Exergi is one of many companies putting Sweden at the forefront of the green transition and supported by the Swedish Recovery Plan.

All over Sweden, especially in the north, a new green industrial revolution is taking place, including the world's greenest batteries, fossil-free steel and a new green standard for mining.

Many other companies are joining in – often innovative and fast-growing start-ups – creating thousands of new jobs, today and for the future.

With these advances, we are leading the way in the EU and in the world, proving that the green transition goes hand in hand with strong growth and more jobs.

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I appreciate our close cooperation with the Commission in the green and digital transitions, and in responding to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We are witnessing increased Russian brutality in Ukraine, including attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Horrific images from Bucha, the bombing of children's hospitals and reports of executions of civilians in

Mariupol mark a new dark chapter in European history.

There is clearly a time before and after 24 February. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is unprovoked, illegal, and unjustifiable. The responsibility for this war rests solely with President Putin and the Russian leadership.

Our European response has been firm and united. In record time we have imposed sanctions against Russia that are more far-reaching and more advanced than almost any observer would have deemed possible. Together with partners we are working to further isolate the Russian leadership.

We also remain committed to supporting Ukraine with humanitarian, financial and military aid. Sweden has already provided [EP1] a total of 10 000 anti-tank weapons to Ukraine and increased humanitarian aid to Ukraine by EUR 72 million. We are also prepared for further use of the European Peace Facility.

We are acting in solidarity with Ukraine, but also in solidarity with our common values: international law, human rights, democracy and the European security order.

The President and I agree: intentional attacks on the civilian population or civilian objects constitute a war crime. Russian violations of international law will be investigated and those responsible will be brought to justice. Sweden will support the International Criminal Court (ICC) financially and by providing national experts.

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The Russian invasion of Ukraine has made it more urgent and necessary to become independent of Russian oil and gas. We must speed up our climate efforts in order to cut our dependence.

It is clear that breaking our dependency on fossil fuels is important to fight climate change; it is also essential to strengthen our security.

To do this we have to secure our supply of renewable energy. We need to expand wind power and, in particular, recognise the importance of new green solutions based on bioenergy and forestry. In doing this, we will create sustainable societies with high growth and more jobs – today and for the future.

Published 08 April 2022





Government Offices of Sweden

# Speech by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson concerning Russia's military attack on Ukraine

Stockholm, 1 March 2022 Check against delivery

Sweden.

There is a war going on in Europe.

At the moment, cities such as Kyiv, Kharkiv and Mariupol are being attacked by Russian forces.

With anger, we all learn of the attacks on the people of Ukraine.

We are also filled with admiration for all Ukrainians who are committed to the furious defence of their democracy and freedom.

Russia's armed attack on Ukraine is unprovoked, illegal and unjustifiable.

The Kremlin claims that Ukraine belongs to a special Russian sphere of influence.

But in today's Europe there is no room for spheres of interest.

If Russia succeeds in placing Ukraine under its supremacy, it opens up similar demands on other countries.

Russia's armed attack is more than an attack on Ukraine, it is an attack on every country's right to decide its own future.

It constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

This is why Sweden, the EU and many other countries are standing behind Ukraine.

The Swedish Government's actions cover three areas: sanctions against Russia, support to Ukraine and strengthening Sweden.

We in the EU and our partners have responded quickly and decisively with very comprehensive sanctions against Russia and the Russian central government.

These efforts will continue.

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Europe is supporting Ukraine in words and action.

With economic and humanitarian aid. With a place of refuge for Ukrainians fleeing the war.

But also: with support to Ukraine's legal right to defend its territory.

On Monday, the Swedish Riksdag decided in broad agreement to send support to the Ukrainian armed forces, including defensive weapons.

Sweden has not done anything like this since the Soviet Union attacked Finland in 1939.

Many Swedes see it as self-evident to extend a helping hand to those who are under attack. But I know that there are also those of us who ask what consequences this will have for Sweden. Will it make us a target for Russian retaliation?

I have carefully considered both perspectives. As Prime Minister, my first and foremost question before taking any decision is: what is best for Sweden's security?

My conclusion is that Swedish security is best served by helping Ukraine to defend itself.

Their defence of their borders is a defence of the borders of all countries and of the protection provided by international law to all the countries of the world.

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The security situation in Sweden's neighbourhood has been deteriorating for

several years. It has now gotten even worse.

We are not under an immediate threat of an armed attack against Sweden. However, the level of threat has increased.

The Swedish people are a target for Russian influence campaigns and disinformation. The aim is to intimidate us, silence us and increase polarisation – within the EU, within Sweden and between people. Swedish interests are also exposed to cyber espionage and cyber attacks.

The Government is working with all the actors involved to maintain and strengthen our ability to resist such attacks.

Over several years, we have also significantly strengthened our country's total defence in broad political agreement.

It is clear that the pace must now increase. That is why I am announcing that the Government will take the initiative for additional resources to total defence.

Sweden's defence capabilities need to be strengthened. Rearmament is being brought forward.

Sweden must have a strong defence. A total defence of the Swedish people and for the Swedish people.

We must also prepare ourselves for the consequences of Russia's war on our daily lives.

The prices of fuel and electricity are already rising. Other goods can also become more expensive, such as food. Small savers are seeing their pension funds being put under pressure. There is a risk that Swedish jobs and companies will be affected.

The Government and the Swedish public authorities are following developments very closely.

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My Government is pursuing a clear line in this situation: sanctions against Russia, support to Ukraine and strengthening Sweden. But each of us must

also do our part.

First and foremost: stay informed. Seek information from credible sources. Use your own judgement.

Any person who spreads disinformation risks undermining our common security.

Do not spread information about Sweden's defence either. Every single piece of information about exercises and movements is a piece in the jigsaw puzzle for foreign actors.

And above all: support each other.

Pay special attention to children and young people. More information reaches them than we adults would like. Then adults must be on hand who listen and explain things.

As so many Swedes have already done, you can also support the people of Ukraine. Donate money or participate in a peaceful manifestation. None of us can do everything, but every single contribution makes a difference.

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And finally.

In recent years, we have been going through a very difficult crisis, the global pandemic.

It has been a painful and testing time. But it has taught us important lessons. One lesson is that when we are faced with tough demands, we are able to come together as a country and as fellow human beings.

Current events have presented us with a new task, and demands that we Swedes come together.

In solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

In defence of democracy and freedom.

For the security of Europe as a whole.

Sweden and the Swedish people will succeed with this.

Thank you for listening.

Published 02 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Speech by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Great Synagogue of Stockholm, 27 January 2022.  
Check against delivery.

Holocaust survivors,

Honourable guests,

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to speak here today.

Earlier today, Emerich Roth was laid to rest. There are many of us mourning the void his death has left in our lives.

It is difficult to encapsulate the significance of his accomplishments. Lecturer and writer. Organiser and debater. One of the most prominent public educators of our time, whose message reached so many people, not least young people.

For Emerich Roth, reaching young people was crucial. He emphasised the importance of future generations not only learning about the Holocaust, but also from the Holocaust.

And what is remembrance if not learning? The Talmud says, “What you teach your son, you teach your son’s son”. We teach our sons – and our daughters – about the Holocaust, but also about the lessons of the Holocaust. And in so doing, we also teach their sons and daughters.

We teach them to tell the stories of those who were murdered. But we also teach them about those who murdered, those who watched it happen, and those who looked away. And we teach about and learn from those who

survived. What they experienced during the war and in the camps. And about their lives afterwards. About the weight of the legacy they had to bear.

The latter is the theme of Gabriel Francke Rodau's book, *Leons bok*. The main character, Leon, a second-generation Holocaust survivor and widower with no children, begins to write letters to the children he never had. He writes about universal things: family, belonging, friends and love. But he also writes about the heavy legacy, and I quote:

“Speak about your grandmother and grandfather and their families who were murdered. And speak about how and why they came to Sweden. We have to tell, or people will forget. And the day they forget...”

“The day they forget...” These words have stuck in my mind. Not “if they forget” but “the day they forget.” This is an important perspective.

Particularly at a time when we see more and more attempts at Holocaust denial and distortion. It is a reminder that remembrance is not just about history, but also about imagining an inconceivable future.

Remembrance means that we have to promise ourselves and each other, over and over again, that it will never happen again. And that we have to constantly ask ourselves what actions we are taking today to ensure that “the day they forget” never becomes a reality.

That's what we must do as human beings, but we must also do so as a nation. And as Prime Minister, I am well aware of my responsibility for the latter. I am humbled by the task but I do not lack role models.

When I was working for Göran Persson, he took the initiative to establish the Living History Forum and for the book ‘Tell ye your children’. My predecessor, Stefan Löfven, convened the Malmö International Forum for Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, and the pledges that Sweden made at the Forum will obviously be implemented by my Government with pride and determination.

Last year, when I was elected Prime Minister, Sweden was commemorating one hundred years of universal and equal suffrage. But history has also taught us that although the right to vote is fundamental to every democratic society, it in itself is not enough. Democracy requires free and independent media, judicial independence, not forgetting the effective protection of minorities.

As democrats, we must therefore combat all forms of antisemitism, vigilantly and consistently. The fact that Jews in Sweden hesitate to wear a kippa or Star of David for fear of threats and violence can never be regarded as a problem only for the individual who is affected. It is a problem for our entire country, our democracy and our way of life.

That is why we teach our sons and daughters to join the fight against antisemitism and its manifestations. We have been fighting against many of its manifestations for a long time.

Holocaust denial and distortion. Antisemitic slogans disguised as criticism of the State of Israel. Hatred of Jews that is excused and glossed over. And more recently, conspiracy theories about George Soros and the shameful comparisons between anti-vaccine protesters and the victims of Nazism.

This is why Sweden will teach all its sons and daughters that although being subjected to antisemitism is a uniquely Jewish experience, our entire nation will take part in the fight against antisemitism. Because the fight is for all of us. As human beings. As democrats. As Swedes.

That is why – as Prime Minister and as a Swede – I will never falter: Sweden is a country in which Jewish life is just as integral to our society as it is indispensable.

That is what we teach our sons and daughters, and thus also their sons and daughters.

Published 01 February 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Statement of Government Policy

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of the Riksdag,

One person, one vote – everyone’s equal right to participate and steer the society we live in. It is society’s most fundamental expression of the equal value of all people.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the recognition of this right.

In 1921, for the first time in Sweden women and men alike were able to exercise universal and equal suffrage in elections to the Riksdag.

This right cannot be taken for granted. It must be reinforced again and again by each successive generation.

Honourable Members of the Riksdag,

In ten months, we will once again celebrate democracy as the Swedish people go to the polls.

Let us together impress upon yet another generation of voters the importance of using their democratic voice.

“All public power in Sweden proceeds from the people. Swedish democracy is founded on the free formation of opinion and on universal and equal suffrage. [...] Public power shall be exercised with respect for the equal worth of all and the liberty and dignity of the individual.”

It is written thus in our country’s constitution.

Sweden must continue to stand on this same bedrock of democracy for the next 100 years.

\* \* \*

Mr Speaker,

Government policy in the coming years will be distinguished by vigorous action to counter three serious societal problems.

Firstly: leaving no stone unturned to reduce segregation and combat the ruthless criminality that currently threatens all of society.

Secondly: driving the green industrial revolution through investments throughout the country. In this way, emissions will be reduced and the jobs of the future will be created in Sweden.

Thirdly: taking back control of the welfare system so that everyone who works in it has the decent and fair conditions needed to do their job. In this way, we can ensure high quality in schools, health care and social care throughout the country. Out of respect for everyone who works and who has built up our country, we must have secure social insurance and pensions.

Sweden will move forward, step by step, reform by reform.

Because Sweden can do better.

\* \* \*

Mr Speaker,

As of November this year, 290 shootings have taken place in this country. They have cost 42 people their lives. Many of them were young boys, children.

Shootings in gang conflicts are not isolated cases. They are organised, and are rooted in a society where the gaps and differences between living conditions are too wide. Economic, linguistic and normative gaps. This serious violence threatens to poison all of society. It undermines trust between people and it weakens confidence in the future. It turns people in our country into crime victims, casualties and mourners.

There are residential areas in Sweden that are characterised by overcrowding and a housing black market, where organised crime operates as landlord, bank and employer. Where the law enforcement system is closed out and the gangs create their own rules. Where children are recruited directly into criminal lifestyles in which bombings and shootings are everyday occurrences.

This cannot continue. Swedish society must be stronger than that.

To stop the violence, perpetrators must be prosecuted. Criminal policy will be overhauled.

More severe penalties have been imposed for more than 70 offences. Some 30 acts that previously were not punishable have been criminalised. A historic expansion of the entire Swedish judicial system is under way. We are well on our way to meeting our target of 10 000 more police employees. A comprehensive expansion of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service is under way and the capacity of the courts is being significantly reinforced.

Essentially every law enforcement agency has been given new tools, more employees and greater authority.

Now we are going even further.

Even more severe penalties will be imposed for gang-related offences. The possibility of using secret coercive measures to prevent serious crime is being investigated.

There will be tougher penalties for perjury, obstructing the course of justice and protecting a criminal. It should not be possible to threaten witnesses into silence; instead they should receive the support they need to safely fulfil their duty.

It will be easier to detain people who are suspected of serious offences. At present, the presumption of detention applies to those suspected of offences with a minimum penalty of two years' imprisonment – this will be reduced to one year and six months' imprisonment.

Anyone who commits multiple offences should be punished more severely. Reduced sentences for young people aged 18–20 who commit serious offences will be abolished. Penalties should better reflect the severity of offences, even when the perpetrators are young. The Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act is under review.

Society must act more resolutely towards young people at risk and more measures should be possible even without parental consent.

More gang members and young people at risk must be taken into care and benefit from social measures. A national youth crime board system like that in Denmark will be investigated.

Violent crime and the power exercised by criminal elements are a threat to

the public support and democratic legitimacy on which our legal order is based. They must be fought with everything our democratic society has.

Mr Speaker,

Every year, around 15 women are murdered by their former or current intimate partner. The Government has ensured permanent funds and grants to prevent men's violence against women and to protect the victims. Possibilities to also strengthen the protection against psychological violence provided under criminal law are being investigated. There will be more severe penalties for violence and other forms of abuse in intimate relationships.

Twenty years ago, a year before she was murdered, Fadime Sahindal stood here in the Riksdag and said:

“Regardless of your cultural background, it should be a given that you can have both your family and the life you want for yourself.”

She concluded by urging us all to see all of the girls who are denied that right in the name of honour. “I hope that you won't turn your backs on them.”

Support in the Riksdag is broad, and the Government's direction is clear: honour-based oppression has no place in our country. All forms of equality apply equally to all. Honour-based oppression must stop.

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Mr Speaker,

More severe penalties have had an effect. More hardened criminals are now serving sentences. But much broader efforts are needed to break the segregation that leads to poverty and hopelessness and fuels gang crime.

Every minister in the Government that takes office today will be tasked, within their area of responsibility and with the support of the relevant government agencies, with leaving no stone unturned in bringing an end to gang crime and segregation.

The Government will gather representatives from the municipalities where the violence is worst and segregation the most pronounced to work together to combat criminality.

Many parents, teachers, social workers, local police, sports associations and volunteers today stand in opposition to these criminals, spreading hope in the darkness. But many more need to get involved.

We must all pull together. For this reason, I also want to turn to everyone in Sweden. No one individual can break segregation or stop the shootings or the gangs on their own. But everyone can do something. Where volunteer patrols or similar activities are organised, get involved if you can. Help out in local sports associations so that there are recreational activities for our children and young people. Stay and talk for a few minutes with someone who needs to improve their Swedish to enter into Swedish society.

I would like to urge Sweden's employers: before bringing in low-skilled workers from other countries, remember that there are many long-term unemployed people in Sweden who want nothing more than to find a job.

When all of society mobilises – that is when we can build back Sweden's security together.

\* \* \*

Mr Speaker,

There is nothing more fundamental than having a job to go to; nothing is so essential to becoming part of society. Those who are out of work must meet clear expectations, but also many and good opportunities to find work.

Young people coming to Sweden must complete an upper secondary education and move on to working life or higher education.

If you already have professional skills that are in demand, you must learn Swedish as quickly as possible and take one of the available jobs.

If you are a little older and lack the right skills, you can start with subsidised employment, helping out in our society with work that otherwise does not get done.

With this labour policy strategy, the Government has contributed to creating a quarter of a million new jobs and halved the integration time for new arrivals. And despite the pandemic and the worst economic downturn since the Second World War, a larger proportion of people born abroad are working today than in 2014.

Sweden makes clear demands but also offers opportunities. This works, and we will continue with this approach.

Everyone who can work should work. Having a job and your own income gives you the freedom to decide for yourself how you want to live and with whom. This applies equally to all, regardless of your gender or where you come from.

Integration must be improved based on sound knowledge. Inquiries will be appointed on clearer activity requirements of a certain number of hours per week for those receiving social assistance. On placing demands on those receiving a permanent residence permit with regard to language skills and knowledge of Sweden. On the possibility of establishing State-run reception centres where asylum seekers will live and take part in an introduction to Swedish society during their initial period in Sweden.

The quality of Swedish for Immigrants education will be improved. The Swedish Schools Inspectorate will inspect programme providers. More adults will be able to combine vocational education and training with Swedish language courses so as to find a job more quickly.

New start job opportunities will be expanded and labour market entry agreements introduced.

Labour law will be reformed in accordance with the agreement concluded by the social partners.

Sweden's entrepreneurs create jobs and contribute to our country's prosperity. It should be easy to start and run a business in Sweden, and it should also be easy to get into an education or training programme.

The Adult Education Initiative is creating thousands of paths that lead to work throughout the country.

Higher vocational education, regional vocational adult education and folk high schools are now being expanded to provide additional education and training places. Health care training programmes provided both at higher education institutions and remotely is being expanded, and health care will have better conditions to create the practice-based places that these programmes require.

Sweden has one of the most comprehensive student finance systems in the world. A rapidly changing labour market requires the acquisition of new

skills. Now Sweden will have one of the world's best career transition assistance schemes. With the implementation of the social partners' agreement, our competitiveness will be strengthened and workers will be given security in this transition.

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Mr Speaker,

“We have kept 1.5 alive. But the pulse of 1.5 is weak.” This was how Alok Sharma, President of COP26, summarised the results from Glasgow.

The clock is ticking.

If the world cannot tackle the climate crisis, the consequences will be colossal. Ambitions must be raised, the pulse must quicken, the world must succeed.

With its green welfare state, Sweden chose to take the lead. International confidence in us increases as Swedish innovations and solutions are exported around the world. A global climate race is under way, and Sweden is in the leading pack.

The Green Industry Leap and the Climate Leap set the course and will be developed. More than 300 000 new homes have been built since 2014, and sustainable construction is being promoted. And as Sweden now invests its way out of recession following the pandemic, it is through a robust green restart of the Swedish economy.

Throughout the country, a green industrial revolution is under way. Fossil-free steel production. Battery factories. Electric heavy goods vehicles. This is reducing emissions and creating tens of thousands of new jobs – throughout the country.

The pace will be stepped up further. But there is a risk that necessary investments will not happen because the market considers them too risky. Swedish industry must be able to phase out fossil fuels. Green state credit guarantees will be expanded to SEK 50 billion next year.

Sweden today has an innovative and competitive business sector and skilled workers who are ready to adapt to the new jobs that are emerging. The Government therefore proposes a new government-financed skills initiative for the climate transition.

A new national electrification strategy will identify how the capacity of our electricity networks can be rapidly expanded and electricity production from clean, renewable and cheap energy sources can increase. Efforts to expand offshore wind power are an important part of this.

There must be good conditions for living and working throughout the country. The level of ambition in regional policy will be raised. Major investments in competitive and environmentally sustainable agriculture will be made within the framework of the Rural Development Programme. Investments in broadband are increasing substantially. Clear coverage demands are being made of operators. The special operational subsidies for grocery shops will be made permanent.

Shore protection measures will be more differentiated. It will be easier to build in rural areas, and shore protection will be strengthened in highly exploited areas. Areas of special significance for animal and plant life will be preserved. Forest ownership rights will be strengthened. This will lay the foundations for harnessing the forests' economic, climate and environmental potential to a greater extent.

A new national plan for infrastructure will be presented in the new year. New steps are being taken towards a modern, fossil-free transport infrastructure to enable people to transport both themselves and the goods that are produced.

Next year, Sweden will host Stockholm+50, a UN conference to help accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The UN's first ever conference on the human environment was held in Stockholm 50 years ago. When Olof Palme welcomed world leaders to that conference, he observed with words that are as relevant today as they were then:

“Our future is common. We must share it together. We must shape it together.”

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Mr Speaker,

The welfare system as a whole will be strengthened. It is the greatest redistributive power that exists. That is why it must not fall short. But if there is one thing that the pandemic laid bare, it is that the welfare system

has its shortcomings.

The Swedish welfare system is borne up by its workers. They need more colleagues, the right training and better working environments.

This is a major undertaking, but it is not impossible.

Important steps have been taken. The Government has successively provided more money to municipalities and regions in recent years. Today, 100 000 more people work in the welfare system than in 2014. The children of the large generation of people born in the 1990s are now entering education. The many people born in the 1940s are entering their eighties and should receive the secure care they deserve.

For this reason, the general central government funding will be increased further. Cancer care, psychiatric care, maternity care and emergency service care will be prioritised as health care is expanded. Waiting lists will be shortened, health centres strengthened and continuity of care in general practice will be ensured for more people.

The work on new legislation on care for older people to boost quality and equality in care will continue. The right of all home-help service users to a dedicated contact person will be established in law. Those working in care for older people will have the opportunity to study on paid work time to become an assistant nurse, and a recovery bonus has been introduced to allow for better working conditions.

The work for secure pensions is about respect for those who have helped to build our country. Pensions have been increased for those who have had a long working life with low pay. The housing supplement will be further increased. A structural reform to strengthen the incomes of the most disadvantaged pensioners in the long term will be presented. This will mean up to SEK 1 000 more each month. A security pension will be introduced so that people over the age of 60 who are physically worn out will not have to take out their old-age pension prematurely. Pensions need to be raised further. For this reason, payments into the pension system must increase. The issue will be laid before the Working Group on Pensions.

When you need society most, a strong society should be there for you. The Government has already eliminated the permanent gap between pensioners and wage earners. Taxes are now also being lowered substantially for people receiving sickness and activity compensation. The direction is clear. The tax

gap between those with disabilities and wage earners is unjust. The guarantee benefit in sickness and activity compensation will increase. The Government will continue to strengthen the right to personal assistance.

Those who become ill should have support to quickly return to work. A comprehensive investment is being made to increase financial security in case of illness. The sickness benefit ceiling is being raised. Proposals from the sickness insurance inquiry will be implemented to allow more time for rehabilitation and increased flexibility for older people, on-demand employees and those on part-time sick leave.

Municipal schools assume greater overall responsibility than independent schools, and they should also have adequate resources for this. Tax revenue intended for schools should go to schools. School admissions must be fair, providing equal opportunities and equal possibilities.

Reform by reform, step by step, the welfare system can be made stronger and more equitable, now and in the future. Likewise, it can be dismantled, step by step, reform by reform.

It is political will that decides.

It is possible to take back democratic control over the welfare system. Let us do so.

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Mr Speaker,

When the pandemic hit our country, we came together across party lines to protect our people and Swedish jobs. I would like to thank the Riksdag parties that have engaged in constructive and solution-oriented cooperation with the Government during this electoral period, not least the Centre Party and the Liberal Party for their cooperation on economic policy.

The pandemic is not over. Global and equitable access to vaccines must be secured. New mutations of the virus are a worrying development. The trend is negative in a number of countries in Europe and around the world. Infection rates are beginning to increase in Sweden, too. The Government is preparing for the situation to worsen.

The single most important thing now is that vaccinations continue apace. Everyone over the age of 18 will be offered a third dose. Now we must reach

the groups with low vaccination rates. There are major variations between regions. The methods that work best to reach as many people as possible must be spread. I want to urge the regions to learn from each other – and I want to urge everyone in Sweden to get vaccinated. We do it for our own sake – but also for each other.

Sweden must be well prepared. The Pandemic Act has been extended. The Government is prepared to take the necessary measures in the fight against the virus and will present a new action plan shortly. Further measures to maintain safe distances in public places will be necessary. As of 1 December, vaccination certificates will be required for certain indoor public gatherings and events with more than 100 participants, and a consultation on a proposal to require vaccination certificates at restaurants and gyms will take place shortly.

The communicable diseases legislation will be reviewed so that new legislation is in place ahead of future pandemics. New crisis legislation will be investigated.

I will also make organisational changes in the Government Offices.

The Crisis Management Coordination Secretariat, which was previously at the Ministry of Justice, will move to the Prime Minister's Office.

Thanks to responsible fiscal policy, Sweden went into the pandemic with its lowest national debt since 1977. The unemployment rate is now back to the same level as before the pandemic. And although Sweden has invested hundreds of billions of kronor in crisis measures to save jobs and businesses during the pandemic, our public finances are still strong. So strong, in fact, that shifting from a surplus target to a balance target is justified.

Culture will play a key role in society's restart. Culture takes us outside of ourselves and brings us closer together. A free and independent cultural sector is fundamental to any successful democratic society. Support to theatres, museums, visual arts and design, film, libraries, orchestras, concert halls and dance groups throughout the country will be reinforced.

We will also have diverse independent media and strong public service broadcasting throughout the country. Rapid technological and media developments are revolutionising access to information, but also risk increasing disparities and polarisation in society.

The budgetary appropriations for sport will substantially increase so as to boost participation, primarily among children and young people, and people with disabilities.

Our national minorities' cultures and language rights will be reinforced and the legal protection against discrimination will be enhanced. Early next year, the human rights institute in Lund will be established to promote and defend human rights at national level. Racism, hate crime and intolerance have no place in Sweden. Activities that counteract or prevent racism will receive increased support.

In March, Sweden will assume the Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Sweden's Holocaust museum will open next summer.

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Mr Speaker,

Swedish foreign policy will safeguard Sweden's self-determination, Sweden's democracy and the security of the Swedish people. Promoting peace and development is in Sweden's immediate interests, and benefits the rest of the world. It is therefore in Sweden's interests to encourage collaboration and dialogue between countries and stand up for an international legal order. Four areas will be particularly emphasised:

Firstly: cooperation must be strengthened in our immediate neighbourhood – in the Nordic region and the EU.

Various kinds of border barriers keeping the peoples of the Nordic region apart is an alien phenomenon. Free movement between the Nordic countries needs to be reinstated as soon as possible. Nordic cooperation is being deepened and broadened, with particular emphasis on joint crisis response. The Nordic and Baltic countries should lead the way in Europe and, together, be one of the world's most integrated, sustainable and digitalised regions.

European cooperation is crucial for Sweden. It's about jobs, since the EU is our most important market. It's about peace and security, both in our neighbourhood and further afield. But that's not all. The climate, migration, vaccines and fighting cross-border and organised crime – all of these can be better tackled in cooperation with others.

The EU is built on common values. EU Member States that do not respect human rights and democratic principles such as independent courts, academic freedom and media freedom should not receive EU funds unconditionally.

Sweden wants an open and more equal Europe, with better working conditions and greater gender equality. But the Swedish labour market model and our forestry must not be subject to exhaustive rules from Brussels.

Secondly: Sweden's security policy remains firmly in place.

Our non-participation in military alliances serves our country well and contributes to stability and security in northern Europe. Sweden will not apply for membership of NATO. Sweden will not take a passive stance if another Nordic country or EU Member State suffers a disaster or an attack, and we expect these countries to act in the same way if Sweden is affected. The EU is Sweden's most important foreign and security policy arena. Our ongoing term as Chair of the OSCE gives Sweden an opportunity to safeguard the European security order.

Sweden and the EU condemn Russia's military aggression towards Ukraine and its illegal annexation of Crimea. The situation of the people who are stuck at the border between Poland and Belarus is unacceptable. Belarus's actions will be met with increased sanctions.

Thirdly: Sweden's security and development are best secured together with others.

The greatest challenges of our time – the climate, the pandemic, safeguarding democracy – are best tackled through multilateral cooperation, based on international law and the United Nations Charter.

In a welcome development, the United States is once again a constructive partner on these issues. The transatlantic relationship is essential to the security and prosperity of Sweden and Europe.

The conflicts of today demand the engagement of the rest of the world. Lasting peace between Israel and Palestine requires a two-state solution. Intractable conflicts continue to afflict the peoples of Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen and Mali. Alleviating the humanitarian consequences of war and resolving conflicts in the long term requires regional and international cooperation. Development assistance must prevent and address climate

change to a greater extent. The focus on democracy in development cooperation will continue, as will efforts to strengthen women's and girls' rights. An additional 70 million people are living in extreme poverty due to the pandemic. Sweden's official development assistance will be equivalent to one per cent of gross national income.

Fourthly: Sweden must be equipped to meet the major geopolitical, technological and economic shifts of our time.

Society's capacity to manage crises must be strong, in peacetime as in wartime. Sweden is deepening its defence cooperation with Finland and other Nordic neighbours, within the EU, with the United States and in partnership with NATO. Our national defence is being expanded. Five regiments and an air force wing are currently being re-established: in Falun, Sollefteå/Östersund, Arvidsjaur, Kristinehamn, Gothenburg and Uppsala. Civil defence is being strengthened. A new, updated national security strategy is being developed. Sweden remains a strong voice for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

China's growing role represents another of the great global changes of our time. Sweden and the EU will pursue an active policy in relation to China, based on our interests and values.

New migration legislation has entered into force in Sweden. It is well-balanced with a view to ensuring that Swedish migration policy is sustainable in the long term and provides a humane, legally certain and effective regulatory framework that is not materially different from migration policies in other EU Member States.

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Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of the Riksdag,

I began by speaking about Swedish democracy and 100 years of universal and equal suffrage.

We are democracy. We who live in Sweden, we who work here, we who are raising the next generations.

We must keep this in mind when we encounter each other in our day-to-day lives. I want us to treat each other with respect. It is we – all of us, together – who bear Sweden up.

Maybe we're standing in the health centre, syringes at the ready, steadily working our way through the people queuing for vaccines.

Maybe we're coming up with funny rhymes about hats and gloves to reduce the chaos in the preschool cloakroom now that the weather is getting cold.

Maybe we've got loads to do in the garage just now, because people have a tendency to leave it until the last minute to change to winter tyres.

We all contribute to the Sweden we love. And there are many of us doing our bit for democracy, in our coffee break, when booking a slot in the communal laundry room, on the construction site, often without even thinking about it.

When we speak out. When we demand respect. For ourselves, for our colleagues, or for an unknown fellow human being who is being treated unfairly. Trusting that others are doing the same for us. We cannot have a Sweden in which one group looks down on another.

The introduction of universal suffrage in 1921 was not the end of our democracy-building – it was the starting point.

The fight for democracy, for human dignity and respect, for every person's power to influence their day-to-day lives and our common society – that never ends.

We will take this fight with us in what remains of this parliamentary session as we take forceful action against crime, surge ahead in the climate transition and take back control of the welfare system.

We will take this fight with us into the election campaign in 2022 and onward into the coming decades.

Everyone has a responsibility. And everyone's efforts are needed.

The Sweden we will build together, with respect for each other, is a stronger Sweden.

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Published 30 November 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

# Statement by the Prime Minister in connection with Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine

In light of Russian President Vladimir Putin's televised speech on the morning of 21 September, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson later the same day issued the following statement:

"The EU and Sweden strongly condemn Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine and the plans for further so-called referendums on Russian-controlled territory in Ukraine. Any such referendums would have no legitimacy whatsoever and would constitute further flagrant violations of international law.

"Together with the EU and other partners, we will discuss appropriate measures, including further sanctions, in response to Russia's unacceptable actions.

"Russia's attempts to influence our policy will not succeed. Our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering."

Published 23 September 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Statement of Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II

I would like to express my sorrow at the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

For as long as most of us have been alive, she has been a cherished representative and symbol for the United Kingdom and the head of state of many countries of the Commonwealth.

My thoughts today are naturally with the Queen's family and the British people, but her passing is a loss for us all.

Published 08 September 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Statement by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, 28 June 2022

Following today's meeting with President Erdogan and President Niinistö, under the auspices of NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg, the foreign ministers of Sweden, Finland and Türkiye signed a trilateral memorandum, paving the way for Sweden's and Finland's accession to NATO.

The memorandum confirms Türkiye's support for our NATO applications. It covers issues raised by Türkiye in this context. One part of the memorandum refers to actions which Sweden is undertaking, such as the strengthening of our counterterrorism legislation. Another part includes steps which we will take as part of the process of becoming a NATO member. One example is the adjustment of the guidelines of arms exports. In the memorandum, there is also a clear joint commitment concerning the fight against terrorism, not least as regards PKK. In this area, we agreed with Türkiye to strengthen our cooperation and to establish a closer dialogue, including on extradition issues. This will of course be conducted within the framework of national and international legislation.

With today's agreement, Sweden is now on a clear path to become a NATO member. I look forward to constructive discussions during the Madrid Summit on our future cooperation within NATO and the contribution Sweden will make to the security of all Allies.

Published 29 June 2022



# Political declaration of solidarity

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson, 11 May 2022

We, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Sweden, confirm our shared desire for closer, stronger defence and security cooperation, to reinforce our key strategic partnership.

## **A Shared View on Challenges and Threats**

The United Kingdom and Sweden share the same values and understanding of security challenges, both in Europe and globally. Both countries are committed to working together to address these challenges and strengthen defence and security cooperation and solidarity in Europe.

In order to maintain the status and integrity of the European security order, the United Kingdom and Sweden are resolved to defend its principles, reject attempts to undermine or reshape it, and demand accountability for violations against it. Military aggression to change the borders of Europe must never be accepted. Likewise, attempts to challenge the norms, and undermine cooperative fora and institutions that constitute the foundation of European security must be firmly resisted.

The United Kingdom and Sweden recognise that regional and global challenges are best addressed by acting together. In an era of heightened geopolitical competition on a global scale, not only in terms of military power but also of political influence, strategic technologies and economic relations, we intend to defend common interests and a rules-based international order.

Both countries recognise that the global security environment is affected by hybrid threats, cyber-attacks, organised crime and cross-border terrorism, as well as the effects of climate change on peace and security. The United Kingdom and Sweden will act together to meet such challenges and threats.

The United Kingdom and Sweden share the same security environment in Northern Europe. We face common challenges relating to the deteriorating security situation, due to Russia's aggressive actions. We have a joint interest in a close political dialogue and practical cooperation between NATO and Sweden.

The United Kingdom and Sweden recognise that unity of purpose and action remain our greatest asset in relation to Russia. The coordinated responses of the international community have shown Russia that malign action comes at a cost. Both countries will uphold and coordinate our principled positions related to Russia's negative behaviour. Together, we must address the challenges arising from Russia's actions, wherever they occur.

### **Security and Defence Cooperation Between the United Kingdom and Sweden**

The United Kingdom and Sweden have a strong tradition of cooperating to address common challenges in Northern Europe and globally. This includes hybrid threats and cyber security as well as working together in international crisis management operations. The strong relationship between our respective Armed Forces and Defence Ministries is founded on the Statement of Intent from 2014 and the Programme of Defence Cooperation from 2016. Our bilateral defence cooperation also builds on three Memoranda of Understanding covering Defence Materiel Cooperation, the Conduct of Exercises, Training and Integrated Test and Evaluation Activities and the Provision of Host Nation Support, and Future Combat Air Systems' Cooperation. Our deep defence cooperation covers an extensive range of activities, from international operations to defence research. We also cooperate extensively in multilateral formats including the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, through Sweden's Enhanced Opportunities' Partnership with NATO, and the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and the Northern Group.

Both countries recognise the need to continuously develop their defence and security cooperation. In these efforts, we should build on current cooperation and work together to further develop our capabilities. New initiatives to improve our interoperability and further strengthen our partnership will be explored.

On the basis of solidarity, values and geographical proximity, the United Kingdom and Sweden will meet challenges in peace, crisis and conflict together. Should either country suffer a disaster or an attack, the United

Kingdom and Sweden will, upon request from the affected country, assist each other in a variety of ways, which may include military means. Such an intensified cooperation will remain fully in line in with each country's security and defence policy and is designed to complement not replace existing European and Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

### **Future Bilateral Security Policy Dialogue**

Regular bilateral consultations on security policy issues serve an important role in deepening the dialogue between the United Kingdom and Sweden. The United Kingdom and Sweden will meet regularly in a 2+2 format at the level of Political Director (MFA) and Defence Policy Director (MOD) to discuss security policy issues.

This document is a political declaration and not a legally binding commitment under international law.

Signed at Harpsund on 11 May 2022, in duplicate.

FOR

THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

MAGDALENA ANDERSSON

PRIME MINISTER

FOR

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND

BORIS JOHNSON

PRIME MINISTER

Published 11 May 2022





Government Offices of Sweden

# Statement from Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson concerning Russia's invasion of Ukraine

24 February 2022

Sweden condemns in the strongest terms Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Russia's acts are also an attack on the European security order. It will be met by a united and robust response in solidarity with Ukraine. Russia alone is responsible for human suffering.

Published 24 February 2022