



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

A new sustainable export initiative throughout the country

Published 10 May 2019

Making the entire Nordic region the first integrated 5G zone and getting Swedish companies to export more. Listen to Minister for Foreign Trade with responsibility for Nordic affairs Ann Linde talk about some of her priorities during this electoral period.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

A digital Team Sweden on Sweden Abroad

Published 06 May 2019

Swedish trade with the rest of the world is constantly increasing. Today, three quarters of Sweden's goods exports go to Europe. We export most to Germany, followed by Norway, Finland, Denmark, the United States and the Netherlands. We want to help Swedish businesses find new trading partners, businesses and markets to increase their global sales. At the same time, we also want to help foreign businesses and individuals who want to do business with Sweden find the right entry points.

To make it easier for all actors around the world that are interested in forging trade links with Swedish businesses, we have gathered all information in a single place on Sweden Abroad (our website for our missions abroad) called 'Doing Business with Sweden – the sky is the limit'. It will be launched on 6 May. This is a step on the road to providing comprehensive, easily accessible digital information to those who want to export from Sweden, import Swedish products or invest in Sweden.

Here is a link to the page: <https://www.swedenabroad.se/businesswithsweden>

Sweden's exports increased during the previous electoral period. The Government launched an export strategy that included a number of initiatives to strengthen the business sector's internationalisation and our economic relations with the rest of the world. The strategy will now be further developed with a focus on economic, social and ecological sustainability for more jobs throughout the country. 'Doing Business with

Sweden – the sky is the limit’ is part of this work.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Nominations for the 2018 Music Export Prize

Published 22 February 2019

The Government's Music Export Prize is awarded every year to an artist who has been internationally successful during the preceding year and has contributed to Swedish musical export success and to a positive image of Sweden. The winner will be announced by Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde at a ceremony at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on Wednesday 6 March at 14.30.

In addition to the Music Export Prize, the Government also awards an Honorary Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports, and a Commendation for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music. The winners are announced at the prize ceremony.

With the Music Export Prize, the Government wants to draw attention to Swedish performers and practitioners in the music industry who contribute to increased export success for Swedish music and put Sweden in the spotlight.

“We are very pleased and proud today to present the nominees for the Government's 2018 Music Export Prize. They are all major and important music practitioners who export world-class music and show the breadth of what Sweden is achieving in the international arena,” says Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.

The nominees for the Government's 2018 Music Export Prize are:

Malin Byström

Passion and a lifelong love of classical music have created yet another Swedish superstar in the opera firmament. Add to that a voice that has audiences and critics making the pilgrimage to the major opera houses in London, Paris and New York. Two decades have passed since her stage debut in Vadstena, and during this time Malin Byström has become one of the most popular sopranos of our time. Whether she's playing young girls in Mozart or the most desperate women of opera, such as Elektra or Medea, she always fills her characters with life. And she does so without ever losing control of her voice. In 2018, Malin Byström was awarded the title of Swedish Court Singer and she also won a prestigious International Opera Award (the Oscars of the opera world) in the category Female Singer of the Year. Sweden continues to deliver world-class singers.

Ludwig Göransson

From Linköping to Los Angeles. From playing the drums so much to Metallica as an eight-year-old that he injured his thumb to being turned down by the Cheiron Studios elite and now basking in the limelight of pop music and popular culture. This composer and producer found his way early on to film music because it was full of opportunities. Because it was possible to mix and experiment so boundlessly with styles and rhythms – as he did last year on cinema screens across the world in 'Black Panther', 'Creed II' and 'Venom'. The same thing happens in his music. The incredible song 'This is America', which combines hip-hop, gospel, trap, afrobeat and more, took almost three years for him and his old friend Childish Gambino to complete. It also became the most important and acclaimed hit of 2018, with an accompanying music video addressing contemporary issues such as violence, weapons and racism in the United States. In musical terms, it is an excellent declaration of who this boundless musician from Östra Götaland really is. He is certainly worthy of his nominations for an Oscar and a Golden Globe. As well as the three (of four possible) Grammys he won.

Mohombi

Since the 1990s, the Swedish-Congolese artist and songwriter Mohombi has performed more than a thousand times on stages in over 48 countries – thanks to his talent, hard work and a non-stop process. With a genre he calls afropop, Mohombi has released music over the years together with artists such as Pitbull, Shaggy, Nicole Scherzinger (Pussycat Dolls) and Akon. In

2018, Mohombi won two Grammys as a songwriter on reggaeton artist J. Balvin's album (Vibras) and a BMI Award for the international hit 'Mi Gente' with Beyonce on the remix. He was co-producer and songwriter for Jennifer Lopez's song 'Dinero' with Cardi B and DJ Khaled, which won an MTV Video Music Award. With his background, Mohombi has been bringing together Sweden, Latin America and Africa for decades, to rhythms originating in these parts of the world and now present all over the world. He is often called the 'Afro-Viking' – by both himself and others – in a true ambassadorial spirit.

Robyn

Robyn, a previous winner of the Government's Music Export Prize, made a comeback in autumn 2018 with her first studio album since 2010. In terms of its impact, it was like nothing had happened in the meantime – in a positive sense. The new album 'Honey' – her eighth album in total – was received around the world as an offering from a trendsetting and established star. Both broad and niche media presented the album as a major work – and along with the single 'Missing U', it was soon ranking on the year's bestseller lists in the United States and the United Kingdom, for example. This is the status Robin Carlsson has achieved 23 years on from her breakthrough – a timeless artist, a modern entrepreneur and now a highly creative producer.

Ilya Salmanzadeh

For over ten years now, Ilya Salmanzadeh has been working as a songwriter and producer. His career took off when Max Martin took him under his wing, and Ilya has developed his talent through the production collective Wolf Cousins. Over the years he has worked with world artists such as Ellie Goulding, Taylor Swift, Fifth Harmony, Jennifer Lopez and Ariana Grande. In 2018, Ilya's success with Ariana Grande took him to new levels – in the autumn, the singer had three hits written by the Swedish hitmaker simultaneously on the US billboard charts.

The jury for the Music Export Prize is made up of:

Mikaela Fredriksen Tollin, acting Director-General of the Swedish Institute

Ametist Azordegan, author and freelance journalist

Anna-Karin Larsson, Editor-in-chief, SR Musik, Swedish Radio P2

Elin Norquist, Head of Musikplattformen, Swedish Performing Arts Agency

Elisabet Widlund, CEO of Musikförläggarna

Jesper Thorsson, CEO of Export Music Sweden

Lars Nylin, Editor-in-chief and publisher of Musikindustrin

Linda Portnoff, CEO of Riteband

Ludvig Werner, CEO of IFPI Sverige

Per Sinding-Larsen, music journalist, Swedish Television

Robert Sehlberg, Head of Music at MTG Radio

Coordinators of the Music Export Prize are Gabriella Augustsson and Kristina Lindberg at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Department for Promotion of Sweden, Trade and CSR.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality - Hosts' summary and reflections

Published 20 June 2018

The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality was held on 15–17 April 2018 and gathered more than 700 participants from over 100 countries and a multitude of sectors and functions. The discussions covered a broad range of areas and focused on concrete methods and tools to enhance gender equality and the full enjoyment of rights, representation and resources for all women and girls.

The hallmark of the Forum was co-creation. This included:

- A broad nomination process in which CSOs and other partners joined the Swedish Foreign Service, the Swedish Institute, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) in suggesting participants.
- A co-owned agenda inspired by the participants themselves and what they reported as being the greatest challenges to gender equality.
- A collaborative process in which partners, collaborators and participants developed and organised seminars together and in close dialogue with the Swedish Institute.

Results

- A unique Forum constituting a global and vibrant manifestation and mobilisation for gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights

by all women and girls.

- A powerhouse of inspiration co-created by, and further invigorating, a multitude of gender champions from all over the world.
- A total of 29 interactive seminars and roundtable discussions that were co-organised with participants and – thus – contributed to substance, methods and partnerships.
- A platform for non-stop sharing of experiences and best practices, both within and across sectors, policy areas and regions.
- A wealth of new and further developed initiatives, commitments and partnerships focused on areas such as creating awareness, legislative change and capacity building, involving countries from all over the world.
- A number of launches of new tools, such as a 'Women, Business and the Law' report from the World Bank Group.
- A Call to Action to counter the shrinking space and to increase support for women human rights defenders, drafted and presented by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation with partners and other women's rights activists.
- A broad communicative reach. During the week of the Forum alone the hashtag #GenderEqualWorld reached almost 3 million people, trending in countries such as Australia, India, the US and the UK, and also achieving huge reach in countries such as Brazil, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Iraq, Poland and Turkey.
- A wide range of articles and news broadcasts in traditional media around the globe.
- A distinct contribution and push for the efforts to implement the SDGs as well as CEDAW and other relevant conventions, resolutions and agreements.
- A starting point for discussions in new constellations, including in the form of a first cross-sectoral Feminist Think Space held back-to-back with the Forum and co-hosted by UN Women and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and cofacilitated by UN Women and Sida.

Next steps

- Building on the momentum and capitalising on the results of the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality, Tunisia will host the conference Tunis Forum on Gender Equality in 2019.
- Participants are pursuing a number of other initiatives linked to and/or inspired by the Forum.
- Participants can continue to register initiatives, commitments and partnerships resulting from or connected to the Forum on the Forum

website: <http://genderequalworld.com/initiatives/>.

- The Swedish Institute will post documentation from all the seminars and roundtables on the website. Together with other outcomes of the Forum, the documentation will serve as a library of best practices and a platform for continued networking.
- The Swedish Institute will develop a tool kit so that Swedish embassies and other stakeholders can take the Forum and its outcomes further in their respective context.
- Sweden commits to implementing the 2018 action plan for feminist foreign policy and launching a handbook on how to conduct a feminist foreign policy. Sida will operationalise the new global development cooperation strategy for gender equality.
- Sweden will present the documentation and results of the Forum to UN Women, as well as cooperate with UN Women and other partners on following up the Forum, including by disseminating and drawing on the best practices and experiences shared.
- Sweden will continue the dialogue with partners interested in arranging events inspired by and following up the Forum.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Joining forces to strengthen global gender equality efforts

Published 23 April 2018

More than 700 gender equality advocates from more than 100 countries gathered at the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality to exchange experiences and mobilise efforts for global gender equality. The participants included key figures from civil society organisations, business, academia and politics. They all have the same goal: a gender-equal world.

The Forum took place at a decisive point in time. While gender equality is progressing in many places, many of the participants highlighted the fact that gender inequality and discrimination of women and girls are among the greatest human rights challenges of our time. Efforts to promote women's and girls' rights, representation and access to resources therefore require concerted action. It requires cooperation between gender equality advocates and decision-makers, and between men and women.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström began her speech with a special welcome to the men, stressing that gender equality is not a women's issue – it concerns peace, security, development and democracy. To illustrate the path to gender equality, she quoted Mahatma Gandhi:

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win. I sense that we are winning," she said.

More statistics needed

To tackle the issue of gender equality, the right conditions are required. Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and

Climate and Deputy Prime Minister, highlighted identifying gender inequality as an area requiring considerable improvement.

"What you don't know about, you don't care about. We need more statistics on gender equality in the world to move forward. That will give even better opportunities to work for increased gender equality," she said.

"Gender equality is smart economics"

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde made the point that gender equality is not only wise and right, it is also smart economics.

"Women who participate in the labour market have more power over their own lives. This strengthens the whole of society. Shutting women out of economic activity is probably the world's greatest waste of opportunity and talent," said Ms Linde.

The Forum delegates are now urged to submit concrete examples of commitments, initiatives and cooperation to continue supporting and inspiring each other in their efforts to increase gender equality.



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

A secure EU in a secure world

Published 02 March 2018 Updated 02 March 2018

As part of the EU's global strategy for foreign and security policy its common policy is being developed to contribute to security both in and outside the EU. The European security order is still being challenged by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Important progress has been made to lay the foundation for inclusive and ambitiously structured defence cooperation (PESCO), and work is continuing to highlight this broad view of security.

An active neighbourhood policy is the best guarantee for democracy, welfare and stability in our neighbouring region. Within the framework of the EU's new development policy the overall objective of EU development cooperation is still poverty reduction, but the policy also points the way to how EU development cooperation will contribute to the sustainability goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- Both the civilian and the military priorities of the EU's global strategy are implemented, including the permanent structured cooperation, PESCO, and the further development of civilian crisis management;
- The EU's dialogue with Russia is clear and principled, and that support for Ukraine and the other countries in the Eastern Partnership is strong; The EU's sanctions against Russia are upheld for as long as the reasons for their introduction remain;
- The EU contributes to conflict prevention, crisis management and conflict resolution in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, in close cooperation with the UN and regional actors;

- The EU integration processes for the Western Balkans are maintained based on the qualification of each country.

The EU's internal security

Responding to the threats from terrorism, IT crime and other cross-border criminal activity requires preventive action based on close and effective cooperation. We see how, in addition to its many advantages and possibilities, an ever more digitised world also leads to vulnerabilities and security challenges. The threats to the EU's internal security are often linked to conditions beyond the borders of the EU and the most effective measures for the EU's internal security may therefore be operations outside the EU, for example the EU's civilian and military crisis management operations.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- The control of the EU's external borders is strengthened, thereby improving the possibilities of detecting and preventing crime and the import of illegal goods. This is essential for a secure and well-functioning Schengen area.
- Law enforcement agencies' access to information and possibilities of exchanging information match up to what is essential for effective and legally certain cooperation to combat threats including those from terrorism;
- EU cooperation in the area of cybersecurity is promoted, particularly within the framework of the Information Security Directive and the Framework for a Joint EU Diplomatic Response to Malicious Cyber Activities.



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

A social Europe for jobs and inclusive growth

Published 02 March 2018 Updated 02 March 2018

Even though the economic situation in the EU has improved, we see high long-term unemployment, growing gaps and unacceptably high youth unemployment in many parts of Europe. Well managed public finances at both national and EU level lays the foundation for greater confidence in the policy being pursued and stable economic growth shared by everyone.

A modern long-term budget

In spring 2018 the Commission will propose a new long-term budget for the period after 2020. The Government will work intensively to influence that proposal as much as possible, mainly along with other like-minded Member States. Negotiations on the new proposal are expected to start in mid-2018.

When the UK leaves the EU, a large contribution to the EU budget will disappear, as will an important ally for Sweden in the budget negotiations.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- The total expenditure in the EU's multiannual financial framework does not exceed 1 per cent of the EU's GNI, that the Swedish contribution is kept down and that the use of EU funds is controlled more effectively.
- The EU has a modern budget with refocused priorities benefitting security, migration, competitiveness, research and actions against climate change. This means less funding for agricultural support and

structural funds. At the same time the Government will protect the relative return of funds to Sweden.

- All Member States stand up for our common values and decisions made. EU membership brings both rights and obligations. There must be a cost for not taking responsibility.

Inclusive growth through open trade and a competitive Single Market
More than 70 per cent of Swedish exports go to the Single Market and our export industry employs more than 1.4 million people in Sweden. In the past twenty years over 80 per cent of all the new jobs have been created in the services sector. Disproportionate barriers to trade must be removed to facilitate the development of the services sector. Market surveillance of goods on the Single Market also needs to be modernised to enable consumers to feel secure that products are safe and environmentally sustainable and to enable companies to compete on equal terms.

The EU needs to increase its ability to generate and attract highly qualified activities in global value chains. The innovative capacity of European industry needs to be enhanced.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- Disproportionate barriers to the movement of goods and services disappear, especially through the implementation of the Single Market Strategy for goods and services;
- An ambitious free trade agenda with more free trade agreements between the EU and other parties;
- Action in the EU's coming framework programme for research and innovation makes more of a contribution to increased competitiveness and more jobs.

A digitalised Europe

Digitalisation is driving the development of society, promoting competitiveness and creating new jobs. If the EU is to be able to retain a leading position in the digital economy, investment is needed in infrastructure, education and skills development.

One important step on that path is to complete the Digital Single Market strategy. Since most businesses depend on free, cross-border flows of data in their activities, the development of the Digital Single Market must support the free movement of data across national borders both within and beyond

the EU.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- The proposals in the EU's Digital Single Market strategy are implemented in 2018.
- The proposal concerning free flows of data is adopted speedily and the flows of data to and from third countries are facilitated, for example by international agreements.

Fair jobs and working conditions

Conditions in the European labour market must be fair and decent. To protect workers' conditions, companies' competitiveness and the legitimacy of free movement, cross-border work must be combined with the principle of equal pay for equal work and conducted in line with good working conditions and a good work environment. The Government's starting point continues to be that the competence of Member States; national labour market models and the autonomy of social partners; and the standing of collective agreements must be respected.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- The revision of the Posting of Workers Directive is completed so as to confirm the principle of equal pay for equal work in posting situations.
- The coordination of social security systems is developed and promotes the dialogue between Member States and mobility for persons in the EU, especially workers.
- Clear rules and fair competition for a well-functioning Single Market steer legislation in the area of transport and lead to better working conditions in the whole of the EU as well as that the protection of social rights is strengthened.

Stronger gender equality and flexibility

A Europe for jobs and inclusive growth builds on a synergy between growth, competitiveness and social progress. The implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights will make a positive contribution to women's and men's quality of life at the same time as the division of competence between the EU and its Member States is retained.

Stronger gender equality is both a rights issue and needed to increase Europe's growth and global competitiveness. When women are outside the

labour market, potential for growth goes to waste.

Access to life-long education contributes to a flexible labour market. The need for further education throughout life is increasing, especially as a result of the digitisation and robotisation of society. People's skills need to develop in pace with the technological development and to be matched to new types of jobs.

The Government will work to ensure that:

- The principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights are monitored in a structured way within the European Semester;
- The Directive on Work-Life Balance is designed in a way that contributes to a more gender equal working life and enables high labour force participation among both women and men irrespective of their family situation.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Future of the EU: An inclusive discussion on the white paper on the future of Europe

Published 31 January 2018

A necessary and valuable debate on the future has started in the EU. Although much works well at EU level, there is reason for soul-searching. The more people who are involved in the discussions on the future of Europe, the better the prospects of strengthening our citizens' trust in the European project.

As a part of the discussions on the future of Europe, in the spring of 2017 the Commission presented a white paper outlining different scenarios for future EU cooperation, and five reflection papers on key issues: the social dimension, harnessing globalisation, the deepening of the economic and monetary union, the future of European defence and the future of EU finances. On this basis, the Commission wanted to initiate a comprehensive debate on the future of Europe with civil society and other social actors, to promote participation in the shaping of EU policies.

In 2017, the Government held EU thematic consultation forums on all five reflection papers, informed the Riksdag (Swedish parliament) via explanatory memorandums, and held discussions with many parliamentary committees. The Government plans to hold one more EU thematic consultation forum on the future of the EU in the spring of 2018 ahead of Europe Day on 9 May.

In December 2017, the Government informed the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union about its work. The Government's letter and reports from the EU thematic consultation forums

are available on this web page.



Article

EU and Japan – agreement on free trade deal_

Published 18 July 2017

The EU and Japan have reached an agreement in principle on both an Economic Partnership Agreement and a political Strategic Partnership Agreement, which both regions say represents an ‘economic landmark’. “Two of the world’s largest economies have agreed to conclude a free trade agreement at a time when protectionist winds are blowing around the world. This sends an important signal to the rest of the world,” says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde.

Two thirds of the Swedish companies currently exporting to Japan are small, and the Japanese market is particularly important for counties such as Uppsala, Dalarna, Västernorrland, Stockholm and Jämtland. "This is extremely positive," says Ms Linde, who believes the agreement will boost trade for both small and large companies.

"There is a lot of Swedish technology of interest to Japan, not least in the fields of health and climate change. Smart cities and sustainable transport are two examples; waste management is another," says Ms Linde.

Japan will abandon customs duties on 97 per cent of all goods once the agreement is implemented, making it the most ambitious agreement the country has ever reached. The EU will abandon 99 per cent of its customs duties. The agreement also contains simpler regulations facilitating trade.

Japan has previously had its own very distinct regulations in the automotive sector. From 2019 onwards, Japan will follow international UN regulations.

"This is good news for Swedish car manufacturers," says Ms Linde.

The agreement was preceded by four years of negotiations. Besides duties, it contains provisions on market access for both goods and services, and public procurement.

It also contains proposals for deeper cooperation in a number of other areas, including intellectual property law, competition, sustainability, and animal and plant health, and this will be the first time an agreement includes a specific commitment on the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

It is important to note that some details in the agreement still need to be ironed out. Negotiations on investment protection, regulatory cooperation and some technical issues have not yet been completed and are expected to continue in the autumn. The hope is that all remaining issues will be resolved before the end of the year. This will be followed by a process in the European Council and Parliament to conclude and sign the agreement.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde launches the Government's EU priorities

Published 15 March 2017

On 15 March, Ann Linde launched the Government's EU priorities for 2017 in the Riksdag. Jobs and growth, environment and climate, and a solidarity-based refugee and migration policy remain priority EU issues for the Government.

Why did the Government draw up overarching priorities for EU work?

"In order for us, as a medium-sized EU country, to make a difference in the EU, we must be able to prioritise. The EU must focus on the issues that create the greatest value for citizens and that cannot be managed at national level alone," says Ms Linde.

What are the Government's overarching EU priorities?

"The short answer is decent jobs, environment and climate, and migration and security. The Government will focus on ensuring fair working conditions in both the Swedish and European labour markets. At the same time, the EU must show leadership in the battle against climate change and in implementing the Paris Agreement. And even if some progress has been made in the area of migration, a new functioning asylum system remains to be put in place, in which all EU countries take responsibility for receiving refugees.

Is there any issue of particular importance to you?

"I think that all three priority areas are important. They are decisive issues, not only for the EU but also so that our citizens can live good lives. This is why I want to initiate more extensive discussions on EU issues among

ordinary Swedes. Over the course of the year I will continue to work to strengthen participation in the Government's EU work."

How are you, as Minister for EU Affairs, moving these issues forward?

"I make use of the EU priorities almost every day. Regardless of whether I'm at a ministerial meeting or if I'm speaking about the future of the EU, I rely on our common priorities," says Ms Linde.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven today received Jin Liqun, President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Published 12 September 2016 Updated 12 September 2016

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was established in January this year, and Sweden became a member at its first Annual Meeting in June. Mr Löfven and Mr Jin discussed the bank's strategic focus for the future.

Mr Löfven expressed the hope that the AIIB will be an institution with a clear focus on environmental and climate-resilient investments. Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde also took part in the meeting. During his visit to Sweden, Mr Jin will also meet Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson, representatives of Swedish companies at Business Sweden, and take part in a seminar at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde met French and German EU ministers

Published 13 July 2016 Updated 13 July 2016

On 11 July, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde met the French and German EU ministers in Berlin to discuss how these Member States can pursue a common policy now that Sweden's closest partner in the EU, the United Kingdom, has voted to leave the EU. It is important for Sweden to find new strong partners to enable it to take part in shaping the future of the EU.

The ministers discussed the following issues: growth and employment, how the EU can increase its ambition to create more jobs that ensure fair and equitable pay, stepping up the important climate commitments we made in Paris, the migration crisis and the EU countries' share of responsibility based on solidarity, and protecting EU values. Other issues included gender equality and how to get more young people to see the direct benefits to them of EU membership. The discussions resulted in a joint statement, which the countries together will now push forward in the EU.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

TTIP dialogue in Stockholm

Published 08 June 2016 Updated 08 June 2016

A unique event organised by the Government Offices together with the Swedish Trade Union Confederation and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise brought together representatives of business, civil society, the EU and the United States for a full-day dialogue on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde, the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Michael Froman, and EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström took part in debates and gave speeches during the day.

"For an open and trade-dependent country such as Sweden, it has never been an option to say no to trade, and the TTIP negotiations are a historic opportunity to contribute to Sweden's and the EU's prosperity," said Ms Linde.

In smaller groups, representatives of environmental organisations, the business sector and trade unions in Sweden and around the world discussed various aspects of TTIP and the ongoing negotiations. Together with Ms Malmström and Mr Froman, Ms Linde visited a Swedish company to discuss trade and the opportunities of TTIP. Negotiations on TTIP also took place at the Swedish Trade Union Confederation headquarters.

"There is a consensus in our country on the importance of trade and openness, which is clearly manifested in this dialogue meeting. Continued openness and transparency, and engaging stakeholder organisations and citizens are important as negotiations continue," said Ms Linde.

The event was webcast live.



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Stockholm hosting high-level dialogue on TTIP

Published 30 May 2016 Updated 30 May 2016

On 31 May, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs – together with the Swedish Trade Union Confederation and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise – is hosting a high-level dialogue on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, TTIP. Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde will take part, together with EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström and the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Michael Froman.

The two chief negotiators for TTIP, Ignacio Garcia Bercero (EU) and Dan Mullaney (US) will also be there, as will President of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson and Director-General of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise Carola Lemne.

During the dialogue, issues such as market access, sustainability, rights and protectionism will be discussed. The participants invited include representatives of environmental organisations, the business sector and trade unions.

"The dialogue will be a unique opportunity to discuss the advantages and challenges of TTIP. It will be an opportunity for various groups to have their voices heard and raise the issues that concern them. Transparency and openness are and should be the watchwords when the two largest markets in the world negotiate a free trade agreement. The Stockholm dialogue is a concrete expression of openness and transparency in free trade negotiations," says Ms Linde, who will deliver one of the main addresses

during the dialogue.