



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

Modified restrictions as of 15 July

Published 14 July 2021

At a press conference on Monday, it was announced that a number of restrictions will be lifted as of 15 July. This is in line with step 3 of the Government's plan for phasing out restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of the pandemic, the trends are heading in the right direction. The number of COVID-19 cases and the number of people requiring hospital treatment for COVID-19 are falling week by week. Almost 70 per cent of the adult population have now received at least one vaccine dose. Overall, the infection rates, the pressure on the health care system and the vaccination rate of the population are all at levels that allow restrictions to be lifted. For this reason, the Government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden have made the assessment that it is appropriate to proceed with step 3 of the Government's plan for phasing out the restrictions.

As of 15 July, the following applies.

Long-distance public transport

As of 15 July 2021, long-distance public transport operators will be able to operate at full capacity.

However, passengers are advised to continue to exercise care and vigilance. Anyone who has any symptoms or feels ill should not travel. They should stay home, isolate and take a COVID-19 test. Keeping a COVID-safe distance is still a crucial factor in minimising the risk of infecting and being infected.

Municipalities no longer able to ban people from certain public spaces

As of 15 July 2021, municipalities will no longer be able to ban the public from accessing certain spaces where crowding may occur.

The ban has been a tool for municipalities to use to limit crowding in public spaces – such as parks, beaches and parking areas – that could contribute to the further spread of infection when infection rates are high.

Public Health Agency decisions in line with the plan

In accordance with the Government's plan for phasing out restrictions, the Public Health Agency has also made a number of decisions on modifying and phasing out restrictions under step 3 of the plan. For example, the rule on the number of people per square metre in shopping centres, gyms, museums, amusement parks, etc. will be removed. The advice to amusement parks concerning, for example, how to place groups for rides and attractions, will be removed. The size of groups with designated seats at public gatherings or events, including football matches, will be increased from four people to eight people. This applies to both indoor and outdoor events.

For more information, visit the Public Health Agency of Sweden website.

The next step of the Government's phase-out plan – step 4 – is scheduled for September. The plan for phasing out restrictions can only proceed if infection rates and the pressure on the health care system remain low and the vaccination rate continues to rise.

Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan and State Epidemiologist Anders Tegnell took part in the press conference.



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

Sweden's national life sciences strategy and COVID-19

Published 12 November 2020

Sweden's national life sciences strategy was launched in late December 2019 to strengthen the long-term competitiveness of Sweden as a life sciences nation.

Life sciences contribute to improving health and quality of life of the population, ensuring economic prosperity, advancing the country as a leading knowledge nation and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Data-driven innovative solutions and scientific advances will have a fundamental impact on developments in prevention, diagnostics, treatment, monitoring, habilitation and rehabilitation, paving the way for personalised care – or precision medicine.

Sweden's research and innovation is of the highest international standard, and the life sciences industry is one of the nation's basic industries. However, international competition is intensifying. To harness the potential in the sector, a national life sciences strategy – setting out clear objectives and outlining a strategic and integrated approach – was seen as essential. Cross-sectoral collaboration between national, regional and local levels was regarded as a particularly important factor for regional responsibility for health care planning and delivery, and for coordinating and facilitating regional development.

Based on input from sector stakeholders, the Government outlined objectives in eight priority areas in which change was considered particularly important:

1. Structures for collaboration
2. Unlocking the potential of health data for use in research and innovation

3. Responsible, secure and ethical policy development
4. Integration of research and innovation into care delivery
5. Assistive technologies for increased independence, participation and health
6. Research and infrastructure
7. Skills supply, talent attraction and lifelong learning
8. International attractiveness and competitiveness

The COVID-19 pandemic, which struck shortly after the launch of Sweden's national life sciences strategy, has demonstrated the importance of life sciences and cross-sectoral collaboration in crisis management and societal resilience. The COVID-19 experience has also provided additional support for the relevance and timeliness of the strategy's eight priority areas.

The Government is firmly committed to ensuring that Sweden is an attractive investment destination in a global, digital and knowledge-based world by offering an environment that includes world-leading universities, an innovative and high-quality health care system and government agencies mandated to contribute to policy development and systemic innovation. The Life Sciences Office at the Government Offices connects the Government and sector stakeholders; these include the cross-sectoral health and life sciences innovation partnership programme and the health and life sciences partnership group, which advises the Life Sciences Office and the innovation partnership programme.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Social distancing and markedly reduced travel in Sweden

Published 18 June 2020 Updated 18 June 2020

Swedes are largely following the government agencies' advice and recommendations. This has been shown through surveys and data concerning movement patterns. Now travel within Sweden is permitted again – but if the guidelines are not followed, the Government is prepared to take measures.

More than eight in ten Swedes are keeping a greater distance from others than they normally would. Just as many are avoiding shaking hands and are washing their hands more often than usual. Over 60 per cent are taking part in social activities outside the home to a lesser extent and are avoiding public places where there are lots of people. This is clear from a survey on behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic conducted by analysis company Kantar Sifo on behalf of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. In other words, Swedes are largely following the advice and recommendations issued by the Public Health Agency of Sweden.

Travel decreased by over 40 per cent

The travel advice of the Public Health Agency of Sweden has also been heeded. When the Agency advised against non-essential domestic travel at the end of March, travel in the Stockholm region decreased by over 40 per cent. Data on movement patterns from telecom company Telia's mobile network shows that, in Sweden as a whole, travel decreased by more than 20 per cent. Since 13 May, when the advice was changed to permit travel corresponding to one to two hours by car from home, travel in the country has gradually increased again.

According to the Public Health Agency of Sweden, it is not travel per se that spreads the virus, it is personal hygiene and social contact. Now that fewer Swedes are receiving care in hospital and tracing and testing have got under way, as of 13 June it is permitted for people with no symptoms to travel freely within Sweden.

“Common sense, a large portion of responsibility and caution are required. The vast majority have demonstrated this so far, and it still applies,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

New restrictions may be issued

A number of restrictions remain in place. These include the ban on visits to homes for older people, the ban on gatherings of more than 50 people and the rules concerning crowding in restaurants, bars and cafés. Businesses that do not follow the regulations may be closed after an inspection; so far, this has happened on some ten occasions in Stockholm and Gothenburg. The tourism and hospitality industry is also covered by the guidelines on crowding. The situation remains serious and if the curve indicating the number of seriously ill people turns upwards again, new restrictions may be issued.

“Although some restrictions are lifted, this does not mean that life can return to normal. Important restrictions will remain. It is important to hang on, otherwise the spread of infection might take off. We all need to continue to take great personal responsibility,” Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin says.

“If it turns out that this doesn’t work, we’re prepared to take measures and tighten the recommendations,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Finance

The Government has decided on a temporary discount for fixed rental costs in vulnerable sectors

Published 20 April 2020

After the European Commission approved the Government's state aid notification on Wednesday, the Government could today adopt an ordinance on a discount for fixed rental costs in vulnerable sectors as a way to mitigate the financial consequences of the virus outbreak. The new aid is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has rapidly had a major economic impact across Sweden. The situation is now very serious for large parts of the hotel and restaurant sector, and the durable consumer goods sector. In its additional amending budget, the Government is allocating support of SEK 5 billion to reduce fixed rents for vulnerable sectors such as durable consumer goods, hotels, restaurants and certain other activities. This covers, for example, retailers, logistical activities, restaurants as well as the organisation of congresses/fairs, and also consumer services such as dentists, physiotherapist practices, and hair and beauty salons.

“This is one of several initiatives taken by the Government to help businesses in Sweden and it is an important that the rental discount is now made available to businesses,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

Because it is a matter of state aid, the Government's notification of state aid

needed to be approved by the EU before the Government could take a decision. After the EU Commission approved the state aid on Wednesday, the Government could today adopt the ordinance.

“It serves both business operators and their landlords to get through this crisis. It is therefore important that central government can go in and make it easier for property owners to take responsibility and take a portion of the rent,” says Minister for Financial Markets and Housing Per Bolund.

Under this initiative, landlords who reduce fixed rents for tenants in these vulnerable sectors during the period of 1 April to 30 June will be able to apply for aid to compensate part of the reduction in rent. The compensation provided will be at most 50 per cent of the reduction in fixed rent, i.e. the actual discount, but at most 25 per cent of the original fixed rent.

Landlords apply online for the compensation retrospectively via the county administrative boards' websites and it is available to all landlords. Because the support is applied for retrospectively by the landlords, the county administrative boards will accept applications from 1 July, but 31 August at the latest. It is therefore important that landlords now take responsibility for entering into agreements so as to support their tenants.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation on company initiatives during the virus outbreak

Published 02 April 2020

Listen to the Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Ibrahim Baylan, talk about company initiatives during the virus outbreak.

Some two weeks ago, Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren and I invited a large number of companies to come and discuss how they can help. This would be by increasing the production of protective equipment and, if companies do not already produce this equipment, how they can switch to this. So what do they need to do?

Since then, we have seen a large number of companies doing their utmost to help in this very difficult corona crisis. By increasing production, putting in more staff to help out and switching their own production to produce equipment and help the health care sector fight this virus.

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. We are in a situation where we all need to help. We will try and highlight this. I myself have seen companies such as Scania Bactiguard, Sekab and Absolut helping to try and produce goods and products they have not previously produced, just to help out in the situation we are now in. Keep up the good work and many thanks!

The Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, is working intensively to mitigate the impact of the corona crisis on jobs and business. We have presented a large number of proposals in recent weeks. These are proposals to mitigate the impact in terms of costs for businesses and strengthened liquidity. On government.se, verksamt.se and tillvaxtverket.se you can find more information about these proposals and

what you should do. We are trying to get things moving swiftly, but not everything is up and running yet. Keep following these websites. We will post information as soon as it is ready so that we can – as far as possible – mitigate the impact on our country, together.

/Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Ibrahim Baylan



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Finance

Temporary discount for fixed rental costs in vulnerable sectors

Published 30 March 2020 Updated 30 March 2020

The Government has proposed a temporary discount for fixed rental costs in vulnerable sectors to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 virus outbreak. The proposal is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has rapidly had a major economic impact across Sweden. The situation is now very serious for large parts of the hotel and restaurant sector, and the durable consumer goods sector. In its additional amending budget, the Government is allocating support of SEK 5 billion to reduce fixed rents for vulnerable sectors such as durable consumer goods, hotels, restaurants and certain other activities.

Under this initiative, landlords who reduce fixed rents for tenants in these vulnerable sectors during the period of 1 April to 30 June will be able to apply for support to compensate part of the rental reduction. The compensation provided will be at most 50 per cent of the reduction in fixed rent, but at most 25 per cent of the original fixed rent.

Compensation can be applied for after the fact from county administrative boards. The Government is currently working on producing a regulatory framework to ensure it is in place as soon as possible. As this initiative involves state aid, it must be approved by the EU. More information will follow.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Finance

Proposed central government loan guarantee programme for small and medium-sized enterprises

Published 27 March 2020

On Wednesday 25 March, a proposal was presented for loan guarantees to companies adversely affected by the COVID-19 virus outbreak. The aim is to make it easier for primarily small and medium-sized enterprises to access financing.

The proposal means that central government will guarantee 70 per cent of any new loans that banks provide to companies experiencing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 virus. The guarantee will be issued to banks, which in turn will provide guaranteed loans to companies.

Opportunity for small and medium-sized enterprises to access financing

The loan guarantee programme primarily targets small and medium-sized enterprises, but there is no formal size limit on companies taking part in the programme. However, a limit of SEK 75 million per borrower has been proposed. The Swedish National Debt Office may grant exemptions from this limitation.

Conditions for providing loans

To take part in the programme, the COVID-19 virus must have adversely affected the company's finances. The Government expects that the guaranteed loans will not be used for bonuses or variable remuneration to

senior management, or for profit distribution other than what is comparable with regular salary withdrawals.

Companies apply for a loan by contacting a bank. The bank then conducts the normal credit assessment.

Banks that want to take part in the programme sign a guarantee agreement with the Swedish National Debt Office. The agreement covers aspects such as the guarantee fee that banks must pay, the loans concerned and other conditions.

Loans are provided through the banks

Central government issues the guarantee to the banks, which in turn provide guaranteed loans to companies. In practice, this means that central government compensates the bank for up to 70 per cent of any loss arising on a loan thus guaranteed.

The loans are paid out through the banks in order to provide loans to many companies as quickly as possible by using the banks existing networks and credit processes.

Costs to central government, banks and companies

Banks pay a risk-based guarantee fee to the Swedish National Debt Office. The fee is determined on the basis of the borrower's current risk class, which is set by the credit institution. The risk assessment is carried out in accordance with the credit institution's credit assessment process.

As usual, the borrower pays interest to the bank. This is determined by the bank and based on their credit risk assessment of the individual company, taking into account that central government is guaranteeing a large part of the loan. The borrower may defer paying interest on the loan for the first 12 months.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Almi receives SEK 3 billion capital injection to increase lending to small and medium-sized enterprises

Published 26 March 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, on March 20 presented further measures that will make it easier for Swedish businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to access financing at this difficult time. Resources and capital are being injected into Almi Företagspartner AB in order to increase lending to small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the country, thus facilitating their access to financing.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in major disruptions to the financial system and the international capital market. It is a serious problem for the Swedish economy that deteriorating conditions are making it harder for companies to find financing. Employment and growth in sound companies are threatened, which is why it is urgent to take measures to facilitate these companies' access to financing as quickly as possible.

Almi has 40 offices throughout the country, staffed by skilled advisers who can make adjustments at short notice to meet companies' new needs. Experience from the 2008 financial crisis has demonstrated that Almi can play an important role for small and medium-sized enterprises in difficult times.

To ensure a well-functioning credit supply and mitigate the impact of the virus outbreak on Swedish jobs and businesses, Almi will receive a capital injection of SEK 3 billion and thus be able to increase its lending to small and medium-sized enterprises. This reinforcement will increase Almi's preparedness to meet the needs of companies whose activities have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

In addition to the capital injection into Almi, today the Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, also presented more resources and expanded credit frameworks for the Swedish Export Credit Corporation and the Swedish Export Credit Guarantee Agency:

- The Swedish Export Credit Corporation's credit framework will be increased from SEK 125 billion to SEK 200 billion and can be used to provide both state-supported and commercial credit to Swedish export companies.
- The Swedish Export Credit Guarantee Agency's ceiling for credit guarantees will be increased to a total of SEK 500 billion, and the lower risk for banks will give companies new and improved credit opportunities.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Discussions, meetings and collaboration for developing Sweden

Published 06 November 2019

Interesting discussions and new perspectives characterised the National Innovation Council meeting and thematic day at Linnaeus University in Kalmar on 23 October. The aim of the Council's regional meetings is to learn from local and regional experiences and to develop the national policy. Alongside the meeting, various workshops were also organised as part of the Innovation Council's thematic day.

The National Innovation Council meeting, which was led by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, focused on how society can address complex social challenges through innovation and cooperation. The Council meets 6 times per year, of which two meetings are regional. The meeting and thematic workshops in Kalmar were jointly planned by the county administrative board and Region Kalmar and, in addition to the core issues of cooperation and innovation, focused on two themes: eHealth and sustainable water use, which are important issues for the region. Meeting participants discussed the problems associated with water scarcity and the challenges arising from a steadily aging population that put a strain on the health and welfare sector, particularly eHealth. A great deal of attention was given to the solutions and opportunities that innovation and technology can present.

Lena Miranda, CEO of Science Park Mjärdevi and member of the National Innovation Council, participated in the meeting in Kalmar.

Why is it important for the Innovation Council to have meetings in different regions of Sweden?

“The Government has expressed the desire to see more innovation – not just in the business sector but in all areas – throughout the country, and not limited to metropolitan areas. I think this is the right way to go. Innovation happens everywhere, and our job is to create the best possible conditions to contribute to this. We have to make sure that people feel they are involved and create an impact – inclusion is very important to also ensure the survival of democracy,” says Ms Miranda, and continues:

“Around our country, there are many good examples at local and regional level that are important for us to see and understand at national level when decisions on new initiatives are to be taken. From this perspective, the Innovation Council’s visits around the country are important.”

The Prime Minister, other government ministers and Council members, together with regional actors from academia, the business sector and society, took part in the meeting. One of the participants was Cecilia Schelin Seidegård, Deputy County Governor of Kalmar County.

What do you consider to be important lessons from today’s meeting and which are also relevant to the national policy?

“Innovation takes place throughout the country. We need to find forms to spread good ideas between different regions in order to benefit from what already exists. Kalmar County will gladly be part of various testbeds, both when it comes to water issues and eHealth. There is a strong commitment to work together to make a difference. We can take the initiative and conduct tests on a small scale, which can then be implemented on a large scale,” says Ms Schelin Seidegård.

High level of activity at Innovation Council workshops

Running alongside the meeting was the Innovation Council’s thematic day, with activities in workshops under the guidance of Vinnova and Hack for Sweden. Participants had the chance to test cooperation methods and find common goals and ways to solve social challenges. The theme here as well was sustainable water use and eHealth.

The day’s programme concluded with a meeting of participants from both the Innovation Council meeting and the workshops to jointly report on

experiences from the day. Many people spoke about the benefit of different actors meeting to discuss and provide different perspectives and solutions to complex social challenges. In conclusion, Mr Löfven highlighted the importance of regional cooperation for innovation, and also open dialogue between local, regional and national activities. The ambition now is to continue working on the ideas, comments and proposals that emerged during the activities of both groups.



Article from Ministry of the Environment

International energy ministerial meetings in Öresund region

Published 20 December 2017

In May 2018, Sweden, the EU and the Nordic countries will together host major energy ministerial meetings. In connection with these meetings, the Öresund region will also host Nordic Clean Energy Week. Politicians, researchers and business representatives will come together to discuss future energy solutions.

"I am looking forward to discussions, in Sweden, with the world's energy ministers and decision-makers on how to take joint responsibility for developing the sustainable energy solutions of tomorrow. The meetings will also provide fantastic opportunities to market Nordic energy technology expertise," says Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan, who will represent Sweden and lead parts of the meetings.

The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and the Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI) are parallel collaborations led by the energy ministers of the G20 and Nordic countries. The Third Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI3) will take place at Malmö Live on 23 May 2018, followed by the Ninth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM9) in Copenhagen on 24 May.

On 22 May, the Nordic energy ministerial meeting will be held in Lund. Sweden will hold the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2018.

Initiatives to accelerate clean-energy transition

The Clean Energy Ministerial and the Mission Innovation Ministerial bring together a group of countries that account for 75 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and 90 per cent of the investments in clean energy. Initiatives aim

to strengthen experience exchanges and legislative cooperation that can help accelerate the transition to clean energy, thereby reducing the energy sector's impact on the environment. The MI focuses on new solution development, while the CEM focuses on spreading market-ready solutions.

The MI aims to rapidly accelerate the pace of cleantech innovation. It was launched at the Climate Summit in Paris (COP21) in 2015, and Sweden has been an active participant since the outset. The MI secretariat function is divided between several countries and is led by the European Commission.

The CEM aims to accelerate the global rate of energy efficiency improvement and increase the volume and accessibility of sustainable energy. The CEM was launched at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009 and Sweden has been an active participant since the forum began in 2010. The CEM Secretariat has been hosted by the International Energy Agency since January 2017.

The practical work of the MI and CEM partnerships takes place through specific initiatives and activities in several selected key areas, which member countries can choose to join. Areas in which international collaboration is currently being stepped up thanks to the CEM and the MI include smart electricity grids, electric vehicles, energy-efficient products and the management of the increasing share of variable energy sources in electricity grids.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Swedish chairmanship at IEA Ministerial Meeting advanced energy transition

Published 22 November 2017

Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan chaired the International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial Meeting on 7–8 November in Paris. Swedish priorities regarding enhanced engagement with emerging economies to help accelerate global clean-energy transitions were raised at the meeting.

The IEA Ministerial Meeting, which is held every second year, brought together energy ministers from 40 countries and leaders of the world's 30 largest energy companies in Paris on 7–8 November. The aim of the meeting was to give direction and incentive to IEA efforts over the next few years.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol, the organisation has begun a modernisation programme in three focus areas: enhanced engagement with emerging economies, the IEA as a global clean energy hub for energy technology and energy efficiency measures, and secure energy supply adapted to new market conditions. As chair, Mr Baylan had the important task of advancing and consolidating members' interests in these areas.

"At the meeting, we made the Swedish priorities clear regarding increasing the IEA's focus on engaging with emerging economies to help accelerate global clean energy transitions, in which opportunities offered by digital transformation also play a major role going forward. Our efforts yielded positive results and there was broad support among member countries to move ahead in these areas," says Mr Baylan.

The results of the Ministerial Meeting mainly contribute to:

- broadened, strengthened and more well-financed cooperation with emerging economies, with a focus on sustainable energy systems;
- increased cooperation between the public and business sectors, in both investments and digital transformation; and
- greater gender equality in the energy sector through strengthening women's leadership and participation in the clean energy transition.

At the meeting, Mexico was welcomed as the next and 30th member of the IEA.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Sweden shows leadership for greater gender equality in the energy sector

Published 09 November 2017

On 7 November, Sweden and the International Energy Agency (IEA) hosted the Women in Clean Energy side event in Paris to attract attention and generate engagement in the importance of promoting women's participation and leadership in energy transition. Representatives of governments, international organisations and the business world took part.

Promoting women's participation and leadership in the development of the energy sector has been a priority for the Government and Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan during this electoral period. To demonstrate international leadership, the Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E) initiative was therefore launched by Sweden, Canada and Italy at the Clean Energy Ministerial 8 in China in June 2017.

"Women's participation and leadership is not just a question of fairness, it is a crucial strategic issue if we are to succeed with the energy transition," says Mr Baylan.

The event in Paris was a follow-up of the launch in China and presented an opportunity to bring together actors from countries, the business world and international organisations to generate further attention and interest in the importance of promoting women's participation and leadership in the energy sector.

The meeting opened with a presentation by Annika Viklund of Vattenfall and

Anita T. Perry from the United States. A number of sessions were also held during the morning in which participants could exchange thoughts and ideas on how actors can improve their cooperation and collaboration in the areas of data collection, analysis, career development and awards.

The interest in participating in C3E among other countries and organisations is growing. A number of countries have shown an interest in joining the initiative and will join soon, including Australia, Austria, Chile, Finland and the United States.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Innovation partnership programmes impact Swedish innovative environments

Published 04 September 2017

The collaborations, initiatives and projects that have resulted so far from the five innovation partnership programmes were presented when the National Innovation Council met on Monday 28 August. Together, the project managers and the Council looked to the future and discussed critical success factors, goals and opportunities for developing these partnerships. The experiences of partnership working, where the business sector, academia and organisations work together strategically, were highlighted and discussed by the Council.

The innovation partnership programmes originated from the three social challenges that the National Innovation Council highlighted at the beginning of the electoral period: digitalisation, life sciences, and environmental and climate technologies. The Council has followed the work over the year and provided input, stressing for example the importance of joining forces to increase skills supply.

The innovation partnership programmes were launched on 1 June 2016. The partnership groups associated with the programmes focused on identifying challenges and opportunities for each programme and priority setting of important areas for joint action. Several working groups have been established and a number of concrete partnership projects have been

developed.

Within the framework of a partnership project, available public resources and co-financing from the business sector can be used jointly to meet specified priorities. Even so, the Government has provided additional funds for measures related to the innovation partnership programmes, including through the Research and Innovation Bill adopted by the Riksdag in early 2017. These funds are primarily channelled through programmes and calls for projects from the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Research Council Formas.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Strengthened cooperation during meeting of energy ministers in China

Published 21 June 2017

The visit of Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy, Ibrahim Baylan, to Beijing in June contributed to strengthened relations with several of the world's largest economies and provided opportunities to promote Swedish know-how and companies. An action plan for Sweden's continued bilateral energy cooperation with China was also agreed.

Two thirds of global emissions of greenhouse gases come from the energy sector. The global transition to sustainable energy is crucial for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. To hasten progress, energy ministers from the world's largest economies were hosted by the Chinese government in Beijing on 6–8 June 2017 within the framework of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) global forum and the Mission Innovation (MI) global initiative.

Mr Baylan represented Sweden and participated in ministerial discussions and activities during the week, as well as bilateral meetings with United States Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry, China's Minister of Science and Technology, Wan Gang, and President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Jin Liqun.

"Cooperation is the only way forward in order to manage the climate change challenge and transition to sustainable energy. Discussions during the week in Beijing confirmed that Sweden has common interests with several other countries and that there are good opportunities to develop our bilateral cooperation on the journey towards a sustainable energy system," says Mr

Baylan.

Mr Baylan also launched the C3E initiative, which is to highlight and strengthen women's leadership and participation in the energy transition. Together with European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, Mr Baylan also announced that next year's ministerial meetings will take place in Malmö and Copenhagen on 23–24 May, co-hosted by the EU, the Nordic countries and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Swedish-Chinese energy cooperation gathers pace

During the week, Mr Baylan and China's Director of the National Energy Administration, Nur Bekri, followed up the memorandum of understanding on Swedish-Chinese cooperation in the energy area, which was signed by the countries in March 2017, by signing an action plan for the coming years. According to the action plan, cooperation will particularly focus on the implementation of initiatives, activities and dialogue together with government agencies, researchers and industry in the following areas:

- The promotion and development of renewable energy technologies within the areas of wind power, solar energy and storage technologies.
- Energy efficiency and environmentally friendly technologies for sustainable urban development.
- The development of technologies for smart electricity grids and efficient electricity transmission.

Together with the Swedish Ambassador to China, Anna Lindstedt, and several Swedish companies, Mr Baylan also inaugurated the Swedish Energy Agency's Cleantech Hubs programme in China.

"I believe that the Swedish Energy Agency's Cleantech Hubs will create great opportunities for Swedish companies to expand in various markets. Increased business relations between Swedish and Chinese companies within cleantech help to contribute to our common objectives," says Mr Baylan.

The Cleantech Hubs programme will promote and spread world-leading Swedish renewable energy and energy efficiency innovations on the global market in the long-term.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Ibrahim Baylan prepares for international energy meeting to be chaired by Sweden

Published 12 June 2017

On 2 June, Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan met the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Fatih Birol, in Stockholm. The meeting was part of the preparations ahead of the IEA Ministerial Meeting in November 2017, which Mr Baylan will chair.

The meeting with Mr Birol in Stockholm was part of the preparations ahead of Mr Baylan chairing the IEA Ministerial Meeting in Paris on 7–8 November 2017. During the meeting, Mr Baylan received a status report on the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting, and the meeting's agenda and structure were also discussed.

"The IEA's work plays a very important role in energy transition and is important for global climate efforts. The organisation has its basis in world-leading statistics, analysis and policy materials, which facilitates dialogue in the energy area with many of the world's important energy nations. The fact that Sweden is chairing the Ministerial Meeting means that it will have a key role in moving the IEA's agenda and the global energy agenda forward," says Mr Baylan.

Focus of the Ministerial Meeting will be on security of supply under new market conditions, work on the energy transition through renewable energy, and energy efficiency and new energy technologies. The ministers will also discuss enhanced global cooperation, particularly with emerging economies in relation to global climate efforts. Part of the meeting will be devoted

specifically to discussions and strategies with the business sector.

The Ministerial Meeting will gather energy ministers from the IEA's 29 member countries and 10 partner countries, and some 30 business sector representatives from the Energy Business Council.

"I look forward to the IEA Ministerial Meeting this autumn. Renewable and efficient energy use is the key to solving the challenge of climate change. And just as in the work to curb global warming, the countries of the world must act together to deal with the energy transition," says Mr Baylan.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Ibrahim Baylan calls attention to the Swedish Lighting Challenge

Published 22 May 2017

The Swedish Lighting Challenge is celebrating its first anniversary, and to mark the occasion Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan visited Gröna Lund, one of the most recent actors to join the initiative. A lot has happened since the initiative was launched a year ago, and actors from both the public and private sectors are now involved.

In May 2016, Mr Baylan launched the Swedish Lighting Challenge in Sweden. A platform has since been put in place enabling public and private actors to work together to ensure that Sweden is a driving force in developing and disseminating the lighting solutions of the future.

"Exciting technological advances are taking place in the field of lighting. I hope that through the Swedish Lighting Challenge, Sweden finds a framework for cooperation between the public and private sector. The initiative is also an example of how the energy transition can be used to create growth and jobs," says Mr Baylan.

In 2017 Gröna Lund joined the Swedish Lighting Challenge as part of its sustainability efforts. The amusement park has the goal of replacing all 17 000 of its light points with LED lighting.

Experience from the first year of the Swedish Lighting Challenge has shown that there are a number of different reasons to invest in efficient lighting, including reduced expenditure and the fact that the rapid advance of lighting technology has enabled new lighting design possibilities. Increasing demand for better lighting has also created new possibilities for lighting schools and

hospitals, which may have good social spillover effects.

The Swedish Energy Agency has carried out a number of activities during the year as part of its Government assignment to implement the Swedish Lighting Challenge. The Agency is conducting close dialogues with municipal energy and climate change advisers in order to reach out to Swedish consumers and communicate the advantages of the new technologies. It is also working closely with the National Agency for Public Procurement to support public and private actors in their procurement of efficient and high-quality lighting.



Article from Ministry of the Environment

Summary of the Government's budget initiatives in the areas of environment, climate and energy

Published 29 September 2016 Updated 29 September 2016

In the Budget Bill for 2017, the Government is strengthening efforts towards a toxin-free everyday environment, a fossil-free welfare society and renewable energy. Sweden will be a pioneer on climate issues, and we will step up the pace to achieve the environmental objectives. This requires increased knowledge, new technological solutions and clear targets along the way.

Historic environment and climate budget

Since the Government took office in 2014, the appropriation to expenditure area 20, General environmental protection and nature conservation, has increased by 73 per cent, excluding environmental research. The Budget Bill for 2017 is the largest environment and climate budget ever presented in Sweden.

The Government's investments for the climate total SEK 12.9 billion for the period 2017–2020. The Climate Leap will be reinforced and extended through an investment of SEK 1.6 billion to continue to support regional and local initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In total, the Climate Leap encompasses more than SEK 3.5 billion for the period 2015–2020.

The urban environment agreements will be reinforced with an additional SEK 750 million for 2017–2018, and will encompass a total of SEK 2.75 billion by 2018. As of next year, it will also be possible to apply for

investment support for cycling infrastructure.

As part of efforts to reduce the total amount of carbon dioxide in the EU Emissions Trading System, the Government proposes a scheme to purchase and cancel emissions allowances, at a cost of approximately SEK 300 million per year from 2018 to 2040.

Knowledge-enhancing and preventive initiatives to adapt society to climate change continue. The appropriation for climate adaptation will be reinforced by SEK 10 million per year in 2017 and 2018, SEK 70 million in 2019 and SEK 120 million in 2020.

Research to meet social challenges

Strong environmental research is crucial to tackling climate and environmental challenges. It is proposed in the budget that the resources for climate and environmental research be reinforced to the tune of SEK 752.5 million in 2017–2020. The climate research appropriations to the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning will almost double by 2018. The research initiatives will be described in greater detail in the research policy bill that the Government intends to present before the end of 2016.

A special energy research bill will also be presented before the end of the year. It contains guidelines and initiatives for prioritised and more intensely focused measures in the energy area. In the Budget Bill, the Government proposes that the resources for energy research be reinforced by a total of SEK 620 million in 2017–2020.

Fossil-free travel and transport for the climate and environment

In the area of transport, the super green car rebate will be extended by one year to 2017. The autumn amending budget boosts the rebate by SEK 180 million in 2016, and the Government is investing SEK 700 million for 2017. The scheme is being extended pending a 'bonus-malus' system whereby the purchase of more environmentally friendly vehicles is rewarded via a bonus, while vehicles that emit high levels of carbon dioxide are subject to higher vehicle tax.

The Government also wants to make it easier for consumers to make

informed and environmentally friendly fuel choices, and will therefore look into the possibility of making it obligatory to provide information on the environmental impact of fuels.

The Government continues efforts for a toxin-free everyday environment

The Budget Bill for 2017 outlines a range of initiatives in the area of chemicals to achieve the environmental objective on a toxin-free everyday environment, with a particular focus on children and young people. The Government's proposed initiatives total SEK 375 million up to 2020. The Swedish Chemicals Agency is tasked with charting hazardous substances in people's everyday environments. Funds will also be allocated to establishing a centre to help businesses substitute hazardous substances in products and goods.

More protected marine areas

The Government has previously undertaken major initiatives to protect valuable natural environments, including marine areas. To meet the interim objective of protecting ten per cent of Sweden's marine areas by 2020, the Government believes that the pace of these efforts needs to accelerate. The appropriation for measures in marine and aquatic environments in 2017 is therefore reinforced in the budget by SEK 15 million.

In the autumn amending budget, the Government also restores SEK 250 million to protecting valuable natural environments. This means that initiatives for valuable forests, for example, can be implemented according to the original timetable.

Hydro-electric power with modern environmental requirements

Hydro-electric power plays a key role in Sweden's electricity supply. The physical impacts of hydro-electric plants on watercourses have serious consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity. The Government is therefore investing SEK 25 million in water-related operations in 2017, and increasing the investment to SEK 30 million annually from 2018.

100 per cent renewable energy by 2040

The Government's ambition is for Sweden to become one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations. Solar panels are a renewable energy technology that is beneficial from a climate perspective. The Government will therefore continue to encourage the expansion of solar power. The funds allocated to investment support for solar power in 2017 are eight times higher than in 2015.

The expansion of renewable energy places demands on the electricity grid and on the government agencies responsible for this area. The Government intends to increase the appropriation to the Swedish Energy Markets Inspectorate by SEK 10 million annually to cover the Inspectorate's work on network concessions, for example.

The Budget Bill for 2017 is based on an agreement between the government parties and the Left Party.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Agreement on Swedish energy policy

Published 16 June 2016 Updated 16 June 2016

The Government, the Moderate Party, the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats have concluded an agreement on Sweden's long-term energy policy. The agreement consists of a common road map for a controlled transition to an entirely renewable electricity system, with a target of 100 per cent renewable electricity production by 2040.

The Government and the parties agree that Sweden must have a robust electricity system with high security of supply and low environmental impact, and offer electricity at competitive prices. This creates a long-term perspective and clarity for actors in the market and helps generate new jobs and investment in Sweden.



Article from Ministry of the Environment

Investments in climate change adaptation and energy

Published 28 September 2015 Updated 28 September 2015

The Government wants to take a climate leap that accelerates the transition to a more sustainable society. By taking responsibility for our climate impact in Sweden, we will show the countries of the world the way forward. Sweden must take the lead and become one of the world's first fossil-free welfare countries.

The Budget Bill for 2016 contains the Government's investments for the climate in four areas:

More renewable energy

In the long term, Sweden is to have one hundred per cent renewable energy. The Government proposes a considerable increase in solar investment support to speed up the expansion of solar cell plants. Significant interest in solar cells means that previous solar cell support is not sufficient and there is currently a waiting list. The Government therefore wants to increase support to SEK 390 million per year during 2017–2019. It is allocating SEK 225 million to this in 2016, and a total of SEK 1.4 billion by 2019.

The Government also proposes investing in electricity storage and the possibility of storing self-produced electricity. This investment would total SEK 25 million in 2016 and SEK 50 million per year during 2017–2019. The Government also wants to establish a national forum for smart electricity grids for SEK 10 million per year during 2016–2019.

The Government has previously announced investments totalling SEK 1 billion per year to renovate and improve energy-efficiency in multi-dwelling

blocks in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.

International operations

The climate change challenge is global and requires a joint solution. The Government proposes an additional SEK 500 million in 2016 for climate financing in developing countries. Strengthening international climate work is particularly important now as it sends clear signals to the world ahead of the COP21 climate summit in Paris. The Government also proposes that the clean development mechanism projects the previous Government entered into agreements on should receive SEK 50 million per year over the next four years. Within the framework of the regular aid budget, Swedfund will be given a capital injection of SEK 400 million to enable more climate and environment investments in developing countries.

Fossil-free travel

A fossil-free vehicle fleet is a priority for the Government. The conditions for environmentally sound cars are being developed through the extension of the fringe benefit tax subsidy. New support is being introduced for electric buses and the super green car rebate is being reinforced. The effect of environmental taxes will increase. New public transport will be created and the Government is investing in the upgrade of the existing railways. Within the framework of a cycling strategy, SEK 100 million is being set aside for measures to promote cycling during 2016–2017.

Involving all of Sweden

Taking responsibility at home is a way of showing global leadership. Investments in environmental technology will increase by SEK 62 million to enable environment and climate technology companies to grow. The previously announced support for local and regional climate investments – the ‘Climate leap’ investment support – will make it possible for municipalities and regions to reduce their climate emissions. The Government is also investing in climate change adaptation. The money will enhance municipalities’ work on climate change adaptation and raise awareness among government agencies, municipalities, the business sector and individuals. A strategy for sustainable consumption is being developed, in which the Government is investing SEK 3 million per year over the next four years.

In total, the Government is investing SEK 4.5 billion in climate measure in the Budget Bill for 2016, including the investments announced in the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill for 2015. Of this, SEK 2.3 billion was also included in the jobs package presented previously. The new initiatives included investments in solar cells, international climate work, environmental technology and a cycling strategy.



Opinion piece from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The pandemic requires a new industrial strategy

Published 27 April 2021

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs and Ibrahim Baylan, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Dagens Industry, March 30 2021

Strong action is needed to jumpstart our economy after the pandemic and secure long-term competitiveness. The pending update of the EU's industrial strategy is therefore a good initiative. We want the strategy to contribute to the green and digital transition – strengthening the EU single market – a continued strong competition policy and openness to the rest of the world.

The ravages of the pandemic have impacted us all, and the human suffering is immense. The European economy has also been hard hit. Production has been wholly or partly shut down. Many have lost their jobs. Great effort must be put into restarting our economy. At the same time, the major challenges facing society must be managed. Together, we have the opportunity to build a resilient economy that is green, digital and competitive.

The European Commission has announced an update of the EU's industrial strategy. This is welcome news. We need a plan for how to make European industry sustainable and contribute to economic recovery.

The updated strategy must respond to the challenges facing the EU: climate change, digital structural change and increased competition from countries outside the EU. This requires a policy that builds on the EU's strengths and responds to new challenges without discarding tried and tested principles and effective policies. The cornerstones of the EU single market must be safeguarded. Competition, innovation and openness to the rest of the world –

not introversion and new trade barriers – are what makes the EU's enterprises strong.

A European industrial strategy must improve our ability to respond to future crises. The pandemic has made clear to us all that certain flows of goods are not reliable in crisis situations. Stockpiling medical supplies, for example, may be part of the solution, but it is impossible to know what the next crisis will be and what resources will be needed when the time comes. Large emergency supplies alone are therefore not enough.

The EU must also improve its resilience to shocks to the world economy by diversifying value chains both in the EU and globally. Access to a broader supplier base will limit the negative impact on our societies if some suppliers are cut off in times of crisis. This can be achieved through an ambitious trade agenda that prioritises free trade agreements, and a well-functioning single market that keeps pace with technological progress.

At the same time, we must continue to create favourable conditions for the production of goods and services in the EU. A strong industrial base is important for a viable, innovative and resilient economy in Sweden and in Europe. European companies and subcontractors – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises – must be attractive business partners able to be part of global production chains. We must also seek to ensure level playing field requiring foreign enterprises in the single market to follow the same rules as European enterprises.

The green and digital transition must be at the heart of the updated strategy. The EU's continued global leadership in the green transition will create competitive advantages for European enterprises as customers around the world demand more sustainable solutions. To support this development, we must reform the State aid rules to enable necessary and ambitious climate action and phase out aid that is harmful to the climate.

A prerequisite for the EU's success in leading the green transition is securing access to innovation-critical metals and minerals for use in climate technology innovation. These are raw materials such as lithium and cobalt that are often concentrated in only a few countries outside of Europe.

The digital transition is key to achieving the green transition. To hold its own in increasingly tough international competition, the EU must make the most of its data assets and invest in digital infrastructure such as broadband expansion and connected systems. The EU must also ensure that digital

technology is widely adopted by enterprises large and small. Research, innovation and policy development within strategic technological areas need to be prioritised.

The EU's industrial policy should first and foremost focus on improving framework conditions in Europe and ensuring that all enterprises can grow and adapt to a circular and sustainable economy. In special cases, when the market is unable to take the extra step towards the green or digital transition on its own, it may be necessary to inject targeted state aid for strategically identified industrial ecosystems.

The Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) are among several tools the EU uses to strengthen industry by overcoming market failures. These projects should contribute to the green and digital transition. Sweden participates in two projects thus far, one with the Swedish Electric Transport Laboratory, for transport electrification (SEEL), and the other with Northvolt, for development of battery cells and the expansion of an electrification campus for battery research in the city of Västerås.

Sweden needs to harness the opportunities provided by these collaborative projects. However, Sweden's basic view remains the same – it is within the business sector and research community that innovation should grow and flourish. Support from the public sector must be used restrictively. We must therefore ensure that collaborative projects at EU level funded by state aid are not overused at the risk of harming competition. It is not the role of politics to identify successes, and it is not trade barriers that strengthen enterprises, but rather competition, knowledge, innovation and access to the global market.

European success translates into Swedish success. We cannot tackle future challenges on our own – whether they involve crises or the shaping of our industries. For this reason, the Swedish government strongly supports European cooperation. And this is why we are working with renewed strength for a modern and forward-looking European industrial strategy.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Swedish Tax Agency to take over management of aid in the event of short-time work from 1 April 2022

Published 06 September 2021

The Government has instructed the Swedish Tax Agency and Tillväxtverket (the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth) to make preparations so that as of 1 April 2022, the Tax Agency can be the managing authority for Tillväxtverket's currently responsibilities under the Act on aid in the event of short-time work.

Tillväxtverket is – and has been – working intensively to pay short-time work support to companies that have been hit hard by the economic fallout resulting from the spread of COVID-19. The agency has had a very important task during the pandemic and over a short period of time has tripled its staff and paid support for some 600 000 employees.

The Tax Agency is currently the managing authority for the part of the support system that can be activated during a particularly deep recession. The Government's instructions today mean that the agencies are to make preparations for the Tax Authority to take over Tillväxtverket's responsibilities as managing authority of the permanent part of the support system introduced in April last year. This also includes processing of compensation for skills development costs for short-time work. However, Tillväxtverket will continue to manage cases initiated there prior to 1 April 2022.

One reason the Tax Agency will also be responsible for the permanent part of the support system is that as one of the State's ten largest government agencies, it is considered to have good potential to manage the number of

cases that aid in the event of short-time work is expected to generate. Another reason is that the Tax Agency already has established control and law enforcement activities.

Changing a managing authority requires the approval of the Riksdag in certain essential areas. The Government intends to propose legislative amendments at a later date.

When carrying out the instructions, the agencies must comply with Section 6b of the Employment Protection Act (1982:80) and consult with the Swedish Agency for Government Employers on labour law issues. A report on implementation of the instructions is to be presented by 1 May 2022.

In light of the coming move, the Government intends to increase the Tax Agency's appropriation by SEK 7.5 million in 2022 and SEK 10 million from 2023. At the same time, Tillväxtverket's appropriation will be decreased by a corresponding amount.

In addition, in the Budget Bill for 2022, the Government intends to propose that Tillväxtverket's appropriation for 2022 be increased by SEK 345 million. This is to ensure that the agency can finish processing cases that were primarily initiated in the later part of 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence

Sweden's new Government

Published 09 July 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Nordic ministerial meeting on vaccine production cooperation

Published 10 June 2021

At the Government's initiative, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan and Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg met with colleagues from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway on 9 June to discuss opportunities to strengthen and create synergies in Nordic vaccine production.

The global crisis caused by the pandemic has made it clear that international cooperation is needed to be able to quickly tackle future pandemics. Sweden has therefore invited Nordic ministers to a dialogue to find synergies and utilise the existing capacity of Sweden and its Nordic neighbours – which can be further developed jointly in the region.

“Through deeper Nordic cooperation, the Government sees great opportunities to improve pandemic preparedness and at the same time strengthen the Nordic region as a global leader in life sciences,” says Mr Baylan.

Last year, the Government instructed Vinnova to analyse Sweden's innovation and production capacity for vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals. Vinnova's recent report on the assignment highlighted the possibility of examining the conditions for deeper partnership with our Nordic neighbours.

“Nordic cooperation stretches far back in time and is a strength we should always build on. When we work together, we create solutions, increase our Nordic competitiveness and become a more attractive region,” says Ms

Hallberg.

At Wednesday's meeting, the Government raised Sweden's proposal for a joint pilot study in the form of Nordic government cooperation. The cooperation is proposed to show how the countries' available resources and planned investments can be coordinated and congregated into a pan-Nordic pool of resources that strengthens preparedness, capacity and expertise for the production of vaccines and biopharmaceuticals.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government extends 'Företagsakuten' for a further three months

Published 10 June 2021

The Government has decided to extend the government credit guarantee scheme, 'Företagsakuten', to support small- and medium-sized companies in financial difficulty due to the pandemic from 30 June to 30 September 2021.

'Företagsakuten' was launched in April 2020 as part of the Government's measures to support the business sector during the ongoing pandemic. It is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party. Most of the 'Företagsakuten' loans have so far been issued to companies in sectors hard hit by the pandemic, such as the restaurant, hotel and retail sectors.

By the end of April, these loans amounted to SEK 2.6 billion across 752 commitments. Most of the loans were paid out during the acute phase of the pandemic in spring 2020, when 'Företagsakuten' guaranteed a significant part of all lending to the country's small- and medium-sized companies. At present, the need for 'Företagsakuten' is limited but, before the liquidity support ends, the Government wants to be able to confirm a broad and clear economic pick-up. For this reason, 'Företagsakuten' has now been extended to also apply to the third quarter of 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Turnover-based support to sole traders and trading partnerships introduced for the period March–June 2021

Published 28 May 2021

The Government has today decided to extend turnover-based support to sole traders and trading partnerships with at least one physical person as a partner to cover the period March–June 2021. This support is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The turnover-based support targets sole traders and trading partnerships (including limited partnerships) affected by a major decline in turnover as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

To apply for support for the months March–June 2021, the business must have had a 30 per cent decline in turnover compared with the corresponding month in 2019. The support can then cover 90 per cent of the decline in turnover up to SEK 24 000 per month.

To qualify for support, the total net turnover in 2019 must be at least SEK 180 000 per sole trader or trading partnership shareholder.

As in earlier periods, recipients of unemployment benefits during the support period for which they are applying and those on parental leave or sick leave during the reference period will qualify to receive the extended turnover-based support if they meet the other conditions.

The new regulations enter into force on 1 July 2021. Applications for support must be submitted by 15 September 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government parties, Centre Party and Liberal Party agree on supporting SAS to access liquidity

Published 28 May 2021

The government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party have agreed on supporting SAS to access liquidity equivalent to SEK 1.5 billion. This support from the Swedish State is subject to the European Commission's approval of the measures and corresponding support from the Danish State.

Demand for air travel has remained at very low levels in comparison with forecasts in conjunction with the SAS recapitalisation process. SAS is important to meeting society's fundamental needs in terms of accessibility by air travel in Sweden, Denmark and Norway. As the largest owner of SAS, together with the Danish State, it is natural for the Swedish State to take responsibility in this crisis. It is crucial that SAS become a long-term profitable and sustainable company after this crisis. The government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party have agreed to support the company in accessing liquidity equivalent to SEK 1.5 billion in a credit framework.

The Government previously imposed strict climate and environmental requirements on SAS in conjunction with its recapitalisation. As a result, the company has set tougher climate objectives to contribute to meeting the Paris Agreement goals. As an owner, the Government expects SAS to implement its climate efforts in line with its communicated plan. The Government remains in close dialogue with the company regarding its climate work. Emissions from aviation must decrease.

A potential solution must be consistent with EU regulations on State aid.

Swedish State support is subject to corresponding support from the Danish State. The proposal is subject to approval from the Riksdag. The Government will announce the details in due course.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government loan to travel operators extended

Published 28 May 2021

The situation for the travel industry remains serious. Earlier in the pandemic, travellers sometimes accepted replacement holidays instead of a refund when package tours were cancelled due to the outbreak. Many of these replacement holidays are now also being cancelled. The Government is therefore working on a proposal that will give package tour operators the option of taking government loans to refund money to travellers. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Under current legislation, travellers are entitled to a refund within 14 days if a package tour is cancelled by the operator. Travellers can also cancel a package tour free of charge and are entitled to a refund if it is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. To enable operators to refund travellers, the Government introduced an option for government loans earlier this year.

The proposal that the Government is currently drafting will give travel operators the option of taking government loans to refund travellers for the cancellation of replacement trips for holidays that were due to begin during the period 1 March 2020–31 January 2021.

The preliminary application period is planned to run until the end of the summer and the holiday must have been cancelled before the start of the

application period. The Government will present the proposal after clarifying the details.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Commercial rental support may be extended to third quarter

Published 19 May 2021

In the spring amending budget, the Government announced that the central government rental support scheme would be extended through the second quarter of 2021. Following an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, the Government now intends to examine the conditions for extending the scheme through the third quarter of 2021.

On 3 May, applications opened for rental support for the period January–March this year. The Government had previously announced that the scheme would be extended through the second quarter. The government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party now have a joint ambition to extend it through the third quarter.

Under the terms of the rental support schemes for the first and second quarters, landlords who reduce fixed rents for tenants in vulnerable sectors are eligible to apply for support to compensate for part of the rent rebate. The central government support covers 50 per cent of the reduction in fixed rent.

In accordance with the regulatory framework for State aid, the European Commission must approve the rental support scheme before it is implemented. Under today's decision, the Government will examine the conditions for extending the scheme through the third quarter.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Proposed extension of turnover-based support to cover July–September 2021

Published 19 May 2021

To help businesses overcome the consequences of the pandemic, the Government will propose extending the turnover-based support for sole traders and trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person to cover July, August and September 2021. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The purpose of turnover-based support for sole traders and trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person is to alleviate the economic impact of the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 so that more businesses will make it through the crisis and the economy can rebound as soon as transmission rates drop.

We are currently in a third wave of transmission, while the situation in the labour market and for companies is serious. The Government will therefore propose that the turnover-based support be extended to the end of September so as to further increase the ability of sole traders and trading partners to overcome the consequences of the pandemic.

The Government will present new ordinances to regulate the additional period in due course.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government adopts decision on rent rebates for January–March

Published 09 April 2021

On 8 april the Government adopted an ordinance on rent rebates for certain vulnerable sectors for the period 1 January–31 March 2021. The adopted ordinance means that the rebate scheme enters into force and can be applied for as of 3 May. The decision follows directly from the approval of the rebate scheme by the European Commission last week and is based on an agreement between the governing parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

As a result of increased community transmission and the negative economic impact on many businesses, the Government today adopted an ordinance on State aid for rental costs for the first quarter of 2021. As previously, the rebate is intended for certain businesses in the hotel and restaurant sector, the retail sector and certain other activities affected financially due to the spread of COVID-19.

The rent rebate is a temporary compensation to landlords who enter into agreements with their tenants on a rebate for fixed rental costs for the first quarter of 2021. The agreement must be in writing and entered into by 31 May. The compensation covers 50 per cent of the agreed rebate and otherwise follows the design of the support period April–June 2020.

The ordinance adopted today on rent rebates for the period 1 January–31 March enters into force and can be applied for as of 3 May. Applications must be submitted by 30 June. As in the previous support period, the aid will be processed by the county administrative boards.

Earlier this week, the Government also announced an extension of the rent rebate so that it will also apply for the second quarter of 2021. The Government intends to provide more information about the announced extension in the near future. It is expected that the extended period will follow the design of the rent rebate for the period January–March.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Extension of reintroduced rent rebate

Published 08 April 2021

In January this year, the Government announced that the State aid to businesses that rent properties would be reintroduced for the first quarter of 2021. As a result of the increased community transmission and the negative economic impact on many businesses, the Government now also proposes that this rent rebate be extended for the period 1 April–30 June 2021. The Government's proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

On 10 March, the Government notified the European Commission of the rent rebate for the period January–March. On Wednesday, the Commission announced its approval and the Government therefore intends to adopt the legal framework in the near future. The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party have also agreed to extend the rent rebate for the period 1 April–30 June 2021. However, the decision on this extension will have to be taken at a later date, following further approval by the European Commission.

A landlord who, during the period April–June, chooses to provide a rebate for rental costs for tenants in vulnerable sectors will be eligible to apply for aid to compensate part of the rent rebate for the property. Under the proposal, the State compensation may be provided for 50 per cent of the rent rebate, which is the same level as for the period January–March.

The rent rebate is a way to help particularly vulnerable businesses through

the crisis and is primarily intended for activities that have close contact with consumers. It also covers customer-facing services.

The aim is for it to be possible to apply for aid for the period April–June as of the end of June. However, there is nothing to prevent a landlord from granting the rebate before the State aid is paid.

As in the previous support period, the aid will be processed by the county administrative boards.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Turnover-based support extended to cover May and June

Published 25 March 2021

To save jobs and businesses, it has been proposed that turnover-based support for sole traders and trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person be extended to cover May and June 2021. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The purpose of turnover-based support for sole traders and trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person is to alleviate the economic impact of the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 so that more businesses will make it through the crisis and the economy can get going again as soon as the vaccine begins to have an effect in society.

This extended turnover-based support means that it now covers periods between March 2020 and June 2021, a total of 16 months. May and June 2021 will constitute two separate support periods. Businesses are eligible for this support if they have lost more than 30 per cent of their turnover compared with the corresponding month in 2019. On average, the maximum amount of support per sole trader and natural person who is a partner in a trading partnership is SEK 24 000 per month.

Applications can now be made for turnover-based support for sole traders for the period August 2020–February 2021. As of 29 March, applications can be made for turnover-based support for trading partnerships with at least one natural person as a partner for the period March 2020–February 2021. The Government is working to ensure that applications can soon be made for the March–June 2021 periods.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Turnover-based support to be introduced for trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person

Published 18 March 2021

The Government today decided to introduce turnover-based support for trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person. This support covers the period March 2020–February 2021 and can be applied for as of 29 March. Turnover-based support for trading partnerships is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Turnover-based support for trading partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person will cover the period March 2020–February 2021 and is divided into several support periods. Applications may be submitted as of 29 March 2021 when the rules enter into force.

The support is intended for trading partnerships (including limited partnerships) in which at least one partner is a natural person and which have been affected by a major decline in turnover as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

For the support periods March–April 2020, November–December 2020 and January–February 2021, the trading partnership must have lost at least 30 per cent of its turnover compared with the reference period comprised of the corresponding period in 2019. For the support periods May 2020 and

August–October 2020, the corresponding level is 40 per cent, and for June–July 2020, the level is 50 per cent.

For support to be granted for March–October 2020, the net turnover in 2019 must have been at least SEK 200 000. From November 2020, the turnover requirement is reduced to SEK 180 000. The requirement concerning the lowest net turnover is calculated per partner in the trading partnership.

For March–October 2020, support amounting to 75 per cent of the decline in turnover may be provided. From November 2020, support amounting to 90 per cent of the decline in turnover may be provided.

On average, the maximum amount of support per natural person who is a partner is SEK 24 000 per month. For March–July 2020, support amounting to a maximum of SEK 120 000 may be provided, for the period August–October 2020 the maximum is SEK 72 000 and for November–December 2020 and January–February 2021, the maximum is SEK 48 000 per period.

County administrative boards process and take decisions on turnover-based support. Applications for support are to be made via the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning website.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Rental support notified to European Commission for approval

Published 10 March 2021

To mitigate the economic impact of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the Government has proposed that the State aid in support of certain commercial tenants receiving a rent rebate – introduced in spring 2020 – be reintroduced for a three-month period, January–March 2021. Today, the Government notified the support to the European Commission for approval. The Government intends to adopt the legal framework as soon as the support is approved by the Commission.

Due to the increased transmission of the COVID-19 virus in society and its negative impact on many businesses, the Government proposed in January that State aid for commercial rent costs be reintroduced for the period January–March 2021. The Government today notified the European Commission of the support measures, which are based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

As in the previous support period, the support will target businesses in particularly vulnerable sectors such as retail and hospitality, as well as parts of the consumer goods sector and service sectors that depend on physical proximity to customers. [The complete list of sectors proposed to be included in the support will be published on this page.]

Landlords who reduce fixed rents for tenants during the period 1 January to

31 March 2021 will be eligible to be compensated for 50 per cent of the reduced fixed rent. The tenancy must predate the beginning of this year, and a written agreement between landlord and tenant on a rental rebate must have been signed no later than 30 April 2021. Between 15 April and 30 June, landlords can apply for the support, which will be managed by the county administrative boards. In all other respects, the rental support will be modelled on the previous system.

Once the European Commission has approved the support, the Government intends to adopt the regulatory framework as soon as possible and will provide more information at that time.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Extended turnover-based support for sole traders will also include sole traders who have received unemployment benefit and sole traders who have taken parental or sick leave

Published 24 February 2021

The Government previously announced that turnover-based support for sole traders would be extended until the end of April 2021. Today, the Government can announce that in connection with the extension of the turnover-based support for sole traders, a possibility will be introduced for sole traders who have received unemployment benefit during the support period in their application and sole traders who have taken parental leave or sick leave during the reference period to also access the extended turnover-based support.

As the Government previously announced, turnover-based support for sole traders – which currently applies for the period March to July 2020 – is to be extended until the end of April 2021. For the support period August to October 2020, sole traders must have lost at least 40 per cent of their turnover compared with the corresponding reference period in 2019. For support periods from November–December 2020 and later, the corresponding level is 30 per cent.

On extension of the turnover-based support, the 2019 turnover requirement will remain SEK 200 000 for the August to October support period. As of the November–December 2020, the turnover requirement will be reduced to SEK 180 000, so that more sole traders will be able to access the support.

To enable sole traders who have received or will receive unemployment benefit for the extended support periods to access the turnover-based support, it will now be possible to combine the turnover-based support with unemployment benefit. Unemployment benefit will be taken into account when calculating the size of the turnover-based support.

In addition, the Government intends to introduce provisions that enable applicants who have taken parental leave or sick leave during the reference period, i.e. 2019, to apply for and receive turnover-based support. The precise formulation of the provisions will be seen in the ordinances that regulate the extended turnover-based support, which the Government intends to adopt as soon as possible after the Riksdag has made the necessary decisions.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government loan to package tour operators for refunds to travellers

Published 04 February 2021

The situation facing the package tour industry is serious. The pandemic has created a situation in which many travellers have not received refunds for trips that have been cancelled by either party or cut short. The Government has therefore adopted an ordinance on a government loan to package tour operators to enable them to repay their outstanding debts to travellers.

Under current legislation, travellers are entitled to a refund within 14 days if a package tour is cancelled by the operator. Travellers can also cancel a package tour free of charge and are entitled to a refund if it is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

The pandemic has meant that under the Package Tours Act (2018:1217), in a short space of time operators need to refund large sums of money to travellers for cancelled or shortened trips, regardless of whether they have received corresponding funds from their subcontractors, for example hotels and airlines. To enable operators to pay their outstanding debts, they will be temporarily offered the possibility to receive a government loan. The low-interest loan will mature in 3 or 6 years.

The loan may be used for refunds for tours booked prior to 31 October 2020 that would have commenced during the period 1 March 2020 to 31 January 2021, or that commenced and were cut short during that period.

Loan applications can be made from 10 February onwards. The Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency is the government agency administering the loans, and applications must have been received no later

than 1 March to enable loans to be paid out as soon as possible.

The offer of government loans to package tour operators is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government proposes new period of State aid when certain commercial tenants receive a rent rebate

Published 21 January 2021

To mitigate the economic impacts of the increasing spread of the virus, the Government proposes that the State aid measure in support of certain commercial tenants receiving a rent rebate – introduced in spring 2020 – be reintroduced for January–March 2021, i.e. for a further three months. This measure is temporary and designed for companies in certain vulnerable customer-facing sectors that have been hit hard financially by the pandemic. The proposal for reintroducing this State aid measure is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Due to the increasing spread of the virus in the community and the adverse financial impacts on many businesses, the Government proposes the reintroduction of State aid for commercial rental costs. It is proposed that, as in April–June 2020, the measure be directed at retail businesses, the hotel and restaurant industry, and certain other customer-facing industries and services based on physical proximity to customers.

The complete list of proposed industries to be covered by the reintroduction of the State aid measure is published below.

The measure is designed so that landlords who reduce the fixed rent for their tenants for 1 January–31 March 2021 will receive compensation for 50 per cent of the rent reduction. In other respects, the rent rebate scheme will be the same as the previous one.

The Government is working to ensure that this measure will be in place as soon as possible; however, as this is a matter of State aid, the measure must first be approved by the European Commission.

The Government will be making more information available about the design of the rent rebate scheme and upcoming application processes.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Enhanced turnover-based support for sole traders and turnover-based support for trading partnerships

Published 13 January 2021

As the Government previously announced, turnover-based support for sole traders – which currently applies for the period March to July 2020 – will be extended to include the period August 2020 to February 2021. The Government also previously announced the introduction of a specific turnover-based support targeting trading partnerships, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person. This support will cover the same period, that is March 2020 to February 2021. Today, the Government can announce that the level of support for November 2020–February 2021 will be raised from 75 to 90 per cent. The Government's proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

To help sole traders bridge the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a specific turnover-based support for sole traders was introduced in November 2020. Under the current regulations, this turnover-based support for sole traders covers March–July 2020.

Turnover-based support for sole traders for March–July 2020

This support targets sole traders affected by a major drop in turnover as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The support covers three different support periods. For the March to April 2020 support period, sole traders must have lost at least 30 per cent of their turnover compared with the corresponding reference period in 2019. The corresponding level is 40 per cent for the May support period and 50 per cent for the June to July support period.

Turnover-based support is conditional on the sole trader conducting their business operations in Sweden, being approved for F-tax, and having a net turnover in 2019 of at least SEK 200 000. Support may amount to 75 per cent of the actual turnover loss. For the period March to July, support may amount to a maximum of SEK 120 000 per business.

County administrative boards process and take decisions on the support. Applications for support are made via the website of the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, which also disburses the support. The application period for turnover-based support for March–July is open until 31 January 2021.

Turnover-based support for sole traders for August 2020–February 2021

The Government previously announced that turnover-based support for sole traders will be extended to include the period August 2020 to February 2021. For the August to October 2020 support period, sole traders must have lost at least 40 per cent of their turnover compared with the corresponding reference period in 2019. For the November to December support period, the corresponding level is 30 per cent. This level also applies for the January to February 2021 support period.

On extension of the turnover-based support, the turnover requirement for 2019 will continue to be SEK 200 000 for the August to October support period. As of November, the turnover requirement will be reduced to SEK 180 000, so that more sole traders will be able to access the support. For the August to October support period, the maximum support per business amounts to SEK 72 000. For the November to December 2020 support period, the maximum support per business may amount to SEK 48 000. This level also applies for the January to February 2021 support

period.

Turnover-based support targeting trading partnerships

The Government also previously announced the introduction of a specific turnover-based support targeting trading partnerships, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person. This design of this support will be similar to that of turnover-based support for sole traders.

Extension of the turnover-based support for sole traders and the new support for trading partnership, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person, requires preparation such as new ordinances regulating the conditions for extension and for the new support. This means that there will be new application rounds for the extended turnover-based support for sole traders and a new application for support for trading partnerships.

Processing the support

The county administrative boards will also process and take decisions on the extended turn-over based support for sole traders and the specific support for trading partnership, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person. Applications for support are made via the website of the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, which also disburses the support. When the new ordinances have entered into force, the agencies will provide information about how to apply.

New support level

The Government can now also announce that the support level will be raised as of the November–December 2020 support period. The support level will be 90 per cent of the turnover loss instead of 75 per cent. This is to respond to the tighter restrictions that were introduced in November 2020 to limit the spread of the virus and that can have a negative financial impact on small businesses. This applies to both the turnover-based support for sole traders and the specific turnover-based support for trading partnerships, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Turnover-based support for sole traders and turn-over based support for trading partnerships extended for the period January and February 2021

Published 22 December 2020

The Government has announced further restrictions to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In order to save jobs and businesses, turn-over based support for sole traders is being extended for the period January and February 2021. The announced support intended for trading partnerships – including limited partnerships – where at least one partner is a natural person is being extended in a corresponding manner. The Government's proposals are based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Turnover-based support for sole traders was introduced in November this year and covers the period March–July. It was previously announced that the support would be extended until the end of the year. Turnover-based support is direct support based on loss of turnover. The aim is to give companies the means to weather the acute crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turnover-based support is now being extended for the period January and February 2021. This support is intended for sole traders that lose at least 30 per cent of their turnover in January and February 2021, compared with the same period in 2019.

If the loss of turnover exceeds this level, the sole trader may receive compensation for 75 per cent of their loss of turnover, or a maximum of SEK 48 000 for the new support period. This support is available to sole traders whose turnover exceeded SEK 180 000 in 2019.

The Government has previously announced that turn-over based support for trading partnerships – including limited partnerships – where at least one partner is a natural person will be introduced. This support will also be extended in a corresponding manner as the turn-over based support for sole traders. The support to trading partnerships will be designed based on the regulations for turn-over based support for sole traders.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Considerable boost for Swedish research

Published 21 December 2020

The Government's Research and Innovation Bill outlines the direction of Sweden's research policy over the next four years. The resources will increase considerably already next year to tackle major societal challenges and safeguard freedom of research. The aim is for Sweden to be one of the world's foremost research and innovation countries and a prominent knowledge nation. The appropriation will increase by SEK 3.4 billion in 2021. The estimated investments in 2022, 2023 and 2024 are around SEK 3.2 billion, SEK 3.3 billion and SEK 3.75 billion respectively. Research and innovation are needed to restart the economy and build skills, competitiveness and welfare.

Freedom of research reinforced and safeguarded throughout the country

The Government is presenting initiatives to safeguard freedom of research. This includes funds to universities and higher education institutions for research and third-cycle programmes. The aim is to enable institutions to prioritise strategically and take responsibility for high standards in their activities, including issues such as gender equality and secure employment conditions. Through reinforcements that will be scaled up to SEK 900 million in 2024, the Government wants to strengthen research at universities and

higher education institutions in parallel with a historical expansion of higher education throughout the country. Further investments in freedom of research will be made via additional funding to the Swedish Research Council. The Government also proposes that the Higher Education Act be amended to safeguard academic freedom.

Research and innovation will tackle major societal challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the importance of research and knowledge in tackling crises and societal challenges. Such challenges will be tackled by investing in high-quality strategic research and innovation initiatives. The Research and Innovation Bill focuses on five major societal challenges: climate and the environment, health and welfare, digital development, skills supply and working life, and a democratic and strong society. The research investment will give rise to new ten-year national research programmes (in the areas of oceans and water, viruses and pandemics, mental health, digital development, crime, and segregation) and reinforce existing programmes (in the areas of climate, sustainable community development, food, antimicrobial resistance, and working life). In addition, there will be a number of special research initiatives, many related to handling the consequences of the pandemic.

The investments will be made at graduate schools with a focus on higher education teachers in health care and teacher training programmes, where they will make an important contribution to enhancing the quality of these programmes. The national research programme on working life, which is receiving additional funding, includes issues related to the skills supply challenges in working life. The Government has announced that education programmes for regulated professions should be steered based on the number of graduates and with a view to the major need for trained teachers and nurses in the welfare system.

Amendments to the Higher Education Act

The Government proposes a range of amendments to the Higher Education Act (1992:1434) both to reinforce and clarify higher education's responsibility for collaboration, internationalisation and lifelong learning, and to promote and safeguard academic freedom. It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 July 2021.

Gender equality and secure conditions

The governance of higher education institutions will be developed so as to more clearly promote gender-equal higher education institutions with good working conditions. Among other things, the Government intends to prioritise institution-specific goals for the proportion of women among new professorial recruits. The Government also intends to issue an agency mandate to review the incidence of successions of fixed-term employment contracts.

Research infrastructure reinforced

Various types of research infrastructure, such as large research facilities, are needed to contribute new knowledge to tackle global challenges facing society. For internationally competitive research to be possible, Sweden's research infrastructure needs to be reinforced. The Swedish Research Council will receive a considerable increase in funding for research infrastructure. Vinnova (the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems) will receive increased funding for research infrastructure of particular value to the business sector. There will be a specific investment in the world-leading research facility SciLifeLab. The European Spallation Source (ESS) and MAX IV in Lund will also be allocated funding.

Investments in the innovation system

The innovation system will be strengthened through investments in strategic innovation programmes, research institutes, test and demonstration environments, lower thresholds for uptake and commercialisation, etc. These investments will contribute to tackling societal challenges, uptake of research findings and strengthening Sweden as a knowledge nation.

Mälardalen University

As part of the continued development of strategic research policy and to strengthen Sweden as a leading research and innovation country, the Government intends to establish a new university in Mälardalen. Mälardalens högskola will become Mälardalens universitet in 2022, and SEK 130 million will be allocated to give the institution possibilities to develop into a university. The Government will verify that the institution has consolidated its quality assurance work before the decision on university

status is taken.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Further extension of business emergency package ‘Företagsakuten’

Published 10 December 2020

The Government today proposed extending the government credit guarantee programme ‘Företagsakuten’ into 2021 so as to cover lending after 31 December. The programme is intended to facilitate lending to small and medium-sized companies affected by the pandemic. The Företagsakuten programme was launched in spring 2020 as part of the Government’s measures to support the business sector during the ongoing pandemic and builds on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Although the economic outlook has improved, uncertainty remains concerning economic development, not least for a number of vulnerable sectors such as the tourism and hospitality industry and transport. The Government has therefore chosen to extend Företagsakuten as part of its support to small and medium-sized companies in 2021. The programme means that government credit guarantees can be provided until 30 June 2021.

The credit programme is a way to help maintain the supply of credit to small and medium-sized companies while uncertainty regarding development of the economic situation remains. As of 27 November, 684 loans had been

issued with government credit guarantees amounting to a total of SEK 2.4 billion. Most of the loans were paid during the acute phase of the pandemic in spring 2020, when Företagsakuten guaranteed a significant part of all lending to the country's small and medium-sized companies.

It is proposed that the guarantee framework be halved in 2021 from SEK 100 billion to SEK 50 billion, which in light of the current economic uncertainty is considered to be an adequate level. Since central government bears 70 per cent of the risk, this means that loans from banks that can be guaranteed if the programme is used to the fullest extent could amount to SEK 71.4 billion.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government loans for refunds to travellers

Published 07 December 2020

The situation facing the package tour industry is serious. The pandemic has created a situation in which many travellers have not received refunds for cancelled trips. The Government is therefore now working on a proposal for government loans to package tour operators with the aim of enabling these operators to refund remaining debts to travellers. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Under current legislation, travellers are entitled to a refund within 14 days if a package tour is cancelled. Travellers can also cancel a package tour free of charge and are entitled to a refund if it is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

The pandemic has meant that package tour operators must refund large sums of money during a short period of time, regardless of whether they have received corresponding funds from their subcontractors or not, for example from hotels and airlines. Package tour operators still owe debts to travellers for trips that have not taken place. To make it possible for operators to refund money to travellers, the Government is therefore now proposing an option for government loans. The intention is for the loans to be available in the spring of next year.

It is proposed that the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency, which is responsible for the travel guarantee system for package tours, should be the administrative authority.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment

Swedish strategy for circular economy accelerates the transition to sustainability

Published 23 November 2020

The national strategy for a circular economy sets out the direction and ambition for a long-term and sustainable transition of Swedish society. The Government adopted the national strategy for a circular economy earlier this year. The strategy is now available in English. The strategy is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The transition to a circular economy is essential/crucial if Sweden is going to achieve the environmental and climate objectives, as well as several of the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda. Later this autumn the government will also adopt an action plan for circular economy, containing a long list of measures and instruments necessary to bring about the transition.

The core of the strategy is a vision: “A society in which resources are used efficiently in toxic-free circular flows, replacing new materials.” The strategy focuses on four areas: sustainable production and product design; sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services; toxic-free and circular material cycles; and the circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business models.

The strategy is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Turnover-based support to be introduced for sole traders

Published 06 November 2020

In light of the severe financial impact of COVID-19 on many sole traders, the Government today decided on turnover-based support for sole traders. The support enters into force on 9 November and builds on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Many sole traders have been hit hard financially by the ongoing pandemic, not least those in the arts and cultural sector and the tourism and hospitality industry. Some of these sole traders have not been able to benefit from the measures presented so far, such as support for short-term lay-offs and reorientation support. The Government has therefore decided to introduce turnover-based support for sole traders.

This support will be introduced through a new ordinance on turnover-based support. The new ordinance on support to sole traders is modelled on the provisions that apply to reorientation support.

Support may be provided for three support periods: March and April 2020, May 2020, and June and July 2020. The corresponding month or months in 2019 function as the reference period for each support period in 2020.

To qualify for support for March and April 2020, the sole trader's net turnover for this period must be less than 70 per cent of net turnover in the reference period. To qualify for support for May 2020, the sole trader's net turnover for this period must be less than 60 per cent of net turnover in the reference period. To qualify for support for June and July 2020, the sole trader's net turnover for this period must be less than 50 per cent of net

turnover in the reference period. The turnover reduction must be almost exclusively due to the spread of COVID-19.

Support may amount to 75 per cent of the actual loss of turnover. For March–July combined, a total maximum of SEK 120 000 may be provided per eligible recipient.

The ordinance enters into force on 9 November. Decisions on turnover-based support are made by the county administrative board and the support is disbursed by the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. The closing date for applications for turnover-based support is 31 January 2021.

Media and journalists can contact the press secretary. For all other inquiries contact the switchboard, 08-405 10 00, or forvaltningsavdelningen.registrator@regeringskansliet.se



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Government extends business emergency package, Företagsakuten

Published 09 October 2020

On September 24 the Government decided to extend until the end of the year the government credit guarantee programme aimed at supporting small and medium-sized enterprises that have experienced financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme was launched in the spring as part of the Government's measures to support the business sector during the ongoing pandemic and builds on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party. As a result of this decision, the option for businesses to take part in the credit guarantee programme applies to loans granted until 31 December 2020.

On 26 March, the Government instructed the Swedish National Debt Office to take preparatory measures and implement a government credit guarantee programme. Credit guarantees totalling a maximum of SEK 100 billion may be issued to credit institutes that operate in Sweden for loans primarily to small and medium-sized enterprises that have experienced financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that are otherwise considered viable. The programme is a way to enable a temporary extension of loan provision to businesses, which will help their liquidity. Central government sharing the credit risk with the banks can make it easier for

businesses to obtain loans.

The guarantees for loans taken within the programme are valid for up to three years. Central government bears 70 per cent of the risk of loans. Until 11 September, SEK 2.24 billion in credit had been guaranteed within the programme, spread across 615 loans.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Competitiveness and reboot for research, innovation and investments

Published 22 September 2020

Research and innovation are crucial to Sweden's competitiveness and to rebooting the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. In the autumn budget, the Government is therefore proposing increased funding to Vinnova, RISE and Business Sweden for measures that help reboot Sweden. The proposal is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The ongoing changes in society require continued investments in research and innovation in order to contribute to Swedish competitiveness in the long term. In the autumn budget, the Government is proposing a number of investments in research and innovation that develop Sweden as a prominent knowledge nation and make use of people's creativity. The purpose is to address society's challenges, increase adaptability and utilise research results.

Increased central government funding of research and innovation through Vinnova

As private investment in research and innovation temporarily declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, central government is increasing its funding to secure research, innovation and the supply of skills. It is therefore proposed that Vinnova receive an increase in its appropriation for 2021 of

SEK 545 million to mainly make systemic innovation investments. The proposal is part of the Research and Innovation Bill which will be presented during the autumn.

Reinforcement of needs-driven research through RISE

Industrial research institutes conduct needs-driven research and development in global collaboration with universities, the business sector and the public sector. The institutes play an important role in the utilisation and commercialisation of research and innovation. The focus is on developing sustainable solutions, which are the pillars of the business community's climate transition, competitiveness and growth. It is therefore proposed that RISE AB receive an increase of its appropriation for 2021 of SEK 95 million to implement initiatives that contribute to system solutions where many actors collaborate. The proposal is part of the Research and Innovation Bill which will be presented during the autumn.

Investment promotion measures through Business Sweden

Sweden is a small export-dependent country where there are many jobs with exporting companies. Foreign investment therefore plays an important role in the economic recovery. In order to strengthen investment promotion initiatives, funding of SEK 25 million is proposed for 2021, through Business Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Infrastructure

Green recovery will lift Sweden out of dual crisis

Published 16 September 2020

Global warming continues regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change will remain the defining issue of our generation. The Government is therefore proposing investments of SEK 9.7 billion in green recovery initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021. The Government's proposals are based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

All of Sweden has come together to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce the spread of infection. It is now crucial that a green transition forms the basis of the recovery after the crisis. Investments in industry's climate transition, sustainable transport and biodiversity will help us emerge from the crisis. Investments in climate neutral and non-toxic circular solutions throughout the country will reduce carbon dioxide emissions, lay the foundation for new jobs and strengthen our competitiveness.

Industry's transition will lead to new jobs

The Government proposes several major industrial initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021 that can reduce emissions, create new jobs and strengthen competitiveness. Public sector investments in green transition will help us create jobs throughout Sweden and lay the foundation for industry's transition.

By means of the green credit guarantees, the Government can promote

major industrial investments that contribute to achieving the goals of the environmental objectives system and the climate policy framework. The Green Industry Leap will be developed and broadened to allow more investments in facilities that reduce industrial emissions and contribute to the transition to a fossil-free and circular society. Through shorter processing times for the expansion of electricity networks and complete tax exemption for more actors who produce their own electricity, more stakeholders will be included in the transition.

Increased biodiversity and other initiatives for Sweden's natural environment

One million species are at risk of extinction. In Sweden, the number of species at risk of disappearing has increased by 11 per cent over the past five years. This crisis is impairing the conditions for human life on our planet and is reinforced by climate change.

The Government proposes an initiative targeting Sweden's natural environment. This initiative will help stop species extinction and includes measures to protect and manage valuable natural habitats and reinforce efforts for clean seas and water. It includes funds for sustainable fisheries and a ban on bottom trawling in protected areas. The possibility of limited exceptions may be provided in the management plan.

Part of the Government's initiative will also go to restoring wetlands. Emissions from drained peatlands that were previously wetlands account for 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents – which is more than from private cars in Sweden. Restoring wetlands prevents the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, so that nature does the climate work for us.

Sustainable transport reduces emissions

Domestic transport accounts for about one third of Sweden's greenhouse gas emissions, and the pace at which emissions are reduced must be considerably increased until 2030. The Government proposes initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021 so that it is easier for both private individuals and companies to reduce emissions.

The transition to a fossil-free vehicle fleet will be reinforced by means of changes to the bonus-malus system. The reduction obligation will be

tightened so that more renewable fuels are mixed in with petrol and diesel, and so that long-term conditions are created for the production of Swedish biofuels. A major investment is being made in railways in the form of greater maintenance. To continue pushing for the transfer of freight transport from roads to rail, the Government proposes extending and further developing the environmental compensation. Green Cargo is currently facing a challenging financial situation, which is further aggravated by the ongoing pandemic. Green Cargo will receive a capital injection so that necessary investments can be made and to ensure the company's long-term stability and profitability. This capital injection is given in light of the environmental compensation for rail freight transport simultaneously proposed to the Riksdag.

Energy efficiency in housing

The Government considers major investments are still needed both to achieve better energy performance and to address the renovation needs of the existing building stock. The Government will therefore provide SEK 900 million for 2021 to a new form of support for energy efficiency improvements and renovation of apartment buildings.

Initiatives for local green transition

The Government proposes initiatives to support local and regional efforts for a green transition. This includes municipal energy and climate advisory services, and measures to reduce the risk of landslides.

Improved climate projections and international climate action

The Government also proposes initiatives to support national and international environmental and climate action in the Budget Bill for 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Turnover-based support to sole traders

Published 10 September 2020

In light of the severe financial impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on many sole traders, the Government is now proposing SEK 3.5 billion to support these companies in 2020. The Budget Bill for 2021 proposes that an additional SEK 1.5 billion be set aside for 2021. It is proposed that the Government's proposals, which build on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, enter into force as soon as possible.

Many sole traders have been severely affected financially as a consequence of the ongoing pandemic, not least those in the cultural sector and the tourism and hospitality industry. Some of these companies have not been able to benefit from the measures presented so far, such as support for short-term lay-offs and reorientation support. The Government is therefore proposing support to sole traders.

The proposed support bears great similarity with the reorientation support, but it specifically targets sole traders who have suffered a large fall in turnover as a consequence of the ongoing pandemic. These companies can receive compensation for 75 per cent of their fall in turnover. One condition is that the sole trader must have had a turnover of at least SEK 200 000 during the previous year. Like the reorientation support, it is divided into three support periods: March to April 2020, May 2020, and June to July 2020. The corresponding month or months in the previous year constitute each support period's reference period.

For support to be granted, net turnover for:

- March to April 2020 must have been less than 70 per cent of net turnover for the reference period in 2019;
- May 2020 must have been less than 60 per cent of net turnover for the reference period in 2019; and
- June to July 2020 must have been less than 50 per cent of net turnover for the reference period in 2019.

A sole trader may receive support totalling SEK 120 000, distributed across the three support periods: March to April (SEK 48 000); May (SEK 24 000); and June to July SEK 48 000).

A memorandum containing a proposal on turnover-based support to sole traders will be circulated for comments shortly.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Recapitalisation of SAS AB

Published 16 July 2020

On 30 June, SAS presented a plan for the recapitalisation of the company and a plan to accelerate its climate action, including the halving of emissions by 2030. The Government has the Riksdag's mandate to participate in the recapitalisation on behalf of the Swedish State during 2020 to an amount not exceeding SEK 5 billion. The Government supports the plan that has now been put forward and the measures necessary for its realisation.

“SAS is important to meeting society's fundamental needs in terms of accessibility by air travel in Sweden, Denmark and Norway. As the largest owner of SAS, it is natural that the Swedish State takes responsibility in this crisis, but responsibility will also be required from other stakeholders. It is crucial that SAS becomes a long-term profitable and sustainable company after this crisis,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

“The Government has imposed strict climate and environmental requirements on SAS in conjunction with its recapitalisation. As a consequence of these, the company is now sharpening its climate targets and will now decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 25 per cent by 2025, five years earlier than previously planned. It is very positive that SAS considers that emissions can be reduced by 50 per cent by 2030. This target must be achieved and, as an owner, the Government will continue its dialogue with the company on these issues. Aviation emissions must decrease,” says Minister for Financial Markets and Housing Per Bolund.

The participation of the Swedish State is conditional on the company proceeding with the conversion of debt into equity that is proposed in the recapitalisation plan, and that the European Commission approves the measures.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment

Sweden transitioning to a circular economy

Published 09 July 2020

The Government has adopted a national strategy for a circular economy that sets out the direction and ambition for a long-term and sustainable transition of Swedish society. This is an important step towards Sweden becoming the world's first fossil-free welfare nation.

We need to accelerate the transition to a circular economy if we are to achieve the environmental and climate objectives, as well as several of the Global Goals in the 2030 Agenda. Using materials more efficiently increases their lifespan and value, and reduces both the extraction of new raw materials and landfill waste.

Over the last few months, the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the resulting economic crisis have had a major impact on society. The world after the COVID-19 pandemic will not be what it was before the crisis.

“It’s madness that valuable material is used just once and then thrown away. We’re going to change this now. The green recovery that society now needs will accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and circular economy. Approximately 50 per cent of our climate emissions and more than 90 per cent of the world’s water shortages and biodiversity losses are a result of inefficient resource management. A circular economy is smarter, much better for the environment and also allows us to create opportunities for many new jobs and sustainable business,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The core of the strategy is a vision: “A society in which resources are used efficiently in toxin-free circular flows, replacing new materials.” The national work for a circular economy will focus on sustainable production and product design; sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services; toxin-free and circular ecocycles; and the circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business models.

“As one of the world’s most innovative countries, Sweden has good prospects for managing this transition. This also gives us advantages in the global market and many Swedish companies can already see the opportunities in transitioning their activities. This will create more companies, new jobs and greater welfare, while reducing the environmental impact,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The transition to a circular economy must be conducted jointly by politicians, the business sector, the public sector, academia, private individuals and civil society. The Government’s role is to create the conditions for the good work that is already under way in regions and municipalities, the business sector, universities and other higher education institutions, and civil society. The Government will take a number of measures in this area during this electoral period. In addition to the strategy, action plans containing concrete measures will be adopted.

The strategy is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

About the strategy for a circular economy

A circular economy is a tool for reducing society’s resource use and the resulting environmental impact. The strategy sets out four focus areas in which measures are necessary.

Focus areas:

1. A circular economy through sustainable production and product design.
2. A circular economy through sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services.
3. A circular economy through toxin-free and circular ecocycles.
4. A circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business

models.

Each focus area contains a series of more concrete measures to aim for. These include:

- steering towards a situation in which products are designed to have a long lifespan;
- promoting greater use of toxin-free recycled materials in new products;
- strengthening the innovation and business climate so that more circular companies can grow;
- promoting the development of Sweden's bioeconomy so that bio-based, renewable and sustainably produced raw materials can replace fossil-based raw materials in products and production processes;
- improving consumer information to make it easier for individual consumers to make sustainable and circular choices in their everyday lives;
- making it simple and profitable for business operators and private individuals to share, repair and re-use products;
- contributing to resource efficiency, recycling and circular business models through public procurement;
- designing policy instruments that contribute to greater supply of and demand for circular products and services, and re-used and recycled materials;
- setting the requirement that both recycled and new materials are toxin-free; and
- promoting research, innovation and technological development in the areas of recycling, digitalisation and traceability.

Virgin materials must be replaced as far as possible by resources used efficiently in circular flows. Consideration must be given to the need for virgin materials to enable the climate transition and recycling. The strategy describes what materials will be prioritised in national action on the circular economy. All of these must be better used and taken care of than is the case today: plastic, textiles, renewable and biobased raw materials, foodstuffs, materials in the construction and property sector, and metals and minerals critical to innovation.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Authorisation to take part in the recapitalisation of SAS AB

Published 17 June 2020

The Government proposes that the Riksdag authorise the Government to take part on behalf of the State in a recapitalisation of SAS AB (SAS) with an amount totalling SEK 5 billion at most. SAS is important to meeting society's fundamental needs in terms of accessibility by air travel in Sweden, Denmark and Norway. This authorisation means that the Swedish State will be given a mandate to take the measures necessary to enable the State's participation in a recapitalisation of SAS. If the Swedish State is to take part in a recapitalisation, the Government will work to ensure that SAS sets new ambitious goals to reduce emissions. Participation of the Swedish State also requires approval by the European Commission.

The Government will today present a bill to the Riksdag to be able to take part in a future recapitalisation of SAS. The Government proposes that the Riksdag authorise the Government in 2020 to purchase, on behalf of the State, shares totalling a maximum of SEK 5 billion or to take other similar measures aimed at recapitalising SAS and, within this framework, increasing the State's share of votes and shareholding in SAS.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in a major reduction in air traffic. This is a clear consequence of the need to reduce the spread of the virus in society. As a result of this, the finances of the entire aviation

industry have been impacted negatively. But it can also be noted that air traffic at Swedish airports was already declining before the outbreak of the pandemic. SAS is important to meeting society's fundamental needs in terms of accessibility by air travel in Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The State must create the conditions for businesses to get through this crisis, even in the affected aviation industry. The purpose of the State's participation in the recapitalisation is to enable SAS to survive.

As the largest owner of SAS, it is natural that the Swedish State take responsibility in this crisis, but responsibility will also be required from other stakeholders. It is crucial that SAS become a long-term profitable and sustainable company after this crisis. For this reason, the company's plan needs to be based on contributions from both the company's lenders and other stakeholders, including shareholders, suppliers, employees and trade union organisations.

If the Swedish State is to take part in a recapitalisation, the Government will work to ensure that SAS sets new ambitious goals to reduce emissions from both domestic and foreign flights. The company needs to show a plan for how its strategic focus can gradually be developed in line with the 1.5 degree Celsius target in the Paris Agreement. The Government will also carefully monitor the company's climate work and regularly conduct in-depth climate analyses.

The State's participation requires approval by the European Commission.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government proposes a capital injection of SEK 3 150 million to Swedavia

Published 17 June 2020

The Government proposes a capital injection of SEK 3 150 million to Swedavia AB in the amending budget to be presented to the Riksdag today. This capital injection will enable the Government to guarantee a state aviation network with good accessibility throughout the country.

Air traffic at Swedavia's airports was already declining in 2019, but it has been reduced to a minimum as a result of the comprehensive travel restrictions introduced following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Swedavia's revenue has essentially completely disappeared and the measures taken to reduce costs can only partly meet the company's need for capital.

The Government considers that this capital injection is necessary to enable investments and maintenance. This is to guarantee for the long term a state aviation network with good interregional and international accessibility throughout the country that remains attractive and provides the flexibility required to deal with the uncertain situation in the aviation market following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The capital injection requires the approval of the European Commission.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government proposes a capital injection of SEK 150 million to Lernia

Published 17 June 2020

The Government proposes a capital injection of SEK 150 million to Lernia AB in the amending budget to be presented to the Riksdag today. This capital injection will give Lernia the conditions to strengthen its financial standing to be able to continue its activities in the area of adult education and staffing.

Lernia is currently facing a challenging financial situation, which is further aggravated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, in the long term the company is considered to have good prospects for continuing activities in its different areas and generating a commercial return for central government. The Government has therefore decided to seek the Riksdag's mandate to invest SEK 150 million in the company as a capital injection.

Like the rest of the education, training and staffing sector, Lernia will play an important role in the coming years in meeting the needs for skills supply, reorientation, recruitment and matching.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan: holiday safely this summer

Published 17 June 2020

As of Saturday 13 June, domestic travel is permitted for people with no symptoms. One important prerequisite is that the regions receiving visitors can meet their health care needs. The National Board of Health and Welfare has therefore been tasked with supporting the coordination of the regions' health care resources during the summer. In addition, the Government will instruct the county administrative boards to carefully monitor compliance with the current recommendations throughout the country.

The situation remains serious. The virus is spreading widely throughout the country and the situation for health care services is still under strain. As previously announced, the Public Health Agency of Sweden considers that the restrictions on public gatherings and events need to remain in place. This also applies to rules concerning crowding in restaurants, to the ban on visits to care homes for older people, and to the strong recommendations for people over 70.

However, it is considered that domestic travel by people with no symptoms can be permitted if everyone who travels takes their personal responsibility and maintains a distance to others. Social distancing must be maintained during the summer. Travel must not mean that social distancing is compromised.

There must be no doubt about the precautionary measures that need to be taken. The tourism and hospitality industry and the Swedish people have a great deal of responsibility ahead of them if this is going to work. If the spread of the virus picks up again anywhere in the country, new restrictions may be introduced.

The Government has drawn up a temporary act on communicable disease control measures at eating and drinking establishments. The purpose is to make the monitoring process more efficient by moving responsibility for decisions from the County Medical Officers to the municipalities. The county administrative boards must give the municipalities support, advice and guidance. The county administrative boards will also be tasked by the Government with ensuring that the recommendations are complied with.

Together with the Hotel and Restaurant Union and the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the industry organisation Visita has drawn up guidelines for hotels, restaurants and campsites. Compliance with these guidelines by staff and visitors is a prerequisite for the tourism and hospitality industry being able to continue its activities. The process of compiling additional information for permanent residents and tourists in different languages is also under way.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

One year extension of exploration permits due to COVID-19 presented to Riksdag

Published 12 June 2020

To mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, on 11 June the Government presented a government bill to the Riksdag that entails giving exploration companies an additional year to carry out their work.

The proposal concerns exploration permits that have been extended in accordance with the final stage for extension and are valid on 1 July 2020. The proposal covers approximately 30 companies and extends the maximum period of validity for exploration permits from 15 years to 16 years.

The proposal does not cover exploration permits for coal, oil or gaseous hydrocarbons.

The proposal has been examined by the Council on Legislation, which raised no objections. The Swedish mining and mineral industry is of major importance to Sweden as a country, both in a regional and local perspective, but also beyond Sweden's borders. It is a matter of the supply of raw materials, welfare and the development of new technologies for a green transition.

“Exploration is important in increasing knowledge about what is in the ground and ultimately for society to be able to use the resources we need for development and the green transition,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 July 2020.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Government boosts Almi Invest's investment power to bridge crisis in small innovative businesses

Published 27 May 2020

Together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, the Government is proposing an additional SEK 400 million for Almi Invest. The additional funding is aimed at bridging the crisis in small innovative businesses and avoiding the loss of structural capital and intangible assets in the life science sector and others.

Start-ups and scale-ups often operate on a global market and act as important subcontractors and innovation partners to large sections of the Swedish business sector. They are key parts of current – and particularly future – value chains for many major Swedish and international companies. For many years, Sweden has strategically invested major resources in the form of public research funds and risk capital in what should develop into the next generation of globally competitive, sustainable and innovative businesses.

Today, Almi Invest is part-owner of approximately 350 such growth companies throughout Sweden. The additional SEK 400 million is intended to enable Almi Invest to temporarily take over responsibility for companies in sectors such as life science where it is already a part-owner and where the capital requirement is now increasing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will also allow the company to continue new investments, which is important as there is a risk that there may be fewer private equity capital alternatives in the future.

The funds supplement the additional SEK 3 billion allocated to the lending

activities of the parent company, Almi Företagspartner AB. Taken together, the initiatives provide robust support to a rapidly growing group of businesses with major innovation content that have the potential to become an important part of Sweden's future business sector.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Greater scope for Almi Invest to be an active investor in innovative companies

Published 24 April 2020

The Government has decided to change the requirements on Almi Invest's operations to facilitate investments in new and existing innovative companies. The measure is part of the Government's efforts to facilitate the supply of capital to companies and reduce the economic consequences of the virus outbreak.

Almi Invest, which is part of Almi Företagspartner AB, invests in innovative companies and startups throughout the country. Almi Invest makes approximately 50 new investments annually and its portfolio contains almost 350 companies in various sectors.

Today, there is a requirement that every investment be matched with at least an equal amount of private risk capital. In the current situation, as the crisis severely affects all markets and the majority of companies, there is a major risk of private actors withdrawing from higher risk investments, even in companies that would be able to resolve their financing under normal circumstances. In these situations, there is an increased need of market-supplementing capital, which Almi can offer.

The Government has therefore decided to lower the co-financing requirement to 30 per cent, which will make it possible for Almi Invest to take a greater share of the investments. Almi Invest will be given better conditions for supporting existing portfolio companies where follow-up investment is needed, but also for investing in new companies that apply to Almi to resolve their financing. The change will enter into force on 1 May

2020.

“With this change, I expect Almi to act proactively and contribute to bringing about financing solutions. It is also important that Almi takes active owner responsibility in the companies in which it invests and takes advantage of the values that exist in the very unusual situation in which we find ourselves,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The measure is among the initiatives being taken by the Government to facilitate companies’ access to financing. Other initiatives already presented by the Government are credit guarantees via the Swedish National Debt Office to stimulate bank loans to small and medium-sized companies, additional funds of SEK 3 billion to Almi Företagspartner for increased loans to companies, and increased export credits through the Swedish Export Credit Corporation and the Swedish Export Credits Guarantee Board.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Short-term layoffs – strengthened support in 2020 for short-time work schemes

Published 19 March 2020 Updated 26 March 2020

In light of the COVID-19 virus, the Government on March 19 decided that its proposed additional amending budget for 2020 will include a supplementary system of support for short-time work schemes. The new system was presented on Monday by the Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, and means that central government will take a greater share of the costs for short-time work in 2020. It is proposed that the new rules enter into force on 7 April, but that they apply from 16 March.

Short-term work involves employees temporarily reducing their working hours. The cost is divided between the employer, employee and central government. The new system means that individual employers affected by temporary and serious financial difficulties that could not reasonably have been foreseen or avoided will be able to receive support for a limited period of time.

During 2020, a temporary strengthening of this support – short-term layoffs – has been proposed, which means that central government will cover three quarters of the cost of staff reducing their working hours, while employers and employees share the remaining quarter, rather than central government covering a third of the cost.

Contrary to what applies in the current system, the new system means that,

regardless of the general economic situation, an employer may be granted support upon submitting an application to the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, which assesses whether the employer meets the requirements for the support and makes a decision on payment.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth will be allocated SEK 2.42 billion for 2020 to finance this support, after which time expenditures are expected to amount to SEK 350 million per year. It is proposed that SEK 20 million be injected into the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth for 2020 to enable it to quickly develop the required system support and process applications for support, after which time the task is expected to require SEK 8 million per year.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government appoints a coordinator in response to the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the business sector

Published 13 March 2020 Updated 26 March 2020

The COVID-19 virus has affected many Swedish companies. The Government therefore decided today to task a coordinator to collaborate with the social partners and the business sector, and to gather information about the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the business sector. Anders Ferbe has been appointed as the coordinator.

“Anders Ferbe’s task is an important part of the Government’s continued work in response to the COVID-19 virus. His experience of cooperation between the social partners in the Swedish labour market and of solutions during the financial crisis will be very valuable. At present, it is important that the parties concerned step up their dialogue and collaboration to jointly tackle the consequences of the COVID-19 virus for the country’s entrepreneurs and their employees,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

Within the framework of his task as coordinator, Anders Ferbe will collaborate with the social partners and the business sector with the aim of facilitating dialogue between them. The coordinator will also collaborate with the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth within the framework of the Agency’s remit to assist regions with initiatives that strengthen their work in the event of redundancies and transition in the

business sector.

The coordinator will regularly report to the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and will present his final report by 31 December 2020.

For more information or interview requests, please contact Press Secretary Sara Khatemi.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Presentation of the new updated Trade and Investment Strategy for more jobs throughout the country

Published 16 December 2019

More people than ever before are now employed in exporting companies in Sweden. Exports drive the Swedish economy and keep around 1.5 million people in employment. To continue to strengthen Swedish exports, on Friday 13 December the Government launched an updated Trade and Investment Strategy to create jobs and growth throughout the country.

Since the previous export strategy was presented, the international context has changed. Threats to free trade have amplified, along with the competition for major procurements and investments.

At the same time, the previously weak export development in Sweden has turned around. In the last two years, exports from all Swedish counties have increased, and more people than ever work for exporting companies.

The 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement have in turn created new opportunities for Swedish companies to contribute to climate transition. To address these challenges and opportunities, the Export Strategy has been updated with an enhanced focus on sustainability and regional growth.

“I am proud to be able to present a strategy that so clearly involves the regions in ensuring that the whole of Sweden exports more. When we trade with the rest of the world, jobs and growth are created that strengthen

welfare throughout the country,” says Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg.

“Sweden will be the world’s first fossil-free welfare nation, and we will export solutions that lead the world to freedom from fossil fuels. We have world-leading companies in climate-smart solutions, and this will strengthen Sweden’s competitiveness as all countries are now required to adapt their economies,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

“The Export Strategy has served Sweden well. By updating and adapting the strategy to a changing world, we are ensuring that it will continue to contribute to more jobs throughout the country,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The five strategic goals of the new strategy:

1. Increase Sweden’s exports, both in absolute figures and as a proportion of GDP
2. Ensure that more small and medium-sized enterprises export
3. Ensure that Sweden is a driving force for free, sustainable and equitable international trade
4. Use Sweden’s innovation leadership to enhance the export capabilities and international competitiveness of Swedish business
5. Increase Sweden’s attractiveness to foreign investors, skills, talent and visitors

Sweden’s new Trade and Investment Strategy will help ensure that we meet the 2030 Agenda’s global goals for sustainable development and live up to the Paris Agreement. The decision is part of the January Agreement, which is based on an agreement between the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan to take part in State Visit to India

Published 29 November 2019 Updated 29 November 2019

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan will travel to India on 1 December to take part in the State Visit by the King and Queen. The Innovation Partnership and Sweden and India's economic exchange are two of the areas that Mr Baylan will highlight during the visit.

Mr Baylan will meet Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan and Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal for discussions on current bilateral issues and cooperation.

Since 2018, Sweden and India have had a joint innovation partnership to deepen cooperation between the two countries and contribute to sustainable growth and new job opportunities. During the State Visit, a high-level dialogue will be held on innovation policy, involving Swedish and Indian representatives from government agencies, academia and business. The dialogue, which will be attended by the King and Queen and by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is an important step in developing the Innovation Partnership.

“Sweden and India have a great deal to gain from cooperation on innovation if we are to be able to tackle the challenges of the future, for a sustainable society and for our countries’ competitiveness. I look forward to discussing these issues with high-level Indian representatives,” says Mr Baylan.

At the Climate Action Summit in New York in September, Sweden and India

launched a global leadership group to drive the climate transition in heavy industry. During the State Visit, Mr Baylan will discuss this work and other important issues with Indian decision-makers and business leaders.

Mr Baylan is part of the Swedish State Visit being paid by the King and Queen, in which Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and a large Swedish business delegation are also participating. Mr Baylan will take part in the programme in New Delhi on 2 and 3 December, and in Mumbai on 4 December.

For more information or interview requests, please contact Sara Khatemi.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

State Visit to India

Published 26 November 2019 Updated 27 November 2019

The King and Queen of Sweden will pay a State Visit to India on 2–6 December 2019 at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind.

The Swedish Government will be represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan and State Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Maja Fjaestad.

Some 50 Swedish companies – encompassing both large, well-established companies and start-ups – will take part, along with representatives of Swedish government agencies and universities, through the business delegation arranged by Business Sweden.

The aim of the State Visit is to further strengthen the good relations between Sweden and India, and to promote Swedish-Indian cooperation, including within the frameworks of the Joint Action Plan, the Innovation Partnership and existing memorandums of understanding. The visit affirms Sweden's willingness to be a key partner for India in its rapid development, and in efforts to tackle common social challenges in areas such as the climate/environment, infrastructure, research and health. The visit aims to enable increased trade and investment for Swedish and Indian companies in both directions.

The State Visit will last for five days and encompass New Delhi, Mumbai and the state of Uttarakhand.

The programme in brief

Sunday 1 December

The King and Queen arrive in New Delhi.

Monday 2 December

President Ram Nath Kovind and Ms Savita Kovind welcome the King and Queen at an official ceremony, followed by the laying of a wreath at Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation. Meetings with President Kovind, Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar will take place during the day. The King and Queen will also take part in a high-level dialogue on innovation with Swedish and Indian representatives from companies, government agencies and academia. They will also visit the Jama Masjid mosque and the Red Fort World Heritage site. The day will conclude with a state banquet at the President's official residence.

Tuesday 3 December

Climate and environmental issues and business issues will be discussed during the second day of the State Visit. The day will begin with the India-Sweden Business Summit, arranged by Business Sweden and the Confederation of Indian Industry. The Summit will offer Indian private and public actors the opportunity to meet Swedish companies and discuss business opportunities and cooperation. The King will then take part in a round-table discussion about Swedish and Indian efforts to reduce emissions and air pollution. In parallel, the Queen will visit the All India Institute for Medical Science (AIIMS) to discuss geriatric and dementia care in India. The Queen will later visit the UN office in India to learn about efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. The King and Queen will meet Indian alumni at a lunch hosted by the Swedish Institute. During the afternoon, the King and Queen will take part in the inauguration of the India-Sweden Business Leaders Roundtable. In the evening, the King and Queen will be the guests of honour at a major reception at the Embassy of Sweden.

Wednesday 4 December

On Wednesday the programme will continue in Mumbai, with the King and Queen arriving there in the morning. The King and Queen will take part in the world's largest beach clean-up project on Versova beach with the project's initiator and volunteers. In the afternoon, the King and Queen will visit the Door Step School, which gives marginalised children free schooling and homework support. This will be followed by an international Tekla workshop that aims to inspire young girls to explore technology. In the evening, the King will hold talks with senior Swedish and Indian business leaders. The evening will conclude with a reception hosted by the Swedish Consulate-General at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum.

Thursday 5 December

The fourth day of the State Visit will continue in the state of Uttarakhand, with a visit to Rishikesh on the banks of the Ganges. There the King and Queen will have the opportunity to talk to young environment and climate activists, along with the head of the Centre for Science and Environment, an NGO. This will be followed by a traditional ceremony by the holy river Ganges. The King and Queen will then take part, alongside the Indian Minister of Jal Shakti, responsible for water issues, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in the inauguration of a sewage treatment plant in Haridwar. The plant is part of the national project to clean the river Ganges. In the afternoon and evening, the King and Queen will meet experts on nature conservation and sustainable forest management.

Friday 6 December

On Friday morning, the King and Queen will continue their meetings on nature conservation and biodiversity. They will also visit a Van Gujjar village to discuss and learn about the community's traditional farming and animal husbandry methods.

Ms Linde, Mr Baylan and Ms Fjaestad will take part in large parts of the programme. They will also engage in bilateral meetings and activities with representatives of the Indian Government.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan travels to Paris to develop cooperation on digital transformation and AI

Published 17 October 2019

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan is travelling to Paris to meet with his French counterparts. The purpose of the visit is to take a further step under the Swedish-French partnership for innovation in the area of sustainable digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI). The promotion of French investments in Sweden and discussions on the EU's industrial policy will also be in focus during the visit.

Together with the CEO of RISE, Pia Sandvik, Mr Baylan will begin his Paris trip by meeting the French Minister of State for the Digital Sector, Cédric O. The meeting will focus on how Sweden and France should cooperate on digital transformation and AI, including life sciences and smart mobility. Ibrahim Baylan and Cédric O will also discuss policy exchanges in this area.

“By working closely together with strong partner countries such as France, we can successfully address digital structural transformation and climate adaptation. Harnessing our strengths creates good conditions for digital transformation that promotes innovation and competition,” says Mr Baylan.

After the meeting, Mr Baylan will meet the French Minister of State for economy and finance, Agnès Pannier-Runacher. The agenda includes the EU's upcoming industrial strategy.

“The EU needs to have a modern and forward-looking industrial policy to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry and harness the potential available in the world’s largest common market. We will build our policy on a robust single market, strong competitiveness and open trade with clear regulations,” says Mr Baylan.

Ibrahim Baylan will conclude his visit to Paris with a meeting with French enterprises with operations in Sweden. The purpose of the meeting is to draw attention to the presence of the French enterprises in Sweden and to encourage further investments.

For more information or interview requests, please contact Sara Khatemi.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Next phase in innovation partnership between Sweden and France now begins

Published 07 June 2019

When Prime Minister Stefan Löfven met French President Emmanuel Macron today in Paris, the countries' strategic partnership for innovation, digital transformation and green solutions was updated and deepened. When Mr Löfven and Mr Macron entered into the partnership in November 2017, it was agreed that Sweden and France needed to work together in a number of strategic areas to better address digital transformation and climate adaptation.

The purpose of the Swedish-French partnership is to work together and, through innovation, address the challenges of the transition to a more sustainable welfare society, create new jobs and maintain social cohesion. This innovation partnership is now being deepened for the coming two years, particularly with regard to sustainable development in artificial intelligence, 5G and a fossil-free transport sector through the development of batteries and electric roads. A shared goal is to achieve inclusive climate-neutral cities by 2030. Investment in the innovation capacity of Swedish and French small companies is also a focus of the partnership.

The partnership with France also ties in with shared priorities for a new European industrial policy, where green transition and digitalisation are in focus.

“It is natural that we cooperate to benefit from digitalisation and speed up

the green transition through investment in artificial intelligence and batteries, areas where Sweden and the largest EU Member States are at the forefront. They are central to a European industrial strategy,” says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

As host countries for two international research facilities – ESS in Sweden and ITER in France – the countries will collaborate to successfully develop and operate these large-scale facilities for world-leading research and innovative solutions for climate adaptation and for a more competitive industrial sector in Europe.

“We have laid a solid foundation through our partnership with France. It therefore feels very positive to now take the next step together and focus on a number of strategic areas. Our world-leading companies, start-ups, prominent seats of learning and institutes, our government agencies and more are key players in this partnership. Only through close collaboration can we meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals and live up to the Paris Agreement,” says Mr Baylan.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices

New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi.

Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Sweden to have an equal energy sector by 2030

Published 25 May 2018

At yesterday's launch of the Equal by 30 initiative, Sweden has committed to working globally for the principles of equal pay, equal leadership and equal opportunities for women by 2030. Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan is to present measures to achieve these aims.

Sweden has the first feminist government in the world. This means that gender equality is a priority issue and that it permeates all policy areas. Today, Sweden was involved in the launch of the international initiative Equal by 30. In the Government's view, gender equality in the energy sector is progressing too slowly, and structured cooperation is needed to achieve the desired results.

"Diversity and gender equality create conditions for new approaches and innovation, and they should be part of the core activities of every organisation. This is not the case at present, and we want to change that through Equal by 30. The skills of both women and men are needed in the energy transition," says Mr Baylan.

Equal by 30 is run by the global energy sector gender equality initiative Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E). The initiative is based on UN Global Sustainable Development Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Goal reached: 10 billion more energy-efficient lightbulbs now on global market

Published 25 May 2018

Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan yesterday announced that the goal of the Global Lighting Challenge has been reached. Over two years, a number of Swedish and international actors have made commitments to bring more efficient lighting to the market.

In Sweden alone, electricity consumption for all lighting could be halved if every inefficient lightbulb were changed in favour of the most efficient technology currently available. The Swedish Lighting Challenge has made an important contribution towards reducing electricity consumption from lighting and increasing awareness of energy-efficient solutions in Sweden.

"The Global Lighting Challenge is an excellent example of how global cooperation between governments and businesses can genuinely hasten the energy transition. In Sweden, we launched the Swedish Lighting Challenge, and it has had the same effect. I am proud, but not satisfied. Now we need to take the next step and raise our level of ambition," says Mr Baylan.

In Sweden, 92 actors have supported the Swedish Lighting Challenge, with 65 of them taking measures to boost demand for high-quality energy-efficient lighting. Their engagement in the challenge has provided good examples for the future and set in motion ripple-effects that will last beyond the challenge. Commitments made by participants in the Swedish Lighting Challenge include the following:

- Köping Municipality has changed the lightbulbs in its illuminated exercise trails, halving their electricity consumption.
- The Gröna Lund theme park is changing all of its lightbulbs and will reduce the electricity consumption of its lighting by 75 per cent.
- Supermarket chain Coop is changing the lightbulbs in its 250 stores and has reduced the electricity consumption of its lighting by 21 GWh, or 40 per cent.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Sweden wants global measures for sustainable battery production

Published 24 May 2018

Sweden and the European Commission, along with a number of other countries and businesses, are urging more stakeholders to back the measures needed to ensure that the world's battery production is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan and the European Commission, along with a number of other governments and public and private stakeholders including Northvolt, are urging more countries and stakeholders to back key measures for future sustainable battery production as part of the Mission Innovation 3 meeting in Malmö. Energy storage using batteries is a crucial technology in meeting society's increased demand for electric vehicles and renewable energy. At the same time, there are concerns and discussions about the effects of battery production on the environment.

"We need to take account of all of the sustainability aspects when we talk about the life cycle of batteries – from the raw materials and manufacture to increasing re-use and recycling. Energy efficiency, reduced climate and environmental impacts, safety, health and human rights are all equally important aspects in bringing about the batteries of the future," says Mr Baylan.

The countries and organisations have identified a number of key measures to develop battery technologies in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable direction. The key measures concern all parts of the battery production and use chain, including increased opportunities for re-use and recycling and for consumers to make well-founded decisions and

thus push the market, research and development towards more sustainable solutions.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

International innovation competitions to help achieve climate objectives

Published 23 May 2018

Halfway into the five-year commitments made at the COP21 climate conference in Paris, Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan has launched two international innovation competitions: Sustainable Mobility as a Service and Sustainable Local Energy Systems.

Both competitions are part of A Challenge from Sweden, a long-term initiative to promote needs-driven innovation and contribute to sustainable development. The competitions are intended to help meet the environmental and climate objectives that cities, regions, countries, international organisations and businesses have committed to in the Paris Agreement. Innovators from across the world are encouraged to take part in the competitions.

"We need entrants from all over the world to guarantee a high standard of innovation. In this way we can link up investors and innovators to produce the best solutions and reach new markets," says Mr Baylan.

By developing and increasing expertise in needs-based procurement, A Challenge from Sweden can help meet Sweden's energy and climate objectives. The initiative also brings economic benefits by streamlining procurement processes that use tax revenues. This creates conditions for businesses to grow and create jobs, identifies new export lines and increases exports and welfare.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Energy ministers want to strengthen Nordic leadership in global energy transition

Published 22 May 2018

The Nordic region will have the most integrated and intelligent sustainable energy solutions. Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan and the Nordic energy ministers have adopted a declaration on strengthening Nordic leadership in the global energy transition. They also encouraged the Nordic business sector to draw up proposals for promoting Nordic exports of climate-smart clean energy technologies.

The declaration was adopted at this year's Nordic Energy Ministerial Meeting in Lund on 22 May, led by Mr Baylan. It means that the Nordic countries will continue to pioneer the increased use of renewable energy. The ministers also want to deepen Nordic cooperation in research, development and innovation in climate-smart energy. The aim is to ensure the Nordic region has the most integrated and intelligent sustainable energy solutions.

"The Nordic countries are taking a leading position in efforts to develop climate-smart energy. We want to further strengthen Nordic leadership when it comes to innovation in clean energy technologies," says Mr Baylan.

Business sector encouraged to propose sustainable export solutions

The Nordic energy ministers also agreed that in a letter they would

encourage selected Nordic business and energy organisations to submit concrete proposals to strengthen Nordic exports of sustainable energy technologies. The business sector's proposals will then be raised on the agenda of next year's energy ministerial meeting in Iceland.

"We need more Nordic cooperation to achieve new export successes on markets for sustainable energy solutions, a field in which international competition will increase more and more," says Mr Baylan.

Sweden holds the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2018. In connection to this year's Nordic Energy Ministerial Meeting, the two international conferences, Mission Innovation (MI) and Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), will be held in Malmö and Copenhagen, respectively, on 23 and 24 May. Energy ministers from the G20 and Nordic countries will take part. The Nordic countries, together with the European Commission and the Nordic Council of Ministers, are hosting the MI and CEM.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Ibrahim Baylan leads Nordic Energy Ministerial Meeting

Published 21 May 2018

On 22 May, the Nordic energy ministers will meet in Lund, led by Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan, to discuss deepened Nordic cooperation. The meeting will be followed by two international energy ministerial meetings in Malmö and Copenhagen on 23 and 24 May.

Sweden holds the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2018. Mr Baylan will lead the annual energy ministerial meeting, when the ministers follow up work on the Nordic energy policy cooperation programme for the period 2018–2020. The programme focuses on deepening Nordic energy cooperation, primarily in the electricity market, energy research, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The energy ministers will also discuss current issues related to the EU Energy Union.

"Nordic energy policy cooperation has a long tradition and has progressed well in recent years, not least through the common Nordic electricity market. Cooperation in Nordic energy research is also important. We are now moving forward and strengthening our cooperation," says Mr Baylan.

This year's Nordic energy ministerial meeting is also the starting point for the two international conferences, Mission Innovation (MI) and Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), to be held in Malmö and Copenhagen, respectively, on 23 and 24 May. Energy ministers from the G20 countries and the Nordic countries will take part in the MI and CEM, hosted by the Nordic countries, together with the European Commission and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

"Hosting the Clean Energy Ministerial and Mission Innovation together as Nordic countries will give us opportunities for dialogue with the world's energy ministers and decision-makers. The conferences reinforce the work of Sweden and the world to further develop the sustainable energy solutions of tomorrow," says Mr Baylan.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

King and Queen on official visit to Japan

Published 30 March 2018

The King and Queen will visit Japan on 22–25 April 2018 on the invitation of the Japanese Government. The Swedish Government will be represented by Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan and Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde. Business issues will be the focus of the visit, during which Sweden and Japan will celebrate 150 years of diplomatic relations.

The free trade agreement between the EU and Japan is expected to stimulate more trade and investments for both Sweden and Japan. A large Swedish business delegation will join the visit to attend the Japan-Sweden Business Summit – the largest ever meeting between the Swedish and Japanese business sectors. Business Sweden is also organising a large number of seminars and meetings aimed at strengthening trade relations between the two countries.

Innovation, research and sustainability will be highlighted. In addition, societal issues such as ageing and violence against children will be raised.

During their stay in Japan, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress will invite Their Majesties the King and Queen to a dinner. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and Mrs. Abe will hold a meeting with Their Majesties the King and Queen and host a dinner in their honor

The three-day visit will take place in Tokyo and Kamakura.

A more detailed programme for the visit will be published separately.

To editorial offices

Swedish media representatives will need special accreditation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to cover the visit. The deadline to apply for accreditation is Tuesday 17 April 2018.

Accreditation application



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Sweden one of the initiators behind new international programme to support clean energy transitions in emerging economies

Published 10 November 2017

Sweden, under the leadership of Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan, together with 12 other countries, has launched the Clean Energy Transitions Programme – a new International Energy Agency (IEA) programme to support clean energy transitions around the world. The programme will be an important part of enhanced international energy cooperation to implement the Paris Agreement.

"Interest is considerable in countries such as China, India and Indonesia in developing policy frameworks and technical competence that will accelerate energy transitions. Thanks to the Clean Energy Transitions Programme, we are ensuring structured and financed cooperation with these countries in the future," says Mr Baylan.

The Clean Energy Transitions Programme is being launched within the framework of the IEA and will help develop the IEA as a global platform for clean energy and cooperation with major emerging economies such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa. The initial stage of the programme comprises SEK 300 million, of which Sweden has contributed SEK 50 million.

"Through Sweden's proactive participation in the programme, good opportunities are created for us to share experiences and actively work on the foundations of sustainable energy systems. At the same time, the programme is also an important forum for following the major shifts in energy policy and technology now under way worldwide," says Mr Baylan.

The Clean Energy Transitions Programme aims to build institutional capacity in emerging economies by improving data collection, analysis and forecasting, and developing policy guidance and modelling, and innovation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Ibrahim Baylan to lead international meeting of energy ministers in Paris

Published 06 November 2017

On 7–8 November, Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan will chair the International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial Meeting.

Ministers from the 29 IEA member countries and representatives of partner countries – including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco and Mexico – and the world's largest energy companies will gather in Paris. The IEA Ministerial Meeting is held every second year to provide direction for the IEA's upcoming efforts, and the theme of this year's meeting is bolstering energy security for sustainable global growth.

As chair, Mr Baylan has the important task of advancing and merging members' interests. The chairmanship also provides the opportunity to bring up special Swedish priorities. Two such priorities are closer cooperation between the public and business sectors in energy-sector investments, and the opportunities provided by digital transformation to increase efficiency and smarter energy supply.

"The energy transition currently under way is creating economic growth and new jobs, while also being good for the climate and the environment. We need to cooperate more at international level, especially with major growth economies such as China, India and Indonesia to speed up efforts," says Mr Baylan.

In connection with the Ministerial Meeting, Sweden is organising the Women in Clean Energy side event. The event aims to create awareness among

decision-makers in the public and business sectors about the need and benefits of promoting women's leadership and participation in the energy transition. It is hoped that the side event will lead to more actors moving from words to action to achieve gender equality in the energy sector.

"In order to manage the major societal challenges, such as access to energy and climate threats, everyone's expertise must be used. We cannot be content with less than the equal contribution of men and women to the energy transition," says Mr Baylan.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment

Research cooperation the focus as Helene Hellmark Knutsson receives China's research minister

Published 31 August 2017

On Thursday 31 August, Minister for Higher Education and Research, Helene Hellmark Knutsson, is hosting a meeting with Wan Gang, Chinese Minister of Science and Technology. A cooperation agreement on research will be signed during the meeting.

Sweden has considerable research cooperation with China, and is one of the most attractive countries for Chinese students who want to study abroad. The aim of the meeting is to review Swedish-Chinese research cooperation in areas including technology and renewable energy. The agenda also includes discussions on future cooperation in, for example, life sciences.

During the meeting, the ministers will witness the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Swedish agency for innovation, Vinnova, and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. The agreement concerns research cooperation on, for example, traffic safety, life sciences, ageing and climate change. The visit follows Ms Hellmark Knutsson's visit to China in June.

Later in the day, Minister Wan will meet with Ibrahim Baylan, Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy, for a presentation of Swedish system solutions in the area of environmental and energy technology. The presentation will take place at Smart City Sweden in Hammarby Sjöstad, Stockholm.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

The EU and Nordic countries to host energy ministerial meetings next year

Published 07 June 2017 Updated 08 June 2017

The Eight Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM8) and Second Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI2) in Beijing this week have demonstrated the commitment of the People's Republic of China to the clean energy transition.

One year from now, on 23-24 May 2018, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the European Commission and the Nordic Council of Ministers will host the Ninth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM9) and Third Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI3) in the cities of Copenhagen and Malmö, known as the Öresund Region.

"We wish to use this opportunity to extend our appreciation of a successful Chinese hosting. We look forward to enabling ministers as well as representatives of business, research, civil society and international organizations to act upon our common objective of accelerating the clean energy transition. In close collaboration with all CEM and MI countries over the upcoming year, we aim to make sure that we move from success in Beijing in 2017 to another success in the Öresund Region in 2018," says Swedish Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan, Danish Minister of Energy, Utilities and Climate Lars Chr. Lilleholt, Norwegian Minister of Oil and Energy Terje Søviknes, and Finnish Minister of Housing, Energy and the Environment Kimmo Tiilikainen.

CEM9/MI3 and related conferences in the Öresund Region in the week of 22 - 25 May 2018 will take place under the overall heading of "Energy Integration and Transition" with the aim of discussing the development of

the technologies of tomorrow and the deployment of the mature new clean technologies of today.

Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioners Miguel Arias Cañete and Carlos Moedas all underlined that "The European Commission is very much looking forward to co-hosting the CEM and MI next year. We firmly believe in the importance of these two multilateral initiatives to building bridges and achieving the goals set out in the Paris Agreement. In line with the Energy Union strategy, we must accelerate the pace and global uptake of clean energy innovation to boost sustainable jobs, growth and investment."



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Ibrahim Baylan on promotion visit to India

Published 04 October 2016 Updated 04 October 2016

On 5–7 October, Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan will continue the work of Team Sweden Energy with a promotion visit to India.

The aim of the visit is to strengthen relations, promote increased trade in the energy area and contribute to the development and spread of low-carbon energy technologies. The trip is a follow-up to the Prime Minister's visit to India in the first half of this year.

"Sweden welcomes India's decision to ratify the Paris climate agreement. There are now major opportunities for Sweden to assist India by offering sustainable energy technology solutions," says Mr Baylan.

During his visit to India, Mr Baylan will take part in India-Sweden Nobel Memorial Week, a series of events to promote Sweden led by the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi. Mr Baylan will also take part in round-table discussions with Indian and Swedish industrial leaders on the theme of sustainable urbanisation, in support of increased cooperation and investment.

"Sweden enjoys extensive knowledge exchange and business development with India in the area of energy. This strengthens the competitiveness of Swedish businesses and creates opportunities for them to establish themselves in an important growth market," says Mr Baylan.

Director-General of the Swedish Energy Agency Erik Brandsma and businesses participating in the Agency's Innovation Accelerator programme will also take part in the visit.

Mr Baylan will also speak at the India Economic Summit organised by the

World Economic Forum, and at the World Sustainable Development Summit in Delhi. He will also meet India's Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy to discuss current cooperation on energy and the bilateral memorandum of understanding on renewable energy.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

State Secretary Nils Vikmång attending ministerial meeting on sustainable energy solutions in San Francisco

Published 01 June 2016 Updated 01 June 2016

On 31 May–3 June, State Secretary Nils Vikmång is heading a Swedish delegation in San Francisco in the United States. During the week he will take part in the meeting of the Clean Energy Ministerial, a project involving some 20 countries with the aim of accelerating the spread of sustainable energy solutions. The Swedish delegation will also attend a number of meetings in the area of energy technologies and innovations.

Nils Vikmång, State Secretary to Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan, is heading the Swedish delegation in San Francisco. During the week, meetings will be held with ministers, business leaders and investors.

Sweden will also join a gender equality initiative to increase women's participation in the energy sector.

The delegation will highlight the Swedish initiative Team Sweden Energy, which is part of Sweden's export strategy. The aim of this initiative is to increase Swedish companies' exports of energy technology solutions and know-how, which will contribute to a sustainable energy transition internationally.

"We have a close dialogue with public and private actors within Team Sweden Energy, and through this engagement we are laying a solid foundation for the visibility of many competent Swedish companies in international contexts," says Mr Vikmång.

Mr Vikmång will attend the Clean Energy Ministerial 7 meeting on 1–2 June. He will challenge other countries to follow Sweden's example to invest in energy-efficient lighting – the Lighting Challenge. During this meeting, Sweden will also announce that it is joining the Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) gender equality initiative and that three Swedish representatives have now been elected to the international network. These representatives are Elisabet Falemo, Director-General of the National Electrical Safety Board, Annika Wiklund, Senior Vice President of Vattenfall Distribution and Elin Löfblad, Head of OX2 Distributed Energy.

In the course of the week, Mr Vikmång will also attend the first meeting of the Mission Innovation, which was launched at the UN Climate Conference in Paris in 2015. Sweden is one of approximately 20 countries to have endorsed the initiative.

The aim of this cooperation is to increase state and private investments in the development of new energy technology solutions. Among other things, a breakfast meeting will be held with Bill Gates and other investors from the Breakthrough Energy Coalition.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Government reshuffle, 25 May 2016

Published 25 May 2016 Updated 01 June 2016

Newly appointed ministers

Minister for the Environment (Ministry of the Environment and Energy):
Karolina Skog (Green Party)

Minister for Housing and Digital Development (Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation): Peter Eriksson (Green Party)

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade (Ministry for Foreign Affairs): Ann Linde (Social Democratic Party)

Changes by ministry

Prime Minister's Office

- Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan will be responsible for policy coordination and energy issues.
- Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson leaves the Government.
- The Government will establish a Committee for Strategic Development under the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministry of Employment

- Ylva Johansson's title is changed to Minister for Employment and

Integration.

Ministry of Finance

- Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi will be responsible for eGovernment.

Ministry of Justice

- Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson will be responsible for arms export control issues.

Ministry of the Environment and Energy

- Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog takes office as head of Ministry, with responsibility for environmental issues and urban environment agreements.

- Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson leaves the Government.

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

- Minister for Housing and Digital Development Peter Eriksson takes office, with responsibility for housing and digital development issues.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

- Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin will be responsible for international development cooperation and climate issues and is Deputy Prime Minister, but will not substitute for the Prime Minister.

- Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde takes office, with responsibility for EU affairs and trade issues.

- Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will be responsible for Nordic affairs.

Press contacts for the Prime Minister and newly

appointed ministers

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Energy launches Team Sweden Energy with promotion visits to Turkey and Iran

Published 19 April 2016 Updated 19 April 2016

From 19 to 24 April, Minister for Energy Ibrahim Baylan will be visiting Istanbul, Turkey and Tehran, Iran accompanied by a Swedish business delegation. The aim of the visits is to promote Swedish energy technologies and boost bilateral trade.

The visits mark the launch of Team Sweden Energy, and form part of Sweden's export strategy, with the aim of boosting the international visibility of Swedish businesses and exports of energy technology solutions. In this way, the initiative will boost jobs and growth in Sweden and a globally sustainable energy transition.

Turkey and Iran are large countries with substantial investment needs in a number of sectors, including energy. These countries have also shown considerable interest in the products, technical solutions and expertise that Swedish businesses can offer.

"Turkey and Iran are on the verge of expanding and modernising their electricity networks and other parts of their energy systems. Swedish businesses have energy technology solutions that are competitive and can contribute to a more sustainable energy transition in a number of markets. The Government and I want to do what we can to open doors and promote Swedish business exports, and to boost economic exchange with Turkey and Iran," says Mr Baylan.

The minister will be in Turkey from 19 to 22 April. He will speak at the

opening of the International Istanbul Smart Grid and Cities Congress and Fair on 20 April. He will also take part in activities at the Swedish business pavilion at the fair, and meet representatives of the Turkish government.

Mr Baylan will particularly focus on supporting Swedish businesses operating in the field of smart electricity grids.

The visit to Iran will take place from 22 to 24 April and is a follow-up to the visit by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg in December 2015. Mr Baylan's visit is linked to the opportunities for increased economic exchange created by the suspension of sanctions following the nuclear deal concluded in July 2015.

"Sweden must remain a leader in climate change adaptation and the development of new energy technologies. Remaining at the forefront in research, development and commercialisation of renewable energy and smart energy use and technologies generates jobs and growth in Sweden, while at the same time making it easier for other countries to improve the efficiency of their energy use," Mr Baylan concludes.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Investment in climate, energy and Sweden's natural environment

Published 24 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Climate, environmental and energy initiatives in the Government's budget proposal for 2015 include major investments in local climate action, renewable energy and protection of more marine and nature environments.

The Ministry of the Environment's appropriation for 2015 includes a total of some SEK 9.9 billion in expenditure areas 20 and 21, and parts of 6 and 17, in the autumn Budget Bill. This is an increase of SEK 1.4 billion compared with last year's appropriation of some SEK 8.5 billion.

- The new Government's budget introduces clear investments in climate and environment that have long been awaited at both national and regional level. We are proud to present reforms that will unlock local and regional engagement in energy efficiency and climate-smart solutions. At the same time, we are making the necessary investments in biodiversity and the forests that our children will one day enjoy, says Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson.

A broad climate initiative

It is time to take responsibility. If the earth's temperature continues to rise at the rate currently observed and predicted by scientists, it will have serious consequences for all life on the planet, including our own. The new Government will therefore act at both national and global level to take the lead in this work. Sweden will pave the way and show what is possible, while working to make what is possible a global reality.

As early as 2015, the Government wants to implement three important

reforms in the budget, which were presented jointly with the Left Party:

1. Investments to reduce local authority climate emissions

To reduce Sweden's climate impact, the Government proposes special economic support for local climate investments beginning in 2015. This support will amount to SEK 200 million during the first year, while the system is taking shape. The resources will subsequently be increased to SEK 600 million annually from 2016.

2. International climate cooperation

In 2015, the most important climate conference since Copenhagen will be held in Paris. The Government will now take increased responsibility for Sweden's climate impact and proposes to increase the contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by SEK 4 billion ahead of Paris 2015. Increased climate funding to developing countries and climate action within the framework of development assistance are fundamental to Sweden's and the EU's credibility in the climate negotiations.

3. Climate adaptation and extreme weather

This past summer we clearly saw the type of weather and problems that accompany climate change, even for those of us who live in Sweden. Weeks of abnormal heat were followed by one of the worst forest fires ever to hit Sweden. The Government wants to enhance the adaptive capacity of Swedish society to climate change through increased investments. In 2015, the Government intends to invest SEK 200 million in climate change adaptation, of which SEK 150 million will strengthen local government prevention efforts (allocated by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB), and SEK 50 million will go to a permanent initiative to increase access to climate information and other knowledge and planning support activities for climate change adaptation.

Solar cells

State aid for investment in solar cells was introduced in 2009. There has been great interest in this and most of the SEK 210 million allocated for 2013–2016 has been used. The Government now proposes allocating an additional SEK 100 million annually for 2015–2018. This means both extending and strengthening the budget for this aid.

- From a climate perspective, it is good to produce electricity using solar cells, but even if the price of solar cells falls dramatically, it is still expensive. The aid is necessary to continue the introduction of solar power and to give

electricity customers the opportunity to take a more active role, both as users and producers, says Minister for Energy Ibrahim Baylan.

Major budget appropriation to preserve forests and species

A clear increase in the level of ambition is necessary if we are to achieve the environmental quality objectives that cover biodiversity, the marine environment and water. The Government therefore proposes a major investment in the Swedish natural environment in the 2015 budget. SEK 640 million will be invested in 2015 to prevent harvesting forests worthy of protection and to protect marine environments. Beginning in 2016, SEK 590 million will be invested for these purposes. In addition, the Government proposes allocating SEK 350 million annually from 2015 to preserve species and improve management of protected nature sites, and SEK 75 million annually from 2015 for measures to improve the marine and water environment.

As part of building knowledge on biodiversity, the Government proposes increasing the appropriation to the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative and the Encyclopedia of the Swedish Flora and Fauna by SEK 15 million annually from 2015.

A commission on energy will be appointed

Energy policy is crucial to building a sustainable society, and employment in Sweden is completely dependent on good and reliable access to electricity at competitive prices. A commission on energy for cross-party discussions on energy policy will be appointed with the aim of creating a long-term sustainable energy agreement. The Government's starting point in these talks will be that nuclear power is to be replaced by renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, and that Sweden, in the long term, is to have 100 per cent renewable energy.

Tax reduction for micro-producers of renewable electricity

The Government's goal is that self-production of electricity is to be easy and profitable. To make it easier for private persons and companies to invest in the production of electricity from renewable energy sources for their own

use, the Government proposes introducing a tax reduction for micro-producers of renewable electricity from 1 January 2015. The Government will monitor and evaluate the tax reduction and explore possibilities to simplify the procedure, make the self-production of electricity even easier for private persons, and allow more people, such as joint owners of renewable electricity, to benefit from the tax reduction.

Drinking water and chemicals

The Government's ambition is to make a vigorous effort to increase the pace to achieve the environmental quality objectives, which requires major investments to make achieving the marine and water-related objectives possible. Environmental monitoring is a fundamental part of the efforts targeting the marine environment and water. Better monitoring of the state of the environment would improve the possibilities of detecting risks to health and environment in time. In all, the Government is proposing increased investments of SEK 75 million in 2015 and SEK 50 million from 2016 in increased and improved environmental monitoring, and in particular marine and water-related environmental monitoring.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Welcome remarks at IEA Ministerial 2017

Published 07 November 2017

Ibrahim Baylan, Swedish Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy, Paris, 7 November 2017.
Check against delivery.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

It is my honour and privilege to open this 2017 IEA Ministerial meeting. This meeting gathers Ministers from IEA Member countries, and IEA Accession, Association and Partner countries, as well as top leaders from the energy sector through the Energy Business Council.

This year's meeting takes place at a critical time. We have never lived a more modern and comfortable life, yet we see famine, wars and weather disasters hit our planet and people. It's therefore so very important that we continue to further pursue global ambitions on energy security, clean energy, strengthened international cooperation and broader policy objectives such as the Paris Agreement.

Let us start by putting our work here at the IEA in perspective.

According to recent IEA analysis, roughly 1.1 billion people still lack access to modern forms of energy. And traditional forms of solid biomass used for cooking causes up to 2.8 million premature deaths annually, mainly affecting women and children.

These are issues that some of you in this room have experienced first-hand, as have I when growing up as a young boy in a remote village in South-East Turkey before coming to Sweden.

Looking at the issue of basic energy access paints a broader picture on the theme of this Ministerial: "Energy Security for Sustainable Global Growth."

Energy access and the productive use of modern energy are prerequisites for economic development. But it also bears with it consequences on human health and environmental sustainability.

The transition to clean energy is necessary. Not only for bringing energy to all but to do it in a sustainable way. And for the first time in history, we have the possibility to do this. Costs for renewables are dropping rapidly, digitalisation and automation enables further energy efficiencies.

Especially digitalisation is an area where much headway has been made recently. I believe we are at a tipping point for astonishing achievements by combining new digital solutions with increased electrification. We are at a time when it is not just possible but also economically viable and beneficial to transition into a clean energy future.

But conditions vary considerably among countries, and there is no global silver bullet. Our mutual efforts for international collaboration on secure and clean energy systems must recognise the need for a range of solutions to ensure the most cost-effective transitions.

Diversification of energy production utilising local resources is an important driver for increased energy security, decentralised economic activity and robust and resilient energy systems.

Managing this transition, or these transitions, require correct analyses and policies to enable new knowledge, new technologies and new business models.

We have a rare opportunity at hand. If we seize this moment and steadily pave the way for the best possible conditions for our energy markets and businesses, we will be able to look back at this time in history as a major game changer.

We will see this time as the changing period when we for the first time in history could give our people access to modern energy, and to do it in a way that is not harming our health or our environment. In short: bolstering energy security for sustainable global growth.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

Speech by Minister for Energy Ibrahim Baylan at Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidiary Reform, COP21

Published 07 December 2015 Updated 07 December 2015

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Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends

Thank you for having me and for sharing your interesting experiences and knowledge on this key issue.

On behalf of the Government of Sweden, a dedicated member to the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform, I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to everyone gathered for this important event and for your efforts to support fossil fuel subsidy reform. And of course I also would like to thank everyone who has joined up behind the Communiqué on Reforming Fossil Fuel Subsidies and the growing momentum around fossil fuel subsidy reform.

On a global scale a lot of direct subsidies to fossil fuels still exist, thereby causing climate change. Fossil fuel subsidies are also a poor social welfare policy. They are regressive, costly and inefficient for reducing poverty. Removing subsidies frees up resources to invest in sustainable development for society, for instance in renewable energy, health, education and social welfare systems.

Besides participating in the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform activities, Sweden has since 2011 been supporting Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI) and their work to support government efforts to reduce fossil-fuel subsidies, for instance by helping building capacity, raising awareness of, and facilitate national dialogues on reform options. Sweden will continue support developing countries voluntary work with subsidy reform.

Sweden has a long tradition of ambitious climate policy and we have recently set the ambition to be one of the first fossil-free welfare countries in the world. We believe that leading the way in the transition towards a fossil-free society is not only morally right, but also economically smart.

On the flip side to subsidies is carbon pricing. Sweden has a carbon tax since 1991 alongside with an energy tax. Our carbon tax has gradually been significantly increased, from 29 Euros in 1991 to 120 Euros in 2016.

Our carbon tax has decreased the fossil fuel consumption. Between 1990 and 2014 Swedish domestic greenhouse gas emissions have declined by 24%. In the same period, our GDP has increased by 62%. However, emissions from our consumption of imported goods and international transports have increased. For us, this is another strong argument for carbon pricing as a necessity to tackle the global challenge of climate change.

The carbon dioxide tax is a powerful and cost-efficient measure to reach ambition. It is easy to administer within the same tax system as other duties on energy products. It gives results and is in line with the Polluter Pays Principle.

We welcome the growing consensus world-wide on the need for proper carbon pricing from countries as well as companies.

Sweden is actively working with other countries and organizations to support the design and implementation of carbon pricing instruments. Sweden is one of the 30 countries participating in the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) and is also supporting new innovative approaches to put a price on greenhouse gas emissions

We are committed to sharing our positive experiences of carbon taxation as well as our experiences from the EU Emissions Trading System and international cooperation.

Thank you very much for your attention.