

Hans Dahlgren presents the general political direction of Sweden's Presidency of the Council of the EU

Today, Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren has informed the Riksdag of the political direction of Sweden's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

"The EU is facing major challenges, including a war in a neighbouring European country, widespread organised crime, an acute climate crisis, widespread unemployment and Member States backsliding on the EU's fundamental values. These are some of the issues that the Swedish Presidency has to address," says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The general political direction of the Swedish Presidency is expressed under five headings agreed on following discussions with party representatives in the Riksdag:

- Provide security for EU citizens and strengthen the EU's role in the world
- Stop organised crime
- Speed up the green transition
- Strengthen the EU's competitiveness for the jobs of the future
- Safeguard the EU's fundamental values

The five headings are general in nature and will be developed and consolidated, ultimately resulting in the priorities and work programme to be presented in December.

Time is available for media questions; contact Press Secretary Victoria Frisk

Garcia.

Published 07 June 2022



Prime Minister to receive President of the European Council

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

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

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

Media programme

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

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

12.45: Press conference in Bella Venezia

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

The press briefing will be livestreamed on government.se and on the Government's YouTube channel.

The Government's YouTube channel

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

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

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

Published 24 May 2022



Sweden closes airspace to Russian aircraft

The Government has decided to ban Russian aircraft from Swedish airspace. An ordinance to this effect enters into force on 28 February 2022.

In light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Government has decided to ban Russian aircraft from Swedish airspace.

Yesterday evening, EU foreign ministers adopted a ban on Russian aircraft landing in, taking off from and overflying EU territory. The ban enters into force on 28 February 2022.

"This flight ban aims to further isolate Russia. It is also important that the EU is continuing to demonstrate great unity," says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The ordinance enters into force on 28 February 2022.

Published 28 February 2022



After EU judgment – EU funds can be withheld when Member States do not respect rule of law

The European Court of Justice decided yesterday that it is possible to stop payments of EU funds to Member States that do not fully respect the rule of law. Sweden played an active role in the legal process in which Poland and Hungary wanted to stop an EU regulation that would allow this.

"That the rule of law must apply in all EU Member States is a very important issue for the Government, which we have long been pushing for. Yesterday's judgment is therefore very welcome," says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

In December 2020, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers jointly decided to introduce a rule of law conditionality regulation. This makes it possible to stop payments of funds to Member States that do not fully respect the rule of law in matters such as independent courts, and thereby protect the EU's financial interests.

Hungary and Poland later requested that the European Court of Justice declare the regulation invalid, as they claim it contravenes the Treaty on European Union. This is a view that the Swedish Government does not share, and it therefore decided – as did several other EU countries – to join the proceedings and to side with the Council and the Parliament when the case was examined by the European Court of Justice in autumn 2021.

"Many of us in the EU take a positive view of the regulation and have done so since it was introduced in 2020. It means that an EU country that does not respect the rule of law can be faced with serious economic consequences. Simply put, if you don't follow the rules, it will cost you," said Mr Dahlgren.

Defending and pushing for all EU Member States to have free, independent courts is a priority issue for the Government. This is also why Sweden was actively engaged in the court proceedings, in defence of the important instrument that the regulation represents.

The judgment yesterday by the European Court of Justice means that Poland and Hungary have lost the case. The Court instead followed the line taken by the Council, the Parliament, the Commission and the EU countries — including Sweden — that were engaged in the case. The regulation therefore remains in force.

"Yesterday's judgment by the European Court of Justice is very welcome, and it is important that the regulation can now begin to be fully applied," Mr Dahlgren concluded.

Published 17 February 2022



Change of government, 30 November 2021

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

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

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry	of	Infras	tru	cture
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Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

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

Anna-Caren Sätherberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

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Published 30 November 2021



Sweden's new Government

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, antisegregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

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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

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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

Published 09 July 2021



Government decision today: Sweden supports new rules making EU budget conditional on respect for rule of law in case before Court of Justice

The Government decided today to support the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in a case before the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning new rules to make the EU budget conditional on respect for the rule of law.

In December last year, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers jointly decided to introduce a rule of law conditionality regulation, making it possible to stop the payment of EU budgetary funding to countries that do not fully respect the rule of law.

Hungary and Poland later demanded that the Court of Justice of the European Union declare the regulation invalid, as they claim it contravenes the Treaty on European Union.

The Swedish Government does not share this view, and has therefore decided today to side with the Council and the Parliament when the case is examined by the Court of Justice.

"Many of us throughout the EU were pleased with the decision whereby there can be severe economic consequences for countries that do not respect the rule of law," says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren. "Defending these important principles and pushing for them to be applied in all EU Member States is a priority issue for the Government. For this reason, it is very problematic that two EU states are demanding that the entire regulation be declared invalid.

"This conditionality already applies, and has done so since 1 January this year. I hope that its application in practice will also begin as soon as possible. Sweden will therefore now defend this important instrument in the Court proceedings," Mr Dahlgren concludes.

Published 20 May 2021



First meeting to be held in Kiruna when Sweden takes over EU Presidency in 2023

The European Commission will be invited to Kiruna when Sweden holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January—30 June 2023.

Preparations by the Government and the Government Offices ahead of Sweden's Presidency of the EU in the spring of 2023 have been under way for over a year. During the Swedish Presidency, the Government and Government Offices officials will lead many of the Council of the European Union's meetings. In all, this includes around 2 000 meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg. Some 150 informal meetings and conferences will be organised here in Sweden. The first meeting of the European Commission will be held in Kiruna in January 2023.

"It's a tradition for the country holding the Presidency to invite the European Commission at the beginning of its term for a meeting with the government about current matters on the EU agenda. Inviting the Commission to Kiruna gives us a fantastic opportunity to show the unique and beautiful countryside, as well as the power and drive inherent in the region," says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

Background to the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Presidency's most important task is to move the EU's agenda forward and work out negotiated solutions. The Presidency must be well-organised and create efficient meetings that deliver decisions and positions that benefit EU citizens. The primary focus during a Presidency is to do a good job in leading the work of the EU. The Presidency rotates among the EU Member States.



Government's preparations for a no-deal Brexit

The Swedish Government has assessed that the risk of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union without a withdrawal agreement has increased. To address the most serious consequences of a no-deal withdrawal, the Government has taken a range of measures that strengthen Sweden's preparedness. At a press conference today, Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson and Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren outlined Sweden's preparations ahead of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

"The Government has prepared for the consequences of the UK's withdrawal from the EU in various ways, for example through official information to companies on the new conditions for trade and on measures to assist private individuals. Central government finances are in order, and our national debt is at its lowest level since 1977. This means we are in a strong position for a no-deal scenario," says Ms Andersson.

International analysts agree that Brexit – regardless of whether the UK leaves the EU with a withdrawal agreement or without one – will mean lower growth and less trade for the UK and EU Member States. No withdrawal agreement has yet been approved and the positions of the EU and the UK are far apart on the key issue of the backstop. Despite this, the Government is working – with other EU countries – for an orderly withdrawal.

"We would, of course, like to see an orderly withdrawal. But according to recent statements from the UK Government, the UK intends to leave the EU on 1 November, with or without an agreement. The situation is serious and we need to be well prepared for a hard Brexit too," says Mr Dahlgren.

The Government has taken measures in many areas. Preparations have been made in close cooperation with government agencies, the European Commission and other EU Member States. However, the Government notes that even if Sweden is well prepared, the negative consequences of a no-deal withdrawal will be unavoidable.

At Wednesday's press conference, Ms Andersson and Mr Dahlgren outlined what has been done to:

- assist Swedish citizens residing in the UK and British citizens residing in Sweden;
- ensure that the financial markets can continue to operate effectively and that financial stability is not jeopardised by a no-deal withdrawal;
- inform companies and private individuals about the new customs regulations that may be introduced;
- enable Swedish Customs to manage the increased work burden that a no-deal withdrawal would cause;
- manage the new rules that would apply to the fishing industry and air and rail transport;
- ensure medicines supply in the EU.

Published 28 August 2019



Minister for EU Affairs to receive Ireland's Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee

On Thursday 14 March, Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren will receive Ireland's Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee. Mr Dahlgren and Ms McEntee will discuss current issues such as Brexit, the EU budget, migration and the rule of law.

Adelcrantzska. Entrance on Rödbodgatan 6

Press programme

14.30: Photo opportunity as the Minister for EU Affairs receives Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee in Adelcrantzska.

Photographers and journalists may enter via the Kopparporten entrance on Rödbodgatan 6 between 13.45 and 14.15.

Please bring your press credentials.

Registration required.

Published 14 March 2019



Social protection following Brexit

The Government wishes to mitigate the consequences for Swedish citizens in the United Kingdom in the event that the country leaves the EU without reaching any agreement whatsoever on how this withdrawal is to take place. Among other things, the government bill submitted to the Riksdag proposes that, in the event of a hard Brexit, it should still be possible to pay Swedish social security benefits to individuals in the United Kingdom over a transitional period. It is also proposed that it should still be possible to receive compensation for healthcare expenses over the same period.

- The EU was created to secure peace, freedom, democracy and the freedom of movement. People who have moved between Sweden and the United Kingdom must also be able to feel secure in times of uncertainty. The Government has therefore submitted a legislative proposal to the Riksdag to create security for people during this adjustment, says Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll.

The bill proposes that, over a transitional period, individuals can continue to receive Swedish social security benefits, with the exception of unemployment benefit, paid to them in the United Kingdom in the same way as at present. The proposal also means that individuals will be able to receive compensation for healthcare costs in certain cases. The provisions for the payment of benefits and compensation for healthcare costs will cease to apply at the end of 2019.

– We want to see an orderly British withdrawal from the EU – everybody would benefit from this. But the date for the withdrawal is coming ever closer and there is still no agreement. This makes it important that we also prepare for a hard Brexit so that nobody gets into difficulties, says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

It is also proposed that provisions be introduced to protect, in the future, the right to aggregate periods of acquired insurance and the right to equate benefits and so on for people working or residing in the UK during the period in which the country was a member of the EU. This may become relevant for future claims of social security benefits, such as pensions.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 29 March 2019.

Published 25 February 2019



The ministers' press contacts

Here are the contact details for the ministers' press secretaries.

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Kristoffer Talltorp

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Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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Isabel Lundin

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Joanna Abrahamsson

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Published 22 January 2019



New state secretaries at the Government Offices

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 Ardalan 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 apointed 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.

Published 22 January 2019