



Article from Ministry of Justice

Anders Ygeman signed cooperation agreements with Moldova and Georgia

Published 20 March 2017

On 6–7 February, Anders Ygeman visited Moldova and Georgia to sign cooperation agreements on law enforcement.

The two agreements strengthen cooperation between Sweden and Moldova and Sweden and Georgia in the fight against serious cross-border crime, principally human trafficking, arms smuggling, terrorism, drug offences, cybercrime and money laundering.

"The new law enforcement agreements strengthen and deepen Sweden's cooperation with both countries. Being able to exchange experiences between law enforcement agencies is important in the fight against organised crime," says Mr Ygeman.

In both agreements, the parties have committed to cooperating on combating serious cross-border crime within the framework of each country's national legislation. Cooperation is primarily to take place via the exchange of information. Sweden has previously entered into agreements on a government-to-government level with Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

In addition to meeting with the various ministers for internal affairs, justice, transport and information technology, Mr Ygeman also visited the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia and representatives of civil society in both countries, including the Women's Law Centre in Moldova and Transparency International in Georgia.



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

Summary: National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women

Published 14 November 2016 Updated 14 November 2016

Stopping men's violence against women is a priority issue for Sweden's feminist government. The Government is therefore now presenting a national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women.

The strategy contains measures that strengthen protection for and support to women subjected to violence, measures to combat violence in same-sex relationships as well as measures that counteract destructive masculinity and notions of honour. The strategy also emphasises the participation and responsibility of men in stopping the violence.

With a long-term strategy and a targeted action plan, the Government is laying the foundation for increasingly goal-oriented and coordinated action on men's violence against women. Developing violence prevention measures is particularly important. These measures must reach all groups in society and be developed in a variety of arenas. The national strategy is included in the Government's gender equality policy communication to the Riksdag (2016/17:10). The strategy spans a ten-year period and will come into force on 1 January 2017.

The strategy's four objectives

- Increased and effective preventive work to combat violence.
- Improved detection of violence and stronger protection for and support

to women and children subjected to violence.

- More effective crime-fighting.
- Improved knowledge and methodological development.

Special emphasis on preventive measures and men's participation

To date, measures have tended to deal with the consequences of violence rather than the causes. The Government's ambition is to shift the perspective and focus on preventing violence. This requires effective measures to prevent both the use and reoccurrence of violence. It also requires broader and more constructive involvement of men and boys than previously, and breaking with the norms that justify violence, the purchase of sexual services and other restrictions on the freedom of action and life choices of women and girls.

There are major challenges with regard to men's violence against women, honour-related violence and oppression, and action to combat prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. Society must become better at detecting violence, and knowledge about the extent of the violence and effective practices needs to improve. Action to prevent violence must be well coordinated between relevant actors at all levels. Therefore, the control, coordination and follow-up of the measures to stop men's violence against women will be strengthened.

Long-term action plan for goal-oriented, coordinated and effective action

As a part of the strategy's implementation, the Government is allocating SEK 600 million to an action plan containing new measures for 2017–2020, in addition to SEK 300 million in development funds to municipalities and county councils. The role of the county administrative boards as regional coordinators will be clarified. The gender equality agency to be established by the Government will eventually be given overall responsibility for the work to end men's violence against women. Within the framework of the action plan, the Government intends to:

For increased and effective preventive work to combat violence

- support the development and spread of universal violence preventive efforts with the objective of reaching all young people,

- conduct a review of sex and relationship education in schools,
- counteract demand for the purchase of sexual services,
- strengthen professional treatment of men who have been violent and investigate the ability of municipalities to work with perpetrators of violence early on, and
- further strengthen prevention of reoffending by convicted perpetrators of violence, both within the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and with other stakeholders.

For improved detection of violence and stronger protection of and support to women and children subjected to violence

- provide training to professionals, in social services and health and medical care for example, and on routines for asking about exposure to violence,
- strengthen protection of and support to children who have witnessed or been exposed to violence,
- strengthen expertise in the field of honour-related violence and oppression,
- continue the development of knowledge support on prostitution targeted at health and medical care and social services.

For more effective crime-fighting

- develop police methods and practices for preventing repeated violence,
- evaluate the 2014 legislative amendments on forced marriages and child marriages,
- prevent online threats and abuse.

For improved knowledge and methodological development

- survey the extent of honour-related violence and oppression,
- develop national statistics on measures in social services and health and medical care, and provide guidance to municipalities on calculating the cost of violence,
- strengthen knowledge about effective violence prevention,
- amend the degree descriptions in the Higher Education Ordinance so that men's violence against women and domestic violence are included in education and training for professional groups who may encounter victims of violence,
- allocate funds for skills development for relevant professional groups.

Extensive initiative since Government took office in 2014

Since taking office, the Government has decided on a long list of measures to counter men's violence against women and domestic violence (these measures are presented on the Government website). For instance, the Government has provided increased support to local women's shelters for 2015–2019 totalling SEK 425 million. In addition, the Government has decided on, or in other ways taken, more than 20 measures directly related to proposals from the National Coordinator on Domestic Violence.



Article from Ministry of Justice

Agreement concluded on US preclearance at Stockholm Arlanda Airport

Published 11 November 2016 Updated 11 November 2016

On 4 November 2016, Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman and US Ambassador Azita Raji signed an agreement on US preclearance at Stockholm Arlanda Airport. Negotiations on the agreement had been ongoing since mid-2015.

The United States is seeking preclearance at several foreign airports. In May 2015, Stockholm Arlanda Airport was chosen as one of ten airports around the world to be considered for US preclearance. One aim of US preclearance at Arlanda is to facilitate travel between Sweden and the US, both for the business sector and private individuals.

Negotiations to set up US preclearance at Arlanda began in the middle of last year. The Ministry of Justice and the Division for Criminal Cases and International Judicial Cooperation were responsible for the negotiations. Since the agreement concerns several legal areas, other divisions at the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation were involved in the process.

The negotiations have been conducted with US Customs & Border Protection and the country's Transportation Security Administration. Alongside the Government Offices, several other stakeholders have been involved, including airport operator Swedavia, which has had a central role. The negotiations have thus involved a range of parties and spheres of interest. Cooperation with US and other Swedish stakeholders has been excellent.

Inquiry on the implementation of agreement on US preclearance

Around the middle of this year, only minor details of the agreement remained to be hammered out. In July 2016, the Government instructed an Inquiry Chair, District Police Commissioner Stefan Mann, to submit proposals on how the agreement could be implemented in Swedish law. The remit entails highlighting and analysing all the issues relevant to enabling the operation of a preclearance facility at Arlanda. The Inquiry Chair will also submit necessary legislative proposals.

The Inquiry Chair is to present his report by 22 June 2017 and the proposals will then be circulated for comment. A government bill would need to be ready by March 2018 to enable adoption by the Riksdag before the summer recess. When the legislative proposals have entered into force, Swedavia will be able to build the preclearance facility at Arlanda.



Article from Ministry of Justice

Maintenance requirement for family member immigration

Published 10 August 2016 Updated 10 August 2016

The temporary act on restrictions to the possibility of being granted a residence permit in Sweden entered into force on 20 July. The act sets a maintenance requirement as a condition for being granted a residence permit in two instances; firstly, in connection with family member immigration and secondly, to allow issuing a permanent residence permit if the individual has an income from employment or business activities. The act does not specify how large an income is required. Instead, this is now specified in an ordinance.

"The maintenance requirement we have now introduced means that those who wish to bring their family members to Sweden must have a sufficient income as well as housing," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman.

Family member immigration requires that the sponsor has an income that corresponds to the reserve amount applied by the Swedish Enforcement Authority in attachment of salary cases. It also requires that the sponsor has housing of sufficient standard and size. In the ordinance, the Swedish Migration Agency is given the right to issue more detailed provisions as to what this entails. The maintenance requirement does not apply in situations where the sponsor is a child.

The income necessary depends on how large the family is and how high the housing costs are. If only one person is applying for a residence permit as a family member, the family's support needs are lower, and housing costs may also be lower. The determining factor is the reserve amount. This amount

includes housing costs and a normal amount to cover living costs. The normal amount includes costs for food, clothes, hygiene, telephone, household electricity, insurance and other minor expenses for temporary needs. The size of the normal amount is determined by the Riksdag and adjusted once a year.

The normal amount for 2016 is set as follows:

- SEK 4 679 for a single adult;
- SEK 7 729 for cohabiting spouses or partners;
- SEK 2 482 for children until and including the age of 6; and
- SEK 2 857 for children from the age of 7.

A person who is granted a temporary residence permit may be eligible for a permanent residence permit. Under the new act, this requires an income.

"To be granted a permanent residence permit, the person must have an income from employment or business activities so that they are not in need of income support," says Mr Ygeman.

Questions concerning individual cases should be addressed to the Swedish Migration Agency.



Article from Ministry of Justice

New rules to reduce abuse of Swedish passports

Published 15 April 2016 Updated 15 April 2016

Today, on 15 April, a new act enters into force with the aim of reducing abuse of Swedish passports and the risk of valid passports falling into the wrong hands.

"Stolen passports can be traced to serious organised crime, travel to participate in terrorist wars and human smuggling. This is why the regulatory change now entering into force is important," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman.

Swedish passports and national ID cards are regarded as some of the world's most secure documents. With a Swedish passport, you can enjoy visa-free travel to many countries around the world. Due to their design and manufacture, Swedish passports have a good reputation and are therefore sought after by fraudsters with the objective of using them for illegal purposes. Passport abuse entails a large security risk, as people can travel anonymously and circumvent travel bans by using a passport other than their own.

"Far too many passports have disappeared, been stolen or lost and yet remain valid. A passport can cause the affected person great harm if it falls into the wrong hands," says Mr Ygeman.

The act includes the following amendments:

- As a general rule, Swedish citizens may be granted a maximum of three regular passports during a five-year period.
- As a general rule, the regular passport will be revoked and cancelled when a provisional passport is issued to the passport holder.
- The period of validity for a regular passport for children under the age of

twelve years will be reduced to three years.



Article from Ministry of Justice

Government decides to prolong internal border controls again

Published 04 February 2016 Updated 04 February 2016

The Swedish Government decided today to prolong internal border controls from 9 February to 9 March 2016.

Today, the Swedish Government decided to prolong internal border controls again, from 9 February up to and including 9 March 2016. The Government's assessment is that the conditions on which the earlier decisions were taken still apply.

– Because of the internal border controls we now have better knowledge about who enters the country and are able to maintain order and security, says Anders Ygeman Minister for Home Affairs.

The Government intends to review whether there is still a need after 9 March to further prolong the internal border controls.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Justice

Sweden and Morocco in talks on repatriation

Published 21 January 2016 Updated 24 February 2016

On Tuesday 19 January, Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman met with the Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, Rachid Talbi Alami.

Among the subjects covered in the talks were how work will continue to find an efficient process to enable Moroccan children and young people to return to Morocco and receive an organised reception there.

"We had a good discussion and agree that we should now work together to facilitate a better return of Moroccan nationals," says Mr Ygeman.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Justice

Agreement on counter-terrorism measures

Published 04 January 2016 Updated 04 January 2016

Thursday, 10 december 2015, an agreement was made between the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Moderate Party, the Swedish Green Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats on counter-terrorism measures. The agreement was presented at the Riksdag.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Government presented measures in response to refugee situation

Published 08 October 2015 Updated 08 October 2015

In early October 2015 the Government presented a number of measures in response to the refugee situation.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is to coordinate at national level the management of the refugee situation by responsible actors

Stronger coordination is required to enable the actors taking part in dealing with the refugee situation – including central government agencies, municipalities, county councils, non-governmental organisations, faith communities and private actors – to work effectively together. The Government has therefore tasked the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency with coordinating the management of the current refugee situation at national level. The Agency is to produce national situation reports, with information on areas in need of measures that have not yet been adequately taken. The Agency is also to identify and report on other circumstances that the Government should know about in order to assess the Government's need to take action.

The Government is responsible for the overall coordination, priorities and direction of society's emergency preparedness. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency's mandate will not change this. The mandate expires after 31 December 2015.

Financial support granted to the Swedish Red Cross for voluntary efforts to help refugees

The Government will pay out SEK 10 million in support without a requisition to the Swedish Red Cross to strengthen the organisation's role and civil society's management of the refugee crisis. The funds are to be used to perform, organise and coordinate humanitarian aid activities for refugees in Sweden. The funds are also aimed in particular at supporting and making use of the voluntary engagement in the refugee crisis, and the Swedish Red Cross is to collaborate with other organisations in carrying this out.

How these funds have been used will be presented to the Government Offices by 2 May 2016.

Health and Social Care Inspectorate to strengthen capacity in permit application processing activities

The sharp rise in the number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Sweden is a major contributing factor to the increasing number of children and young people needing to be placed outside the home. Forecasts from the Swedish Migration Agency indicate that the number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum will not decline. The Government has therefore tasked the Health and Social Care Inspectorate with strengthening capacity in its activities to ensure that the processing of permits for homes for care or residence takes place as quickly and effectively as possible.

In a referral to the Council on Legislation, the Government will also soon propose the introduction of an additional form of placement known as supported accommodation. Supported accommodation is intended for children and young people between the ages of 16 and 20, and is to be combined with individually adapted support for each person. The intention is that supported accommodation will also require a permit from the Inspectorate.

It should be possible for the new provisions to enter into force in the first quarter of 2016.

Government provides extra funding to the World Food Programme in Syria

The World Food Programme (WFP) has reported major and acute shortfalls in funding to ensure access to food supplies for refugees in Syria and neighbouring countries. Sweden is one of WFP's largest donors. The Government now intends to grant an additional SEK 25 million to WFP's

Syria response.

In addition to this extra funding to WFP, the Government also intends to grant an extra SEK 25 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund, which can rapidly respond to the increasing needs around the world. The Fund is a particularly effective instrument for funding ‘forgotten’ or chronically underfinanced humanitarian crises.

National Agency for Public Procurement to draw up guidance document on the current refugee situation

According to the Swedish Migration Agency, it has not been possible to complete procurements of asylum accommodation as a result of ongoing court proceedings, despite the fact that there are a large number of empty accommodation places available. The Government notes that from human and socio-economic perspectives, there is a need to offer guidance to central government and municipal agencies, and other relevant actors, on the opportunities procurement legislation provides to quickly meet asylum accommodation needs.

The National Agency for Public Procurement has therefore been tasked with providing information and guidance on legislative provisions that can be brought up in procurements related to asylum seekers. The Agency is to supplement and give tangible form to the European Commission’s communication on public procurement rules in connection with the current refugee crisis that was adopted on 9 September 2015. The Commission states that contracting authorities must consider all possibilities to substantially reduce the timeframes and assess on a case-by-case basis which procedure is to be used in order to find a solution to the crisis.

The report is to be submitted to the Government Offices no later than 1 November 2015.



Article from Ministry of Justice

Prevent, preempt and protect– the Swedish strategy against terrorism

Published 28 August 2015 Updated 28 August 2015

Friday, 28 August 2015, Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman, presented the Swedish strategy against terrorism. The strategy was delivered to the Riksdag as an official Government Communication. Here are the main contents of the Communication.

Terrorism threatens international peace and security, national security and our fundamental rights and freedoms. Every year, numerous terrorist attacks are carried out around the world. Recent years have seen a sharp increase in problems related to foreign terrorist fighters and there is presently no indication that this trend will abate.

The Government has now drawn up a new national counter-terrorism strategy that will form the basis of Sweden's long-term work in this area, both nationally and internationally. The aim is to create a clear structure for the work needed to combat terrorist crime. The strategy emphasises the importance of cooperation and clear follow-up of the work done.

The goal of all counter-terrorism activities is to keep terrorist attacks from being carried out. This work is divided into three areas – *Prevent*, *Preempt* and *Protect*. Particular focus is given to the area *Prevent*. Measures in this area are intended to counteract radicalisation and recruitment to extremist and terrorist groups, and to influence the intent of individuals to commit or support terrorist crime. In this way, the recruitment base for terrorism can be reduced. The *Preempt* area deals with counteracting and reducing the capabilities and opportunities to commit terrorist attacks, while *Protect* deals with creating and maintaining protection for individuals and reducing society's vulnerability to terrorist attacks. If a terrorist attack is nevertheless

carried out, society must also be able to manage the resulting consequences.

One important premise for the Government is that fundamental rights and freedoms and the principles of the rule of law must be ensured in all actions to combat terrorism.

Skr. 2014/15:146 Prevent, preempt and protect – the Swedish counter-terrorism strategy



Article from Ministry of Justice

Anders Ygeman visited Swedish Coast Guard vessel in the Mediterranean

Published 26 August 2015 Updated 26 August 2015

Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman visited Swedish Coast Guard patrol vessel Poseidon, which is participating in the joint EU humanitarian Operation Triton in the Mediterranean. The operation is being led by Frontex.

"I am extremely proud of the contribution the Swedish Coast Guard is making in the Mediterranean. To date, the Coast Guard has rescued close to 5 000 people fleeing across the Mediterranean," says Mr Ygeman.

So far, the Swedish vessel has patrolled almost 8 000 kilometres of the Mediterranean. The Swedish Coast Guard has contributed to the arrests of a number of suspected traffickers, which is an important part of the operation.

A decision will be taken soon as to whether Sweden will provide smaller vessels to another Frontex operation off the coast of Greece this autumn. During the first half of next year, the Coast Guard may also provide Swedish surveillance aircraft.

"I am making this trip both to get a better understanding of the operation and to show my gratitude to those carrying out the mission. Another reason is to form an impression of the prospects for future operations," says Mr Ygeman.

When the Swedish vessel leaves the Mediterranean on 1 September, it will be replaced by a French vessel. Frontex has not yet sent a request regarding needs for next year; once such a request has been received, Sweden will

consider what assistance we can provide.

“In my conversations with the crew, I heard a very touching story about a woman who was eight months pregnant when she was rescued from a very crowded ship with poor prospects of reaching Italy on its own. Almost 5 000 people have stories of their own of how they came to find themselves on the Swedish ship. These are very touching stories,” says Mr Ygeman.

Background

On 30 April 2015, the Government decided that Sweden would promptly take part in the operations. The mandate for Swedish Coast Guard participation is effective until the end of April 2016.

The number of people fleeing across the Mediterranean depends very much upon the season. The number increases during the spring and, above all, the summer. When the autumn arrives, along with the autumn storms, this number is substantially reduced – and so also the need for operations.

Sweden's participation in the operation is financed in full by Frontex and the EU. Last spring, Sweden took a proactive role to triple funding for Operation Triton, the Frontex operation under Italian command.



Article from Ministry of Justice

Government gives Swedish Coast Guard green light to participate in rescue operations in Mediterranean

Published 26 May 2015 Updated 26 May 2015

The Government has decided that the Swedish Coast Guard, in consultation with Frontex, may provide vessels, boats, aircraft and staff for Frontex operations in the Mediterranean during the period 1 May 2015 – 1 May 2016. The participation of the Swedish Coast Guard will be financed by Frontex.

The Swedish Coast Guard has relevant and, in this context, sought-after resources to offer, such as aircraft that can detect vessels or boats in distress, and vessels that can conduct search and rescue operations at sea.

“The situation in the Mediterranean is extremely serious. We are now giving the go-ahead for the Swedish Coast Guard to offer its resources so as to prevent more disasters,” says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman.



Article from Ministry of Justice

Agreement to combat trafficking of children for sexual purposes and exploitation of women and children

Published 25 May 2015 Updated 25 May 2015

Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman and Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng today signed a cooperation agreement for cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

“In an increasingly globalised world our police must cooperate more across borders. This agreement with Cambodia provides common opportunities to put a stop to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes,” says Mr Ygeman.

Through the agreement, Sweden and Cambodia pledge to cooperate to combat serious cross-border crime, such as sexual exploitation of children, drug offences, cybercrime, money laundering and terrorism.

This cooperation will primarily take place through the exchange of information and the search for wanted persons. The parties may also cooperate through the agreement by offering one another expertise and by exchanging experiences.

The agreement enters into force today and the countries will now inform one another about which national agencies will be authorised to apply the agreement.