



Government Offices of Sweden

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency to run broad information campaign for increased IT security

On Tuesday 1 March, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson held a press conference on cyber security preparedness in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Director General of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency Charlotte Petri Gornitzka and Head of the Swedish Security Service Charlotte von Essen also took part.

“We know that Russia has extensive capabilities to conduct cyber attacks against countries, companies and public authorities. Even if Sweden is not a primary target, it can't be ruled out that we won't be affected, and we must have contingency plans prepared,” said Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

To increase public preparedness and awareness regarding cyber security, the Government, together with the Swedish Police Authority, will task the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency with conducting a broad public information campaign. The campaign will provide information on what each of us can do here and now to increase our own information and cyber security. The government will return to the Parliament with a proposal to allocate SEK 40 million for this purpose. Planning of the campaign will begin immediately.

The Government and Swedish public authorities are closely following developments. Swedish public authorities have intensified their national and international information exchanges.

Ms von Essen stated that the security situation in Europe has seriously deteriorated and that events are unfolding rapidly. At present, there is no

concrete information on an increased threat to Sweden's internal security, but the unfolding events are complex and serious, and could affect Sweden's security in the long term.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency supports the coordination of relevant authorities in the event of a crisis or increased preparedness. The Agency also supports society's efforts to manage information and cyber security incidents. Ms Gornitzka reported on the contingency planning that has been prepared and the cooperation taking place with other actors. She also encouraged extra vigilance in light of the security situation.

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A year of the 34-point programme – efforts to combat gang crime are well under way

It has been a year since the Government presented its 34-point programme of measures to combat gang crime. The programme represents the largest package of measures to combat gang crime ever in Sweden. The Government is working hard to ensure that measure after measure enters into force and produces results.

The measures in the 34-point programme will enable the Government to impose more severe penalties for gang-related crime and offer the Swedish Police wider possibilities to conduct searches. Reduced sentences for young adults involved in serious crime will be abolished. The culture of silence surrounding criminal gangs must be broken. The Government has therefore appointed an Inquiry Chair to examine matters such as a crown witness system, improved witness protection, increased penalties for e.g. threatening witnesses, and the need to introduce the possibility to testify anonymously. Youth supervision as a sanction enters into force on 1 January 2021 and the Government is taking long-term measures to stop gangs from recruiting. The multi-agency cooperation to combat organised crime is being enhanced and stepped up.

"To increase safety and security in our nation and strengthen our society, we must mobilise in the fight against organised crime. Early interventions, including equal schooling and more robust social services and welfare, are absolutely vital in the fight against crime, as are stricter legislation and effective tools for the police and law enforcement authorities," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

Over the past year, the Government has made it easier to seize gang members' property, watches, cars and cash, and is now reviewing legislation

to make it even more effective in seizing the proceeds of crime – money or property obtained through crime.

One measure from the 34-point programme that entered into force this year has enabled the police to hack into the telephones of hardened criminals and read their encrypted communications. Since police in Europe cracked the EncroChat app in 2020, the Swedish Police have arrested around ten people in Swedish criminal gang networks, and according to the Swedish Police Authority, more than ten murders have been prevented.

"We need to see much more success of this kind as law enforcement authorities gain access to more and better tools," says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Another measure that has entered into force has made it easier for the Swedish Police to use interception equipment. This means that the connection of a new interception will take place faster, reducing the gap that arises when criminals change numbers or devices, or use several.

Alongside the work on the 34-point programme and other reforms to increase safety and security, the largest ever expansion of the Swedish Police is also under way. The Swedish Police Authority is currently halfway to achieving the target of expanding by 10 000 police employees by 2024, and the Authority now has more resources at its disposal than ever before. Increasing numbers of new constables are joining police operations every six months. Two new police training programmes have started – one in Malmö and one in Borås. All in all, three times more police are being trained today than in 2014, when the Government took office. At the same time as the Government is reinforcing the police, other parts of the judicial chain are also being reinforced, especially the Swedish Prison and Probation Service.

In January, new acts on sanctions will enter into force, and at the end of 2021, the majority of the programme's 34 measures will have been presented or entered into force.

"The 34-point programme is not the only, the first or the last of the measures the Government is working on to fight serious crime. More proposals are under way on everything from more efficient court proceedings to stricter rules on expelling people involved in crime. But the work doesn't end there, either. Above all, more politicians need to listen to the police's message that our entire society must be on board to stop recruitments to criminal environments," says Mr Damberg.

Published 30 October 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Right of UK nationals to continue living and working in Sweden under the Withdrawal Agreement

Here you find more information about the right of UK nationals to continue living and working in Sweden under the Withdrawal Agreement.

The withdrawal begins with a transition period

The UK left the EU on 1 February, but up to and including 31 December 2020 a transition period applies when EU law still applies to the UK. This means that the situation for UK nationals living in Sweden will not change during this period. Up to 31 December, they will thus be able to continue to work and live here, and enjoy their right to freedom of movement within the EU in the same way as before.

It is envisioned that at the end of transition period, the future partnership between the EU and the UK will take effect. Negotiations on the future partnership are currently ongoing. The transition period may be extended if the parties agree, but not beyond 2022.

Following the transition period, the special provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement on citizens' rights will apply

The right of all EU citizens and their family members to live, work or study in other EU Member States is one of the cornerstones of the EU, and many EU citizens and UK nationals have made their life choices based on this right to freedom of movement. Protecting these people's life choices was an important priority during the negotiation of the Withdrawal Agreement. The Withdrawal Agreement therefore contains special provisions that protect the rights of citizens who have taken advantage of their right to freedom of movement within the EU.

These special provisions to protect the affected citizens will come into effect

after the transition period. In Sweden this means, in brief, that UK nationals who have taken advantage of their right to freedom of movement within the EU to move to Sweden before the end of the transition period will have the right to continue living and working here, essentially on the same terms that applied to them while they were still EU citizens.

Therefore, this not only concerns those who were living in Sweden at the time of the actual withdrawal, but also those who come to Sweden during the transition period.

The Government proposes that UK nationals must apply for a new residence status

The Government presented a bill to the Riksdag containing proposals for provisions that supplement the Withdrawal Agreement in Sweden with regard to the right of UK nationals to continue living and working in Sweden. The proposals mean that, among other things, UK nationals and their family members living in Sweden at the end of the transition period, and who want to continue living here, must apply for a new residence status in accordance with Article 18(1) of the Withdrawal Agreement. Residence status confers the rights included in the Withdrawal Agreement.

Residence status will be granted to UK nationals and their family members who at the end of the transition period are living in Sweden under the terms for freedom of movement that apply within the EU. It is not necessary for applicants to actually be present in Sweden exactly at the end of the transition period. Temporary absence that does not affect right of residence is permitted.

A person who is granted residence status will have the right to live and work in Sweden on essentially the same terms that apply to an EU citizen. These terms mean, in brief, that the person in question must:

- be employed or self-employed;
- have sufficient assets and sickness insurance;
- be a family member to another person who meets the requirements; or
- have received right of residence (i.e. have legally lived in Sweden for more than five years, therefore no longer needing to meet any requirements).

A person with residence status who has legally lived in Sweden for five years will, just like an EU citizen, have permanent right of residence here. A person who has received permanent right of residence under the Withdrawal

Agreement can only lose it if he or she is absent from Sweden for more than five years.

The Swedish Migration Agency is proposed to be the agency responsible for making decisions concerning residence status. In the ministry memorandum 'Supplementary provisions to the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union concerning citizens' rights' (Ds 2020:5) it is proposed that those affected should apply for a new residence status within 10 months.

An equivalent system is in place for Swedes and other EU citizens residing in the UK.

UK nationals who come to Sweden after the transition period

Unless otherwise decided during the negotiations between the EU and UK, any UK nationals who want to move to Sweden after the transition period will have to apply for a residence permit here in the same way and on the same terms as other people who are not EU citizens.

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Government Offices of Sweden

Several Ministers participated in commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January

On Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27 several representatives from the Swedish Government participated in memorial services to honour the victims of the Holocaust and to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven attended a memorial ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation. The memorial service began in Auschwitz and ended with a candle lighting ceremony in Birkenau.

Minister for Education Anna Ekström spoke at a memorial service arranged by the Council of Roma representatives in Malmö and then at a memorial service arranged by the Jewish Community of Malmö in the Synagogue of Malmö.

Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg spoke at a ceremony arranged by The Living History Forum at Raoul Wallenberg's Square and then at the memorial ceremony in the Great Synagogue of Stockholm. Minister for Environment and Deputy Prime and Climate Isabella Lövin, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Financial Markets and Housing Per Bolund also participated at the ceremony in the Great Synagogue.

Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind visited the Jewish Community of Gothenburg and spoke at the memorial ceremony in the evening.

Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation Åsa Lindhagen spoke at the memorial ceremony at the

Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Further Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman and Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson participated in a memorial service at the The Royal Dramatic Theatre.

Published 30 January 2020



Government proposes tougher terrorist legislation

In a proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration, the Government proposes that it should be made a punishable offence to participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation. It also proposes making it a punishable offence to collaborate with a terrorist organisation, for example by selling weapons, vehicles or other similar equipment to such an organisation.

“Sweden has comprehensive criminalisation in the area of terrorism, but it is not actually a punishable offence to participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation such as Daesh. With this proposal, it will be,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

Combating terrorism is a top priority for the Government, and a number of amendments to tighten legislation have been introduced in recent years. To further improve opportunities to prevent and combat terrorism, the Government proposes making it a punishable offence to participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation. The legislative proposal contains two new offences: participation in a terrorist organisation and collaboration with a terrorist organisation. In addition, it is proposed to make public provocation to commit a terrorist act and recruitment for terrorism punishable offences, as well as travel abroad for the purpose of participating in the activities of a terrorist organisation. Financing such participation will also be criminalised.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 August 2019.



Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the car fires: “Society will always respond strongly to such acts”

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson met police in Västra Frölunda today to learn about their work following the car fires in western Sweden on 13 August. Chairman of the Municipal Executive Board of the City of Gothenburg Ann-Sofie Hermansson was also at the meeting.

"Society will always respond strongly to such acts. We have made the penalty for gross vandalism much tougher. In the autumn we will also present a bill on attacks against emergency services staff that may follow in the wake of such incidents," says Mr Löfven.

Last year the Government increased the penalty for gross vandalism, which can now lead to six years' imprisonment.

"We now hope that these thugs can be caught so that they can receive the punishment they deserve," says Mr Johansson.

Since the current electoral period began in the autumn of 2014, the Government has proposed more than 30 stricter penalties related to organised crime.



Government agencies and authorities respond to effects of drought and heat

Rescue services, government agencies and local authorities are engaged in intensive efforts in response to the forest fires raging around the country, the widespread drought and the ongoing heat wave. More information about these efforts is available below. Crisis preparedness is part of the remit of every government agency and authority.

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) manages coordination and national priorities for international support. The MSB maintains constant preparedness and can provide reinforcement resources, both equipment and expertise, if requested by rescue operations leaders or county administrative boards. The MSB is also in regular dialogue with neighbouring countries and the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre concerning international resources.

The MSB has forest fire depots (with hoses, motor pumps and six-wheel ATVs) located around the country, which are being used for several of the fires.

The MSB can also provide personnel with collaboration and leadership expertise to reinforce actors' management functions.

The MSB reinforces relevant county administrative boards' staffing and their reception of international support. Moreover, the MSB can provide housing solutions, hygiene facilities such as showers and toilets, and high-capacity pumps – resources that include accompanying expertise.

[More information about ongoing events and measures relating to the forest fires is available on the MSB website](#)

Information about the forest fires from county administrative boards, municipalities and rescue services is gathered at www.krisinformation.se, the national website for emergency information. Important public announcements (in Swedish only) are published on this website.

- [Krisinformation.se website](#)

Swedish Armed Forces, including the Home Guard

Swedish Armed Forces, including the Home Guard
The Swedish Armed Forces is providing continued support in the form of personnel and equipment, in response to expressed needs.

[More information is available on the Swedish Armed Forces website](#)

Swedish Transport Administration

The Swedish Transport Administration is assisting with firefighting equipment and staffing resources, especially tracked vehicles equipped with water tanks and fire suppression equipment, and personnel to staff this equipment. At the moment, the Swedish Transport Administration is supporting rescue services at forest fires in Gävleborg, Dalarna and Jämtland counties. Traffic is impacted in the affected counties and traffic information is being updated regularly.

[More information is available on the Swedish Transport Administration website](#)

Swedish Coast Guard

The Swedish Coast Guard has specially equipped marine patrol aircraft, two of which are now being used to assist rescue services and the MSB with patrolling, documentation and directing other aircraft resources in connection with the forest fires. The Coast Guard has also produced special maps of the fires.

[More information is available on the Swedish Coast Guard website](#)

Swedish Police Authority

The Swedish Police Authority is providing local support from each region

and police from unaffected regions. The Police Authority's main task in connection with the fires is to save lives and reduce injuries. This involves cordoning off areas, directing traffic and evacuating residents in accordance with rescue service decisions. The National Operations Department has taken decisions concerning nationwide special events in order to support regions with national resources, where necessary, and prepare for potential decisions concerning nationwide special events. The fires are primarily affecting the Mitt, Nord and Bergslagen police regions. The Police Authority has decided to reinforce resources in the central police region Mitt with a number of police officers from the Öst, Väst Syd and Stockholm police regions.

[More information is available on the Swedish Police Authority website](#)

County administrative boards

The county administrative boards are monitoring the forest fires and coordinating efforts between local actors and national level. They are also coordinating county information to the media and the public. County administrative boards also take decisions about fire bans and provide information to the public. All county administrative boards are closely monitoring access to animal feed and water in each county. The grazing and hay harvesting situation is extremely serious in several counties. Some county administrative boards have provided resources to other affected counties. The MSB's assessment is that resources to deal with the ongoing forest fires are currently available at county administrative board level.

[County administrative board website](#)

Municipal rescue services

All municipal rescue services are providing assistance based on their capacity. The number of firefighters and other personnel working to contain the ongoing fires in Sweden is constantly changing. A large number of volunteers, Home Guard personnel, police, and others are also assisting.

Svenska kraftnät

Svenska kraftnät is the government agency that ensures Sweden has a secure electricity supply. Its remit includes ensuring that the country's electricity supply is prepared to handle extreme events, such as fires, that may entail serious strains on society. The electricity system is monitored around the clock. Svenska kraftnät is monitoring the ongoing forest fires closely and is

in dialogue with rescue services on the ground and, when necessary, can provide emergency equipment to restore the power grid. This includes tracked vehicles equipped with wireless communications, such as the Rakel system. These mobile command and communication units (MOLOS) are operated by Sweden's Voluntary Radio Organisation as instructed by Svenska kraftnät.

[Svenska kraftnät website](#)

Swedish Board of Agriculture

The Swedish Board of Agriculture is working actively to find solutions to alleviate the situation for affected farmers. These solutions include exemptions from regulations, higher advance payments from support funds to help liquidity, and more. For example, the Board has granted an exemption allowing farmers to take feed from grassland that otherwise must not be harvested.

[More information is available on the Board of Agriculture website](#)

National Food Agency

The protracted drought in large parts of the country is creating major problems for agriculture. This also means that everyone must conserve drinking water. At present, around 80 municipalities have introduced a ban on watering. Thus, it is equally as important to save municipal drinking water as private well water. Water is needed for many important activities, such as food production, hospitals and agriculture.

The National Food Agency is cooperating with the Swedish Board of Agriculture and other authorities to manage the difficult situation of farmers.

[More information is available on the National Food Agency website](#)

Swedish Forest Agency

The Swedish Forest Agency is supporting firefighting efforts by providing map data, landowner contact information and equipment such as hoses, pumps and drones. The Agency can also provide staffing resources and coordinate the exchange of information between the forestry sector, the MSB and other government agencies and actors, as well as provide status reports to landowners and the public. The Agency can also conduct inventories and offer support and guidance to affected forest owners.

[More information is available on the Swedish Forest Agency website](#)

Swedish Work Environment Authority

Heat can impact employee attentiveness and judgement, which can lead to an increased risk of accidents. The Swedish Work Environment Authority is responsible for issues regarding work environment and working hours, and monitoring legal compliance. At present, the Authority is providing information about relevant risks, work environment responsibilities, preventive measures and applicable regulations. For example, the Authority has gathered information on its website about temperature and climate conditions at workplaces. The Authority is monitoring and analysing developments to prepare for additional measures.

More information is available on the Swedish Work Environment Authority website.

The social partners are monitoring compliance with labour legislation such as the Annual Leave Act and collective agreements that may regulate working hours, for example.

[Swedish Work Environment Authority website](#)

SOS Alarm

Response times for the emergency number 112 are increasing, and the system is under pressure. SOS Alarm has heightened its level of preparedness, producing status reports each day (at 06.00, 09.00, 15.00 and 20.30) and enabling measures to be taken when necessary. SOS Alarm is urging people to refrain from calling the emergency number 112 if they are not in acute or immediate need of help.

[More information is available on the SOS Alarm website](#)

National Board of Health and Welfare

The National Board of Health and Welfare works to strengthen the preparedness of health, medical care and social service providers before, during and after serious incidents. In light of the ongoing heat wave and the many serious forest fires in the country, the Board is working with other government monitoring agencies.

[More information is available on the National Board of Health and Welfare](#)

[website](#)

Public Health Agency of Sweden

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides targeted advice for municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors to use in their efforts to reduce health risks associated with heat waves. This advice is then passed on to the individuals concerned.

[More information is available on the Public Health Agency of Sweden website](#)

Lantmäteriet

Lantmäteriet, the government agency that produces maps of Sweden, is currently using its expertise to support other agencies. It has established a 'geo cell' in Färila, Sweden, staffed by Lantmateriet personnel with GIS expertise, and equipped with hardware such as computers, printers and plotters that can compile, analyse and print out maps based on the needs of rescue services, the police, county administrative boards and the MSB. Lantmäteriet takes part in regional collaboration conferences and the national collaboration conferences for government agencies.

[Lantmäteriet website](#)

Swedish Post and Telecom Authority

The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS) is collaborating with other government agencies and societal actors, providing regular status reports on electronic communications. PTS is in regular contact with sector actors and has convened a meeting of the National Telecommunications Coordination Group (NTSG). PTS has also assigned a radio frequency permit to Polish rescue services.

[More information is available on the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority website](#)

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is reaching out to businesses and organisations in the hospitality industry to enable them to inform tourists about the serious situation in Sweden and current conditions.

[Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth website](#)

Swedish Maritime Administration

The Swedish Maritime Administration has had an ongoing dialogue with the MSB for the past week concerning the type of support the Administration can provide to fight the fires raging around Sweden. The Administration is supporting the MSB by coordinating society's combined resources. This involves overall planning, leadership and strategies for system managers, staff functions and prioritising society's resources from a national perspective. It also includes aircraft coordination and logistics support, which may entail optimising fuel supplies of the aircraft resources taking part.

[More information is available on the Swedish Maritime Administration website](#)

Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) issues heat warnings when a period of high or extreme temperatures is expected. High temperatures put a strain on the body, creating problems particularly for risk groups.

[Heat warnings on the SMHI website](#)

SMHI and the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) collaborate and provide continuous updates on the risk of water shortages in their 'water shortage risk' service.

[Water shortage risk service \(in Swedish\) on the SMHI website](#)

Geological Survey of Sweden

The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) monitors groundwater trends and publishes up-to-date maps showing how much groundwater levels differ from normal monthly levels.

[Groundwater levels on the SGU website](#)

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has national responsibility for supervision guidance on drinking water and groundwater protection, and water-related activity (including withdrawing water for watering/irrigation).

[Water guidelines on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management website](#)

[Information about water shortages on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management website](#)

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency provides general information about water shortages, drought and actions individuals can take.

[Information about water shortages \(in Swedish\) on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website](#)

Medical Products Agency

The Medical Products Agency is responsible for approving and regulating medicinal products and natural remedies, and for the supervision of medical devices. Advice from the Medical Products Agency about storing medicinal products during periods of prolonged heat is available on the 1177 Vårdguiden website.

[More information is available on the 1177 Vårdguiden website](#)

Published 09 August 2018



Government Offices of Sweden

Morgan Johansson and European Commissioner Christos Stylianides visited Färila

On Monday 6 August, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson visited Färila in Hälsingland, Sweden, together with European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides.

There they heard about the experiences of the rescue services, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and national and international personnel deployed to fight this summer's forest fires. They also heard about the measures carried out using both Swedish and international resources.

Through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Sweden has activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and thus enabled support from the crisis mechanisms of all of the other 27 EU countries.

After their meeting, Mr Johansson and Mr Stylianides held a joint press briefing.

Published 07 August 2018



EU Civil Protection Mechanism

The EU Member States have agreed to assist each other when crisis or disaster strikes. Sweden has requested this assistance, activating the Civil Protection Mechanism, and is receiving help from several countries to fight the forest fires currently raging in Sweden. Assistance mobilisation has been coordinated through the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

In the event of a crisis, the affected country's emergency response authority can request assistance from the ERCC, which in turn communicates with the contact points of other EU Member States. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is Sweden's emergency response authority, and can therefore request assistance from the ERCC. The MSB also receives all requests from the ERCC and regularly mediates Swedish support to other organisations working in countries affected by disasters and crises.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was established in 2001, and is able to provide support both within and outside the EU. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism provides potential support from all EU Member States' crisis mechanisms. Sweden received support from the ERCC during the forest fires in Västmanland County in 2014.

The MSB has requested assistance, activating the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, for the forest fires raging across Sweden in July 2018. This assistance includes planes, helicopters and firefighting personnel from the EU (Germany, Lithuania, Poland, France, Italy and Portugal).

Swedish rescue services and the MSB have joint operational responsibility for firefighting activities. They are continuously assessing the resources they may need to request from abroad. The MSB has requested even more aircraft and resources. Within the framework of Nordic cooperation, Norway, Denmark and Finland have been involved in the firefighting.

[Emergency Response Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#)

Published 24 July 2018



Cooperation to combat effects of drought and heat

The prolonged heat and drought have impacted many sectors of society. There have been numerous forest fires, the agricultural sector has been severely affected by the drought and groundwater levels have dropped. The extreme temperatures can also cause health problems, especially among older people and the sick. The Government is following developments closely and taking the necessary decisions. The Government Offices is in continuous contact with the responsible government agencies.

In view of the forest fires around the country, the widespread drought and the ongoing heatwave, intensive efforts are under way among rescue services, government agencies and municipalities.

Efforts to stop the forest fires

At present, several forest fires are raging around the country and the rescue services are making tremendous efforts to protect people, property, forests and the functioning of society.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is coordinating relevant agencies and supporting municipal rescue services, together with the Swedish Armed Forces and the county administrative boards, by providing reinforcements in terms of equipment, staff and expertise.

Via the EU, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has requested assistance in the form of firefighting aircraft from other European countries.

The work of the authorities is crucial to combating the fires. But everyone also carries a personal responsibility. In many parts of the country, fire bans

are in place. Remember to check whether a fire ban is in place where you are.

[EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#)

[Information about the forest fires at krisinformation.se](#)

[Information about the forest fires on the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency website](#)

Efforts to support agriculture

The Government is closely following developments in the agriculture sector and continues alongside government agencies and other actors to seek solutions to the challenges emerging so as to alleviate the situation for farmers. For example, the Government will provide SEK 1,2 billion in national funds to strengthen the liquidity of our farmers. Sweden is also an active dialogue with the EU about exemptions and other solutions to alleviate the situation for Swedish farmers.

Heatwave and health

The heatwave can cause problems for people's health. Exposure to heat carries with it different risks for different individuals. Risk groups are above all elderly people, the chronically ill, people with disabilities, young children, pregnant women and people on medication.

The Government has ongoing contact with the relevant government agencies and local authorities. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs holds weekly meetings with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. These meetings bring the Government up to date on what the government agencies are doing to help older people and others cope with the heat. The meetings will continue as long as the current situation persists.

Private individuals can contact their county council and 1177 Vårdguiden for information and advice about various heatwave-related health risks.

[Advice about the heatwave \(in Swedish\) on the 1177 Vårdguidens website](#)

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides advice for different target groups that can be used by municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors in health and medical care services.

High temperatures can influence the growth of bacteria in drinking water and food. The National Food Agency website has information and advice.

Water levels and water supply

The Government is closely following developments in groundwater levels and water supply and has continuous contact with the responsible agencies. Municipalities are responsible for the public supply of drinking water.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency provides general information about water shortages, drought and what measures people can take themselves.

[Information about water shortages \(in Swedish\) on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website](#)

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and the Geological Survey of Sweden collaborate and provide continuous updates about the risk of water shortages in their 'water shortage risk' service.

[Water shortage service \(in Swedish\) on the SMHI website](#)

Published 20 July 2018



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

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.

Published 14 November 2016



Conference with mock trial in the Nordic–Baltic regional division of the Unified Patent Court

On Thursday 11 February 2016, the Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Bar Association and the Swedish Courts held a conference on the Nordic–Baltic regional division of the European Unified Patent Court. Work is in progress to prepare and establish the regional division in Stockholm.

The purpose of the conference was to provide information about the current state of play in the implementation of the unified patent system and to demonstrate how a trial in the regional division will be conducted. The mock trial took up a case between two parties, one claiming patent infringement concerning medical equipment and the other bringing a counter-claim of invalidity.

The conference was opened by Catharina Espmark, State Secretary to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson. Ms Espmark explained that the Unified Patent Court will simplify legal proceedings, reduce legal costs and improve legal certainty. Given the positive effects the patent reform is expected to have for the European single market, the Government has made the reform a priority and is active in the preparatory work.

The speakers included Alexander Ramsay, Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent Court, and Louise Petrelius, Swedish representative on the Preparatory Committee, both from the Ministry of Justice.

The Committee aims to complete its preparations by mid-2016. If the Member States do as they are supposed to and fast-track their ratification

processes, provisional application of the Court Agreement can begin as early as this autumn. Only four more countries need to ratify the Court Agreement before the new patent system can begin to apply. The conference brought together around 130 participants from many different organisations and companies from ten different countries.

The conference was moderated by Stefan Johansson from Stockholm District Court, and Carl Josefsson from the Svea Court of Appeal led the concluding discussion and question-and-answer session. Other participants included Kevin Mooney, who chaired the committee that drafted the Court's rules of procedure, British judge David Kitchin, and two Swedish judges from Stockholm District Court, Tomas Norström and Rune Näsman.

Published 19 February 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

International certification system to combat unethical recruitment of migrant workers

On Tuesday 3 November, the Government and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised a seminar on labour migration and ethical recruitment. Supported in part by the Swedish Government, IOM is currently developing the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), a certification system that will help companies ensure the ethical and sustainable recruitment of international labour.

IRIS aims to strengthen the protection of migrant workers on the global labour market by combating their exploitation and indebtedness in connection with the recruitment process. Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson emphasised in his opening address that labour migration can be fundamentally positive for all concerned but there is a risk people may be taken advantage of and end up in a parallel shadow society.

“Labour migration must never lead to social dumping or people being exploited. Strengthening migrants’ rights on the labour market, in Sweden and the world, is a priority for the Government, and Sweden consequently supports this project,” says Mr Johansson.

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing spoke about the positive aspects of migration in his address, but stated that many migrants are tricked and trapped into debt by unethical recruiters who take advantage of their weak position. According to Mr Swing, an international certification system would also lead to positive outcomes for companies and countries.

The seminar was attended by representatives of companies, trade unions and non-governmental organisations, and a concluding panel debate discussed

how IRIS can be used and how the private sector, social partners and public sector can cooperate to ensure ethically sustainable conditions for migrant workers.

Published 12 November 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth visited Sweden

On Thursday, 22 October, Germany's Minister of State for Europe, Michael Roth, visited Sweden and had a meeting with the Minister for Employment, Ylva Johansson, and the Minister for Justice and Migration, Morgan Johansson. The aim was to exchange experiences on the occasion of the refugee situation in Europe.

One item on the agenda was the Swedish answer to the refugee crisis including labour market integration and cooperation with social partners. During his visit in Sweden, Michael Roth also met representatives of think tanks and NGOs engaged in issues regarding refugees and integration.

Published 26 October 2015



Measures for more short-term accommodation for asylum seekers

There are large numbers of asylum seekers coming to Sweden. The responsible agencies have the capacity to deal with the situation, but things are strained. Above all, it is important to ensure access to accommodation for asylum seekers. This needs to be dealt with quickly.

In view of the situation, and to ensure that Sweden can continue to handle large numbers of asylum seekers in the country, the Government is taking a number of measures.

Inventory of state-owned properties

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is supporting the Swedish Migration Agency in carrying out an inventory of government agencies' possibilities of providing asylum accommodation. The state-owned companies are also being consulted.

Bringing forward planned legislation

The time frame for a bill on shared responsibility for the reception of newly arrived immigrants (the referral act) is being revised with a view to bringing it into force as soon as possible. As part of this work, the Government is already urging municipalities to provide places during the rest of the autumn. There are currently over 10 000 people stuck in asylum centres because they have not been offered a place in a municipality. The time frame for the bill on supported accommodation is being revised with a view to bringing it into force earlier.

County administrative boards conducting regional coordination

The county administrative boards are holding regular national collaboration conferences and conducting regional coordination. The municipalities are contacted continuously about the availability of properties.

More precise remit for the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency on the coordination of refugee measures

The Government has identified a need to strengthen the coordination of measures to deal with the refugee situation. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has the task of supporting the coordination of relevant agencies' measures in a crisis situation. We consider that the Agency's remit should be made more precise and are therefore working on a clarification along these lines.

Review of procurement rules

The National Agency for Public Procurement has been tasked with drawing up a guidance document to support government agencies and other actors involved in procurement processes. This guidance document is to complement and make more tangible the European Commission's communication on public procurement. Moreover, changes are being considered to the procurement legislation with the aim of preventing the Swedish Migration Agency's problems with procurement processes being delayed in court proceedings through interim decisions.

Published 30 September 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

EU migration ministers decide to relocate 120 000 asylum seekers

Four countries voted against the proposal and one Member State abstained. Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson, who took part in the meeting, welcomes the decision.

“This decision is an achievement for the EU.“ ”Moreover, during the course of the discussion, the majority in favour of relocating the 120 000 asylum seekers grew,” says Mr Johansson.

The Government’s position in the negotiations has been that it considers it important for all Member States to take part in relocating the 120 000 asylum seekers and as far as possible the option to refrain from receiving people in need of protection should be limited.

Published 24 September 2015



Member States meet users in patent reform

The European Court of Justice's dismissal of Spain's actions for annulment of the EU's patent regulations gives fresh impetus to the ongoing pan-European patent reform.

Two years ago, Spain brought actions before the European Court of Justice for annulment of the EU's two patent regulations. On Tuesday 5 May, the Court of Justice dismissed these actions.

The judgments signify the removal of the final hurdle to a much-needed European patent reform. A reform package made up of unitary patent protection and the unified patent court will thus be introduced. This is good news for the internal market.

The judgments constitute a rallying call to participating Member States to complete their preparations and put the new system into place as soon as possible. Sweden and Germany are cooperating closely to work for user-friendly and swift implementation of the package.

The reform addresses a fragmented European patent system. Today, European patents granted by the European Patent Office must be validated in each country separately, under laws that differ from one country to another. In addition, a dispute over a European patent can currently be settled by multiple courts in different countries, with the risk of varying outcomes and inconsistent case law.

The current system is expensive by comparison. Moreover, it is complicated and legally uncertain for users wishing to obtain, defend or challenge a European patent with regard to several countries. The adverse conditions in Europe encourage innovative industry to instead invest in competing American or Asian markets, where GDP is growing faster and patent regimes are more favourable.

The new system, however, offers pan-European patent protection under a single procedure with limited translation requirements. Additionally, it launches a common, highly specialised court with exclusive competence to settle disputes relating to European patents. Simplification, cost reduction and legal certainty will be achieved.

These overall improvements will close competitive gaps with the world at large and help businesses grow throughout the internal market. And new investments mean market growth and the creation of new jobs. To meet its political aims, the system must be implemented so as to allow users to utilise its economic potential. In our preparations, we need to encourage use by meeting user expectations and making the system attractive.

The ongoing process for setting the fees for unitary patent protection is an important point in this regard. The fee level will need to provide a proper balance – it will need to be attractive to users of varying sizes while ensuring the financial stability of the patent system.

The new system will not be launched until common preparations are finalised and thirteen Member States have ratified the agreement on a unified patent court. When the regulations were adopted and the agreement signed, the participating Member States committed themselves to fulfil these requirements as quickly as possible. We stand firmly behind this commitment and will continue to take responsibility for the implementation of this important reform.

By the same token, we are devoting ourselves to meeting users and working effectively to attain a patent system that will contribute to innovation, growth and jobs in the EU.

Morgan Johansson, Minister of Justice and Migration, Sweden
Heiko Maas, Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, Germany

The article in Swedish: ["Sverige och Tyskland driver på för patentreform i EU"](#)

The article in German: [Neues Patentrecht in Europa nutzt der Wirtschaft](#)

Published 24 June 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Global cooperation on migration and mobility - a key for sustainable development

On the occasion of the visit to Stockholm by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development Mr. Peter Sutherland, a seminar was hosted by the Swedish Minister for Justice and Migration Mr. Morgan Johansson to discuss global cooperation on migration and mobility, the new UN development agenda and ways to stop the tragedies in the Mediterranean

Published 29 May 2015



Assisted fertilisation for single women

For many people, becoming a parent is an important stage in life. It is important that involuntarily childless single women also have possibilities to have children. The legislation regulating these possibilities must be based on the best interests of the child and the principle of equal treatment, and develop as society develops.

Society's contribution to fulfilling an individual's desire to have children must always focus on the best interests of the child.

The Government is now proposing that single women be given the same access to assisted fertilisation within the Swedish health care system as married couples, registered partners and cohabiting partners. If the bill is approved, a single woman who undergoes such treatment would be the child's sole legal parent.

“Families can take different forms, and many children today grow up in family groups other than the traditional nuclear family. It is high time that single women are given the same access to assisted fertilisation as married couples, registered partners and cohabiting partners. With this bill, Sweden can finally achieve modern legislation in this area,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

It is proposed that the bill enter into force on 1 April 2016.

Published 25 May 2015



Sweden and immigrants mostly get on well

Opinion piece by Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson in Wall Street Journal, March 1, 2017.

Jimmie Akesson and Mattias Karlsson of the Sweden Democrats Party inaccurately paint a picture of Sweden as a country with a particularly high rate of violent crime, which they claim is due to the number of asylum seekers that Sweden has taken in ("Trump Is Right: Sweden's Embrace of Refugees Isn't Working," op-ed, Feb. 23). The Sweden Democrats are an extreme right-wing, racist party with Nazi roots.

Like all countries, Sweden has problems with violent crime. The government is taking measures to fight such crime and its causes. But the idea that the situation is worse in our country is entirely erroneous. The risk of falling victim to lethal violence in Sweden is very low by international standards and has declined overall in the last 20 years, despite our high levels of asylum immigration.

The claim that Sweden welcomes terrorists "with open arms" is completely false. On the contrary, we have tightened our anti-terrorism legislation. The phenomenon of individuals travelling to the Middle East to fight for Daesh has more or less ceased completely.

Sweden has given protection to 143,000 Syrian men, women and children since 2011. We are proud of that, because many of these people might otherwise have perished in Homs or Aleppo. Now these people must get a good start in Sweden. The number of jobs has increased by more than 150,000 since 2014. Unemployment has fallen, growth is high and our public finances are sound.

Members of Muslim faith communities make up approximately 1.5% of the Swedish population. Laying the blame for every problem with this small

minority is absurd and dangerous. Baseless accusations against ethnic and religious minorities must not be allowed to dominate the political conversation.

Published 16 March 2017



Strengthen the right of LGBTQ people to be themselves

Opinion article, Newspaper Expressen, 8 february 2016
Legislation must keep pace with developments in society. The Government therefore plans to implement changes that aim to offer the same conditions for everyone, regardless of their choice of partner and type of family, write five government ministers.

People have the right to be themselves in all areas of life. This includes the right to live with the person you love and to have your family formation treated with respect. Efforts to break old norms that limit people from fully living their lives must continue. This applies particularly to policies for the rights of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ people).

Proactive organisations in civil society and courageous politicians before us have helped to move the situation of LGBTQ issues in the right direction. Society is constantly evolving, and perceptions of parenthood, family, gender and the rights of the child in the family evolve with it. Today, there are numerous family constellations other than the traditional nuclear families: single, friends with children, step-families or families with several mothers or fathers. Our social systems must also meet the needs of these families.

Legislation and its application must keep pace with developments in society. It must accommodate various ways of forming a family and ensure the right of all people to good health. The Government is therefore planning to implement changes that aim to offer the same conditions for everyone, regardless of the choice of partner and type of family that each of us chooses to live with:

- Parental support and family law issues in social services need to be more modern, equitable and gender equal. Family constellations vary and have

different needs. In light of this, the Government has concentrated responsibility for these issues at the Family Law and Parental Support Authority. An important task for the Authority is producing knowledge support for relevant actors so that these, in turn, can provide better support and guidance to parents and children.

- Families can take many different forms, but when the parental insurance system was designed, it was still based on the idea of a nuclear family with two co-habiting parents. The living conditions of families with children have changed over time.

More than one in five children grows up in a family constellation other than one including both their biological parents. The inquiry on parental insurance that is now to be conducted has therefore been tasked with identifying problems and investigating possibilities for facilitating the use of parental insurance by different family constellations.

- There are currently large health disparities between different groups in society. To close the avoidable health gaps within a generation, the Government has appointed a commission for equitable health. We know that LGBTQ people in general have poorer health and young LGBTQ people are particularly vulnerable with regard to mental health. In its work, the commission will therefore take into account health disparities between LGBTQ people and the rest of the population.
- The treatment of LGBTQ people in health and medical care is unequal across the country. Unfortunately, in their contacts with different authorities, individuals are sometimes doubted and treated ignorantly. This leads to LGBTQ people in some cases refraining from seeking care.

The National Board of Health and Welfare has been tasked with analysing care and treatment of intersex people (persons whose gender cannot be determined due to biological reasons) and implementing measures in the various areas of activity of social services. The objective is to raise awareness of LGBTQ people's living conditions and the various forms discrimination can take. The National Board of Health and Welfare and the Public Health Agency of Sweden will also review how issues concerning the health of young transgender people could be highlighted within the framework of other mental health initiatives.

- There have been several high-profile cases where information was registered in the population registration regarding a person who had

changed gender in such a way that the link between individuals, such as a child and a parent, was lost. The Swedish Tax Agency has now been tasked with describing what has been done or will be done to prevent problems that may arise.

- Current regulations regarding paternity and parenthood are based on heterosexual marriage. There is reason to review whether the regulations should be updated and for this reason, the Government intends to appoint an inquiry in the spring to conduct a review of the legislation.

These are some of the initiatives the Government is now implementing. We know there is a lot left to do. Discrimination, inequitable treatment and violence are still part of daily life for many LGBTQ people all around the country. This is never acceptable. The Government will continue its efforts to strengthen the possibility for LGBTQ people to fully be themselves in all areas of life.

Gabriel Wikström
Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport

Åsa Regnér
Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality

Morgan Johansson
Minister for Justice and Migration

Alice Bah Kuhnke
Minister for Culture and Democracy (Green Party)

Annika Strandhäll
Minister for Social Security (Social Democratic Party)

Published 12 February 2016



Neues Patentrecht in Europa nutzt der Wirtschaft

Börsen-Zeitung 29th May 2015. The article is also published in Ny Teknik (in Swedish).

Vor zwei Jahren erhob Spanien vor dem Europäischen Gerichtshof Nichtigkeitsklagen gegen die beiden Patentverordnungen der Europäischen Union.

Am 5. Mai wies der Gerichtshof diese Klagen ab und verlieh damit der laufenden paneuropäischen Patentreform einen frischen Impuls.

Mit diesen Gerichtsentscheidungen wurde die letzte Hürde für die dringend notwendige europäische Patentreform genommen. Es wird daher ein Reformpaket auf den Weg gebracht, das einen einheitlichen Patentschutz und das Einheitliche Patentgericht umfasst. Dies ist eine gute Nachricht für den Binnenmarkt.

Die Entscheidungen sind ein Aufruf an die teilnehmenden Mitgliedstaaten, ihre Vorbereitungen abzuschließen und das neue System schnellstmöglich zu verwirklichen. Schweden und Deutschland arbeiten eng zusammen, um eine nutzerfreundliche und rasche Umsetzung des Pakets zu erreichen.

Ende der Fragmentierung

Mit der Reform wird das fragmentierte europäische Patentsystem angegangen.

Derzeit müssen vom Europäischen Patentamt erteilte Patente in jedem Land gesondert validiert werden, und zwar nach Rechtsvorschriften, die von Land zu Land unterschiedlich sind. Außerdem kann eine Streitigkeit über ein europäisches Patent derzeit durch eine Vielzahl von Gerichten in verschiedenen Ländern entschieden werden, mit der Gefahr unterschiedlicher Verfahrensausgänge und uneinheitlicher Rechtsprechung.

Das derzeitige System ist vergleichsweise teuer. Zudem ist es für Nutzer, die ein europäisches Patent in mehreren Ländern erlangen, verteidigen oder angreifen möchten, kompliziert und rechtlich unsicher. Die nachteiligen Bedingungen in Europa bestärken innovative Branchen darin, stattdessen in konkurrierende amerikanische oder asiatische Märkte zu investieren, wo das Bruttoinlandsprodukt schneller wächst und die Patentsysteme einfacher zu handhaben sind.

Das neue System bietet dagegen einen paneuropäischen Patentschutz durch ein einheitliches Verfahren mit nur begrenzten Übersetzungserfordernissen. Darüber hinaus wird mit ihm ein gemeinsames, hochspezialisiertes Gericht geschaffen, das die ausschließliche Zuständigkeit für die Beilegung von Streitigkeiten im Zusammenhang mit europäischen Patenten besitzt. Erreicht wird damit eine Vereinfachung, eine Kostenreduzierung und Rechtssicherheit.

Diese umfassenden Verbesserungen werden Wettbewerbslücken gegenüber anderen Teilen der Welt schließen und zum Unternehmenswachstum im gesamten Binnenmarkt beitragen. Neue Investitionen bedeuten Marktwachstum und die Schaffung neuer Arbeitsplätze. Um seine politischen Ziele zu erreichen, muss das System so umgesetzt werden, dass die Anwender sein ökonomisches Potenzial auch nutzen können. Bei unseren Vorbereitungen müssen wir die Inanspruchnahme des Systems fördern, indem wir die Erwartungen der Nutzer erfüllen und das System attraktiv machen.

Das laufende Verfahren zur Festlegung der Gebühren für den einheitlichen Patentschutz ist dabei von großer Bedeutung. Das Gebührenniveau muss für ein ausgewogenes Verhältnis sorgen es muss für Nutzer verschiedener Größen attraktiv sein und gleichzeitig in der Lage sein, die finanzielle Stabilität des Patentsystems sicherzustellen.

Aufruf zur Ratifizierung

Das neue System wird erst in Kraft treten, wenn die gemeinsamen Vorbereitungen abgeschlossen sind und 13 Mitgliedstaaten das Übereinkommen über ein Einheitliches Patentgericht ratifiziert haben. Als die Verordnungen angenommen wurden und das Übereinkommen unterzeichnet wurde, verpflichteten sich die teilnehmenden Mitgliedstaaten, diesen Anforderungen schnellstmöglich nachzukommen. Wir bekennen uns ausdrücklich zu dieser Verpflichtung und werden auch weiterhin Verantwortung für die Umsetzung dieser wichtigen Reform übernehmen.

Ebenso sind wir weiterhin bestrebt, die Anliegen der Nutzer aufzugreifen und effektiv auf ein Patentsystem hinzuarbeiten, das zu Innovation, Wachstum und Beschäftigung in der EU beiträgt.

Morgan Johansson, Minister für Justiz und Migration, Schweden
Heiko Maas, Bundesminister der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz,
Deutschland

The article in English: [Member States meet users in patent reform](#)
The article in Swedish: ["Sverige och Tyskland driver på för patentreform i EU"](#)

Published 29 May 2015



Sweden producing new strategy for Syrian crisis

Dagens Nyheter 3 februari 2015 Today, there are almost 50 million displaced people in the world. This is the highest number since the Second World War. They are fleeing from oppression, war and terrorism.

There are many trouble spots around the world, but the current situation in Syria and Iraq looks increasingly like the worst humanitarian disaster of our time. The civil war and the ISIL reign of terror have so far claimed 200 000 human lives. There are more than 10 million displaced Syrians, almost half of the country's population. Seven million remain in the country, but more than three million have managed to leave. Most are in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon.

Around six per cent, or 200 000, of the Syrian refugees have come to Europe. Around 60 000 people have sought asylum in Sweden.

When we meet United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres on Tuesday, our main messages will be that the world must come together to find a solution to the conflict and help the people fleeing from it. This is a human duty. We vow that Sweden will continue to take constructive action in this respect through our foreign policy, aid policy and migration policy. The work of the High Commissioner for Refugees deserves every support.

Only a political solution can end the conflict. The new Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura has our wholehearted support. He has taken a more localised approach and wants to de-escalate the violence levels and 'freeze' the conflict, starting in Aleppo. In addition, the efforts of the international community to cut off support to terrorism continue, for example by preventing the financing of terrorism and stopping people from travelling as foreign terrorist fighters.

At the same time, ISIL ravages must be stopped so that people are not forced to flee. The flow of weapons, personnel and money to the terrorist sect must be cut off. Those travelling from other countries, such as Sweden, to fight for ISIL must be stopped. Obviously, the conflict and the war are the root problem and the cause of people being forced to flee.

The world has a clear humanitarian responsibility to help the people affected. It is chiefly Syria's neighbours who are now taking that responsibility. Sweden is providing considerable support to alleviate the suffering of people in and outside Syria who are affected by the hell of war. Since the conflict started in 2011, Sweden has contributed more than SEK 1.5 billion. We are now also one of the largest donors to both the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Unfortunately, a political solution in Syria seems remote and the prospects of refugee repatriation are currently small. Hundreds of thousands of children in the region are growing up in camps where most cannot attend school. Families are living under extreme financial pressure and humanitarian conditions with little means of support. The frustration and vulnerability is hitting women and children hard. A generation risks being lost and the seeds of future problems are being sown.

The situation is exerting severe pressure on the neighbouring countries. Lebanon alone, which is the same size as Skåne, has taken in more than one million refugees. This creates unease and instability. It is evident that the humanitarian operations are inadequate. They must be linked to long-term support – to neighbouring countries, too. This is something the UNHCR has persistently pointed out to the leaders of the international community. Sweden supports the UNHCR appeal and the Government is now producing a new strategy for the Syrian crisis that covers both the urgent needs and the long-term measures to create better living conditions and support to public services in the neighbouring countries.

For decades, Sweden has offered protection to many people fleeing war and oppression. We have a tradition of solidarity that we should be proud of. We are still keeping up this tradition as 30 000 Syrians sought asylum in Sweden in 2014.

Sweden also works closely with the UNHCR on resettlement of quota refugees directly from refugee camps, in for example Jordan and Lebanon, to western countries. Resettlement provides protection to individuals and also relieves the pressure on the neighbouring countries receiving large

numbers of refugees. Sweden, via the Swedish Migration Board, very successfully led this work in 2014. More than 50 000 Syrians were offered a place of refuge in one of the 24 countries participating in the initiative.

This was positive, but more countries need to take responsibility for the reception of refugees. The Government is therefore working actively to encourage all EU Member States to participate in the resettlement initiative. In the EU, we are also pushing for more countries to receive refugees in a humane and legally secure manner. We welcome Mr Guterres's new proposals that all UN Member States should collectively fund part of the important work of the UNHCR through compulsory contributions.

There is no simple solution to the catastrophic situation of the world's refugees or to the bloody conflict in Syria. In order to really make a difference, taking responsibility is required within all of our respective areas of responsibility. Sweden will continue to be a close and strong partner of the UNHCR in its important work for the world's refugees. Our country will actively stand up for those people who are subjected to war and oppression, wherever they are.

Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation
Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Migration

Published 03 February 2015

Reintroduced temporary internal border controls

The Government has decided to temporarily reintroduce internal border controls. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public order and internal security in Sweden. Controls at internal borders will therefore continue.

Unfolding events and the situation in our neighbourhood are extremely serious, and the overall terrorist threat level in Sweden remains elevated. Controls at the Schengen area's external border are not adequately enforced and many people who enter the Schengen area do not remain in their country of arrival, but move relatively freely on to other Member States. The Government has therefore decided that border controls will continue until 11 November 2022.

“It is our assessment that the reintroduction of border controls at Sweden's internal border creates the conditions for identifying and controlling those who wish to enter the country. It can also help to identify potential perpetrators and thus prevent possible terrorist attacks,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

The decision was taken in accordance with EU legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a serious threat to public order and internal security in Sweden.

Several other Schengen countries, including Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark, have also temporarily reintroduced internal border controls and, like Sweden, have stated that they intend to continue with the controls as long as a serious threat to public order and internal security remains.

As previously, the Swedish Police Authority decides where and how border controls are conducted. The controls will be adapted to what is necessary to safeguard public order and internal security.

Published 06 May 2022



Increased information exchange to combat organised crime

The Government has decided to further enhance agencies' collaboration to combat organised crime. To this end, the Swedish Work Environment Authority, the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Board of Student Finance and the Health and Social Care Inspectorate will be subject to an obligation to provide information.

Since 2008, twelve government agencies have been collaborating in a special initiative to combat organised crime. Within this collaboration, the agencies can effectively exchange information that is classified as secret with each other and with certain other specified agencies. This is pursuant to the obligation to provide information, which is regulated by law.

The Government's decision means that the Swedish Work Environment Authority, the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Board of Student Finance and the Health and Social Care Inspectorate will be covered by this obligation to provide information. The four agencies are already part of a network of agencies collaborating with the initiative to combat organised crime.

“The agencies need the right basis for their efforts to combat organised crime. Increased possibilities to exchange information will improve the collaboration that is already taking place today,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

The amendments enter into force on 1 May 2022.

Published 01 April 2022



Sweden to lift ban on entry from all countries

The ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA will not be extended and will cease to apply on 1 April 2022. This also means that the requirement to present vaccination and test certificates when entering Sweden will be removed.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, a temporary ban on entry into Sweden for foreign nationals travelling from countries outside the EU/EEA was introduced in March 2020. It has been regularly extended and the current entry ban applies until 31 March 2022.

Several countries in the EU and the EEA have recently lifted bans on entry into their respective countries. The Public Health Agency of Sweden considers that the entry restrictions are no longer a proportionate infection control measure.

On 1 April 2022, COVID-19 will no longer be classified as a threat to public health and a danger to society. Although the pandemic is not over, it has entered a new phase thanks to high vaccination coverage combined with the lower risk of serious illness posed by the currently dominant virus variant, omicron.

“We have already lifted the entry ban within the EU. Now the Government has decided not to extend the entry ban from third countries. This will make it much easier for everyone who has been prevented from coming to Sweden in recent years due to the pandemic,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

The ban on entry into Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA will cease to apply on 1 April 2022. This also means that vaccination and test certificates will then no longer be required when entering Sweden.

Published 25 March 2022



Enhanced protection of children involved in international custody disputes

Today, the Government presented a bill to the Riksdag containing proposals for enhanced protection of children involved in international custody disputes and other international family law cases. The proposals complement a previously adopted EU Regulation.

Custody disputes are difficult for everyone involved, particularly the children. In international custody disputes, the children are also torn between parents in two different countries. Sometimes a conflict between the parents results in children being unlawfully removed or retained by one of them.

“It is important that we have harmonised rules in all EU countries so that situations where a child gets caught in the middle, such as international custody disputes, can be effectively resolved with a focus on the best interests of the child,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

The new Regulation will strengthen the legal rights of the child and parents. Enforcement of decisions concerning parental responsibility within the EU will be streamlined. Moreover, the exchange of information between Member States will improve, which facilitates processing by the courts and public authorities.

The Brussels II Regulation (Council Regulation (EU) No 2019/1111) deals with issues concerning divorce, parental responsibility and international child abduction. The Regulation includes rules stipulating which Member State’s court may examine a dispute and rules concerning recognition and enforcement of decisions in the EU.

It is proposed that the new act and amendments enter into force on

1 August 2022.

Published 22 March 2022



Government proposes equitable rules concerning parenthood in international situations

The Government has presented a bill to the Riksdag containing proposals for equitable and inclusive rules concerning parenthood in international situations.

The Swedish rules concerning parenthood in international situations were established more than 30 years ago. Since then, only a few minor amendments have been made to address developments in the area. There has been a need to re-examine the rules with the aim of equality between parents in same-sex and different-sex relationships.

“The Government’s efforts to create more inclusive legislation for different family constellations will now also benefit international situations,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

The bill includes a proposal to introduce a new presumption of parenthood in international situations. This means that a woman who is married to or has been married to the child’s mother, will, under certain conditions, automatically be considered the child’s parent in Sweden. It is also proposed that foreign court decisions and rulings on parenthood for a woman who is or has been married to the child’s mother, or is the cohabiting partner of the child’s mother, will, under certain conditions, be recognised in Sweden. In addition, a number of other rules under international private and procedural law governing parenthood for the woman who is or has been married to the child’s mother or is the cohabiting partner of the child’s mother are also proposed.

“The proposals are long-awaited and will make a difference for many rainbow families that move to Sweden,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

The proposals mean that more children will have two legal parents in Sweden. The proposals also lead to increased equality between parents in same-sex and different-sex relationships.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 August 2022.

Published 22 March 2022



Sweden supports Moldova's refugee intake from Ukraine

Following consultation with the Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has decided to assist Moldova by providing tents, lighting and air conditioning systems, and two large-scale power generators to support Ukrainian refugees arriving in the country.

In response to a request from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has decided to assist Moldova in their efforts to help Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion.

“Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is causing immense human suffering. We will therefore do everything we can to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The Government has already sent emergency shelters, fire equipment, medical supplies and equipment, and we will be increasing our support further,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

Sweden will provide Moldova with ten large tents for emergency shelter, lighting and air conditioning systems, two large-scale power generators and personnel from the Civil Contingencies Agency to set up the camps. Operational planning is now under way and the equipment is being packed for delivery. This support to Moldova amounts to approximately SEK 5 million.



Ban on entry to Sweden extended

The Government has today decided to extend the temporary ban on entry to Sweden until 28 February 2022 for travellers from EU/EEA countries, and until 31 March 2022 for travellers from countries outside the EU/EEA. Today's decision also entails amendments to the exemptions from the entry ban for residents of Argentina, Australia and Canada.

The Government's decision today to extend the ban on entry to Sweden is primarily due to the continued uncertainty concerning transmission of COVID-19.

Entry from EU/EEA countries

The Government's decision today means that the ban on entry to Sweden from EU/EEA countries will be extended until 28 February 2022.

People travelling to Sweden from EU/EEA countries, including the Nordic countries, must present the EU Digital COVID Certificate or a corresponding certificate showing that they have either been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative within 72 hours of arrival or recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and over, with certain exemptions.

Entry from countries outside the EU/EEA

The Government has also decided that the ban on entry to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA will be extended until 31 March 2022.

Foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from a country outside the EU/EEA may only enter the country if they are covered by one of the exemptions from the entry ban and can also present a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival to Sweden, or are exempt from the test requirement. Exemptions from the entry ban and test requirement apply for

several categories of travellers, including for those with a vaccination certificate issued in certain countries.

Amendments to the entry ban for people residing in Argentina, Australia and Canada

The Government has also today decided to remove Argentina, Australia and Canada from the list of countries whose residents are generally exempt from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there. The decision applies from 31 January 2022.

This means in practice that the entry ban will be reintroduced for people residing in Argentina, Australia and Canada. Accordingly, people residing in these countries need to be covered by one of the other exemptions from the entry ban in order to enter Sweden from 31 January 2022. They also need to be able to present a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival to Sweden, or be exempt from the test requirement.

The amendments are the result of an update of the EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

For more information on how the ordinances on temporary bans on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

Published 27 January 2022



Amendments to the entry ban for people who travel to Sweden

The Government today decided to revert to the entry restrictions that applied prior to 28 December 2021. This means that the specific requirement for a negative COVID-19 result from a test conducted within 48 hours of arrival no longer applies. This decision is based on a request from the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The list of countries with approved vaccine certificates has also been expanded. The amendments will enter into force on 21 January.

Travellers are no longer considered to represent a particular risk that would affect the spread of the Omicron variant in Sweden. For this reason, the specific requirement for a negative COVID-19 result from a test conducted within 48 hours of arrival to Sweden is no longer considered to be a proportional measure, according to a request from the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The Government has therefore decided to revert to the entry restrictions that applied prior to 28 December 2021.

Entry from EU/EEA countries

As of 21 January, people travelling to Sweden from EU/EEA countries, including the Nordic countries, must present the EU Digital COVID Certificate or a corresponding certificate showing that they have either been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative within 72 hours of arrival or recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and over, with certain exemptions.

To make it easier for people travelling between Bornholm and another part of Denmark via Sweden, they will continue to be exempt from the COVID Certificate requirement.

Entry from countries outside the EU/EEA

As of 21 January, foreign citizens travelling to Sweden from a country outside the EU/EEA may only enter the country if they are covered by one of the exemptions from the entry ban and can also present a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival to Sweden, or are exempt from the test requirement. Exemptions from the entry ban and test requirement apply for several categories of travellers, including for those with a vaccination certificate issued in certain countries.

Exemption for fully vaccinated travellers from Montenegro, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay

The Government also decided today that people who can present a vaccination certificate issued in Montenegro, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia or Uruguay are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement when travelling to Sweden.

According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in these countries are to be considered as equivalent to the EU Digital COVID Certificate. This means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technological system as the EU Digital COVID Certificate.

All amendments to the entry ban will enter into force on 21 January.

For more information on how to interpret the ordinances on temporary bans on entry into Sweden and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

Published 18 January 2022



Negative COVID-19 test required for entry into Sweden

The Government decided today to amend the entry ban to Sweden. The amendments mean that all travellers must be able to present a negative test result for ongoing COVID-19 infection upon arrival to Sweden, regardless of the country they travel from. The decision is based on the increasing spread of infection and a request from the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The amendments will enter into force on 28 December.

Due to the high occurrence of COVID-19 around the world and the increasing spread of the Omicron variant, the Public Health Agency of Sweden has requested that the Government present stricter entry restrictions. The Government has therefore decided to introduce a requirement that a negative test result for ongoing COVID-19 infection must be presented when entering Sweden.

The test for ongoing COVID-19 infection must have been conducted within 48 hours prior to arrival to Sweden.

The test requirement applies:

- to foreign nationals travelling from EU/EEA countries, including the Nordic countries, or from other countries, with certain exemptions
- regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or have recovered
- to adults and children over the age of 12.

The Government refers to the Public Health Agency of Sweden for information about what requirements a certificate or a negative test result must meet.

In connection with the introduction of a negative COVID-19 test for all

travellers, it will no longer be required to present the EU Digital COVID Certificate when entering Sweden.

To facilitate for those who commute for work or study in the EU/EEA, this group will also be able to present a vaccination certificate. This is an additional option to presenting a COVID-19 test conducted within a week prior to arrival to Sweden. Exemptions from the test requirement will also be introduced for those who travel via Sweden between Bornholm and Denmark.

All amendments to the entry ban will enter into force on 28 December.

For more information on how the ordinances on temporary bans on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

Published 22 December 2021



Agreement concluded to improve possibilities of investigating serious offences committed by Da'esh/ISIL and other actors in the Syria conflict

To facilitate efforts by Swedish law enforcement authorities to investigate crimes committed by Da'esh terrorists, the Government today entered into a cooperation agreement with the UN International Impartial and Independent Mechanism.

Da'esh supporters and other actors have left behind a great deal of evidence in Syria, which the UN International Impartial and Independent Mechanism* (IIIM) has been mandated to collect, catalogue and store. This evidence can then be shared with national authorities that can use it in national trials related to crimes committed by Da'esh supporters, the Syrian regime or other actors in the Syria conflict.

The agreement entered into today between Sweden and the IIIM concerns simplifying and streamlining cooperation between Swedish law enforcement authorities and the IIIM to facilitate access to the evidence IIIM collects.

“Prosecuting and ensuring accountability of Da'esh terrorists and other actors in the Syria conflict is a priority for the Government. Those who participated in the horrendous crimes committed by Da'esh must not believe that they can escape punishment, and Da'esh victims are entitled to redress. The IIIM is an important actor in these efforts, which is why I am pleased to have entered into the agreement with the IIIM today,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson, who also had a meeting with IIIM today.

As a result of the agreement, it will be easier for Swedish law enforcement authorities to access all the evidence that the IIIM gathers. The agreement also stipulates that, when Swedish legislation allows, Swedish authorities may provide information that they have gathered to the IIIM.

Consequently, the Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Prosecution Authority have been designated as national contact points for cooperation in Sweden.

The agreement was signed in Geneva today by Sweden's UN Ambassador Anna Jardfelt, as Mr Johansson was unable to be present due to the pandemic.

* IIIM, International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism

Published 16 December 2021



Amendments to the ban on entry into Sweden

The Government today decided to amend the ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments mean that all travellers in the EU/EEA are subject to the same requirements for entry into Sweden. The decision was made due to the increasing spread of infection and based on a request from the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The list of countries with approved vaccine certificates has also been updated. The amendments come into effect on 21 December.

COVID certificate required for travellers from all EU/EEA countries

Sweden is currently facing a deteriorating situation in which the spread of infection is increasing, and health and medical care services are signalling a growing and worrying burden. The Public Health Agency of Sweden has requested that a COVID certificate be required for entry into Sweden from all EU/EEA countries. The Government has therefore made a decision in line with this request. It will be implemented as quickly as practically possible, i.e. on Tuesday 21 December.

This means that, as of 21 December, to enter Sweden from all EU/EEA countries, including the Nordic countries, travellers will have to present the EU Digital COVID Certificate or a corresponding certificate showing that they have either been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative within 72 hours prior to arrival or recovered from COVID-19 in the last six months. This requirement applies to foreign citizens aged 18 and older, with certain exemptions.

Exemption for fully vaccinated travellers from United Arab Emirates, Cabo Verde and Lebanon

The Government today decided that people who can present a vaccine certificate issued in the United Arab Emirates, Cabo Verde or Lebanon are exempt from the entry ban and test requirement for entry into Sweden.

According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in these countries are to be considered as equivalent to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical systems as the EU Digital COVID Certificate. The amendments come into effect on 21 December.

For more information on how the ordinances on temporary bans on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

Published 16 December 2021



Amendments to the entry ban for people who travel to Sweden from El Salvador and Jordan

The Government has today adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments mean that travellers who can present a vaccine certificate issued in El Salvador will be exempt from the entry ban and the COVID-19 test requirement. The decision also entails amendments to the exemption for people who travel from Jordan.

Exemption for fully vaccinated travellers from El Salvador

The Government today decided that people who can present a vaccination certificate issued in El Salvador are exempt from the entry ban and the COVID-19 test requirement for entry into Sweden.

According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in El Salvador are to be considered as equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical systems as the EU Digital COVID Certificate. The amendments come into effect on 14 December.

Amendments to the entry ban for people residing in Jordan

The Government has also decided to remove Jordan from the list of countries where residents are generally exempt from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there. In practice this means that the entry ban will be reintroduced for people residing in Jordan. However, other exemptions from the entry ban will continue to apply to people who reside in Jordan. The decision will come into effect on 14 December.

The amendments are the result of an update of the EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

For more information on how the ordinances on temporary bans on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

Published 09 December 2021



Amendments to the entry ban for people who travel to Sweden

The Government has adopted amendments to the temporary ban on entry into Sweden. The amendments mean that travellers who can present a vaccine certificate issued in Togo will be exempt from the entry ban and the COVID-19 test requirement. The decision today also entails amendments to the exemption for people who travel from Namibia.

Exemption for fully vaccinated travellers from Togo

The Government today decided that people who can present a vaccination certificate issued in Togo are exempt from the entry ban and the COVID-19 test requirement for entry into Sweden.

According to a European Commission decision, vaccination certificates issued in Togo are to be considered as equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, which means that such certificates can be checked and verified in the same manner and using the same technical systems as the EU Digital COVID Certificate. The amendments come into effect on 7 December.

Amendments to the entry ban for people residing in Namibia

The Government has also decided to remove Namibia from the list of countries where residents are generally exempt from the entry ban solely on the ground that they reside there. This means that the entry ban will be reintroduced for people residing in Namibia. Other exemptions from the entry ban will also continue to apply to people who reside in Namibia. The decision will come into effect on 7 December.

The amendments are the result of an update of the EU recommendations regarding travel into the EU from third countries, based on information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

For more information on how the ordinances on temporary bans on entry to Sweden are to be interpreted and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.

Published 02 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Change of government, 30 November 2021

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

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

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

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

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

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Published 30 November 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Application period for residence status for UK nationals extended to end of year

The Government decided today to give UK nationals and their family members more time to apply for residence status under the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU. The application period will be extended from 30 September 2021 to 31 December 2021.

The possibility of applying for residence status applies to UK nationals who moved to Sweden before 1 January 2021 and their family members. The Government's decision to amend the Aliens Ordinance grants this group an additional three months to apply to regulate their stay in Sweden.

Individuals who neither apply in time nor legalise their stay in Sweden in some other way will – after 31 December 2021 – be staying in Sweden unlawfully. This may have serious consequences for those who neglect to submit their application.

Published 09 September 2021



Sweden to intervene in case before European Court of Human Rights on French law banning sexual purchases

There are currently several cases before the European Court of Human Rights against the French law banning sexual purchases. This is due to the legislation the country introduced in 2016 which included a ban on the purchase of sexual services. Sweden has requested and been granted the right to take part in the cases as a third party.

In part by using Swedish legislation as a model, a ban on the purchase of sexual services was introduced in France in 2016. Now 250 people who state that they sell sexual services have applied to the European Court of Human Rights, as they claim that the French legislation violates their human rights and is therefore in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Swedish legislation and the model, which involves a ban on the purchase of sexual services but not the sale of such services, is an important tool in efforts to fight human trafficking for sexual purposes. It is a key component in efforts against inequality and to strengthen gender equality as well as to combat the demand for sexual services and men's violence against women in the long term.

The Government has decided to intervene in the cases before the European Court of Human Rights and take part as a third party to defend the Swedish model regarding banning the purchase of sexual services. As a pioneering country in this area, Sweden has a unique opportunity to contribute and ensure that the European Court of Human Rights has a solid basis for its assessment.

Published 07 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

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, 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

Published 09 July 2021



The Government presents package of measures to stop men's violence against women

Men's violence against women must end. The Government is today presenting a package of measures for future work to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The package includes measures to prevent the use of violence, support and protection to those affected and stricter legislation regarding prosecuting those who subject their partner or former partner to violence.

Stopping men's violence against women has been a priority for the Government in both the current and previous electoral periods. In 2016, the Government adopted a ten-year national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women, with an accompanying programme of measures for 2017–2020. Since then, the focus has been building a long-term sustainable structure at national, regional and local level. The package of measures now being presented intensifies this work.

“As long as one single woman is murdered by her partner or former partner, we have not done enough. No teenage girl should be subjected to violence by their boyfriend. The Government is today presenting measures to put an end to violence here and now, give affected women support and protection, and take preventive action so that no more women are beaten and no men resort to violence,” says Märta Stenevi, Minister for Gender Equality.

The package of measures to stop men's violence against women that the Government is now presenting contains 40 points. It includes measures to help achieve all four of the objectives in the national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women:

- 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 law enforcement
- Better knowledge and methodological development.

“In recent years, the Government has taken a number of important measures to impose stricter punishments on men who commit crimes against women. The punishment should reflect the seriousness of the crime, and further proposals in line with this are presented here. Men’s violence against women can never be accepted, and the judicial system must take a severe view of these crimes,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“Men’s violence against women is a high priority for the Government. The authorities in the judicial system are central to the efforts to combat men’s violence against women. Making progress in these efforts requires our authorities to join forces and cooperate, based on their different areas of responsibility. It is important that the authorities have the right tools and the right expertise so that we can put our full strength into achieving the objectives in the package of measures and stopping the violence,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Published 24 June 2021



Amended regulations in the Aliens Act

The Government has decided to refer proposals to the Council on Legislation for amendments to the Aliens Act. The amendments are being proposed to ensure that Swedish migration policy is sustainable in the long term and provides a humane, legally secure and effective regulatory framework that is not materially different from migration policies in other EU Member States.

The proposals referred to the Council on Legislation are based on the report of the Cross-party Committee of Inquiry on Migration. Among other things, the Government proposes that as a general rule, residence permits are to be temporary, and that permanent residence permits are not to be granted until the applicant has had a temporary residence permit for three years and only if certain specific requirements are met, including a maintenance requirement. A maintenance requirement for family member immigration will also be introduced.

The Government is also proceeding with supplementary proposals that have been referred separately. In the proposal referred to the Council on Legislation, the Government considers that – in connection with the return to the Aliens Act – it should still be possible to grant children residence permits under the provisions on particularly distressing circumstances. It is also proposed that a possibility be introduced to grant adults a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. This means that it may be possible to grant an adult who has a residence permit to stay in Sweden and has developed special ties to Sweden a residence permit if the circumstances are particularly distressing.

“We will not return to the migration legislation from 2015. With these proposals, we ensure a regulatory framework that is sustainable in the long

term, at the same time as we – in line with many of the comments from referral bodies – ensure that the system where temporary residence permits are the general rule does not have unreasonable effects,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“Migration legislation must be humane, legally secure and effective. We are therefore presenting the proposal for a humanitarian ground that makes it possible for vulnerable young people with special ties to Sweden to stay,” says Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination Märta Stenevi.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 20 July 2021.

Published 09 April 2021



Brexit – the rights of UK nationals in Sweden after the transition period

UK nationals living in Sweden on 31 December 2020 will need to apply to the Swedish Migration Agency for residence status under provisions entering into force today, 1 December 2020.

The UK left the EU on 1 February 2020 but during the transition period, ending on 31 December 2020, EU law still applies to the UK. As of 1 January specific provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement will apply.

Under these provisions, UK nationals living in Sweden at the end of the transition period, that is 31 December, need to apply for new ‘residence status’, in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement, to be able to continue living and working in Sweden. Anyone who is granted residence status will have the right to live and work in Sweden on broadly the same basis as an EU citizen.

Applications for residence status must be submitted to the Swedish Migration Agency by the end of September 2021 at the latest. The Swedish Migration Agency will also issue documents to the frontier workers who are covered by the rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, that is, UK nationals working in Sweden but living in another country.

Only UK nationals living in Sweden under EU free movement rules need to apply. UK nationals who have a Swedish residence permit have the right to live in Sweden and therefore do not need to apply for residence status. An equivalent system is in place for Swedes and other EU citizens living in the UK.

Follow the link in this press release for questions and answers about the rights of UK nationals in Sweden and the supplementary provisions entering

into force on 1 December 2020.

Published 01 December 2020



Report on migration policy submitted

The Cross-party Committee of Inquiry on Migration has submitted its report (SOU 2020:54) entitled *En långsiktigt hållbar migrationspolitik* ('Sustainable migration policy for the long term') to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Committee was chaired by President of the Administrative Court of Appeal Thomas Rolén. All of the parties represented in the Riksdag were represented on the Committee.

The Committee's remit was to consider the shape of future Swedish migration policy, with a view to establishing a system that is sustainable in the long term after the Act Temporarily Restricting the Possibility to Obtain Residence Permits in Sweden expires on 19 July 2021.

The report concludes that:

- People in need of protection should, as a general rule, be granted temporary residence permits at the time of the initial decision.
- Permanent residence permits should only be granted after three years at the earliest and if certain requirements are met, e.g. that the applicant can support themselves and has Swedish-language skills.
- There should be an option – as previously – to grant residence permits in cases with exceptionally distressing circumstances.
- A maintenance requirement should, as a general rule, apply in cases of family member immigration.
- Safe and legal channels to apply for asylum are needed, and the resettlement system is significant in this respect.
- There is a good level of legal certainty in the Swedish migration process.



Brexit – supplementary provisions concerning the rights of UK nationals

Today the Government presented a bill to the Riksdag containing proposals for provisions concerning the rights of UK nationals. The proposals supplement those contained in the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the EU and concern the right of certain UK nationals to travel to and live and work in Sweden.

The UK left the EU on 1 February 2020 but during the transition period, ending on 31 December 2020, EU law still applies to the UK. The situation for UK nationals living in Sweden will not change during the transition period.

At the end of the transition period, EU law will cease to apply to UK nationals, and instead, the citizens' rights provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement will apply.

In the bill, the Government proposes provisions that supplement the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Government's proposals include the following:

- UK nationals who are residing here before the end of the transition period and their family members need to apply for a new residence status. Anyone who is granted residence status will have the right to continue living and working in Sweden on essentially the same terms as an EU citizen.
- The Swedish Migration Agency will be the agency responsible for issuing decisions concerning residence status. The Agency will also issue

documents to frontier workers covered by the rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, i.e. UK nationals who work in Sweden but live in another country.

It is proposed that the provisions enter into force on 1 December 2020.

An equivalent system is in place for Swedes and other EU citizens residing in the UK.

Published 16 June 2020



Brexit – supplementary provisions concerning the rights of UK nationals

The Government decided today to refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation on provisions concerning the rights of UK nationals that supplement those contained in the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union. The proposals concern the rights of certain UK nationals to enter, reside and work in Sweden.

The UK left the EU on 1 February 2020 but during the transition period, ending on 31 December 2020, EU law still applies to the UK. The situation for UK nationals living in Sweden will not change during the transition period.

At the end of the transition period, EU law will cease to apply to UK nationals and, instead, the citizens' rights provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement will apply.

In the proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration today, the Government proposes provisions that supplement those already contained in the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Government's proposals include the following:

- UK nationals who settle here before the end of the transition period and their family members should apply for a new residence status. Anyone who is granted residence status will have the right to continue living and working in Sweden on essentially the same terms as an EU citizen
- The Swedish Migration Agency will be the agency responsible for

issuing decisions concerning residence status. The Agency will also issue documents to frontier workers covered by the rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, i.e. UK nationals who work in Sweden but live in another country.

It is proposed that the provisions enter into force on 1 December 2020.

An equivalent system is in place for Swedes and other EU citizens residing in the UK.

Published 07 May 2020



Protection against honour-related crime to be further strengthened

In a proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration, the Government proposes that a new child marriage offence be introduced that can result in imprisonment for up to four years. The Government also proposes new grounds for tougher penalties for ‘honour’ crimes and a new instrument, a travel ban, to further strengthen protection against honour-related crime.

“We can never accept that children get married, that people cannot choose for themselves who they will marry, or that people are subjected to violence and oppression in the name of honour. Through these measures, the Government and the parties cooperating with it therefore want to further strengthen protection against honour-related crime,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“Children in Sweden must not be married, and children must be protected from being removed from the country. End of discussion. We’re now taking a stand for vulnerable children and closing important loopholes in the law. The judicial system must put a stop to custodial parents and other adults restricting the rights of children and young people to live free and secure lives. Children must know that there is protection and support,” says Juno Blom, Secretary-General and child rights policy spokesperson for the Liberal Party.

The new child marriage offence means that it will be punishable to induce or allow a child to enter into marriage or a relationship similar to marriage. Unlike the offence of coercion to marry, this new offence does not require the use of any unlawful coercion or exploitation of the victim’s vulnerable situation if the offence was committed against a child. The Government also proposes new special grounds for tougher penalties, meaning that the punishment for an offence will be tougher if the motive for the offence was

‘honour’.

It is difficult for the Swedish authorities to protect children who have left the country. For this reason, a travel ban will also be introduced to protect children at risk of being taken out of Sweden to be subjected to child marriage or genital mutilation. It will be a punishable offence to take a child out of Sweden in violation of a travel ban. A person who violates a travel ban may be sentenced to imprisonment for up to two years. If a child is subject to a travel ban, the child cannot obtain a passport. If the child already holds a passport, it may be cancelled.

“We can never accept that children and young people become victims of honour-related violence and oppression. Every child who is removed from the country or who lives in fear of being removed from the country is one child too many. This is why the Government is now making it more difficult for anyone wanting to remove children or young people from the country,” says Minister for Gender Equality Åsa Lindhagen.

Published 14 February 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

An up-to-date English translation of the Swedish Criminal Code

A complete and modern translation of the Swedish Criminal Code is now available. The text will be updated continuously.

The previous translation dates from 1999, and does not include any amendments made to the Code since then. The new translation will be kept up to date, as amendments will be translated and included in the English version as they are published in Swedish in the Swedish Code of Statutes. The language used in the new translation is modern and gender-neutral. The Swedish and English texts are presented alongside each other, section by section in the same document, to enable comparative reading. The availability of an English translation of the Swedish Criminal Code will facilitate judicial cooperation in the EU and internationally, for example when requesting international judicial assistance. The translation can also help spread knowledge and increase understanding of the Swedish criminal justice system.

“The translation is now ready, and we are very pleased with the final product. As I understand it, there is considerable demand for an English translation of the Swedish Criminal Code, and we hope that the new translation will meet this need,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

Published 07 January 2020



Special regulations on residence permits in the event of a no-deal Brexit

The Ministry of Justice has circulated a memorandum for comment containing proposals for special regulations on residence permits for UK citizens in the event of a no-deal Brexit. The proposals are part of the Government's preparations ahead of Brexit and aim to make it easier for UK citizens living in Sweden to be granted a residence permit here.

“In the Government's assessment, the risk of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union without a withdrawal agreement has increased. If so, it would put all UK citizens living and working in Sweden in a difficult situation,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

According to the current timetable, the UK will withdraw from the EU at midnight on 31 October 2019. To address the most serious consequences of a no-deal withdrawal, the Government has taken a range of measures that strengthen Sweden's preparedness. For example, in March this year the Government adopted an ordinance containing a temporary exemption from the requirement on residence and work permits for those UK citizens and their family members who – on the day before the withdrawal from the EU – had the right to stay and work in Sweden.

“The basic premise is that the exemption will be in effect for at least one year after the UK withdraws,” says Mr Johansson.

The Government considers it important that UK citizens who currently reside in Sweden have the opportunity to stay even after the temporary exemption is no longer in effect. The memorandum now being circulated for comment therefore contains proposals for special provisions on residence permits for

these UK citizens and their family members. The proposals aim to make it easier for this group to be granted a residence permit in Sweden so that they can continue to live and work here under similar conditions as at present, even in the long term.

The requirements for the proposed new permits are based on the conditions for free movement that apply for EU citizens. The proposals mean that a UK citizen who has a right of permanent residence in Sweden will be granted a permanent residence permit, and that a UK citizen who fulfils the requirements for a right of residence here will be granted a temporary residence permit valid for five years. The proposals also entail a right for family members of UK citizens to be granted a residence permit if they live in Sweden at the time of the withdrawal.

It is proposed that most of the proposals enter into force on 1 January 2020, and that 31 October 2020 will be the final date to submit an application for the special permit. The proposals are only relevant should the UK leave the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Published 07 October 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden must urgently implement reforms to boost fight against foreign bribery

The OECD Working Group on Bribery has since 2012 repeatedly urged Sweden to reform its laws to ensure the investigation and prosecution of companies that bribe foreign public officials to obtain advantages in international business. Sweden's legal provisions to hold companies liable for foreign bribery do not fully meet the requirements of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

On 11-12 June 2019, a High Level Mission of the OECD Working Group on Bribery discussed these serious issues in Stockholm with Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson, Minister for Foreign Trade with responsibility for Nordic Affairs Ann Linde, and Prosecutor General Petra Lundh. Also present were additional senior Swedish officials from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Prosecution Authority, as well as Members of Parliament. During the high-level mission, Swedish authorities confirmed that new legislation to implement the OECD Working Group on Bribery's key recommendations will enter into force on 1 January 2020.

“We appreciate the willingness of the Swedish authorities to meet with us and discuss our substantial concerns and we welcome the draft bill presented by Sweden to address the recommendations,” said Drago Kos, Chair of the Working Group on Bribery. “Sweden has the opportunity to address the Working Group's concerns with the adoption of the recommended reforms of Sweden's corporate liability laws in January 2020. We hope to see Sweden join the top enforcers of the Anti-Bribery Convention and ensure

those who commit foreign bribery are held to account.”

“The reviews and recommendations from the OECD Working Group on Bribery are instrumental in supporting our efforts to combat corruption in all forms. We take our international commitments seriously and I am glad that to present that we have recently presented draft legislation to strengthen our legal framework and to address the recommendations from the OECD”, says Morgan Johansson, Minister of Justice and Migration in Sweden.

The Working Group on Bribery – made up of the 36 OECD Member countries plus Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Russia and South Africa – comprises the Parties to the Anti-Bribery Convention. The Working Group conducts a systematic programme for monitoring implementation of the Convention by all its Parties. The Working Group decided, following an invitation from Sweden, to send a high-level mission to Stockholm to meet with senior officials to reinforce the message that Sweden must adopt the recommended reforms. The next evaluation of Sweden’s implementation of the Anti-Bribery Convention has been delayed pending the enactment of legislation to address the Working Group’s remaining recommendations.

Published 12 June 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

Morgan Johansson and OECD hold press briefing on corruption

On Wednesday 12 June, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson will hold a press briefing with Drago Kos, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery.

Bella, Röd bodgatan 6, Stockholm

The press briefing will conclude a two-day visit by a high-level delegation from the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions. The delegation will meet Mr Johansson and others to discuss how Sweden can comply with the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

Published 11 June 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

The ministers' press contacts

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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 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.

Published 22 January 2019



Reinstated border control at Sweden's internal border

The Government has decided to reinstate internal border control for three months. The decision is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a threat to public policy and internal security.

The Government has decided to reinstate internal border control for three months. The control will continue until 11 February 2019. The decision was taken in accordance with EU common legislation and is based on the Government's assessment that there is still a threat to public policy and internal security. The assessment of the Swedish Security Service is also that the threat level from terrorism remains elevated. Deficiencies in the external border controls around the Schengen area mean that Sweden must maintain its own internal border control.

The Swedish Police Authority decides where and how to carry out this border control, which must be adapted to what is necessary to safeguard public policy and internal security.

Sweden's actions are in line with other Schengen Member States such as Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark. These countries have also temporarily reinstated internal border controls and have notified the other Member States and European Commission that they will continue the controls as long as a serious threat to public policy and internal security remains.



Government allows the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency to request additional international firefighting resources

On 26 July, the Government decided to allow the the Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) to request international assistance from countries not included in the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism to fight the ongoing forest fires in Sweden.

For a limited period, from 26 July to 10 August 2018, the MSB may request international assistance for rescue operations in the form of firefighting aircraft. Through the Partnership for Peace (PFF), Sweden is able to request international support from NATO members and partner countries under the PFF.

The Government's decision was taken after the MSB had submitted a request for international assistance from countries not included in the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism. In view of the extreme forest fires, Sweden – through the MSB – has received numerous offers of international support. The MSB has accepted and received support from countries within the framework of the Nordic civil protection agreement (Nordred) and the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism.

Support to municipalities and volunteers

The Government today decided that the MSB should be given greater ability to compensate the affected municipalities for the costs arising from the forest fires. According to a preliminary assessment, this may amount to close to SEK 300 million in compensation for municipal emergency services.

The Government will also increase resources to NGOs to compensate for the

costs that they have incurred as a result of their assistance during the fires and that cannot be compensated by other means.

Published 27 July 2018



Internal border controls prolonged

The Government has decided to prolong internal border controls for an additional six months, up to and including 11 November 2018. The decision was taken in accordance with EU legislation and the Government's assessment that there is still a threat to public order and domestic security.

The risk posed by, above all, deficiencies in the control of the EU's external borders – making it possible for potential terrorists and other criminals to enter the Schengen area – means that we must maintain our own internal border controls. The location, scope and nature of the controls should be adapted to what is necessary on grounds of public order and domestic security.

Published 03 May 2018



Consent – the basic requirement of new sexual offence legislation

The Government has presented a bill to the Riksdag containing a proposal concerning new sexual offence legislation that is based on consent. Sex must be voluntary – if it is not, then it is illegal. The Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority has been tasked with informing young people about the new legislation.

The incidence of sexual offences is increasing in Sweden, with young women facing the greatest risk. At the same time, too few of these offences are reported. Reversing this negative trend requires both new legislation and changes in attitudes. The Government therefore proposes the introduction of sexual consent legislation that is based on the obvious; sex must be voluntary. Accordingly, a rape conviction will no longer require the use of violence or threats by the perpetrator, or that a victim's particularly vulnerable situation was exploited.

The proposal also involves introducing two new offences: 'negligent rape' and 'negligent sexual abuse'. Both carry a prison sentence of a maximum of four years. The negligence aspect focuses on the fact that one of the parties did not participate voluntarily. This means that it will be possible to convict more people of sexual abuse than at present, for example when someone should be aware of the risk that the other person is not participating voluntarily but still engages in a sexual act with that person.

The Government is also proposing the following:

- enhancing the protection provided under criminal law concerning sexual offences against children where the perpetrator displays negligence with regard to the child's age. The aim of these amendments is to avoid the previous problem of excessive emphasis being placed on the child's

- physical development; and
- providing early support to victims of sexual offences. When a preliminary investigation of a sexual offence is launched, a request for a counsel to represent the injured party is to be made immediately.

The proposals now being presented are based on proposals from a cross-party committee of inquiry in which all Riksdag parties were represented.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 July 2018.

To effect real change, the legislation must gain traction throughout society. The Government has therefore tasked the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority with producing information and running sexual offences education campaigns targeting primarily young people, as well as the adults who interact with them on a daily basis. The responsibility of men and boys must be clarified, while all victims must be aware of their rights and have the courage to report.

The task of the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority is to produce information material based on the content of the new legislation, together with an online training course and a teachers' guide. The task will run for three years and the Authority will receive an extra SEK 5 million per year to fund it.

Published 26 April 2018



New act to increase opportunities for camera surveillance

The Government is proposing a new camera surveillance act. The permit requirement will be removed in some cases, and it will be easier for the police and municipalities, for example, to receive permits for camera surveillance.

The new act will increase the opportunities to use camera surveillance in places experiencing crime and public disorder problems. It will be simpler and quicker for the Swedish Police Authority and municipalities, for example, to seek and receive permits for camera surveillance to fight crime and increase security in public places. It will also be easier to receive a permit for camera surveillance on trains and at stations and hospitals.

The Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Security Service will also have the opportunity to use camera surveillance without a permit for a three-month period to counter terrorist crime, serious violent crime and the drug trade, for example. Currently, these agencies may conduct camera surveillance without a permit for a period of one month only.

The proposal means that a permit would continue to be required for camera surveillance by government agencies and certain other operators that conduct activities of public interest, such as schools, health care and public transport.

Fewer operators are covered by the permit requirement

The proposal means that camera surveillance by shops, shopping centres, editorial offices and premises used by religious communities, for example, would not require a permit. Nor would a permit be required for surveillance in connection with hunting or within forestry and agriculture. Privacy will instead be protected by the EU's new General Data Protection Regulation.

The Swedish Data Protection Authority is proposed to be the sole supervisory authority. This is expected to create a more uniform application of the regulations around the country and lead to more effective supervision.

It is proposed that the new act enter into force on 1 August 2018. The Council on Legislation will now review the proposal.

Published 08 March 2018



The Government presents measures against international burglary rings

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson has presented an offensive package of measures to fight international burglary rings. The measures will strengthen preventive efforts by the responsible authorities, and criminal investigation activities will be intensified.

International burglary rings are often controlled by organisers in their home countries and operate in several countries in Europe. In Sweden, these types of burglary rings are responsible for more than half of all burglaries and the majority of all thefts regarding boat motors, car parts, agricultural machinery, etc. The Government is today presenting a range of measures to fight international burglary rings.

Historic investment in the Swedish Police

As previously announced, the Swedish Police Authority will receive the largest investment in modern times – SEK 7.1 billion between 2018–2020. Based on the Government's national crime prevention programme 'Combating crime together', the police will make it more difficult for burglary rings.

Export of stolen goods will be prevented

The Government will task the Swedish Police Authority, Swedish Customs and the Swedish Coast Guard with increasing their efforts to stop the export of stolen goods. The Swedish Coast Guard will also be given greater powers to take action against burglary rings.

Tougher penalties for burglary and refusal of access

Victims of a burglary suffer a violation of their privacy, and greater account must be taken of this when determining a penalty. An inquiry will therefore examine the possibilities of tightening the penalties for organised and systematic thefts and offences concerning handling stolen goods. The possibility of issuing refusal of access orders to shops, etc., will also be examined.

More people will serve prison sentences in their home countries

Since taking office, the Government has engaged in active dialogues with several countries, including Romania, to make it easier for people who have been sentenced in Sweden to serve their prison terms in their home country. However, the Government wants more people to serve their sentences in their home countries. The Swedish Prison and Probation Service will therefore be instructed to streamline the process of transferring prison sentences, and the conditions on urgency with regard to shortening processing times will be examined.

Increased opportunities for camera surveillance

The Government will move ahead on a legislative proposal involving the removal of a permit requirement for camera surveillance in areas such as agriculture and forestry. The legislative proposal will also make it easier for police and municipalities to be granted permits for closed-circuit cameras. An inquiry is also currently examining the possibilities of removing the permit requirement regarding camera surveillance for the Swedish Police and Swedish Customs.

More international cooperation

In 2018, the Government will introduce several international initiatives to tackle the problem of international burglary rings. For example, the Government is conducting dialogues with the countries of origin of the burglary rings, introducing deeper international police cooperation and presenting initiatives in the EU.

Expanded checks in areas close to the border

The Government will instruct the Swedish Police Authority to examine what new conditions are required to conduct checks in areas close to the border. Relevant measures may include automatic camera surveillance involving number plate and vehicle recognition at our border crossing points.

Published 12 February 2018



New sexual offence legislation based on consent

The Government has presented a proposal to the Council on Legislation concerning new sexual offence legislation that is based on consent.

The incidence of sexual offences is increasing in Sweden, with younger women facing the greatest risk. At the same time, too few of these offences are reported. Reversing this negative trend requires both new legislation and changes in attitudes. In the legislative proposal, the Government therefore proposes introducing new sexual consent legislation based on the obvious: sex must be voluntary. Accordingly, convicting a perpetrator of rape will no longer require that violence or threats were used, or that the victim's particularly vulnerable situation was exploited.

The Government also proposes introducing two new offences, 'negligent rape' and 'negligent sexual abuse', with a maximum prison sentence of four years. The negligence aspect focuses on the fact that the other person did not participate voluntarily. This means that it will be possible to convict more people of abuse than at present, for example when someone should be aware of the risk that the other person is not participating voluntarily but still engages in a sexual act with that person.

Below are other proposals the Government is referring to the Council on Legislation for consideration:

- increasing the minimum penalty for gross rape and gross rape of a child from four to five years imprisonment;
- enhancing the protection provided under criminal law concerning sexual offences against children where the perpetrator displayed negligence with regard to the child's age. One of the aims of these amendments is to avoid the problem of excessive emphasis being placed on the child's physical development; and
- providing support to victims of sexual offences at an earlier stage of the

process. When a preliminary investigation on a sexual offence is initiated, a request for a counsel to represent the injured party is to be made immediately.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 July 2018.

Published 21 December 2017



Internal border controls prolonged

The Government has decided to prolong internal border controls for an additional six months, up to and including 11 May 2018. The decision was taken in accordance with EU legislation and the Government's assessment that there is still a threat to public order and domestic security.

The risk posed by, above all, deficiencies in the control of the EU's external borders – making it possible for potential terrorists to enter the Schengen area – means that we must maintain our own internal border controls. Border controls will be maintained at ports in the South and West police regions that the Swedish Police Authority deem appropriate, and at the Öresund Bridge.

Published 14 November 2017



Several major investments in the Ministry of Justice's areas of responsibility in the Government's autumn budget

On 20 September 2017, the Government presented the Budget Bill for 2018 to the Riksdag. The budget contains comprehensive investments in the Swedish Police Authority, other parts of the judicial system and civil defence. The Budget Bill is based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

The judicial system

In Sweden, we must all be safe, regardless of where we live or who we are. More crimes will be prevented and more crimes will be solved. This applies to both everyday crime and crime that poses a threat to Swedish democracy, such as organised crime, terrorism and hate crime. The Government is undertaking broad and long-term measures to build a stronger society – a society in which the judicial system and other actors take joint responsibility for creating a safer and more secure environment.

Some of the investments in the judicial system contained in the Government's autumn budget include:

The largest investment in the police in the 2000s

The Government is now making the largest investment in the police in the 2000s. The appropriation to the police will be increased by SEK 2 billion in 2018, by SEK 2.3 billion in 2019 and by SEK 2.8 billion in 2020. This means that the Government is investing a total of SEK 7.1 billion in the Swedish Police Authority during that period. The police will have the opportunity to employ more officers and enhance efforts in several areas, such as the work

of the border police and anti-terrorism efforts.

Strengthening the judicial system

To ensure that the Government's comprehensive investment in the Swedish Police Authority has an impact, SEK 750 million will be allocated to the judicial system and other security-enhancing measures. This investment means that the appropriations to the Swedish Security Service, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and SOS Alarm will be increased. As of 1 January 2018, a national centre to combat violent extremism will be established at the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention with explicit ambition to support local actors.

Defence and contingency measures

The security situation in Europe has deteriorated and this means greater demands are being placed on Sweden's defence capability. Civil defence efforts are a cornerstone of a modern total defence.

Additional resources to civil defence

Over the next three years, the Government will strengthen civil defence with a total of approximately SEK 1.3 billion. This increase in resources is part of the agreement between the Government, the Moderate Party and the Centre Party on additional funding to total defence of SEK 2.7 billion per year as of 2018.

Civil defence aims to ensure that society, in the event of heightened alert or – in the worst case scenario – war, has the capability to protect the population, secure the most essential public services and support the Swedish Armed Forces. Activities are conducted by government agencies, municipalities, county councils, private companies and NGOs.

Migration

The Government's objective is to ensure a sustainable migration policy that safeguards the right of asylum and, within the framework of managed immigration, facilitates mobility across borders, promotes needs-based labour migration, harnesses the effects of migration on development and deepens European and international cooperation. Achieving a long-term, sustainable migration policy requires taking responsibility in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation within organisations such as the UN and the EU,

as well as efficient and constructive cooperation between Sweden's relevant agencies, municipalities and civil society. In line with the agreement with the centre-right parties, the number of people resettled in Sweden will increase by 1 600 as of 2018, totalling 5 000 people per year. To improve opportunities for families who are entitled to family reunification, the Government also intends to increase capacity at certain selected missions abroad so that more family reunification cases can be processed.

Some of the investments in the area of migration contained in the Government's autumn budget include:

More money to municipalities to avoid unaccompanied minors having to change their place of residence

Earlier this year, the Government presented a temporary municipal grant to ensure that unaccompanied minors who turn 18 during the asylum process have the opportunity to remain living in the municipality in which they have set down roots. Many municipalities have stated that they want these young people to stay, and the Government is therefore investing an additional SEK 195 million this year – making a total of SEK 390 million – and SEK 195 million in 2018.

More efficient work to ensure returns

People who have had their matter examined in a legally secure manner and received a final and non-appealable rejection of their application for a residence permit must leave the country within the stated time limit. The majority of those whose application is rejected return of their own accord, and this is where the emphasis should lie in future too. To strengthen work to ensure returns, the Government is investing an additional SEK 114 million in 2018, SEK 199 million in 2019 and then SEK 76 million per year. The Government is also giving the police the possibility to carry out workplace inspections to check that employers are not exploiting people who are not permitted to stay in Sweden, and is taking measures to establish the identity of people who can be assumed to be in the country without a residence permit. The Government also intends to propose improved rules for detention.

Published 02 October 2017



Government Offices of Sweden

Government reshuffle, 27 July 2017

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven today announced a government reshuffle. Three ministers have chosen to leave their posts, two new ministers have been appointed, and two ministers have been entrusted with revised areas of responsibility.

Ministers Anna Johansson, Anders Ygeman and Gabriel Wikström are leaving their posts.

Newly appointed ministers

Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Migration, and Deputy Minister for Justice: Heléne Fritzon

Changes by ministry

Ministry of Justice Minister for Justice and Home Affairs: Morgan Johansson

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Minister for Health and Social Affairs: Annika Strandhäll

Published 27 July 2017



Increased protection for transgender people

In Sweden, everyone must have the right to be exactly who they are. This is why the Government is presenting proposals to strengthen the protection of transgender people under criminal law. These proposals include prohibiting agitation against transgender people.

The Government's proposed legislative amendments would mean that transgender people would be afforded full protection under the hate crime legislation. In the proposals now before the Council on Legislation, the grounds of gender identity and gender expression would be included in the provisions on agitation against a national or ethnic group and unlawful discrimination, and in the rule on public prosecution of insulting behaviour. An addendum clarifies that if a motive for an offence was to violate a person or group of people based on gender identity or gender expression, this constitutes an aggravating circumstance. Although the amendments are intended to protect transgender people, they are designed to protect all people equally.

The Government also proposes that 'transgender identity or expression' as a basis for discrimination in the Discrimination Act be replaced with 'gender identity or gender expression'. Under the proposal, all individuals will be protected against discrimination regardless of how their gender identity or gender expression relates to what is perceived to be the norm.

The Government also proposes that in certain legislation, the words 'race' and 'racial' be replaced with a term reflecting the repudiation of the notion that people can be divided into different races.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 July 2018, except for the amendments to the provisions on agitation against a national or ethnic group in the Freedom of the Press Act and the Penal Code, which will enter into force on 1 January 2019.

Published 04 July 2017



Stricter rules for arms exports

On 29 June, the Government will refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation containing stricter export controls of military equipment. The proposal referred to the Council on Legislation largely implements the agreement reached in the 2015 inquiry on export controls of military equipment (KEX inquiry).

Under the proposal, the democratic status of the recipient country will be a key factor for granting a licence. The lower the democratic status, the less scope there will be for granting a licence. The occurrence of serious and extensive human rights violations or grave deficiencies in the recipient country's democratic status constitute an obstacle to granting a licence. The licensing process must also take into account whether the export impedes the sustainable development of the recipient country. Moreover, the proposal clarifies the principles for follow-on deliveries and international cooperation. Broad parliamentary support means that the rules should be considered long-term, thus providing the business sector predictable conditions for Swedish exports for a long time to come.

"It is a strength for Sweden that we have a broad political agreement to modernise the regulatory framework to consider more factors in the overall assessment that must always be made. The proposal involves an important tightening of the rules for arms exports, while at the same time securing the long-term prospects for the Swedish armed forces," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration also proposes increased supervision, financial penalties for certain infringements of the regulatory framework and increased openness and transparency in issues concerning military equipment exports.

This proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration is based on an agreement between the Government and the Alliance parties.

Under the proposal, the changes will take effect on 1 April 2018.

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The proposal submitted for review by the Government to the Council on Legislation is based on an agreement concluded in 2015 by the all-party committee of inquiry on export controls of military equipment (KEX inquiry), SOU 2014:83 and SOU 2015:72. Six political parties supported the agreement in the final report (Social Democratic Party, Green Party, Moderate Party, Centre Party, Liberal Party and Christian Democrat Party).

Published 29 June 2017



Age assessment earlier in asylum process

The Government has submitted a bill to the Riksdag proposing amendments to the Aliens Act that require the Swedish Migration Agency to assess a person's age earlier in the asylum process than is the case today.

"The proposal requiring earlier age assessment in the asylum process is important from both a child rights perspective and an economic perspective," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The purpose of the proposal is to prevent adult asylum seekers being placed in accommodation that is intended for children and to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive the resources that have been set aside for them. In the bill, the Government therefore proposes that:

- the Swedish Migration Agency, as soon as possible after an application for asylum, conducts an age assessment and takes a temporary decision on the age of the unaccompanied minor if there is reason to question whether the applicant is under 18 but it is not obvious that he or she is an adult;
- the applicant be offered a medical age assessment before the Swedish Migration Agency takes a temporary decision that entails that he or she is assessed to be an adult; and
- it be possible to appeal the temporary decision on age to a court.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 May 2017.



Stronger protection against child marriage, forced marriage and 'honour' crimes

The Government has given Justice of the Supreme Court Mari Heidenborg the task of reviewing how protection against child marriage, forced marriage and 'honour' crimes can be strengthened.

Despite the legislative amendments introduced in 2014, most evidence indicates that the incidence of child marriage and forced marriage has increased in Sweden. This is why it is crucial that we evaluate legislation in these areas.

The inquiry remit includes analysing and taking a position on how the possibilities of recognising child marriages contracted abroad should be further restricted. Application of the penalty provisions on forced marriage and luring someone to travel abroad with the purpose of forcing them to enter into marriage will be evaluated and the Inquiry Chair will take a position on whether the provisions should be amended. The Inquiry Chair will also look at how relevant government agencies are working and cooperating on crime in these areas. Moreover, the Inquiry has been tasked with reviewing whether special grounds for tougher penalties should be introduced for 'honour' crimes.

"Forced marriage and child marriage must be combated. Children who have entered into marriage abroad must feel that society is on their side. People who commit 'honour' crimes must be sentenced and these crimes must be judged severely," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

"This is about the right to an education, choosing who you want to have a loving relationship with and how you want to shape your life. In combination with the remit we recently gave to the National Board of Health and

Welfare, this Inquiry will produce stronger guidance for the municipalities. Our starting point is clear: children must not be married, and they must not be treated or considered as such either," says Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

The part of the remit concerning the recognition of child marriages contracted abroad is to be presented in an interim report by 6 December 2017. The final report is to be submitted by 1 September 2018.

Published 17 March 2017



Government Offices of Sweden

Swedish Government presents feminist policy for a gender-equal future

The Swedish Government has presented a gender quality policy communication entitled Power, goals and authority – a feminist policy for a gender-equal future, including a ten-year National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women. As one of the measures in the strategy, the Government intends to amend the degree descriptions in the Higher Education Ordinance for educational programmes where it is most necessary and where students will encounter perpetrators and victims of violence in their future careers.

"People who encounter perpetrators of violence and their victims in their work must have knowledge of how violence can be uncovered and prevented, and of the most effective measures. This should therefore be included in the teaching of particularly relevant higher education programmes. This measure is part of the first long-term national strategy to combat men's violence against women, which prioritises preventive efforts. This communication shows the Government moving up a gear in its efforts to make a difference in people's lives," says Minister for Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

"So-called honour-related crimes are unacceptable. More offences must be uncovered and more must be done to prosecute the perpetrators. It must be clear that society takes a very serious view of these offences. We are therefore appointing an inquiry to investigate the possibilities of introducing honour-related motives as special grounds for tougher penalties," says Minister for Justice Morgan Johansson.

"Many people, often young women, are now confined by a pressure to achieve that is creating growing mental ill health. Many people, often young men, lack motivation to study and faith in the future. The gender structures and norms that constrain both girls and boys must be broken; we must strengthen young people's self-esteem and self-confidence if we are to improve school performance. This is the basis of the Government's major investments in school health and welfare services, special needs education support, and study and vocational guidance," says Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin.

Highlights of the gender equality communication

The communication Power, targets and agencies – a feminist policy for a gender-equal future encompasses political objectives, an organisational structure for implementation and a follow-up system. It also includes a national strategy with a programme of measures to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The programme of measures will apply from 2017 to 2020. Parts of the strategy are based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

Gender equality agency and national assignments

The Government intends to establish a new agency in 2018 to help ensure strategic, cohesive and sustainable governance and effective implementation of gender equality policy. The Left Party supports the proposal and has been keen to establish a gender equality agency.

The three national assignments concerning honour-related violence and oppression, prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes, and the assignment on support to authorities (including higher education institutions) for gender mainstreaming of their activities, will be made permanent.

Two new interim targets for gender equality policy

The Government is introducing two new interim targets – gender-equal education and gender-equal health – to give these areas greater space in gender equality policy.

Focus on men's participation and responsibility

Men's participation is a prerequisite if a gender-equal society is to be realised. The Government intends to implement measures to strengthen the gender equality work focus on men and boys with respect to violence

prevention, health and use of parental benefits.

Strategic, cohesive and long-term agency governance

During this electoral period, the Government intends to analyse which agencies' instructions require strengthened requirements and governance with respect to gender mainstreaming.

National strategy to combat men's violence against women

The communication includes a ten-year national strategy on men's violence against women, including honour-related violence and oppression, as well as prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. To strengthen the prospects of achieving the interim gender equality policy target of ending men's violence against women, the Government will focus particularly on preventive measures.

Published 18 November 2016



Enhanced protection of sexual integrity

The 2014 Sexual Offences Committee into sexual offences has presented its report 'Enhanced protection of sexual integrity' (SOU 2016:60) to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

Mari Heidenborg, Justice of the Supreme Court, chaired the inquiry, which consisted of twelve members of parliament and eight experts. The inquiry's remit was to review the crime of rape, examine and analyse how the judicial system handles rape cases, and consider whether measures can be taken to improve procedures regarding the appointment of injured party counsel.

"I am pleased that the Sexual Offences Committee has presented so many concrete proposals, such as on the issue of consent and improved support to victims of crime. We need clear legislation in the area of sexual offences," says Mr Johansson.

The Committee proposes the following:

- Sexual offences legislation shall be amended to ensure that the dividing line between punishable acts and acts exempt from punishment is determined by whether participation in a sexual act was voluntary or not.
- The offence classification rape shall be removed and replaced by sexual abuse. Certain other offences shall also receive new offence classifications.
- It shall be clarified in the legislative text that sexual offences taking place remotely, e.g. virtually over the internet, can be classified in the same way as when the persons involved are in the same physical location.
- A new circumstance, which shall be taken into particular account in assessing whether a certain offence should be classified as gross, is introduced to ensure a strict view of offences committed against

children, particularly those over the age of fifteen but under the age of 18.

- A further degree, exceptionally gross offence, is proposed for the provisions on sexual abuse and sexual abuse of a child.
- Criminal liability for negligence is introduced for certain sexual offences.
- An amendment is proposed to the Injured Party Counsel Act (1988:609) to include a directive to ensure that the assessment of whether an injured party counsel is to be appointed takes place immediately after a preliminary investigation of a sexual offence case has been opened or resumed.
- Requirements are to be tightened concerning the injured party counsel's expertise and suitability. At the same time, a limitation is proposed on 'substitution', the injured party counsel's right to appoint another representative in their place.
- Several public authorities, including within the judicial system, should be assigned tasks to improve the handling of sexual offence cases.

The inquiry's proposals will now be circulated for comments.

Published 20 October 2016



Measures for more efficient returns

The Government has presented a number of measures to ensure legally secure and more efficient returns of people whose asylum applications have been rejected.

"We must be able to maintain a long-term, sustainable and humane migration policy that safeguards the right of asylum. It is vital that a person who has been issued a final and non-appealable refusal-of-entry order after their grounds for asylum have been examined returns as soon as possible," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

"The Swedish Police need better tools to establish the identity of people residing in Sweden. The police also need clearer support to better be able to enforce returns," says Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman

Below are nine new measures presented by the Government:

1. Expanded possibilities to implement risk-based workplace inspections;
2. The possibility to take fingerprints when conducting internal controls of aliens;
3. Expanded opportunities to confiscate passports or identity documents;
4. The Swedish Migration Agency to notify the Swedish Police Authority when it has contact with a person who has been issued an enforceable order;
5. The Swedish Police Authority to be able to refer enforcement cases back to the Swedish Migration Agency when voluntary return is possible;
6. The Swedish Police Authority to be the enforcing authority regarding renewed enforcement;
7. Greater opportunities to place detainees in facilities other than special detention centres;
8. Regarding detention of children, refusal-of-entry orders by government agencies to be processed in the same way regardless of the authority that took the decision; and

9. Legislation regarding the competent authority to be clarified.

Published 03 October 2016



Measures against car burnings and criminality in vulnerable areas

On Wednesday 17 August, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Home Affairs Anders Ygeman presented the Government's measures against car burnings and criminality in vulnerable areas. Reversing the trend requires both long-term welfare initiatives and forceful action against crime.

"The car burnings over the summer were worrying. The fires are invasive for those whose cars are destroyed, but also mean that people are exposed to danger," says Mr Johansson.

"It is unacceptable that the police and emergency services are subjected to attacks. The insecurity and risks that people living in vulnerable areas are exposed to must be combated in all possible ways," says Mr Ygeman.

"Reversing the trend in our vulnerable areas requires continued investments in welfare, long-term crime prevention measures and forceful action against crime here and now," says Mr Johansson.

The Government is taking the following measures to strengthen the ability of judicial authorities to prevent these crimes:

- Faster legal action: Young people who commit crimes and people who repeatedly commit new crimes are examples of groups where a quick, clearer and legally secure reaction on the part of society is particularly important. The Government wants to conduct a broad review to analyse the possibilities of bringing about faster legal action, where such matters as a fast track for petty crimes and on-call courts will be considered.
- Tougher penalties for attacks against emergency services staff: A review will be conducted to assess the need for legislative changes to further

increase protection for emergency services staff and other important actors in society. This will include considering whether attacks on professional groups tasked with guaranteeing safety, life and health should be seen as being particularly serious.

- Clear sanctions for young people: New sanctions for young people are needed with regard to serious crime or when a young person repeatedly relapses into crime. These may involve an obligation regarding contact instead of fines, or youth supervision by means of an electronic ankle tag in the case of serious crime.
- Scale of penalties for inflicting damage: A government inquiry has proposed that such penalties should be designed similarly to other crimes against property and where fines are not included in the scale of penalties for a normal offence. The Government is therefore considering whether the sanctions for the offences 'inflicting damage' and 'gross infliction of damage' should be made more severe.

During the summer, the Prime Minister also presented a long-term reform programme to reduce segregation. A central government delegation has been appointed that is to cooperate with municipalities, civil society, government agencies and researchers. The reform programme will run between 2017 and 2025 and focus on five policy areas:

1. Combating crime.
2. Finding a solution to long-term unemployment.
3. Improving the outcomes of schools and pupils.
4. Enhancing social services and reducing housing segregation and overcrowding.
5. Supporting civil society and efforts to promote democratic values.

In addition, the following reforms were presented:

- Resources for the Swedish Police Authority's inter-agency collaboration in socially vulnerable areas.
- The Swedish Public Employment Service is tasked with increasing employment among foreign-born women;
- Support groups to prevent relapsing into crime.
- Support to preschools where conditions are difficult.
- Increased support to schools with low learning outcomes Form of tenure in the detailed development plan to reduce housing segregation.
- Government agency services provided in socially vulnerable areas.
- Increased support to activities by civil society organisations and municipalities to combat violent extremism.

- Sport and youth leaders in socially vulnerable areas.

Next year, the Government will invest SEK 110 million in these reforms, a sum that will gradually increase to SEK 250 million from 2020.

Published 29 August 2016



Three assignments to the Swedish Migration Agency on 'return'

The Government has decided to instruct the Swedish Migration Agency to increase the number of places at detention centres, to reduce the time from asylum application to return and to enhance return procedures by means of liaison officers stationed at missions abroad.

The increased number of asylum seekers in autumn 2015 is expected to result in a significantly larger number of people receiving refusal-of-entry or expulsion orders in the coming years. For the asylum and reception system to work, people who have received such an order must return. This is a prerequisite for a legally secure and credible asylum process. Through this, more accommodation for other asylum seekers will be freed up and costs in the area of migration will be reduced.

The Government's assessment is that a number of measures are necessary to streamline return procedures:

Assignment to reduce the time from asylum application to return

The Government has instructed the Swedish Migration Agency to arrange permanent measures to reduce the time from asylum application to return or residence permit. The result in the form of shortened processing times must be realised in the course of this year.

The assignment includes enhancing the handling of, above all, tasks that require increased capacity for examining probable refusal, including obviously unfounded applications, and processing these cases in a separate procedure. The Swedish Migration Agency is also to increase its capacity as regards the handling of withdrawn asylum applications and declarations of acceptance, the return of identity documents, booking of travel home, etc.

Channels of contact must be simplified for those asylum seekers who wish to return, and the Swedish Migration Agency must have support and help ready so that those who wish to return can make progress in their individual procedure.

A report on what impact the measures taken have had is to be presented in the 2016 annual report.

Assignment to increase the number of places at detention centres

The Government has instructed the Swedish Migration Agency, after consultation with the Swedish Police Authority, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and the property owner, to arrange for a temporary detention facility that will cover the estimated need for 100 new detention centre places. The goal is for the facility to be operational by 1 October 2016.

The Swedish Migration Agency, after consultation with the Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, is also to propose how the Migration Agency can provide flexible access to places at detention centres should the need further increase. The proposal is to fit within existing budget frameworks.

Finally, the Swedish Migration Agency, after consultation with the Swedish Police Authority, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and, where applicable, the property owner, is to conduct planning and make preparations to increase the number of places at detention centres in Sweden in the long term, so as to replace the 100 temporary places.

A report on the assignment is to be presented to the Government Offices (Ministry of Justice) by 30 November 2016.

Assignment to enhance return procedures by means of liaison officers at missions abroad

The Government has instructed the Swedish Migration Agency, after consultation with the Swedish Police Authority and the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), to arrange for liaison officers to be stationed at missions abroad. This is to increase the number of enforced refusal-of-entry and expulsion orders. Liaison officers are also to monitor developments in countries of return.

Liaison officers are to be stationed in regions where special efforts are

needed locally to facilitate an increased number of returns. They are to be deployed as soon as possible in 2016.

Published 02 June 2016



National Board of Forensic Medicine instructed to conduct medical age assessments

Medical age assessments are needed for individuals seeking residence permits in Sweden. The Government has therefore instructed the National Board of Forensic Medicine to promptly start conducting medical age assessments and immediately increase its capability and capacity in this area.

Medical age assessments are important to ensure confidence in the asylum process. It is important for children's safety that adults are not treated as children and that children are not treated as adults. It is not appropriate for children who come to Sweden without their parents to reside with unfamiliar adults or for resources allocated to children to be used for adult asylum seekers.

The National Board of Forensic Medicine has therefore been instructed to promptly start conducting medical age assessments of individuals seeking residence permits in Sweden and immediately increase its capability and capacity in this area. The assignment includes drawing up a procedure for how and by which methods age assessments are to be conducted. The Board is to give particular attention to the requirements for a scientific basis, tried and tested experience, a legally secure process and consideration of children's rights.

The National Board of Forensic Medicine is already conducting age assessments on behalf of prosecutors and the police. By 15 November 2016 at the latest, the Board is to report on how medical age assessments are done and what the system for conducting this type of assessment will look like in the future.

"It is essential that we have a system in place quickly. The National Board of Forensic Medicine is well accustomed to conducting this type of assessment, and its experience will ensure good quality and legal certainty," says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson

Published 01 June 2016



Government reshuffle, 25 May 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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Published 25 May 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Swedish Minister for Justice and Migration Mr Morgan Johansson visits Bangladesh 10 May to 12 May 2016

The Swedish Minister for Justice and Migration Mr Morgan Johansson will complete his first visit to Bangladesh, today. The main purpose of his visit was to deepen the relations between the two countries in the key area of migration, in light of Bangladesh's chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

During his two day long programme, the Minister met representatives of the Government of Bangladesh, as well as representatives of civil society and the private sector. He met HE Prime Minister, Ms Sheikh Hasina Wazed, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Shariar Alam, Minister of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment, Mr Nurul Islam and Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Anisul Huq during his visit. He also met with local and international organizations working on migration and human rights.

"Sweden and Bangladesh have a long history of working together on development and trade. We share a common goal to improve regular migration and protect migrants' rights and this has been at the core of my talks along with a discussion of trade and human rights in Bangladesh", said Mr Johansson in light of his visit.

The meetings' topics included trade and cooperation between the two countries as well as issues of human rights including workers' rights and migration from a Swedish and Bangladeshi perspective.

As part of his visit, the Minister will participate in a public lecture on "Emerging Global Migration and Mobility, Trends and Issues: Swedish Perspective" today, the 11 May 2016.

Published 11 May 2016



Proposal to temporarily restrict the possibility of being granted a residence permit in Sweden

On Thursday 28 April, the Government decided on a bill proposing that Swedish asylum regulations be temporarily brought into line with the minimum level in EU law and international conventions.

At the end of 2015, the Government announced that Swedish legislation needs to be changed for a limited period. The Government now proposes that Sweden introduce a temporary residence permit, limit the right to family member immigration and tighten maintenance requirements. The act will be in effect for three years.

It is essential that these temporary amendments do not lead to practical problems in relation to other important public services and systems. For this reason, the Government proposes certain changes, based on the comments submitted by referral bodies.

- Some temporary residence permits will be extended to 13 months so that individuals can be covered by social insurance benefits in Sweden.
- Persons under the age of 25 who can support themselves will only be granted a permanent residence permit if they have completed upper secondary school education or the equivalent.
- In some specific cases, family member immigration will be possible and children will be able to receive permanent residence permits.

The proposal in its entirety

A temporary act

The act will be in effect for three years and will apply to decisions on residence permits taken during the period in which the act is in effect. The act will not apply to decisions on residence permits for children or families

with children who had applied for asylum by 24 November 2015.

It is proposed that the act enter into force on 20 July 2016.

Temporary residence permits

Refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection who are granted protection in Sweden will be granted temporary residence permits rather than permanent residence permits – which is the general rule at present.

When a case is first examined, those who are given refugee status will be granted a three-year permit.

Persons eligible for subsidiary protection will be granted a 13-month residence permit.

When the permits expire, they will be extended if grounds for protection still exist.

Permanent residence permit if the person can support themselves

When a temporary residence permit expires, a permanent residence permit may be granted if the person can support themselves. Persons under the age of 25 will only be granted a permanent residence permit if they have completed upper secondary education or the equivalent.

Permanent residence permit for children in certain cases

A child may be granted a permanent residence permit in certain cases in light of their state of health.

Quota refugees

Quota refugees will continue to be granted permanent residence permits.

Limited right to family member immigration

Asylum seekers who are deemed eligible for subsidiary protection will not have the right to family reunification if they had not applied for asylum by 24 November 2015. However, if this would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention, a relative may be granted a residence permit.

Asylum seekers who are given refugee status and who are granted temporary

permits under the new temporary act will continue to have the right to family reunification. This right will only apply to spouses, cohabiting partners and children under the age of 18. Reunification of spouses and cohabiting partners applies to both different-sex and same-sex couples. Child refugees will have the right to be reunified with their parents.

Tougher maintenance requirements

Family member immigration will be subject to a maintenance requirement, which will be broadened to include a requirement that the sponsor must be able to support family members who come to Sweden. At present, the only requirement is that sponsors can support themselves.

The maintenance requirement does not apply when the sponsor is a refugee or a person eligible for subsidiary protection and the relative applies for a residence permit within the first three months after the person eligible for protection has been granted a residence permit. Nor will the maintenance requirement apply if the sponsor is a child, or if the relative has applied for a residence permit by the date on which the act enters into force.

This means that the current exception to the maintenance requirement for family member immigration for Swedish citizens, citizens of other EEA states or Switzerland, and those who have lived in Sweden for more than four years, will be abolished.

Residence permits on grounds of exceptionally or particularly distressing circumstances

Residence permits on grounds of exceptionally or particularly distressing circumstances may only be granted if refusing entry to or expelling the person would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention.

Possibility of family reunification if denying a residence permit would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention

A relative may be granted a residence permit if denying a residence permit would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention.

Persons otherwise in need of protection

Persons otherwise in need of protection will not be entitled to a residence permit.

Published 03 May 2016



Proposal to temporarily restrict the possibility of being granted a residence permit in Sweden

Swedish rules of asylum will be temporarily brought into line with the minimum level in EU law and international conventions. The legislative proposal is now being sent to the Council on Legislation.

At the end of 2015, the Government announced that Swedish legislation needs to be changed for a limited period. The Government now proposes that Sweden introduces temporary residence permits, limits the right to family reunification and tightens maintenance requirements. The act will apply for three years.

It is important that these temporary amendments do not lead to practical problems in relation to other public services and systems. For this reason, the Government proposes certain changes, based on the comments submitted by referral bodies.

- Some temporary residence permits will be extended to 13 months so that persons can be covered by social insurance benefits in Sweden.
- Persons under the age of 25 who can support themselves will only be granted a permanent residence permit if they have completed upper secondary school education or equivalent.
- Family reunification will in exceptional cases be possible for persons otherwise not eligible
- Permanent residence permits may in exceptional cases be granted for children.

The proposal as a whole

A temporary act

The act will be apply for three years from when a decision on a residence

permit is taken during the period in which the act is in force. The act will not apply to decisions on residence permits for children or families with children that applied for asylum by 24 November 2015.

It is proposed that the act enter into force on 20 July 2016.

Temporary residence permits

Refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection who are granted protection in Sweden will be granted temporary residence permits rather than permanent residence permits – which is the general rule at present.

When a case is first examined, those who are given refugee status will be granted a three-year permit.

Persons eligible for subsidiary protection will be granted a 13-month residence permit.

When the permits expire, they will be extended if grounds for protection still exist.

Permanent residence permit if the person can support themselves

When a temporary residence permit expires, a permanent residence permit may be granted if the person can support themselves. Persons under the age of 25 will only be granted a permanent residence permit if he or she has completed upper secondary education or equivalent.

Permanent residence permit for children in certain cases

A child may be granted a permanent residence permit in light of their state of health.

Quota refugees

Quota refugees will continue to be granted permanent residence permits.

Limited right to family reunification

Persons seeking asylum who are deemed eligible for subsidiary protection will not have the right to family reunification if they had not applied for asylum by 24 November 2015. However, if this would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention, a relative may be granted a residence permit.

Asylum seekers who are given refugee status and who are granted temporary permits under the new temporary act will continue to have the right to family reunification. This right will only apply to spouses, cohabiting partners and children under the age of 18. Reunification of spouses and cohabiting partners applies to both different-sex and same-sex couples. Children with refugee status will have the right to be reunified with their parents.

Tougher maintenance requirements

The maintenance requirement is to apply to family member immigration and will be broadened to include a requirement that the sponsor must be able to support family members who come to Sweden. At present, the only requirement is that sponsors can support themselves.

The maintenance requirement does not apply when the sponsor is a refugee or a person eligible for subsidiary protection and the relative applies for a residence permit within the first three months after the person eligible for protection has been granted a residence permit. Nor will the maintenance requirement apply if the sponsor is a child, or if the relative has applied for a residence permit by the date on which the act enters into force.

This means that the current exemption from the maintenance requirement for family member immigration for Swedish citizens, citizens of other EEA states or Switzerland, and those who have lived in Sweden for more than four years, will be removed.

Residence permits on grounds of exceptionally or particularly distressing circumstances

Residence permits on grounds of exceptionally or particularly distressing circumstances may only be granted if refusing entry to or expelling the person would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention.

A possibility for family reunification if denying a residence permit would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention

A relative may be granted a residence permit if denying a residence permit would contravene a Swedish commitment under a convention.

Persons otherwise in need of protection

Persons otherwise in need of protection will not be entitled to a residence permit.



Government proposes amendments to asylum seekers' right to assistance

The right to assistance will cease to apply for people whose refusal-of-entry or expulsion order has become final and non-appealable. This is what the Government is proposing in a Bill to the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament). The proposal does not apply to families with children and is part of the agreement reached by the Government and the centre-right parties in October 2015.

As a result of several serious conflicts around the world, the number of asylum seekers coming to Sweden was record-high in 2015. In the EU, Sweden is one of the countries that have taken in most asylum seekers per capita in recent times. This means enormous challenges for the Swedish asylum system.

Against this background, the Government, the Moderate Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats agreed in October 2015 on necessary measures to ensure capacity in Sweden's reception of asylum seekers and to strengthen the introduction of new arrivals. One such measure was to make changes aimed at creating space for more asylum seekers at accommodation centres.

The Government is therefore now proposing that, as a rule, the right to assistance will cease to apply for adults not living with a child when that person's refusal-of-entry or expulsion order has become final and non-appealable, or shortly afterwards. This means that both the daily allowance and the right to asylum accommodation will cease. Under the current rules, the right to assistance normally ceases only after the person leaves the country, even if there is a refusal-of-entry or expulsion order that has

become final and non-appealable.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 June 2016.

Published 24 March 2016



Government proposes amendments to asylum seekers' right to assistance

The right to assistance will cease to apply for people whose expulsion order has become final and non-appealable. This is what the Government lays out in a proposal submitted to the Council on Legislation. The proposal does not apply to families with children and is part of the agreement reached by the Government and the centre-right parties in October 2015.

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It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 June 2016.

Published 11 March 2016



Proposal to temporarily restrict the possibility of being granted a residence permit in Sweden

The Government has previously announced a temporary law on restrictions to the possibility of being granted a residence permit in Sweden. The proposal, which aims to adapt the Swedish asylum regulations to the minimum level in the EU, is now being sent out for consultation.

The law will be in effect for three years and applied when a decision on a residence permit is taken during the period in which the law is in force. The law will not be applied to a decision on a residence permit for children or families with children that had applied for asylum by 24 November 2015.

Temporary residence permits

Refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection who are granted protection in Sweden will be granted temporary residence permits rather than permanent residence permits – which is the general rule at present.

When a case is first examined, those who are deemed refugees will be granted a three-year permit.

Persons eligible for subsidiary protection will be granted a one-year residence permit.

When the permits expire, they will be extended if grounds for protection still exist.

When a temporary residence permit expires, it is possible that a permanent residence permit may be granted if the person can support themselves.

Quota refugees will continue to receive permanent residence permits.

Restricted right to family member immigration

Persons who are deemed eligible for subsidiary protection will not have the right to family reunification if they had not applied for asylum by 24 November 2015.

Asylum seekers who are deemed refugees and who are granted temporary permits under the new temporary law will continue to have the right to family reunification. However, this right will only apply to spouses, partners and children under the age of 18. Reunification between spouses and partners applies to both different sex and same sex couples. Child refugees will have the right to be reunified with their parents.

Tougher maintenance requirements

The maintenance requirement is to apply to family member immigration and will be broadened to also include a requirement that the sponsor must be able to support family members who come to Sweden. At present, it is sufficient if sponsors can support themselves.

The maintenance requirement does not apply when the sponsor is a refugee or a person eligible for subsidiary protection and the relative applies for a residence permit within the first three months after the person eligible for subsidiary protection has been granted a residence permit. Nor will the maintenance requirement apply if the sponsor is a child, or if the relative has applied for a residence permit by 31 May 2016.

This means that the current exception to the maintenance requirement for family member immigration for Swedish citizens, citizens of other EEA states or Switzerland, and those who have lived in Sweden for more than four years, will be abolished.

Residence permits on grounds of exceptionally/particularly distressing circumstances will not be granted.

The provision on granting residence permits on grounds of exceptionally/particularly distressing circumstances will not be applied. It will be replaced by another provision which means that residence permits will be granted if a decision to deny granting a residence permit would contravene Sweden's international commitments.

Persons otherwise in need of protection

Persons otherwise in need of protection will not be entitled to a residence permit.

Published 15 February 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Press invitation: Briefing on the migration situation

Today at 4:15 pm the Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson briefs the international press on the migration situation, following the press conference held by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Please bring your press credentials.

Time: Tuesday 24 November at 4:15 pm

Location: The International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Fredsgatan 6, Stockholm.

See the press conference held by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven (in Swedish) on <http://www.regeringen.se/>

Published 24 November 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Press invitation: Ethical recruitment of migrant workers

On Tuesday, 3 November, the Government is holding a seminar on ethical recruitment of migrant workers, in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The seminar will take place at the Government offices Rosenbad, in Stockholm.

The seminar revolves around IOM's new initiative – International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) – aimed at helping companies to sustainable and ethical recruitment policies for migrant workers. The Swedish Government supports IOM's development of IRIS as a part of its agenda to counteract exploitation of foreign workers.

Opening speeches will be given by Director General of the IOM, Mr William Lacy Swing and by Swedish Minister for Justice and Migration Mr Morgan Johansson. The seminar will be attended by a number of companies, trade unions and NGOs. To attend the seminar, a registration email to Press Secretary Jonatan Holst, is mandatory, se email link below.

[The programme for the seminar, at the website of Arena Idé](#)

UPDATE: The previously announced press conference with William Lacy Swing and Morgan Johansson is cancelled.

The seminar and the press conference will be in English.

Published 02 November 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

International press conference on agreed migration and integration measures today at 13.00

Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson will present the agreed migration and integration measures at a press conference in Bella Venezia, Rosenbad, today at 13.00.

Please bring your press credentials.

Published 23 October 2015



Combating vulnerability and begging – no one should have to beg

On June 24, the Government presented a package of measures for vulnerable EU citizens staying temporarily in Sweden. The initiative aims to combat vulnerability and begging. The long-term goal is that no one should have to beg in Sweden.

The package of measures contains actions to promote cooperation within the EU and especially with Romania and Bulgaria, clearer rules in Sweden and close cooperation with civil society organisations.

“Today, the Government will present a first package of measures for vulnerable EU citizens in Sweden. It is a step on the road to reducing vulnerability and begging. The goal is that no one should have to beg,” says Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

The three reform areas:

- increased cooperation within the EU, especially with Romania and Bulgaria
- clearer rules in Sweden
- close cooperation with civil society organisations.

Important measures in the package include:

- Within the framework of the cooperation agreement with Romania, continue work on development of welfare, children’s rights and gender equality.
- Play an active role towards the European Commission in tackling the issue and promote EU efforts on Roma inclusion.
- Support Romania via the Cohesion Fund, the Social Fund and the Regional Development Fund.

- A government assignment to the Police to propose measures to stop violence against vulnerable EU citizens staying temporarily in Sweden. The assignment report is to be presented by 30 November.
- Supplementary terms of reference to the inquiry into trafficking in human beings about protection provided by criminal law against exploitation of vulnerable people who have come to Sweden.
- Better management of unlawful settlements on public and private land. An inquiry will analyse how landowners' possibilities to obtain help with measures in the event of prohibited settlements can be improved.
- Better cooperation and regular meetings with civil society organisations working with vulnerable EU citizens.

Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke took part in the press conference.

Published 17 August 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson at conference on criminal justice cooperation in the EU

20 years of progress in criminal justice cooperation within the European Union – digital conference, 18 February 2022, hosted by the French Presidency in the EU Check against delivery.

I would like to begin by thanking the French presidency for hosting this important conference. And a special thanks to Éric Dupond-Moretti for inviting me to speak.

Twenty years ago, the European Union took its first steps towards a completely new way of cooperating in criminal matters.

The topics of this conference, Eurojust and the European Arrest Warrant, have proved to be very important tools in the fight against serious and cross-border crime.

Eurojust's valuable work and support to law enforcement agencies cannot be overestimated.

And the European Arrest Warrant has paved the way for cooperation based on the principle of mutual recognition. Over the years, we have adopted several legal acts based on this principle. Some are applied frequently, while others could need a bit more attention.

Cooperation based on this principle is of the utmost importance in the fight against serious and cross-border crime, as well as when it comes to enforcing final decisions and judgments, such as custodial sentences, fines and confiscation orders.

For a well-functioning judicial cooperation, I would like to highlight three aspects that are particularly important.

Firstly, our courts and competent authorities need to be made more aware of the opportunities in this field of cooperation. They must become more familiar with the obligations arising from these legal acts and the case law from the European Court of Justice. This could be done by more information and training.

Secondly, cooperation must be simple and effective. Deadlines must be respected. Language barriers should be removed as far as possible. Standardized procedures and certificates should be developed. Complicated procedures and language barriers can be a reason why certain instruments are applied less than other. We have reached far, but we can do more.

The last, and crucial, aspect is that cooperation presupposes mutual trust. We must respect each other's differences. But all Member States must also respect the fundamental principles that are the foundation of the European Union. The principles of the rule of law are obviously one of them. And the freedoms and rights of individuals should never be set aside. Every time a decision or a judgment is questioned by an executing authority with reference to fundamental principles, for instance in the EU Charter, is basically a failure. Our aim should be that these questions never arise.

In the last 20 years, a great deal of work has been done. And we should be proud of what we have achieved together. However, we need to continue. A lot of work remains.

For example, we have to expand the field of cooperation. Cyberspace is one such area. Our law enforcement agencies need for electronic evidence cannot be underestimated. Another field is transfer of proceedings. A clear legal framework for such cooperation would give our law enforcement authorities another important tool.

There are many challenges ahead of us. However, I promise that Sweden will contribute to this work in all possible ways, not least through our upcoming presidency.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address this conference and its important topics.

Published 21 February 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Mr Morgan Johansson at the seminar on the topic of the relationship between the European Court of Human Rights and the National Courts

Stockholm, 28 October 2021 Check against delivery.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me say that I think we are all truly happy to be able to gather like this again! It was a long time ago, and I think we have all looked forward to gatherings like this. And to start up with a seminar on human rights, it can't be better!

On behalf of the Swedish Government, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the President of the European Court of Human Rights, President Robert Spano, and the Swedish judge at the Court, Judge Erik Wennerström, to Sweden and to this seminar.

Also, a special welcome to the other panellist members, the President of the Swedish Supreme Court, Justice Anders Eka, and the President of the Swedish Supreme Administrative Court – and also the former Swedish judge at the European Court of Human Rights – Justice Helena Jäderblom.

The seminar today is organised by the Government Offices, Department of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of the visit from the European Court of Human Rights. It will focus on the topic of the interplay, or dialogue, between the European Court of Human Rights and the national courts.

It is a topic that is both interesting and indeed very important to reflect upon. I'm going to do a few introductory remarks on that.

It goes without saying that human rights, and the respect for rule of law, are of greatest importance in any democracy, and protecting these fundamental values and ideas are becoming increasingly more important when human rights are challenged. And there are challenges to these concepts today.

Thirty years ago, Europe was rejoicing over the fall of the Berlin Wall. The symbol of oppression had fallen apart, opening new horizons and hopes not only for Germany but also for the whole of Europe. To many, this event appeared to be the unchallenged victory of democracy.

Also for me. I was 19 then, and I remember very well how I and some friends in the summer of 1990 went down to Berlin to see with our own eyes what was happening. The wall was still there, it hadn't been demolished yet, but we did our part in that, in tearing it down. We carved out each of us a part of the wall, a part of a brick, to keep as a memory, and I think I still have mine stored away somewhere.

The fall of the Berlin Wall was the biggest political event in our youth, yes perhaps in our lives. It marked an important step in the ending of the Cold War, and the rise of strong democratic movement in many states in Europe. Several of the states in Eastern Europe became parties to the convention soon thereafter.

But, as remarked so often and by so many, democracy is not something that is conquered in a nation, once and for all, by its people. It has to be vigorously protected, it has to be fought for, and it has to be re-conquered by every generation.

Today, it is obvious to most of us that democracy in Europe is facing many difficult challenges. The threats to the full enjoyment of fundamental rights seem to have become more present than they have been for a very long time. The negative development in the respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights is worrying. One could for example mention, measures against the independency of the judiciary, as well as the independent media, attacks against LGBT communities and other minorities. We've seen it in countries like Russia and Turkey for a long time, but now, in recent years, we also see problematic developments in EU-countries like Poland and Hungary.

Yesterday, I heard that the European Court of Justice has ordered Poland to pay the European Commission a daily penalty payment in an amount of 1 million euros, because Poland has, as they say: failed to comply with the measures ordered by the Court to avoid serious and unrepairable harm to the

legal order of the European Union.

It is a dramatic decision and dramatic words, but I think it is important to take a firm stand. The European Union has to put its house in order, when it comes to rule of law.

And in this context, the value of the European Convention on Human Rights cannot be over-emphasised, and the important work of the European Court of Human Rights cannot be highlighted enough.

But, of course, upholding human rights and the rule of law is not only the duty of the Strasbourg Court. It is also an important task of the national legislature, the executive and the national courts.

Sweden has a long history of a strong commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We are also a strong supporter of the convention system and frequently advocate these ideals and values in the international debate.

Sweden was one of the founding states of the Council of Europe and one of the first states to ratify the European Convention on Human Rights in 1952. The Convention has also formed part of Swedish domestic law since 1995, and according to a provision in our Constitution – enacted in 1995 – no law or other regulation may be adopted which contravenes Sweden's undertakings under the European Convention on Human Rights.

As mentioned before, our efforts to protect human rights and the rule of law is an ongoing project. Partly because of the worrying development in some states in Europe, the Swedish Government appointed a cross party commission of inquiry in 2020 with the task to consider the need to strengthen the protection of democratic structures and the judiciary and long-term independence of judges. This commission will, for example, examine if the Constitution ought to be amended with new provisions regarding the age of retirement for Justices of our supreme courts. It will also consider if it is necessary to make it more difficult to amend the Constitution, for instance in parts that are essential to the protection of our democratic ideals.

The commission will present its report in the beginning of 2023, and I'm glad to say that the chairman of this commission is the president of the Swedish Supreme Court, Justice Anders Eka.

One cannot overstate the importance that the European Court of Human Rights plays in protecting fundamental rights. Its interpretation of the Convention is of great importance to maintain and to promote the ideals and values of democratic societies in Europe. The Court oversees that human rights are upheld for the 800 million Europeans in the 47 Contracting States. Last year, the 47 judges delivered just over nineteen hundred judgments and more than thirty-seven thousand decisions. It is a staggering number of decisions that shows the enormous amount of important work that the Court is doing.

I would strongly argue that the European Court of Human rights is probably the most effective international human rights court in the world. And I welcome this opportunity to reaffirm Sweden's deep commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Strasbourg Court.

That said, we also must acknowledge that there are circumstances challenging the Court's possibilities to reach its full potential in terms of efficiency. One of the greatest challenges is the Court's caseload.

A small number of States are responsible for a very large amount of the total cases in the Court's backlog, and for the influx of new cases. Last year, the Court also saw an influx in applications and an increase in applications requiring examination by the Chamber. The number of applications pending also increased. Today the pending cases at the Court is around 65 500. Many cases are so called repetitive cases; that is cases with the same underlying problem that has already been adjudicated by the Court. This is not acceptable.

To tackle that underlying problems with the heavy caseload, the Contracting Parties need to focus more on national measures to avoid and to remedy potential breaches of the convention, that is to focus on

- implementation of the Convention at national level,
- the full, effective and prompt execution of the Court's judgments, and
- establishing and improving domestic remedies.

And here the interplay, or dialogue, between the European Court of Human Rights and the national courts is of importance. The dialogue has the potential to enhance the effectiveness of the enjoyment of the rights under the Convention by contributing to the effective implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.

It is, as stated before, the States that have the primary responsibility to secure human rights protection and to provide remedies when that protection breaks down. This primary responsibility is always subject to the Court's supervision. This lies at the very heart of the principle of subsidiarity, which now also is highlighted in Protocol No. 15, which recently came into force.

This means that the result of the application of the principle of subsidiarity may never be that human rights protection is weaker in some States than in others.

In this context, I would also like to mention Protocol No. 16. This protocol enables the highest national courts and tribunals to request the Strasbourg Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principles relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the Convention or the Protocols. This protocol aims to strengthen the dialogue between the Court and the highest national courts. Sweden has not yet acceded to that protocol, but work is currently under way within the Ministry of Justice to consider the question of accession.

Having said this, if Contracting Parties fail to fulfil their responsibilities, it will clearly affect the role of the Court and the extent of its supervision.

At last, I hope that this seminar will further enlighten us and provide us with more perspectives on the relationship between the Strasbourg Court and the national courts.

With this I like to wish you all fruitful discussions and a pleasant day in Stockholm.

I hereby give the floor to the Director-General for Legal Affairs Carl Magnus Nesser.

Thank you!

Published 01 November 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Mr Morgan Johansson at The Commission's Digital Justice Ministerial Forum

On-line event, 12 October 2021 Check against delivery.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I am happy to be part of this Ministerial Forum on Digital Justice.

In times of innovation and globalisation, it is our responsibility as Justice ministers to ensure that the judiciary develops as society does. I would like to thank the Commission for organising this event. This Forum gives us an opportunity to exchange experiences and to shape a common vision for the future.

For the Swedish Government, sustainability is key to successful development. The green and digital transitions are interconnected and form the basis for Europe's economic recovery after the Corona crisis.

Individuals, companies, and organisations use digital communication in their everyday lives. They expect communication with courts and prosecutors to be as smooth as communication with for example travel agencies or insurance companies.

What will the consequences be, if business transitions in the EU are considered more cumbersome, and therefore less profitable, than in other parts of the world?

Or, turning to criminal law, how do we uphold the trust and credibility of European justice, if criminals have better access to digital communication than prosecutors do? There is a clear need for interoperability for making justice faster.

As the 2021 EU Justice Scoreboard shows, the effectiveness of EU justice

systems has once again improved in a large majority of Member States. At the same time, upholding the rule of law requires constant improvement, because there is always a risk of backsliding. Trust is fragile.

Digitalisation can improve transparency and effectiveness. In that way it can strengthen the trust in our national legal systems. And reversely, digitalisation implemented wrongly will jeopardize its legitimacy. That is why, information- and cybersecurity aspects require our full attention and need to be addressed early on and as an integrated part in all initiatives. It is also important that the use of digital technologies does not diminish procedural safeguards for people not benefiting from such technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen let me give you an example from digitalisation in the Swedish courts. Last year, despite the corona pandemic, the Swedish courts decided on more cases than ever before, 496 000 cases. In comparison to the year before, this was an increase of court decisions by seven percent, due in part to an increased use of video conferencing. Parties and legal representatives could participate in hearings from their home or from the office. Another recent digital improvement is that written submissions may be presented in electronic form to a greater extent than before. More efficiency gains will follow.

Work on improving information management in the judicial system is a long-term undertaking, involving not just the development of IT solutions but also changes in working methods and culture. Together, we must lead the way for modern and sustainable European judiciaries.

Thank you!

Published 12 October 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Mr Morgan Johansson at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium 2021

Speech given at the Prize Ceremony Check against
delivery

Thank you, Anne.

Your Majesty, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

As Sweden's Minister for Justice and Migration, it is a great honour to
welcome you all to the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Award Ceremony.

I am particularly delighted to welcome Her Majesty The Queen.

Your Majesty, your presence here today is a clear demonstration of your
support for crime prevention efforts around the world, and for this
symposium and the Prize.

I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to making – and who
continue to make – the Stockholm Criminology Symposium an
internationally recognised and inspiring meeting place. In particular, I would
like to express my appreciation to the Swedish National Council for Crime
Prevention, which has organised every Symposium since its inception in
2006.

This year, I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Torsten
Söderberg Foundation, co-founder of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology
Foundation and generous donor.

For many of us – myself included – this year's symposium is especially long-
awaited, as last year's conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19
pandemic.

And despite the digital format, I am certain that many rewarding meetings and discussions have taken place today. And that tomorrow will be equally inspiring.

Today, we honour two individuals who have shed light on the ever-present issue of gun violence. Around the world, societies face the challenge of gun violence and its devastating effects. Sweden is no exception.

Gun violence takes many different forms: domestic violence, mass shootings, terrorist attacks, disputes between criminals but also accidents and suicides.

Regardless of context, we must not forget that behind each statistic is a human life cut short, and family and friends left to deal with the tragedy and their loss. Countering gun violence is one of our most crucial challenges.

The research conducted by Professor Philip J. Cook and Professor Franklin E Zimring – the 2020 Stockholm Criminology Laureates – has considerably improved our ability to counter global gun violence.

For more than five decades, their evidence-based approach has shed light on the effects of gun policy and stimulated policy initiatives to curb gun violence.

Although Professor Cook is an economist and Professor Zimring is a lawyer, they have both been influential in developing and applying the science of criminology.

Professor Cook has created a standard measure for predicting variation in lethal gun violence based on gun density. This measure is now widely used by many other researchers to study a range of phenomena, including rates of lethal police shootings.

Professor Zimring and his colleagues first demonstrated that rates of death per attack differed significantly depending on the type of weapon used. As he continued his research, he compiled data from across the United States to show that murder rates varied more in relation to gun availability than in relation to crime rates.

Through diligent research, Professor Cook and Professor Zimring have falsified the claim that gun availability is irrelevant to the level of gun injuries.

Their work has paved the way for more gun violence research, and

strengthened the evidence base for policy interventions and more effective action to reduce the suffering caused by guns.

Professor Philip J. Cook and Professor Franklin E. Zimring – my warmest congratulations to you. Thank you for your valuable contributions. I wish you both well.

Published 16 June 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Mr Morgan Johansson on Twenty years of Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to EU documents

Webinar 28 May 2021, organised by the Academy of Finland project 'Transparency in the EU – From Reaction to Manifesto' (TrUE), Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights and in cooperation with the Open Government in the EU Blog Check against delivery

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me commence by thanking

- the Academy of Finland, and
- the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights in cooperation with the Open Government in the EU Blog

for organizing this webinar, reminding us of the importance of transparency by creating public access to documents as a contribution to democracy and transparency. Today's discussions have, I am sure, provided necessary food for thought regarding a few of the important challenges that need to be addressed when taking stock and looking ahead regarding Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to EU documents.

I don't need to go into any particular detail before this audience – and in this country – why public access to documents is important. It is a question of the right to know and the possibility to scrutinize – one fundamental right and one essential possibility.

In a democracy, the public power proceeds from the people and require the

trust of people. Public powers must be exercised in such a way that citizens keep their faith. That applies not only for politicians, but is also true when it comes to fundamental institutions and civil servants. People's faith and respect for those who exercise public power is a necessary condition for legitimacy, a cornerstone in any well-functioning society.

The citizen's right to ask for, and receive, information is – to my mind – absolutely crucial in this respect. Public access enables the citizens to exercise control over the administration, without being dependent on personal connections or private economical resources. If not, we will rapidly undermine citizens trust and confidence, and open the doors for undemocratic ideas and powers. There is also a clear link between a high degree of transparency and a low level of corruption, as it increases the detection rate of corrupt practices. The Finnish Presidency put this issue on the agenda in an exemplary manner. It is something we could be inspired by.

To achieve trust is truly a challenge for a union with approximately 450 million citizens in 27 Member States. With that said, I truly believe that access to information is the key to a true democracy. Again, for that we need proper and functional tools for democracy: openness, transparency, public access to documents.

It has now been twenty years since the first Swedish Presidency. Sweden and Finland had joined the union only a few years earlier. We are still very proud that the negotiations on Regulation 1049 went well. It was not an easy task for Helena Jäderblom, nowadays Justice and President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Sweden, with colleagues. Since then, I dare say that there has been somewhat of a climate change – of a positive kind – within the EU institutions when it comes to openness towards the citizens and public access to documents.

In our opinion, Regulation 1049 is absolutely central to the citizens' opportunity to receive information about what the EU is doing and to actively participate in the democratic process. We can easily state that the regulation has contributed to a significantly more open EU.

It could be argued, overall, that Regulation 1049 has worked remarkably well. Currently, a complete overhaul does not seem necessary. It is important to note that possible amendments of the Regulation may go in both directions. If there is no majority for transparency, amendments risk leading to reduced transparency. Such solutions would entail an unacceptable loss of transparency!

It is worrying that there are forces that seemingly want to reduce transparency. The Lisbon Treaty clearly demands more transparency in the EU, and especially so in legislative procedures. It seems urgent to make the uncontroversial amendments due to the Lisbon Treaty. Those adjustments, which would make the transparency regulation applicable to all EU organs, would increase both transparency and legal clarity.

In a modern democracy, proposals that undermine transparency lead in the wrong direction. Any change of the Regulation must follow simple and obvious rules: increased openness, transparency and access – better outreach, understanding and legitimacy. That is what citizens have the right to demand and what the EU has a duty to deliver.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am looking forward to the years to come, and to see what can be accomplished when EU Member States work together. We always benefit from discussions and openness. And with "we" I mean both institutions and citizens. So this webinar is tremendously important – and I agree with minister Anna-Maja Henriksson that it is an excellent example of Nordic co-operation!

It is more crucial than ever that we do not lose momentum but that we continue to strive to ensure that the right to know and the possibility to scrutinize is not restricted, applied incorrectly or falls into oblivion. We want a Union which is truly transparent and accessible. Public access to official documents is one of our most important tools to achieve that. Regulation 1049 has definitely proven its value.

Transparency in the EU is a very important issue for Sweden. I feel optimistic knowing that everyone's openness-oriented work has an impact.

I hope that the coming years will prove to be an inspiring and encouraging journey, for us as persons, as policy makers or practitioners, and for the EU.

Thank you.

Published 10 June 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement by Mr Morgan Johansson on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation

Special session of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York, 2–4 June 2021 Check against delivery

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my gratitude to the UNODC and the Conference of the States Parties for their efforts in preparing and organizing this special session, despite the challenges of a global pandemic.

Sweden welcomes the declaration and theme of this special session. They mark our common determination to combat corruption. We welcome the declarations strong focus on the role that civil society, academia, private sector and media play to identify, detect and report on cases of corruption.

Sweden supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union

There is a number of key elements that could be further emphasized in our common efforts to prevent and combat corruption. Let me point out a few.

First of all, I am proud to say that Sweden in most international evaluations comes out as one of the countries in the world with the lowest prevalence of corruption. And when you ask me why, I have one word, and that is transparency.

Transparency is crucial. Transparency helps us to expose corruption, but it is not enough. Real transparency in its turn relies on access to information and

official documents. To expose corruption, we also need freedom of the media and strong legislation to protect the whistle-blowers.

I speak from experience. Transparency and freedom of the media have on several occasions made it possible to reveal misconducts. Empowered and protected by constitutional rights to access official documents, the Swedish media has made exposures that has given my government and previous governments the opportunity to act forcefully.

The right to get access to official information makes it possible to detect corruption. But it can also prevent corruption. Compelling officials to think twice if they consider taking advantage of their position, for instance.

Transparency also relies on the citizens legal freedom to communicate with the media without fear of penal consequences. It is equally important that authorities and other public bodies are legally prohibited to investigate and to undertake any negative measures against the citizens when using their legal freedom.

The rights to access official documents and protection of the anonymity of sources are vital rights in a modern democracy.

To expose corruption, employees also need the right to report misconduct. This is important for the individual worker and an important part of a free and democratic society. No one should be afraid of being terminated from work for being a whistle-blower.

So, there we have the key elements: transparency, freedom of the media and protection of the whistle-blowers and the right for public officials to speak to media anonymously without being afraid of losing their jobs, guaranteed in the constitution: that's why corruption levels in Sweden are low. But to prevent and combat corruption on a global scale, we need to combine all our efforts working together at all levels.

Therefore, international cooperation and coordination between the EU, GRECO, the OECD and UN play an important role in our collective efforts against corruption.

Last, let me point out that one of the biggest obstacles to sustainable development is corruption, and that is putting the whole 2030 Agenda at risk. Sweden has therefore made anti-corruption an explicit goal in our strategies for development cooperation. Countries that we work with in development

cooperation must take corruption very serious, and that is a very clear signal from us.

Let me also stress that women and girls are disproportionately affected by corruption. The commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women that we make in the declaration is a welcome first step in addressing the gender-differentiated impact of corruption.

Sweden looks forward to the possibility to participate in the discussions these coming days. And therefore, let us work together to achieve tangible results in the fight against corruption.

Thank you!

Published 03 June 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Morgan Johansson "Emerging Global Migration and Mobility, Trends and Issues: A Swedish Perspective"

Dhaka, Bangladesh 11 May 2016 Check against
delivery

Thank you so much Your Excellency for welcoming me to Dhaka. Let me say how glad I am to be here and to be able to address all of you together with Your Excellency.

Let me also congratulate you on taking on the very important task of chairing the Global Forum for Migration and Development or "GFMD". I know that you are making tremendous progress as chair and that you are steering this process forward in an impressive manner.

Sweden will continue to be strongly committed to the GFMD-process. The GFMD dialogue has succeeded in creating greater trust between countries: countries of destination, transit and origin.

Throughout the years, Sweden and Bangladesh have had a close and fruitful partnership within the GFMD process. Our countries have become and remain true partners and allies in the field of global migration and development. This is true not only within the GFMD-context. Together, we have achieved a lot.

Migration and Development, 2030 Agenda

I am especially proud that Sweden and Bangladesh, together with a few other main advocates, succeeded in including migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together we have created a framework that can help us foster the positive effects of migration on development.

We now need to deliver on the commitments we have made. We also need to ensure that these development effects are harnessed for the benefit of all. That means countries of origin, countries of destination and the migrants and their families. In order to attain these development effects, we need to ensure that migrants migrate out of choice and not out of necessity.

In SDG 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda, we have committed to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". This means that we shall reform our migration policies and other policies in order for them to contribute to global development.

I see four areas that we need to focus on in particular in order to increase the development effects of migration:

First, remittances: Migrants send back approximately 440 billion US dollars a year to low- and middle income countries. These remittances constitute more than three times the volume of official development aid going to the same countries. These flows are of course private funds, but still make important contributions to development. This is true not just for the recipients. It is also true for societies as remittances increase investments in education and health care, as well as stimulate consumption.

However, further efforts are needed. Many countries have a long way to go to reach the SDG of less than 3 percent transfer costs of remittances. Sweden is one of these countries. To reduce the transfer costs of remittances, the Swedish Government launched a website - Money from Sweden –in December last year. It aims at putting pressure on reducing the transfer costs by comparing prices for transfers.

Other areas we need to focus on are financial literacy, including gender-sensitive financial literacy, and enhancing access to financial services.

Second, let me move on to labour migration. Labour migration offers opportunities for economic development and acquisition of knowledge and skills. However, this is only possible if migrants receive fair terms of employment, including equal pay. Labour migration can be a complement to domestic labor shortages in certain sectors and can compensate for an ageing population. Furthermore, all countries prosper economically from diversity among the population, which evolves into business diversity and thus economic resilience.

We should facilitate so-called "circular migration". By this I mean that people can move legally back and forth between countries. Through facilitating circular migration, migrants can become empowered as agents of development by being able to utilize their acquired knowledge, skills and networks in both countries of origin and destination.

Third, let us focus on the empowerment of migrants. Migrant empowerment is built on the twin pillars of rights and opportunity. You need a legal framework that safeguards migrants' human rights. You also need a policy framework that allows migrants to claim their rights and to access opportunities. Together, these aspects form the foundation upon which empowerment and positive development outcomes can be realized. However, putting these frameworks in place are not enough; we need to ensure the implementation of these frameworks. This includes providing possibilities for access as well as resources to migrants.

We need to prevent labor exploitation and discrimination of migrants, both nationally and globally. We also need to lower the wage gaps between migrants and nationals. In the 2030 Agenda, we have committed to protecting the rights of migrants, including migrant workers' rights. My Government takes these responsibilities very seriously. We have, for example, recently appointed a commission of inquiry to propose measures to strengthen labor migrants' rights in the labor market.

Fourth, this leads us to look at the recruitment process for migrant workers. Low-skilled workers sometimes end up paying a third of their foreign earnings in recruitment costs. Recruitment costs often lead to indebtedness. I believe we need to step up our efforts to address the issue of corrupt and unethical recruitment practices, including excessive fees. We need partnerships with the private sector. For these reasons, my Government is supporting the development of the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). IRIS will be a global and voluntary certification system for recruitment agencies in accordance with a Code of Conduct.

Lastly, governments can play an important role in supporting development initiatives by the diaspora. Members of diaspora communities contribute to skills transfers and transfers of social norms, ideas and behaviors. They also make investments and promote trade between countries of origin and destination.

Succeeding in all of this, we will make enormous progress toward protecting the rights of migrants and enhancing their development impact.

Global processes

We know that migration is a driver of human progress and development. It is one of the defining phenomena of our time. People have migrated throughout history to seek a better future for themselves and their families. These are also among the driving forces behind the large migration and refugee flows we now see around the world.

Today's large migration and refugee flows show the need for improved cooperation and coordination between countries. This is a global issue, and we need to act in partnership – between countries, regions and organisations, with civil society and with the people affected. There is an urgent need to find common and long-term solutions.

Sweden therefore welcomes the intensified work at the global level on migration and refugee related issues leading up to the High Level meeting in New York on September 19. Sweden is proud to co-chair the recently established Group of Friends of Migration in New York together with Bangladesh as well as Benin and Mexico. This Group will support the preparation for the UN Summit.

In order to create a strong and stable system, we need a migration organization with a broad and global mandate with corresponding resources for stability. This is why Sweden supports the inclusion of IOM in the UN system.

It is critical that we plan proactively for broad solutions, including resettlement. We need to support and show solidarity with refugees as well as host countries. Let me give a current example from the situation in Syria: It stands clear that countries neighboring Syria cannot alone take responsibility for all refugees and have become overburdened. I saw this myself when I visited Jordan and Lebanon last year. It is important to improve the sharing of responsibility between countries.

We all bring different perspectives and experiences to the global discussion. Sweden is approaching the global dialogue as a major humanitarian and development donor. We are a country that has received 160 000 asylum seekers last year and over 24 per cent of our population is born abroad or has at least one parent who is. We think we might have ideas to share, for example from our new regional Syria strategy that lends support also to neighbouring countries to the conflict. We need to ensure a fruitful collaboration between development actors and private sector. Trade is an

important element in addressing the root causes of economic migration. It creates economic opportunities to meet the growing needs by providing market places where both locals and migrants can participate. And we approach this complexity of challenges and opportunities with a sincere sense of humility and as so many other countries have far more serious first hand experiences of this unprecedented refugee crisis that we are in the midst of.

Finding sustainable solutions to large migration and refugee flows is a huge responsibility that we all share, not only a few countries. We need true partnerships between governments. We must act on immediate emergencies but not shy away from the long-term perspective. We must embrace and foster the benefits of migration for sustainable development as well as reduce vulnerabilities.

Both Bangladesh and Sweden have great experience of migration. Our long-term engagement has yielded long-term results. The immigration to Sweden has been a key to Sweden's globalization and prosperity, including our strong economic growth and reduction in unemployment.

The close collaboration between Sweden and Bangladesh in the area of migration is an excellent example of a true partnership. Together we have managed to bring essential issues to the global agenda in order to identify immediate as well as long-term solutions. I look forward to continuing our close collaboration to improve the global governance of migration. Let me also wish you success for the rest of your chairmanship of the GFMD, including a fruitful GFMD-Summit here in Dhaka in December.

Thank you!

Published 13 May 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Morgan Johansson at UNHCR High-level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees

Geneva 30 March 2016. Check against delivery.

Secretary-General, Mr High Commissioner, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with mixed feelings that I am back in Geneva for the second time participating in a High-level meeting on resettlement and other forms of responsibility sharing for Syrian refugees. I am of course happy to see the strong interest and high level of attendance at this meeting. At the same time I am saddened, as this is a stark reminder of the continued outflow of desperate people from Syria that we have witnessed since we last meet here in Geneva in December 2014, and that the need for solidarity and responsibility sharing with Syrian refugees is today greater than ever before.

The quantum leap in terms of the number of people in need of protection that we have witnessed over the past decade is a global responsibility that requires a more coordinated and cohesive approach. Responsibility sharing is indeed at the heart of the matter. We have to show solidarity with the millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes and the countries carrying the brunt of the responsibility for hosting the refugees. This is why we all here today.

Mr Chair,

Let me first echo the calls for a political solution of the devastating war in Syria. We give our full support to the UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura in his endeavours to this end. It goes without saying that only an end to the

conflict in Syria can ultimately restore safety and dignity to the Syrian people.

While waiting for peace and reconstruction of Syria, we must provide support and protection to those fleeing the conflict in a comprehensive and multifaceted way. Our conference today is part of these broader efforts, building on the success of the London-conference to support Syria and the most affected countries in the region, as well as contributing to relevant discussions in the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May and the High-level meeting in the General Assembly in September.

Sweden welcomes the increased global attention on the Syria refugee situation as well as refugee and migration more broadly this year. We must ensure adequate synergies and coordination between these meetings, we must strive for concrete and tangible outcomes of these meetings and we must deliver on our commitments – starting with the pledges that were made at the London conference.

At the international donors' conference in London in February, Sweden pledged an additional 350 million SEK in humanitarian assistance to those affected by the war in Syria during 2016. Sweden also pledged to provide 1,7 billion SEK over five years in development cooperation through our new Syria crisis strategy. The aim of this strategy is to contribute to strengthening the resilience of the Syrian population and of vulnerable groups in Syria's neighboring countries that are being severely affected by the conflict. Sweden is the first country to adopt a long-term strategy for the Syria crisis of this kind.

In addition to our financial support to people in need in Syria and its neighboring countries, Sweden has continued to provide a safe haven for people fleeing the war and persecution in Syria, as well as other parts of the world. Last year over 163 000 people, 51 000 of those from Syria, applied for asylum in our country - the highest number per capita in all of Europe. Since 2011, 108 000 Syrians have applied for asylum in Sweden, 57 000 of those have so far been granted asylum and with 20 000 family reunifications, over 77 000 Syrians have to date been granted protection in Sweden and many are still awaiting a decision.

While this has undoubtedly put some pressure on the national reception system and local municipalities, Sweden has at the same time stood firm on its commitment on resettlement with our yearly refugee quota of 1 900 people. One-third of our quota is earmarked for refugees in Syria's

neighbouring countries. I am pleased to announce that the Swedish Government has decided to gradually increase the number of resettlement places to 5 000 by the end of 2018.

Sweden will continue to work closely with UNHCR and other members in the Core Group on Resettlement for Syrian refugees. You can count on Sweden's continued commitment and support to this important work, including by sharing best practices and by welcoming additional countries to join the resettlement efforts.

Mr Chair,

As have been said many times – no one country alone can solve or take responsibility for the Syrian refugee crisis. In that spirit, Sweden is working hard with other EU member states to develop our common EU policy on resettlement and humanitarian admission. Although EU plays a very important role and should absolutely do their part, what we now face is a global challenge that calls for a global response. Some countries far away from the crisis have shown commendable leadership and have welcomed large number of Syrian refugees in their countries. We urge other states to follow this example. If we all do our part and work together, we CAN manage this.

While dealing with the immediate needs of the desperate people that we see on the images from Greece, Turkey, inside Syria and elsewhere, we must also be able to look beyond short-term crisis management and look more broadly on how to improve human mobility and offer more legal pathways for migration in order to meet today's realities and needs.

Sweden therefore welcomes the UN High-level meeting in the General Assembly in September which offers a unique opportunity to look at both short term needs and more long term strategies to strengthen international cooperation and responsibility sharing to deal with both forced displacement and increased human mobility. Sweden will remain very active in the preparation of this Summit and look forward to working closely with other member states and stakeholders in this important process.

Thank you!

Published 30 March 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement by H.E. Mr Morgan Johansson at a lunch seminar hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN and UNHCR

New York 27 april 2015 "The regional impact of the
Syrian refugee crisis: What more can be done to save
human lives and support the neighbouring countries?" -
As delivered -

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests,

I am honoured to speak today together with the High Commissioner and I would like to especially thank him and his organisation for the fantastic work that they are doing in order to tackle the world-wide growing refugee crisis. Without you, and your dedicated staff, our common responsibility would be so much harder to shoulder.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As in the Security Council yesterday, I would like to start with a few words about the terrible tragedy that took place in the Mediterranean this past week-end.

On the night between Saturday and Sunday up to 900 people drowned in the Mediterranean. We do not know who these people were. These boats do not carry passenger lists. But we know that the boat was heavily overcrowded. And I have heard that the few people that were rescued were all men. So if there were women and children on the boat, they have probably been under deck, maybe locked in. It is terrible to imagine the scenes when all these people were dragged down into the depth of the sea, in the dark, late at night.

Who were they? Probably many from Africa. Eritrea. Somalia. Probably many from the Middle East - Syria, Iraq and Palestine. Maybe we will never know who were on that boat. But we should make sure that they are not forgotten. The disaster must be a turning point for the international community. We must act. We cannot turn a blind eye to what is now happening.

And the time is short. Up to one million people are said to be waiting in Libya to try to cross the sea. We are just in the beginning of the spring and so far up to 1.800 people have drowned, just outside European borders. They died on the doorstep to Europe.

In Europe, the European Council met yesterday because of the disaster. EU leaders said that we must increase our efforts to save lives at sea, we must fight the traffickers who are sending people to their death on these boats. On that we all agree. But I say that it is not enough. We must as Europeans take a joint responsibility for the migrant situation, based on the principle that applying for asylum is a human right. But to be frank, on that issue it is harder to reach a consensus within the European Union. On the contrary, many EU member states are not prepared to take their share. That is, ladies and gentlemen, a sad fact.

But not only the EU is failing. So is the UN. The United Nations' task is to uphold international peace and security. Right now we are not doing a very good job. There are 50 million refugees and internally displaced people in the world. It is the highest number since the Second World War. We must address the root of the problem. The international community must increase its efforts to end the war in Syria and, more important than ever, to stabilise Libya. If that is not done, thousands and thousands of people, many of them Syrians, will die in the Mediterranean this year. The European Union has a responsibility, but so has the UN, in trying to prevent this from happening.

Ladies and gentlemen, we may never know how many died this week-end and who they were. But they were men, women and children dreaming about a better future, dreaming about safety, happiness and human dignity. They must never be forgotten.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Syrians is by now the largest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate.

Neighbouring countries continue to carry the heaviest burden. As we have heard in the Security Council today, the question we discuss here is important in so many different ways. For the countries affected, for the region, for countries assisting refugees coming to them, but most of all for the people in the midst of the crisis and those fleeing from it. More than four million people - and there are more coming every day! It puts a heavy strain on neighbouring countries and on the international community. But still, the heaviest strain is on the refugees themselves.

This is why we need to do more. This is our collective responsibility. We must offer refugees the chance of realizing their full potential. It is therefore critical that we are proactive in planning for broad and long-term solutions, including resettlement and other forms of admission.

Resettlement is and has been a priority for Sweden for many years. The Swedish chairmanship in 2014 of the UNHCR global Core Group on resettlement for refugees from Syria confirms our strong commitment. During our chairmanship, this group managed to mobilise almost 100.000 places for resettlement of refugees from Syria. This is of course positive, but we need to convince more states to commit themselves to refugee resettlement and pledge their fair share! At least all countries in Europe should contribute!

Sweden is, and will continue to be, committed to a humane refugee policy and a place of refuge for people fleeing persecution and oppression. Together with Germany we are the main country of destination in Europe of asylum seekers from Syria. Asylum seekers originating from Syria are given a permanent residence permit, and have the right to family reunification. During the time their applications are being processed they have wide-ranging rights in terms of access to the labour market, housing, health and medical care and financial support.

Since the conflict started over 70.000 people fleeing the violence in Syria have sought protection in Sweden. And according to the latest forecast approximately 40.000 more will apply for asylum this year. This means that Sweden by the end of this year would have received well over 100.000 people fleeing the violence in Syria.

The record number of refugees that we see globally requires that we keep the solidarity issue high on the agenda and put pressure on states to do more to protect those in need. However we must not forget the potential of the people fleeing. They bring knowledge and skills and carry the potential of

becoming agents of development.

Europe must shift its perspective. In many countries refugees are just seen as a burden. And I do not deny that it costs money to take care of people in need, to give them education and health care. But I am convinced that done right, a country benefits from migration. Europe must stop looking upon people as costs. Europe must look upon people as human beings, who can be a part of building our continent - if they are provided with the right tools. That should be the European approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must remember that the neighbouring countries are hosting the vast majority of Syrian refugees. Their generosity - and I want to highlight Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in particular - should be recognised and applauded. The need to maintain that generosity is crucial to alleviate the suffering of millions of people.

The international community must come together to share this burden. We need to continue our support to the host communities. Sweden has committed 11.5 million USD directly for this purpose to Lebanon and Jordan. But we also support UNHCR and other organisations in their work assisting refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

Ever since the conflict started in 2011, Sweden has contributed more than 213 million USD in humanitarian aid for Syria. In 2014 alone, the amount was 68 million USD. Recently, during the Kuwait III conference (and I thank Kuwait for hosting it), we pledged 40 million USD. In addition to this, we have provided significant un-earmarked core budget support to the main UN humanitarian actors.

But we also need to support development and to build long term resilience, in particular in countries like Jordan and Lebanon. Recognising this, Sweden is in the process of preparing a new Syria Crisis Development Strategy to strengthen e.g. basic social services and health systems, education, water and electricity supply people in neighbouring countries. I will visit Jordan and Lebanon in two weeks, to see with my own eyes what the situation is.

What I have outlined, ladies and gentlemen, is just a contribution towards alleviating the worst suffering among refugees. So much more is needed.

And most of all we need a political solution to the conflict in Syria. I therefore urge the international community to support the efforts of UN Special Envoy Mr Staffan de Mistura. In the meantime I appeal to all to contribute and to contribute more - in supporting the host communities, the international organisations fighting for human lives and dignity, and - last but not least - the refugees who are the very reason that we stand here today.

Thank you for your attention!

Published 27 April 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Nordic Statement by H.E. Mr Morgan Johansson at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace

United Nations, New York 23 april 2015 - As delivered -

Mister President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country Sweden.

Let me thank the Jordanian Presidency for taking the initiative to this timely high-level debate and H.R.H. Crown Prince Hussein, Secretary-General Ban as well as Professor Peter Neumann and Dr Scott Atran for their remarks earlier.

Mister President,

Let me first say a few words about the terrible tragedy that took place in the Mediterranean this week-end. On the night between Saturday and Sunday 900 people, many of them in their youth, drowned. Up to one million people are said to be waiting in Libya to try to cross the sea. I bring this up because I think this is closely linked to what we are talking about today.

Dr Scott Atran said that we must offer young people a positive personal dream, with a concrete chance of realisation. Or else, some will turn to radical religious or political movements. And others will desperately try to go

to other parts of the world, searching for a better life - even if it means risking their lives. So these issues have common roots, in more ways than one. War and poverty lead to the migrant situation that we now see, but war and poverty also lead to political and religious radicalisation.

In Europe, the European Council is meeting today because of the disaster. We must increase our efforts to save lives at sea, we must fight the traffickers who are sending people to their death on these boats, but we must also take a joint responsibility for the migrant situation, based on the principle that applying for asylum is a human right. And the international community must increase its efforts to end the war in Syria and, more important than ever, to stabilise Libya. If that is not done, thousands and thousands of people, many of them young, will die in the Mediterranean this year. The European Union has a responsibility, but so has the UN, in trying to prevent this from happening.

Mister President,

To prevent radicalisation, we must stress the importance of peace, but also the importance of economic and social development. H.R.H. Crown Prince Hussein pointed out how many young people there are today. Today's youth, sometimes called "the millennials" make up 25 percent of the world's population. Many have faced the harsh realities of terrorist attacks, wars, economic crises and ensuing unemployment. Millions of young people are lone migrants, refugees or internally displaced -uprooted from their homes and families.

Not content with being subjects without a voice, the politically aware will strive for civil rights and for citizenship, as during the Arab spring, which appears to have been a youth-driven movement. But if the search for identity and belonging - existential needs for every human person - is not satisfied by inclusion in a democratic society, frustrated youth may look for recognition elsewhere. Not invited to take part in building a peaceful social environment, active youth will find a context, search for a role where they are allowed to perform - sometimes it takes destructive forms.

In a context of spiralling violent extremism and instability, it is therefore more important than ever to strengthen the role of youth. Facing violence and conflict, young people can participate as agents of positive and constructive change. Given the right educational tools, youth can be agents

of peace.

Last year, the UN Alliance of Civilizations and Education First once again brought together 75 young persons - a whopping 75 000 had applied - for an international Summer School. They learnt about the UN and discussed areas where the UN can better collaborate with youth organisations to advance peace and security around the world.

Mister President,

It is clear that we need to safeguard our democracy and make our societies more resistant against radicalisation to violent extremism. This requires local efforts on a global scale. We support the Secretary-General's initiative for a UN Plan of Action for preventing violent extremism.

Against this background, it is important to acknowledge that many young people actually already play a role. With courage and dignity, they act as community leaders in peacebuilding, reconciliation and post conflict reconstruction. However, this is often unseen or simply overlooked. We need to do more to highlight their actual contribution to peace.

Peacebuilding is a corner-stone in the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth and the youth dimension needs to be corner-stone of the UN Plan of Action for preventing violent extremism.

We must recognise young women, as their male contemporaries, as key stakeholders in countering violent extremism. They have unique knowledge, experiences and resources that is vital to our efforts. We must understand the different roles that women have in conflict - both as fighters and peacemakers. This means that both young women and men must be included in analysis of extremism, otherwise we will lose important findings that can contribute to countering extremism and promoting conflict resolution.

Mister President,

The very phenomenon of violent extremism has served as a reminder to all of us, on all continents: exclusion can breed fanaticism among both majority and minority groups. We see Islamophobia and anti-Semitism as well as discrimination against Christians.

Youth from many different countries, including from some of the Nordic countries, have for various reasons been attracted by terrorist propaganda, radicalized and turned into foreign terrorist fighters. This is a serious problem. We need to strengthen the legislation, for instance by criminalising to travel to fight for terrorist groups, as this Council has called upon all Member States to do. But that is not enough.

The Nordic countries believe that our strongest counter-narrative is our firm commitment to democracy, human rights and equality as the most effective tools to prevent radicalisation into terrorism. In addition, we emphasise that economic growth and resolute efforts to manage rapid population growth to alleviate extreme poverty that threaten global peace and prosperity.

The White House CVE Summit established an ambitious framework for our efforts against violent extremism and the Nordic countries take active part in the follow-up efforts.

We share a common interest in embracing and enhancing the role of our youth in countering violent extremism and promoting peace. Let me conclude by quoting a young, second generation Swede who previously harboured sympathies with radical groups but who has today renounced these views:

"From wanting to bring terror and chaos to society, I now want to help others finding themselves in the same situation as I was. I have lots of experience. I know the circumstances. And it is my duty to give something back to our society."

Thank you for your attention

Published 23 April 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Joint statement from the German Federal Minister of the Interior, the Danish Minister of Justice and the Swedish acting Minister of Justice and Home Affairs

As stated in the declaration of 28 September 2022 by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union, the European Union is deeply concerned about damage to the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines that has resulted in leaks in the international waters of the Baltic Sea. Safety and environmental concerns are of utmost priority. These incidents are not a coincidence and affect us all.

Police authorities in Germany, Denmark and Sweden are in close contact and have established well-functioning and systematic collaboration regarding the Nord Stream incidents. All necessary measures are currently being taken in close coordination. As a next step, it is the intention to set up a Joint Investigation Team in accordance with EU law.

Published 30 September 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Joint statement on the shipwreck in the Mediterranean

By Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“We are dismayed by the shipwreck in the Mediterranean in which a large number of people drowned on their way to Europe.

The unscrupulous people-smugglers who exploit the situation of desperate people bear a large part of the responsibility. The reports of the tragedy are harrowing and heart-rending, and the EU must now take action and strengthen our joint measures to try to prevent a repeat of this tragedy.

Sweden will work for further measures on the part of the EU to strengthen rescue operations at sea, combat refugee-smuggling and support peace processes in conflict-affected areas.

The European Commission and the European Council need to take initiatives to strengthen Operation Triton. If the EU is unable to take initiatives, individual countries should do so. Sweden stands ready to rapidly provide resources from the Swedish Coast Guard.

Libya is the transit country for the majority of those who attempt to enter the EU across the Mediterranean, and the ongoing collapse of Libya provides scope for this deadly people-smuggling. Migration and the situation in Libya will be the subject of considerable attention at the meeting of the EU foreign ministers on Monday. Sweden will push for the EU to do more, together with the UN and others, to support the peace process in Libya so that the situation stabilises and effective measures to stop people-smuggling can be implemented.

Many of those who risk their lives to reach Europe on dilapidated and overcrowded vessels are seeking refuge from war and persecution. Europe must do more to ensure that people in need of protection can come to Europe legally. At present, half of EU Member States do not even take in UN quota refugees, and the reception of asylum seekers is extremely uneven among Member States. The EU and many Member States are working actively to

contribute to political solutions to the conflicts and terror that force people to flee countries such as Iraq and Syria. But in a world in which so many people are forced to flee, Europe should be doing more, and one of the basic premises of the common asylum policy should be that all Member States take in quota refugees.”

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