

COMMUNICATING EUROPE: SWEDISH PERSPECTIVES ON EU ENLARGEMENT

Monday 25 - Tuesday 26 May 2009

**With the Assistance of the
STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FUND - REUNITING EUROPE
of the UK FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
and the BRITISH EMBASSY STOCKHOLM**

**Venue:
British Embassy, Skarpogatan 6-8, Stockholm**



This seminar will examine the nature and dynamics of the Swedish EU enlargement debate in the run up to the Swedish EU Presidency starting on July 1st. The seminar will discuss the state of opinion in Sweden among policy-makers, politicians, interest groups, think-tanks, academia, the media and public opinion. Guests from The Swedish government, political parties, and the business community will provide insights in Swedish's policy debates and participate in informal and frank discussion.

- What are the attitudes to future enlargement in Sweden?
- What are the competing visions of the future of Europe among Swedish policy elites?
- Who are the key policy-players and opinion formers? What is the role of the major parties, the opposition, the party institutes, think tanks and the media?
- What are the major concerns of Swedish policy makers when it comes to the future of the Western Balkans?

This seminar is off-the-record

Monday 25 May 2009

1330 - 1340

OPEN SESSION - INTRODUCTION

Setting the aims and objectives

Chris LANGDON

ESI Communicating Europe

Andrew MITCHELL

HM Ambassador and Regional Director for the Nordic Baltic Network of British Embassies

1340-1414

OVERVIEW – OPPORTUNITIES IN 2009

Gerald KNAUS

Chairman European Stability Initiative

Feedback from participants: the session is an opportunity for participants to update the group on

their progress on EU integration.

1415-1515

TOWARDS THE PRESIDENCY - SWEDISH POLICY ON EU ENLARGEMENT

Sweden has always been one of the driving forces of EU enlargement and a champion of the engagement with the states of SE Europe. Sweden, long one of the biggest donors, is targeting its development co-operation strategy for the region on supporting EU integration.

Lars WAHLUND

Deputy Director General, Directorate for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1515-1545

Birger KARLSSON

Director of the Section for Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, Department for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1545-1615

Tea/coffee

1615-1745

SWEDISH EU POLICY – A VIEW FROM THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

What are the trends in Swedish foreign policy and how do these affect Swedish attitudes towards further enlargement? What are the major concerns of Swedish Parliamentarians as they look at the Western Balkans? How does the Riksdag help shape Government policy?

Göran LENNMARKER (Moderat Party)

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Tea/coffee break

1800-1900

HOW HAS THE SWEDISH MODEL BEEN TRANSFORMED? THE ROLE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE SWEDISH DEBATE

How does the business and financial community view EU enlargement? How influential a voice does it have in the policy debates?

Peter EGARDT

CEO Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Chef de Cabinet of Prime Minister Carl Bildt 1991-1994

1930

Informal Dinner

Villa Källhagen
Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 10

TUESDAY 26 May 2009

0930-1030

The SWEDISH EU PRESIDENCY AND SOUTH EAST EUROPE - THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

This brainstorming session allows participants to discuss frankly their EU integration strategies in the light of the Swedish EU Presidency's overall aims and the realities of what might be politically possible under its Presidency.

Ambassador Olof EHRENKRONA

Senior Political Adviser to Carl Bildt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1030-1100

Tea/Coffee

1100-1230

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

What are the opportunities for the Western Balkans in the second half of 2009?

1300-1430

Lunch

1600 (TBC)

CAPITALISM SWEDISH STYLE – WHAT ARE THE LESSONS?

Daniel SACHS

CEO of Proventus investment company and founding Partner of the Glasshouse Forum; "an arena for critical reflection on the merits and demerits of capitalism"

1930-2200

BUFFET WORKING DINNER

At the Residence of HM Ambassador Andrew Mitchell

British Embassy, Laboratoriegatan 8

With the Ambassadors of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia.

WEDNESDAY 27 May 2009 Departures