

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

COMMUNICATING EUROPE SEMINAR: SWEDISH PERSPECTIVES ON ENLARGEMENT

Monday – Tuesday 25 -26 May 2009

Ambassador Olof Ehrenkrona is senior political advisor to Carl Bildt at the Swedish Foreign Ministry. He leads on globalisation issues. He was head of policy planning in the Prime Minister's Office from 1991-1994. Olof Ehrenkrona first worked with Carl Bildt when he was a student at Uppsala University in the early 1970's; he was deputy chairman of the Moderate Party Student League under Carl Bildt, from 1973-1994. Olof Ehrenkrona has also worked with two Moderate political leaders, Gösta Bohman and Ulf Adelsohn. He has been a writer for the newspaper, Svenska Dagbladet. He was the founder and CEO of Stockholms Hjärnverk (Stockholm Brainworks), a publishing, consulting and media management company. He was also appointed a board member of the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm. Olof Ehrenkrona has published a number of books about Swedish political and economic history in 20th century including; Entrepreneurship and Freedom - One Hundred Years of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (2002) and To Succeed in Politics (2004).

Peter Egardt is President (Chairman and Managing Director), of the Association of Swedish Chambers of Commerce and Industry since 1995. He has also been President and CEO (Managing Director) of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce since 1995. He has served on the board of a number of companies and public institutions, including the Timbro think-tank and the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper. Peter Egardt was State Secretary to Carl Bildt when he was Prime Minister. He was Chef de Cabinet in the Prime Minister's Office from 1991-1994. For the previous decade he was Secretary General and Chief of Staff to the Moderate Party Parliamentary Group in the Swedish Parliament, from 1981-1991. Peter Egardt was special advisor to the Minister for Economy from 1979–1981. He worked as Research Secretary, at the Federation of Swedish Industries from 1976–1979. He was a Study Counsellor and Research Assistant at Lund University from 1974–1977 where he was awarded his PhD and BA degrees. He was Vice-President of the Swedish National Union of Students, from 1975–1976.

Birger Karlsson is head of the Department for Development Co-operation Section in the Department for Central Europe at Central Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is responsible for developing the new development co-operation strategy for Serbia published in May 2009 which emphasises European Integration.

Gerald Knaus is the Chairman of the European Stability Initiative (ESI), the largest independent think tank www.esiweb.org working on South-eastern Europe, Turkey, the Caucasus and the future of European enlargement. He co-founded ESI in 1999 and he has been working closely with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since then. Gerald Knaus has co-authored more than 55 ESI reports. His articles and reports have triggered wide public debates, including "Travails of the European Raj" on Bosnia (2003) and "Member State Building and the Helsinki Moment" on the EU role in the Balkans (2004) and on Turkey; "Islamic Calvinists" (2005) and most recently "Sex and Power in Turkey" (2007). He has also written the scripts for a series of ten TV documentaries, "Return to Europe" broadcast in 2008/9. The aim of the series is to acquaint viewers with South East Europe and its peoples, their recent past and their struggle for a better future in Europe. Gerald is a founding member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and an Open Society Fellow. He was director of the Lessons Learned Unit of the EU Pillar of the UN Mission in Kosovo (from 2001 to 2004). Since 2004 he has been based in Istanbul. He studied in Oxford, Brussels and Bologna. Tel: + 49 173 619 7797. E-mail: g.knaus@esiweb.org

Chris Langdon is the director of the Communicating Europe project for ESI, where he is a Senior Analyst. Before working as South East Europe Director of the Wilton Park Conference Centre from 1997-2008, Chris Langdon was a TV producer and director. He was Senior Foreign Affairs Producer for BBC TV News 1987-89 and Central Europe Producer based in Warsaw and Prague and Budapest during the fall of communism (1989-90). He has produced or directed documentary films for BBC Correspondent on Lech Walesa (1991) and about the late Father Jerzy Popieluszko for London Weekend TV (1983). He has directed two films for ESI – Bosnia Story (2003) and Mitrovica, chronicle of a death foretold (2004). He was Europe Editor for the launch of APTN from 1994-6 leading the team setting up its operation across Europe and overseeing its coverage of SE Europe. He has a geography degree from Oxford University. Tel: + 44 7703 537344. E-mail: c.langdon@esiweb.org

Göran Lenmarker is the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs/Utrikesutskottet (FAC/UU). The Committee has 17 members and 27 deputy members. He is a senior Moderate Party MP and he is known as a staunch supporter of enlargement. He chairs the Joint Committee on the Constitution and Foreign Affairs. Göran Lenmarker is also a deputy member of the EU Affairs Committee and a member of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. He is a member of the Swedish delegation to the OSCE. He headed the international election observation mission to Serbia's parliamentary elections in 2007. He is the Emeritus President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and he has served as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative for the South Caucasus.

Andrew Mitchell has been Ambassador to Sweden since 2007 and he is also Regional Director for the Nordic Baltic Network of British Embassies. He is one of the most active Ambassadors in Stockholm. Andrew Mitchell's previous posting was in London from 2002-2007, where he was responsible for the Foreign Office's global ICT infrastructure. Andrew Mitchell joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1991 and has had postings in Bonn (1993-1996) where he covered the German political scene, and to Kathmandu from 1999-2002 where he was first Deputy Head of Mission then Chargé d'Affaires. After finishing college Andrew Mitchell worked for a wine merchant and developed an interest in the study of wine. Andrew was educated at Oxford where he took a degree in French and Spanish.

Daniel Sachs is the CEO of Proventus AB, a private company based in Stockholm that invests internationally in companies in need for change, and in innovative start-ups. Daniel Sachs is currently Chairman of the Board of several companies as well as a member of the board of Proventus. Before joining Proventus in September 2003 Daniel Sachs was an independent consultant and advisor to a number of companies, public and private, advising on strategy, general management, business development and financial issues. He has held several operating positions such as CEO of Spray AB, and of AB Segulah. He is the founding partner of the Glasshouse Forum, a new breed of think-tank. He is a vigorous advocate of new forms of debates. The Forum is based on the idea that the conventional debate about capitalism is polarised and predictable. Daniel Sachs holds an MBA from the Stockholm School of Economics/The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Lars Wahlund is Deputy Director of the European Union Department of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has responsibility for policy towards the Western Balkans, Turkey and EU Presidency planning and is a key adviser on Swedish policy towards the region. He has served in the region, for example, as Ambassador to Macedonia where in 2001-2002 he chaired the EU sponsored Commission on missing persons in the aftermath of the 2001 conflict. He is a strong advocate of further EU enlargement. Tel: + 468 405 3235.