



Preparing for the Swedish Presidency of the EU

1 July–31 December 2009

Information leaflet from the Ministry of the Environment • May 2009

Priorities and meetings for the Ministry of the Environment during Sweden's EU presidency

Climate change, the marine environment, biodiversity and eco-efficient economy are the issues the Ministry of the Environment will be highlighting when Sweden takes over the EU presidency. Intensive efforts are already being made in the Swedish Government Offices to create the right conditions to be able to implement an effective, open and result-oriented presidency in the interest of the whole of Europe.

Joint 18-month programme

Sweden will hold the EU presidency in the autumn of 2009. The Czech Republic will be heading the EU Council of Ministers during the spring and France has just finished its presidency. Sweden, France and the Czech Republic have made up the trio presidency since 1 July 2008. The three countries have presented a joint, 18-month programme. The programme, which began on 1 July 2008, provides a common focus for the three presidencies and constitutes a list of measures planned to be implemented during the period. The three presidencies will cooperate closely in order to be able to implement the programme in the best possible way. You can read more about the joint, 18-month programme on the Swedish Government website.

Sweden's overarching themes during the 18-month period are:

- Climate, energy and the environment
- Jobs, growth and competitiveness
- A safer and more open Europe
- The Baltic Sea Strategy and relations with the surrounding area
- The EU as a global actor and continued enlargement.

Sweden's six-month programme

This six-month programme will provide a detailed agenda for the Swedish presidency. The programme is in the process of being drafted and will be presented immediately before our presidency begins.

The Ministry of the Environment's priorities

The Ministry of the Environment's preliminary priorities for the presidency are:

Climate change

Both prior to and during the presidency, the Swedish Government will be working to reach a consensus on climate change and to increase trust among different parts of the world. The Government's objective is to unite EU Member States around an ambitious policy that lives up to the expectations the rest of the world has on the EU prior to the next round of international negotiations.

The Kyoto Protocol contains undertakings on emission reductions up until 2012. Decisions on new undertakings for the 2012–2020 period are to be adopted at the UN climate meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009. As president of the EU Council of Ministers, Sweden has a special responsibility for the EU's continued leadership at the Copenhagen negotiations.

Eco-efficient economy

During the Swedish Presidency, the Government will discuss how Europe can develop into an eco-efficient economy at meetings with EU ministers responsible for the environment, energy and competitiveness. The aim is to counter those who argue that Europe should first solve the economic crisis and become more competitive so that it then can afford to implement environmental and climate measures at a later date. The Government wishes to demonstrate examples of how environmental and climate challenges can be met at the same time as improving our competitiveness.





Biological diversity

As regards biological diversity, the Government will endeavour during Sweden's presidency to ensure that the EU highlights the key role ecosystems play in people's well-being. The Government also wants to highlight the serious economic impact of lost biodiversity.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a global agreement on the preservation and sustainable use of the Earth's biodiversity. A meeting of the parties in October 2010 will evaluate the aim of the convention; to stem the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The starting-point for the EU's efforts in preparation for the meeting of the parties is a review of the EU's action plan to implement the convention.

The marine environment

Our seas are areas requiring international cooperation, although international environmental efforts to protect the marine environment have often been neglected. The Swedish Government supports the European Commission's efforts to draw up a strategy for the Baltic Sea region. This strategy is due to be presented in June 2009 and, regarding the environment, will include proposals for measures to implement HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan. During the Swedish EU presidency, the Environment Council will discuss the environmental components of the strategy for the Baltic Sea region. The Government is also working to ensure the Baltic Sea is designated a special pilot region, where we can forge ahead with measures in order to implement the European Marine Strategy Directive.

Meetings during the presidency

Work is now underway to prepare for meetings in Sweden as part of the official calendar. The following parts of the Swedish Government Offices are involved in the preparations:

- The ministry – responsible for the political content of the meeting
- The Prime Minister's Office EU Secretariat (SB-EU) – responsible for coordinating the Government's EU policy,
- The Secretariat for EU Meetings in Sweden 2009 (SES-09) – responsible for logistics and the practical arrangements for meetings in Sweden,
- The Communications Secretariat for Sweden's EU Presidency 2009 (COM-09) – coordinates communication prior to and during the presidency.

Working groups within the Ministry of the Environment have been formed to plan and coordinate all the meetings.

The Ministry of the Environment will be arranging the following meetings in Sweden during the presidency:

Climate workshop:

Date: 13–15 July 2009

Venue: Djurö

Contact persons: Sara Nyberg, Hans Höglund

Responsible information officer: Charlotte Nording Gabrielsson

Informal workshop for climate negotiators. The meeting will include strategic discussions on current ongoing negotiations.

Atomic attachés meeting:

Date: 13–15 July 2009

Venue: Oskarshamn

Contact persons: Stefan Appelgren, Hans Höglund,

Responsible information officer: Johanna Ljung

The meeting is aimed at Member State nuclear councils together with the European Commission and the Council

Secretariat. The focus of the meeting will be the permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel and the Swedish decision-making process.

Informal ministerial meeting

Date: 24–25 July 2009

Venue: Åre

Contact persons: Loïc Viatte, Helen Ågren

Responsible information officer: Karolina Hedenmo

The main theme of the informal ministerial meeting is eco-efficient economy and the meetings aims to highlight investment in energy- and resource-efficiency and the potential of environmental policy to create jobs, growth and sustainable development whilst at the same time reaching set environmental and, in particular, climate goals. This is a question of areas such as environmental technology, economic and other market instruments, energy-efficiency and renewable energy



Environment attachés meeting

Date: 26–28 July 2009

Venue: Solna

Contact persons: Marcus Carlsson Reich, Loïc Viatte

Responsible information officer: Cecilia Lundhamn

Informal meeting for environment attachés, the Council's environmental working group. The meeting aims to develop contacts within EU27, the Commission, the European Parliament Environment Committee and the Council Secretariat, as well as to provide best practice examples of effective environmental projects in Sweden.

High-level conference: Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010

Date: 7–9 September 2009

Venue: Strömstad

Contact persons: Lars Berg, Loïc Viatte

Responsible information officer: Sara Modin

The meeting shall prepare conclusions on strategies and objectives the EU should push for within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during 2010. Special focus is being put on quantifying and safeguarding the importance of ecosystems for future development and to tackle the climate crisis. The meeting shall show how to involve the relevant stakeholders.

High-level conference: European Cities and the Global Climate Challenge

Date: 14–15 September 2009

Venue: Stockholm

Contact persons: Ola Göransson, Anna Fällman

Responsible information officer: Karolina Hedenmo

The aim is to strengthen national and EU work on sustainable urban development and energy-smart construction, and is connected to international climate work, environmental technology and employment.

“Inland water brings life into the sea – The marine environment”

Date: 21–23 September 2009

Venue: Lund

Contact persons: Håkan Alfredsson, Annika Nilsson, Loïc Viatte

Responsible information officer: Viktoria Chlot

A conference on water issues and their connection to the sea – “Inland water brings life into the sea” as the theme – on how competitive and green agriculture and aquaculture can help to achieve good conditions in inland waters and hence also improve the state of our seas, including the Baltic.

Nature conservation directors meeting

Date: 7–8 October 2009

Venue: Abisko

Contact persons: Michael Löfroth, Loïc Viatte

Responsible information officer: Sara Modin

An informal meeting held every six months and hosted by the presidency, at which current nature conservation issues on both the European and international agenda are discussed. As well as EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries also participate in this meeting.

Water directors meeting

Date: 29 November–1 December 2009

Venue: Malmö

Contact persons: Annika Nilsson, Loïc Viatte

Responsible information officer: Sara Modin

An informal meeting traditionally held every six months and hosted by the presidency, at which current water issues on both the European and international agenda are discussed. The meeting also deals with overarching issues within the framework of the joint implementation strategy for the Water Framework Directive. As well as EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries also participate in this meeting.

4th General Assembly of the IMPEL Network

Date: 2–4 December 2009

Venue: Solna

Contact persons: Susanne Gerland, Hans Höglund

Responsible information officer: Viktoria Chlot

High-level public officials from 31 European countries take part in the IMPEL network. These support each other in implementing and applying EU environmental legislation. The aim is to be a forum for the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of best practice in order to promote a development that is of better quality and leads to greater concordance in how countries comply with the legislation.



Environmental consideration during the meetings

SES-09 will be supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) in order to safeguard the consideration of the environment and climate in all stages of meeting activities in accordance with established guidelines and the Government Offices environmental policy. An “environment coach” from the Swedish EPA will train the staff of the secretariat and pursue a dialogue about the environment and climate change with suppliers.

Logotype and website for the Swedish Presidency

SES-09 has drawn up a graphic profile to be used in printed material, online, in mobile media, etc. The logotype and the graphic profile were announced in the spring. The presidency website, www.se2009.eu, will become the most important source of information on the presidency for media and civil servants within the Swedish Government Offices, Member States and EU institutions.



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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For more information: www.sweden.gov.se/environment

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