



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden makes it easier for developing countries to export

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Opinion piece by Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Trade, published in Svenska Dagbladet on 25 July 2019.

Large wooden barrels were loaded onto ships, barrel after barrel. They were lined up in rows and stacked on top of each other. The contents smelled slightly rank, but they were nonetheless valuable. Three hundred years ago, herring was more than something we ate at midsummer or Christmas. In the 18th century, herring was in fact one of Sweden's largest exports. Sweden has long been dependent on exports, and exports have become increasingly important to us. By selling everything from fish, wood and iron to 5G equipment, medicines and climate-smart buses, we can create jobs and build a stronger society.

We want more countries to be given the opportunity to trade with other countries. For this reason, the Government is now bolstering the capacity for our partner countries to be able to trade with Sweden through an initiative by Open Trade Gate Sweden (OTGS), which provides export-related information and support to developing countries. The aim is for more companies from developing countries to successfully export goods to Sweden and thus create more jobs and fight poverty.

Inclusive growth is crucial to creating economic, social and environmental sustainability – and to meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Developing countries' trade is far too low, especially that of the least developed countries, whose share of world trade is below 1 per cent.

By linking our trade policy with our international development cooperation policy, we can achieve more. In many of our partner countries, our development assistance helps to increase growth and create more productive

sectors. One example is in Ethiopia. Through our bilateral strategy, Sweden is working to increase productivity in the agricultural sector. Due to the country's heavy dependence on agriculture and its low productivity, the rural population in particular is vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. By increasing productivity, we make people less vulnerable to climate change and create opportunities for increased exports.

But increased productivity must go hand in hand with sustainable development. During this electoral period, the Government will enhance its action for biodiversity in international development cooperation. By helping our partner countries to produce more environmentally sustainable products, we can meet an increased demand for organic products and, at the same time, help more countries make the sustainability transition.

But lower customs duties are not enough to increase the participation of developing countries in global trade. Many developing countries lack the necessary capacity and technology. This is also why support is needed to be able to reap the benefits of trade. The Government is therefore working to promote free and fair trade through development cooperation as well. Since Sweden knows that economic development and development cooperation are linked, we also contribute financing to trade-related aid initiatives. More countries should be able to become financially independent and grow stronger. Last year, we contributed USD 3.7 billion to Aid for Trade, a WTO initiative that helps developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to build their trade capacity and benefit from trade.

We now want to take another step to make it easier for developing countries to export to Sweden. The National Board of Trade's OTGS currently provides information and training on customs duties, charges, rules and requirements to facilitate trade and increase exports from developing countries to Sweden and the EU. The Government has tasked the National Board of Trade with broadening the scope of OTGS activities to better connect exporters with the Swedish market. There is a great demand for information and initiatives that increase exporters' knowledge of and access to the Swedish market. The Government is making it easier for developing countries to find counterparts in Sweden with a demand for their products so that deals are actually struck.

This will also strengthen and streamline our development cooperation initiatives in other areas. It also fits in well with the work of building broader relationships with developing countries by finding synergies between different policy areas. And this is something that our partner countries often

ask for.

The Government's initiative is good for our partner countries – and it is good for Sweden. It shows that we stand up for free and fair trade and for the integration of developing countries into the global trading system.

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Trade



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Let us work together, with courage and patience, to make the world more gender-equal

Published 15 April 2018

Today sees the opening of the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality – a global conference with 600 participants from over 100 countries. The Forum will bring together activists, academics, politicians and entrepreneurs who put their energies into making the world more gender-equal.

If we want to achieve change, we must strive for it every day – through active and patient efforts. The women's movement showed the way, standing on the barricades and fighting for gender equality at both national and international level. Thanks to their fight, we have been able to launch, as the first government in the world, the feminist foreign policy. Sweden has received attention from all over the world, and several countries have followed suit with their own policies. Last autumn, the #MeToo movement gave international momentum to the gender equality issue.

But at the same time, we have also seen how the forces working actively against women and girls have gained in strength. This is a trend that is spreading, and all the while political leaders are reducing their global responsibility. This is dangerous and it means that those people who want a more gender-equal world need to come together even more than before. The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality is thus taking place at a particularly important time.

Policy must lead to concrete results to be relevant. For us, therefore, it has been a priority to pursue a feminist foreign policy based on action and real

change. Let us point to a few examples:

We are investing SEK 1 billion in a global strategy for gender equality and women's and girls' rights. Activists and women's organisations working for gender equality often face strong opposition in their fight for human rights. The possibilities of working independently are reduced when financing and democratic space shrink.

We have started a network of women mediators who are active in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine. We will continue our work to ensure women are involved in peace processes at all levels.

Thanks to the WikiGap campaign, which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs conducted together with Wikimedia on International Women's Day this year, Wikipedia now has over 2 500 more articles on women: an important contribution to the encyclopaedia, in which four in five of the articles about people are about men.

Through Sweden's engagement, the UN Security Council has considered the situation of women to a greater extent – a concrete example is that since Sweden took up a place on the Council, all of the Council's statements have mentioned women, peace and security.

Swedish support has enabled the UN body UNCTAD to produce a 'trade and gender toolbox' to help ensure that trade policy has a gender equality perspective. In addition, almost 100 Swedish embassies are now giving priority to raising and promoting gender equality issues in various ways.

The full list is much longer – and is a reason to be proud. It shows that it is possible to make a difference through determined and patient work.

Now that the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality is getting under way, we want to reach out a hand to all of the forces in Sweden and the world that are working for gender equality: let us work together, with courage and patience, to make the world more gender-equal. The Forum is a launchpad for this. We cannot afford anything less.

Margot Wallström
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Isabella Lövin
Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and
Deputy Prime Minister

Ann Linde
Minister for EU Affairs and Trade



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swedish trade minister highlights importance of free trade

Published 05 October 2016 Updated 05 October 2016

Sweden's Minister of EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde will be accompanied by the largest ever business delegation during her upcoming official visit to Vietnam from October 4-6. This article was published in Vietnam Plus ahead of the visit.

Vietnam and Sweden enjoy a long standing diplomatic and unique relationship. Over the last decades, we have moved from development cooperation into a new phase of partnership, not least as trading partners. While our countries are far apart geographically, we share the conviction that good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law and adherence to the international rule-based system are determining factors for development. Vietnam has achieved major success in its economic development and has rapidly been moving up the development ladder. Today, Vietnam is a country and a market with significant potential.

In 2015, Vietnam and EU signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The agreement is one of the most ambitious and comprehensive FTAs that the EU has ever concluded with a developing country. It shows Vietnam's dynamic approach in pursuing international integration for the good of its citizens. It will help Vietnam to integrate successfully as a market economy into the global economy.

Like Vietnam, Sweden is a staunch supporter of free trade. The economic and social wellbeing of our respective nations depends on a transparent, rules based and open global trade regime. For us, free trade is the only way going forward.

But while free trade may be indisputable in Vietnam and Sweden, it is increasingly being criticized elsewhere. Today we see a trend in which more people are demanding that the doors we have fought for decades to open, now be closed to both people and trade with the rest of the world. Some people feel that their jobs are being destroyed by global competition and technological developments – and therefore that their life situations are under threat.

The Swedish Government understands that frustration. Essentially, it is about increased inequalities, a lack of security and inadequate welfare. Stagnating or even declining real wages are a reality for many employees in large parts of the EU and the US. At the same time, the safety nets for those who lose their job are often too weak.

But directing anger at trade and development is not only the wrong approach – it is a dangerous approach. The Swedish model shows that development and security goes hand in hand. Secure people are not afraid of progress. In Sweden, the labour movement acknowledges that structural transformation of the labour market is good for workers. Workers compete on the basis of knowledge and skills, which means that globally competitive businesses are needed. Without free trade, Sweden risks missing out on jobs, and losing out to global competition. In the long term, inefficient and unprofitable operations are devastating for wage earners and for our society.

The structural transformation that Sweden has undergone in recent decades has made us one of the world's leading innovation and industrial nations. Since 2014, 120,000 new jobs have been created in Sweden. Today, 1.3 million Swedes are directly or indirectly employed thanks to our exports - a third of the Swedish work force.

The Swedish government has adopted an ambitious export strategy aiming at increasing trade and boost participation of Swedish companies in the global economy. Bilateral trade and investments in Southeast Asia, the growth engine of the world, forms an important part of this aim. By having the second biggest growth rate in the world, Vietnam has a key role to play in the region. With the implementation of the progressive Free Trade Agreement, Swedish trade with Vietnam, and Swedish companies investing in the country, would certainly grow.

More trade would benefit Vietnam and Sweden, as well as the whole of Southeast Asia, by creating new jobs and more prosperous societies. Sweden supports the earliest possible implementation of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade

Agreement, not least as the agreement forms an important building block towards the possibility of a future region-to-region EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. In this regard, Vietnam is leading the way in the region. Our strengthened partnership will allow us to better address future challenges on the road towards prosperous, democratic and just societies.

I am therefore very happy to visit Vietnam for three days in October, leading the largest delegation of Swedish companies that has ever visited your country, to learn more about Vietnam, discuss innovation and sustainability and explore how Sweden and Vietnam can work together for more open and free trade, for the benefit of both our countries.

Sweden firmly believes that we must push for more open and free trade through a progressive free trade agenda that not only aligns with, but also supports the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. For us it is a given that in trade policy we must stand up for human rights, our environment, people's health and our democratic space. Based on this approach, more free trade means more prosperity for all.

Ann Linde, Minister of EU Affairs and Trade



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Trade requires rules

Published 20 September 2016 Updated 20 September 2016

Opinion piece Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 17 Sept. 2016 by German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth and Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde.

Globalisation is not a destiny to which we must yield without question. It can be shaped – in a social, democratic and sustainable way. Globalisation is an opportunity. We are aware of this especially in Sweden and Germany. As members of the EU, we take advantage of open borders, exchange and trade. Our prosperity and a large number of our jobs depend on this. Highly qualified employees in both of our countries produce excellent, innovative products, which we sell not only at home and in the EU, but around the world. And yet, globalisation and free trade are coming increasingly under fire, and particularly in countries that – and this is borne out by all the indicators – benefit tremendously from this trend. This is demonstrated at the moment by the trade agreements between the EU and the US and Canada in particular.

For many people, TTIP and CETA are a symbol of unfettered market radicalism. They fear that the social welfare state will be dismantled, standards watered down and that jobs are under threat. We Social Democrats have to acknowledge this fear. But we, who believe in the possibilities of free trade, have obviously not done enough to explain how the development that comes with trade and welfare actually goes hand in hand. The answer is not to close the door on the rest of the world and stop developing. The solution is to be part of the development and to offer a strong safety net and an active labour market policy. Welfare and an active labour market policy with social insurance schemes can build bridges between old and new jobs. People with secure jobs are not afraid of progress. While the conservatives have nothing bad to say about unfettered

markets, nationalists want to build new walls and pull up the drawbridge, and left-wing radicals are quick to reject the agreements. Social Democrats have every reason to be self-assured. We are of the view that free trade and globalisation require clear, binding and predictable rules. And as long as there is no world trade regime that is internationally binding for all of the world's countries, the EU's agreements with other states represent a great opportunity. There are good reasons why responsibility for trade policy lies with the EU and not with the member states. This has been the case for decades.

In a globalised world, national rules are not fit for the future – neither for Sweden, nor for Germany. The EU institutions shoulder a particular responsibility. The European Commission negotiates while the Council and the Parliament take decisions. This calls for the greatest amount of transparency and inclusion, however. Only in this way can trust develop. Secrecy is a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. After all, many people are afraid of a globalised world. While there is certainly plenty of scope for improvement here, it is also clear that the repatriation of responsibility to the national level is not a convincing response. Europe has every reason to conduct negotiations in a self-confident manner. We can set standards around the world in environmental, social and consumer protection policy.

CETA shows just how much is possible. Thanks to Canada's cooperative new left-wing liberal Government, the final stages of the difficult negotiations have been imbued with a fresh dynamism and openness. Open, clear and stable conditions for international investment are important for growth and jobs on both side of the Atlantic. The investment protection in CETA confirms Governments' right to regulate and include a new reformed system for resolving disputes between investors and States. A public Investment Court System with two instances will be set up. National interventions are still allowed for, and there are definite safeguards against arbitrary decisions. Public services are protected and culture is exempted from the regulations, while water supplies are not at risk of being privatised and public healthcare will not have to face any restrictions. Moreover, genetic engineering will not be smuggled through the back door under the CETA regime. Consumer and environmental standards will not be eroded, despite the fact that the EU, with its strict precautionary principle, has a different legal tradition than Canada or the US. In its negotiations with the United States, the EU has, unfortunately, yet to achieve a genuine breakthrough.

We intend to press on; indeed we have an obligation do so. Trade

agreements such as CETA and TTIP are a necessary intermediate step, although they are not all that is needed. Trade policy must aspire to reduce social division. After all, fairness and justice are principles that apply not only to us, but also to coffee-growers in Africa and to seamstresses in Bangladesh. A forward-looking European Union trade policy must help not only to safeguard standards for EU citizens, but also to improve them in a tangible way for people outside Europe. This will involve quite a bit of legwork on our part. Progressive politics need not fear CETA and TTIP. On the contrary, shaping globalisation remains one of the key tasks for European social democracy.

Ann Linde, Swedish Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

Michael Roth, German Minister of State for Europe



Opinion piece from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The time has come for the EU to deliver

Published 10 September 2016 Updated 10 September 2016

Opinion piece in Svenska Dagbladet 10 September 2016 by Stefan Löfven and Ann Linde. Europe is currently facing what may be the greatest challenges since the European project emerged out of the ruins of two devastating world wars. The refugee crisis, the widening gaps and the unemployment that have characterised the last few years have also mobilised powers for less cooperation and more isolationism.

We share the frustration that many feel. Not everyone has benefited from the increasing globalisation and world trade that have lifted many people out of poverty and increased prosperity around the world. Far too many people link globalisation with widening gaps and increased vulnerability.

But we do not share the conclusion that less cooperation is the solution. On the contrary. More and more of our social challenges are of a cross-border nature and can only be solved by means of cross-border cooperation. One clear and frightening example is the fight against terrorist organisations, which move between countries and continents and which no single country can fight on its own.

The European project also provides opportunities that are vital to Sweden's prosperity. The opportunity that, together, we can be a strong voice in all decisions that affect us in international forums. The opportunity to ensure healthier air, cleaner water and joint efforts against climate change. The opportunity for you, as a citizen, to study, work or run a company in any EU country you wish.

On Friday, the heads of state and government of the 27 Member States will meet in Bratislava to discuss how the EU will manage the British exit.

The Government is ready to begin negotiations with the UK and has set up a group at the Government Offices with special responsibility for monitoring Swedish interests. We want to see close cooperation even after the UK leaves the EU. At the same time, it is important to make clear that access to the single market entails rights as well as obligations. Cherry-picking must not be allowed, such as by implementing the free movement of services but not of people.

The meeting in Bratislava also has an even more important agenda item: defining the path the EU will take in the future. Sweden's position is that this path does not go through major new projects that require amendments to the Treaties. On the other hand, it is high time that the Member States actually implement the decisions taken by common accord. In this work, the Swedish Government will give priority to three areas: more and better jobs, a more ambitious environment and climate policy, and a long-term, sustainable migration policy that safeguards the right of asylum.

1. More and better jobs

It is time to create a more far-reaching and fairer single market. The single market stimulates competition and trade, enhances quality, increases the supply of goods and services – and represents 70 per cent of Swedish exports. We must therefore continue to remove unnecessary barriers to trade and deepen the digital single market so that more Swedish companies can increase their exports and employ more people.

Economic and social developments must also keep pace so as to be sustainable. Social issues, such as the way welfare is designed, are usually national in nature and must remain so. But considering that different countries have different social systems, we need to identify bottlenecks and find solutions that can, for example, make the step between education and the labour market easier to navigate, make it easier for parents to combine work with family life, and increase women's access to the labour market. The Swedish Government is also very active in efforts to improve the Posting of Workers Directive and to ensure that the principle of equal pay for equal work applies regardless of where you come from.

This means that it is of the utmost importance to further develop the European Pillar of Social Rights that was launched by the European

Commission. The Government will therefore organise an EU summit on social issues in Sweden in 2017 to move this work forward and put these issues on the agenda.

2. Ambitious environment and climate policy

Climate is a global issue – and the EU is a pivotal actor in ensuring that we succeed in the transition. We are convinced that there would not have been a globally binding climate agreement in Paris without influence from the EU.

We want to continue our leadership in this momentous issue. The Government will work actively to ensure that the climate agreement is ratified by the entire EU as quickly as possible. We will push for a high level of ambition in the proposals now being negotiated in the EU and which form the basis of the EU's implementation of the agreement. We will also be a strong driving force in the EU for cleaner air and the reduced use of hazardous chemicals.

3. All countries must take their responsibility in the refugee crisis

The Government wants to see a Union that provides security for its citizens and takes responsibility for refugees. It is positive that progress is being made in the negotiations on reinforcing the EU's external borders and that the EU is now placing greater focus on how we can make use of the common foreign, trade and aid policies to improve efforts aimed at stopping people being forced to flee.

But to prevent the EU from again becoming as paralysed as it was during the most acute stage of the refugee crisis last year, it is also necessary for more countries to be involved and contribute.

Sweden has been one of the most proactive Member States for a more even distribution of asylum seekers in the EU, and we will continue working for a more uniform asylum system in the EU, where all the Member States take their share of the responsibility for the reception of asylum seekers. One prerequisite for this is that all Member States have reception systems with sufficient capacity, a legally secure asylum process, an equivalent assessment of the need for protection and certain basic rights linked to the need for protection.

The time has come for the EU to deliver. The Government will also encourage increased participation in EU issues at home in Sweden. By doing so we not only create increased legitimacy for EU decisions that are taken, we also get suggestions as to what the EU could do better.

Europe's citizens have every right to be horrified over terror, war and oppression, and angered over poverty, widening gaps and climate threats. But there is one thing that Europe's history has taught us: solving these problems requires more cooperation – not less.

Stefan Löfven
Prime Minister

Ann Linde
Minister for EU Affairs and Trade



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden needs TTIP for jobs

Published 05 September 2016 Updated 05 September 2016

Opinion piece in Aftonbladet 2 September 2016 by Ann Linde and Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson. A free trade agreement with the United States is important if we are to create a greater number of competitive jobs in Sweden. Neither the Government nor the Swedish Trade Union Confederation subscribes to the view that the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – TTIP – between the EU and the US have failed or should be abandoned. There are few tools that can genuinely increase the number of jobs – new progressive and comprehensive trade agreements are one such tool.

In the negotiations the Government is standing up for the interests of wage earners, for the environment, and for human and animal health. Neither the Government nor the Swedish Trade Union Confederation will accept an agreement that reduces protection of the climate, environment or health, or that threatens democratic decision-making. For us, this is a fundamental premise of a new free trade agreement, and the Government will undertake scrupulous impact analyses to ensure that this is the case when the agreement is ready. Commitment to improving the agreement has also had an effect. The EU is negotiating the TTIP based on a mandate approved by all of the Member States. The negotiations have largely conformed to our demands. These complex negotiations are not a hundred-metre sprint: they are more like a marathon. Just because they are difficult does not mean there is any reason to give up.

The political winds blowing against free trade in both Europe and the US are

born of serious frustration among people who feel that development is failing them. If your experience of free trade and increased global competition is that they are likely to leave you unemployed, your family high and dry, and jeopardise your children's future, then it is not surprising that you want to put a stop to this trend.

We understand that frustration. Essentially, it is about increased inequalities, a lack of security and inadequate welfare. Stagnating or even declining real wages are a reality for many employees in large parts of the EU and the US. At the same time, the safety nets for those who lose their job are often too weak.

But directing anger at trade and development is not only the wrong approach – it is a dangerous approach. The Swedish model shows that development and security go hand in hand. In Sweden, the labour movement has realised that structural transformation of the labour market is good for workers. Here, workers compete on the basis of knowledge and skills, which means that globally competitive businesses are needed. Without a free trade agreement, Sweden risks missing out on jobs, and losing out to global competition. In the long term, inefficient and unprofitable operations are devastating for wage earners and for our society.

But unemployment insurance that provides secure income protection, and an education system and labour market policy that can offer those who lose their job another chance in the labour market are also prerequisites. Secure people are not afraid of progress.

Sweden is an export-dependent country and a strong supporter of free trade. The structural transformation that Sweden has undergone in recent decades has made us one of the world's leading innovation and industrial nations. Since 2014, 120 000 new jobs have been created in Sweden. Today, 1.3 million Swedes are directly or indirectly employed thanks to our exports. Volvo Cars recently announced that it is to take on 400 new employees in Sweden. This is gratifying news. With a free trade agreement such as the TTIP, exports could grow – and the number of jobs along with them.

Swedish businesses would find it easier to penetrate the US market with their products, and would be able to employ more people. The TTIP can help cut through red tape and overlapping bureaucracy. At the heart of the negotiations is the fact that the US and the EU have different regulatory frameworks, which should not have to mean unnecessary restrictions on trade. A free trade agreement would also increase investment between the

EU and the US, which is an important factor if businesses are to grow and develop.

Those who now want to halt efforts to reach a free trade agreement between two of the world's largest economies, the EU and the US, need to answer one question: how are we to create a greater number of competitive jobs without increased trade?

Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, President of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation



Opinion piece from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Free trade does not widen the gaps

Published 23 August 2016 Updated 23 August 2016

Opinion piece in Dagens industri, 22 August 2016 More and more criticism of globalisation and free trade is being voiced around the world. The solution is to be part of development and to offer a strong safety net and an active labour market policy, writes Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde.

Things are going well for Sweden and this is no coincidence. Unemployment is falling and growth is high. The number of people in employment has risen by 120 000 since 2014. We have the lowest level of youth unemployment for 13 years. This is very positive. But we must not rest on our laurels. Even more people need a job to go to.

More trade is necessary if we are to continue creating new jobs in Sweden. This is why the Swedish Government is pushing for a greater number of progressive free trade agreements. To be successful in this, it is necessary for people to understand the political conditions.

Widening gaps and a lack of security have created a sense of frustration that is targeted towards openness and trade in many countries. More people have to realise that development and security must go hand in hand.

Today we see a trend in which more people are demanding that the doors we have fought for centuries to open now be closed to both people and trade with the rest of the world.

Many people feel that change does not mean improvement. On the contrary, many people feel that change makes things worse. People feel that their jobs

are being destroyed by global competition and technological developments – and therefore that their life situations are under threat.

We must understand that this frustration exists. That it is strong. And that it is, unfortunately, well-founded in many places. In both the EU and the United States, there has been a trend towards widening gaps, with wage earners – and in particular those in less qualified professions – receiving an ever smaller piece of a growing pie.

This frustration is expressed in various ways. People cannot vote on globalisation and technological developments, but they can vote against the EU, migration and trade policy. In the United Kingdom this resulted in Brexit. The people of the Netherlands voted against the trade agreement between the EU and Ukraine. In the United States, it is migration and trade policy that are the focus.

But the solution is not to close the door on the rest of the world and stop developing. The solution is to be part of development and to offer a strong safety net and an active labour market policy. The Swedish Government knows this. And we are good at it.

During the shipyard, textile and steel crises of the 1970s, hundreds of thousands of jobs disappeared. Many people lost their jobs during the crisis of the 1990s. During the latest financial crisis, a large number of people were also let go when the order books were not as full as they had been.

This structural transformation has resulted in Sweden becoming one of the world's leading innovation and industrial nations. Old jobs have disappeared and new ones have emerged. What was outdated and inefficient has been replaced by modern and efficient. Many people have had the opportunity to enter further education or training and have benefited a great deal from this development.

The Swedish Government knows that development and security go hand in hand. New jobs emerge through free and open trade. An active labour market policy with collective agreements and social insurance schemes can build bridges between old and new.

It is people that should be protected, not inefficient businesses. Our Swedish model creates secure people. And secure people believe in development.

Because what would Swedish society have looked like if we had retained

outdated shipyards at Lindholmen in Gothenburg, instead of building a large campus and a science park?

We must push for more open and free trade. But for the Government it is a given that in trade policy we must stand up for workers' rights, our environment, people's health and our democratic space. We must therefore ensure that our trade agreements protect our own scope for decision-making, and our opportunities to tighten environmental requirements and also to continue protecting people's and animals' health.

I am pleased that negotiations over CETA, the trade agreement between the EU and Canada, have been completed. For this is a broad and deep trade agreement that is based on modern trade patterns. Approximately 99 per cent of the tariffs between the EU and Canada will be removed, opening the way for trade and more jobs.

The Government previously gave the National Board of Trade the task of conducting an impact assessment of CETA. This has now been completed and the Board's overwhelming assessment is that CETA protects the parties' future scope for regulation.

I am now looking forward to CETA beginning to apply, and to more people realising that the Swedish model of development and security is the way forward.