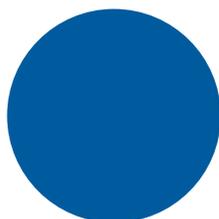
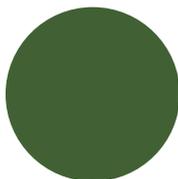
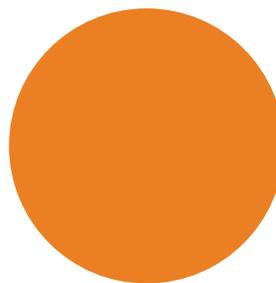
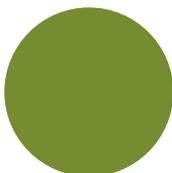
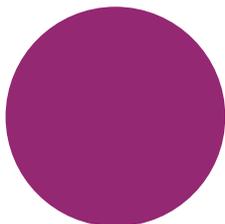
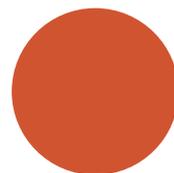
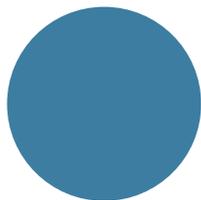
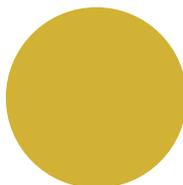


Swedish Government Offices
Yearbook 2003

Swedish Government Offices Yearbook 2003



Swedish Government Offices Yearbook 2003
A Summary

The Government Offices comprise the Prime Minister's Office, ten ministries and the Office for Administrative Affairs. The Government Offices are mainly situated in the Södra Klara district of central Stockholm around the southern section of Drottninggatan, from Tegelbacken in the west to Gustav Adolfs Torg in the east.

The Government Offices yearbook for 2003 has been produced by the Office for Administrative Affairs at the direction of the Prime Minister.

The various ministries have contributed facts and figures and have also been responsible for the choice of material in each case.

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Preface

The aim of this yearbook is to inform the reader about the work we are doing at the Swedish Government Offices. It describes the events that shaped the past year and presents the people who work here.

Summing up 2003 without reference to the murder of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh is impossible. Nor is it possible to summarise her political achievements in these few pages. We feel a strong obligation to uphold the values that Anna Lindh stood for, particularly with respect to democracy and human rights.

Events over the past year have otherwise been strongly influenced by the international recession. Government policy has focused on creating favourable conditions for economic growth and on dealing with the situation in the employment market. Full employment remains our goal.

Efforts have been made to reduce the cost of illness-related absence from work. The task of improving mental care services has begun. Steps have been taken to enhance gender equality. A new, cohesive development policy has been presented – Swedish

policies in all areas will now point towards equitable and sustainable global development.

The past year also featured a national referendum on Swedish participation in the third stage of EMU. The Swedish people voted against the introduction of the euro and this decision is being respected. Sweden remains a fully-fledged, constructive and responsible member of the European Community.

I hope the present yearbook will provide further insight into how the Government Offices work. Should you have any questions that are not answered in these pages, or would like more information, please feel free to contact the Government Offices. You are also welcome to visit our website, www.sweden.gov.se.

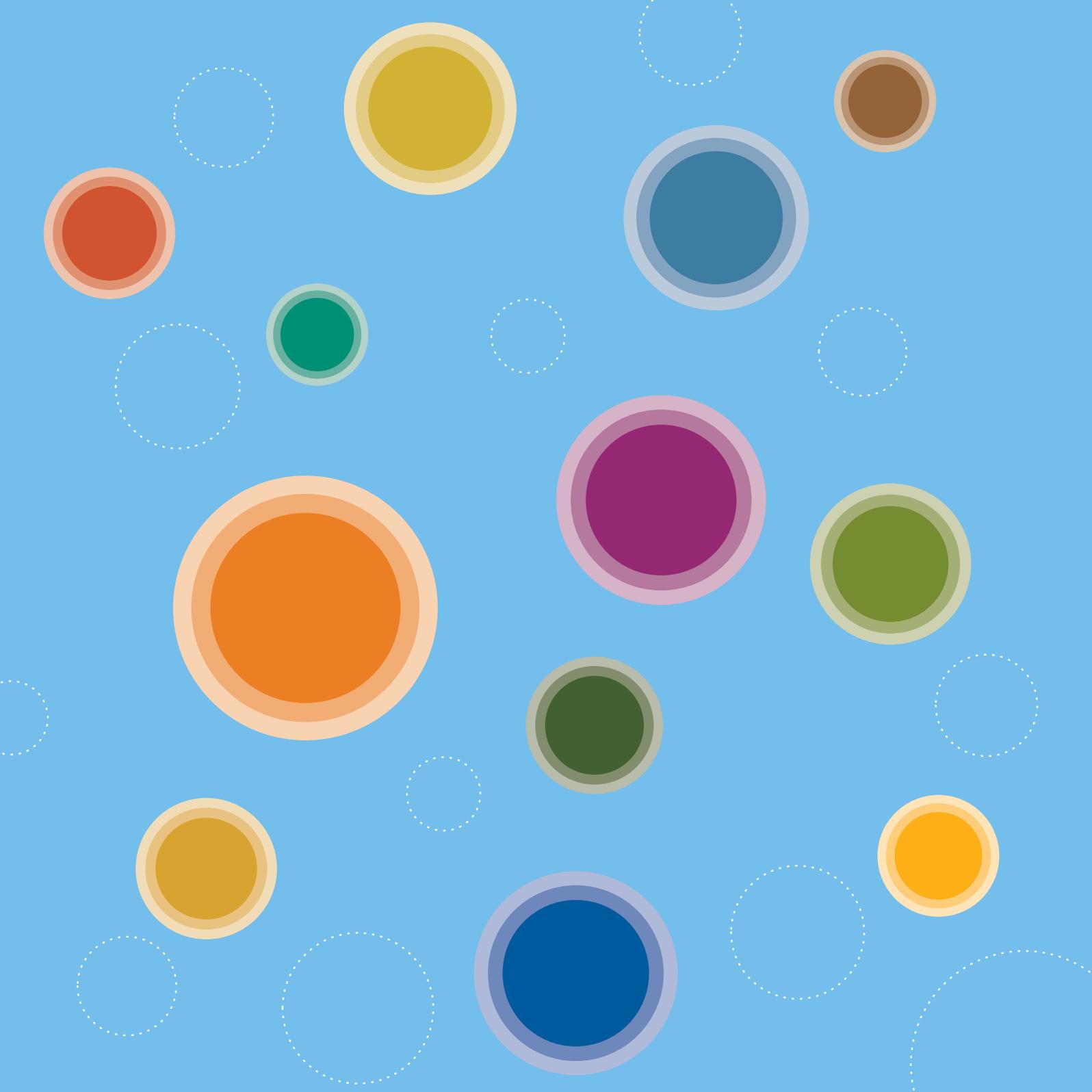


Göran Persson
Prime Minister

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Chapter 1 • Presentation of the Government Offices of Sweden

All public power in Sweden proceeds from the people. The people elect the Riksdag (Swedish parliament), and governments are formed on the basis of how party seats are distributed. To assist it in its work, the Swedish Government has a staff of 4,500 civil servants and political appointees employed at the Government Offices (Regeringskansliet), which comprise the Prime Minister's Office (Statsrådsberedningen), ten ministries and the Office for Administrative Affairs (Förvaltningsavdelningen).

The Swedish Government makes decisions on a collective basis and in consensus. Accordingly, all government ministers must be given a say in the decisions reached by the Government. Although the activities of the Swedish Government Offices are divided into ministerial areas, the ministries when preparing business are to be guided by the principle that decisions are made by the Government as a whole and not by individual ministers.

The duty of the Government Offices is to assist the Government in its task of governing the realm and achieving its policy objectives. The Government Offices are headed by the Government but also assist in supervising the other central government agencies. This is one of the unique features of the Government Offices compared to other government agencies. Under the Swedish administrative system, the agencies otherwise enjoy relative independence from the Government in a number of respects.

An important difference between the Government Offices and other government agencies is their executive management structure. While other agencies are usually headed by a Director-General appointed by the Government, the Government Offices are headed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is not the only one with dual roles in this respect. Many government ministers, besides being members of the Cabinet, also occupy the post of Head of Ministry.

As in the case of other government agency staff, few of the officials employed at the Government Offices are political appointees. Only about 150 of the total workforce of 4,500 occupy such posts. When a

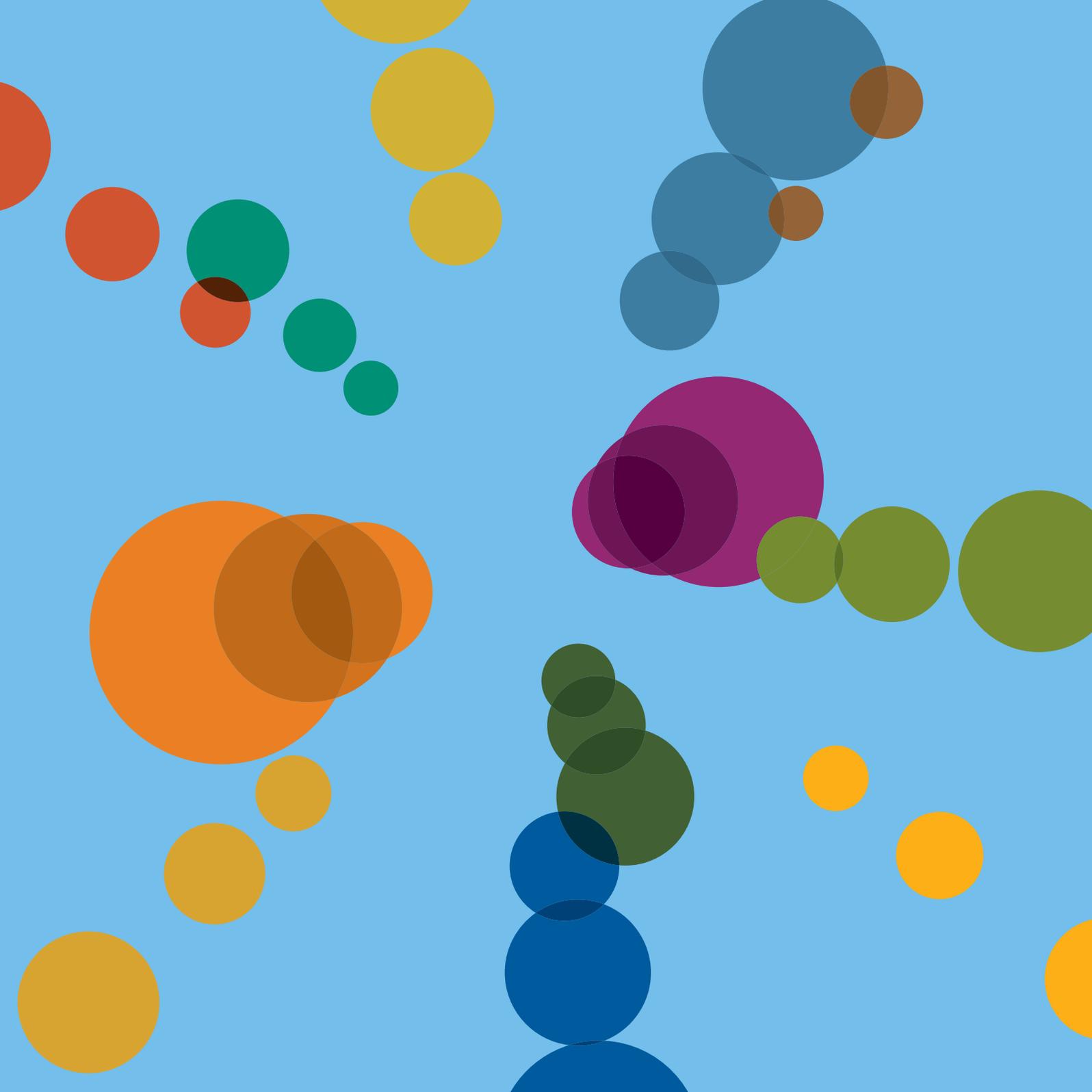
change of government occurs, non-political staff retain their posts while the political appointees are replaced.

Political affairs cannot always be easily compartmentalised into ministries. Many issues today transcend ministerial boundaries, and the Government Offices have had to adjust accordingly. This development has been accentuated by Swedish membership of the EU. Before Sweden joined the Union, responsibility for preparing Swedish positions at meetings of international organisations lay primarily with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Today, officials from all the ministries represent Sweden in the EU and prepare business themselves.

The Government Offices of Sweden comprise the Prime Minister's Office, ten ministries and the Office for Administrative Affairs.

Also attached to the Government Offices are the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' diplomatic missions abroad, i.e. embassies and consulates as well as representations and delegations at the UN, EU, OECD, etc.

The government committee system is a further responsibility of the Government Offices, although each committee is a government agency in its own right.





Chapter 2 • Some specific issues

In 2003, Sweden became the first country in the world to adopt a fully-integrated development policy. All ministries are now required to consider the goal of equitable and sustainable global development when shaping their policies.

In the EU, member states continued to work actively towards the Union target of world leadership in economic, social and environmental development by the year 2010. In the spring of 2003, Sweden was found to be the best current performer in this respect, under the Lisbon strategy.

On the domestic front, further efforts were made to combat ill-health in working life and to promote gender equality. In addition, a special coordinating officer was appointed to help improve mental care services in Sweden.

NEW POLICY FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Today, the countries of the world are intertwined to an unprecedented extent. Each country, therefore, bears its own responsibility for global development. This applies in particular to the richer countries, who must support and assist the poor countries of the world in their own development efforts. Sweden has become the first country in the world to take a cohesive grip on all policy areas affecting global development. In May 2003, the Government presented its new development policy in a bill subsequently adopted by the Riksdag in December. The overall objective is to help bring about equitable and sustainable global development. All ministers and ministries will be responsible for ensuring that their policies are directed at this goal. The bill is based on a rights perspective and the perspective of the poor. It is the people of the developing countries themselves who must be given the chance to develop their own lives.

THE RACE FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

By 2010, the EU aims to be the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, with full employment, social cohesion and respect for the environment. The EU member states have been working towards this goal since March 2000, under what is termed the Lisbon strategy. In order to monitor progress in this area, the EU compares countries' performances using statistics. Each spring up until 2010, the European Commission is to report on how far each country has progressed towards the Lisbon objectives.

The report it presented in 2003 showed that the Union as a whole has a long way to go to reach these goals, particularly in terms of employment and productivity levels. But in Sweden's case, the picture is brighter. Sweden ranked among the top three in the largest number of areas.

A HEALTHIER WORKING LIFE

The Government's goal is to halve the rate of illness-related absence from work between 2002 and 2008. But ill-health in working life is a complex problem with many causes, which means a wide range of remedial measures will be required if the 2008 target is to be achieved. At present, these include efforts to help people return to work more quickly after a bout of ill-health, preventive action in the work environment field, and research. In 2003, the Government continued to combat ill-health on several fronts, by such means as the introduction of compulsory reporting by employers of illness-related absence, trial programmes in the public sector aimed at reducing the rate of absence, the discussion of economic incentives to persuade employers to take preventive action against ill-health, a review of company health services, and the strengthening of both work environment supervision and the activities of regional safety representatives. In addition, sick-listing procedures were made more specific, opportunities for part-time sick-listing were increased and compulsory rehabilitation studies were introduced. Rehabilitation procedures are also to be updated so as to focus more closely on the

needs of the individual, and coordination is to be improved so that people do not end up in a no-man's land between different agencies when requiring coordinated rehabilitative care.

TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

In 2003, the Government presented a written communication on gender equality policy detailing progress in this area since 1999, the pro-equality measures adopted in various policy fields and the current situation in the international sphere. The communication also incorporated a gender equality action plan specifying measures for most policy areas. In June, after three years of work, the National Council for the Protection of Women Against Violence delivered its final report, containing a number of specific proposals for action. To better protect women against violence on the part of men close to them, the Government proposed during the year that courts be allowed to issue restraining orders prohibiting visits even in cases where the parties live together in a common home, and also that such bans be allowed to extend over wider geographical areas.

Male dominance among senior business executives persists, but progress is being made, according to a report in May. Figures in August showed, however, that the boards of state-owned enterprises had a con-

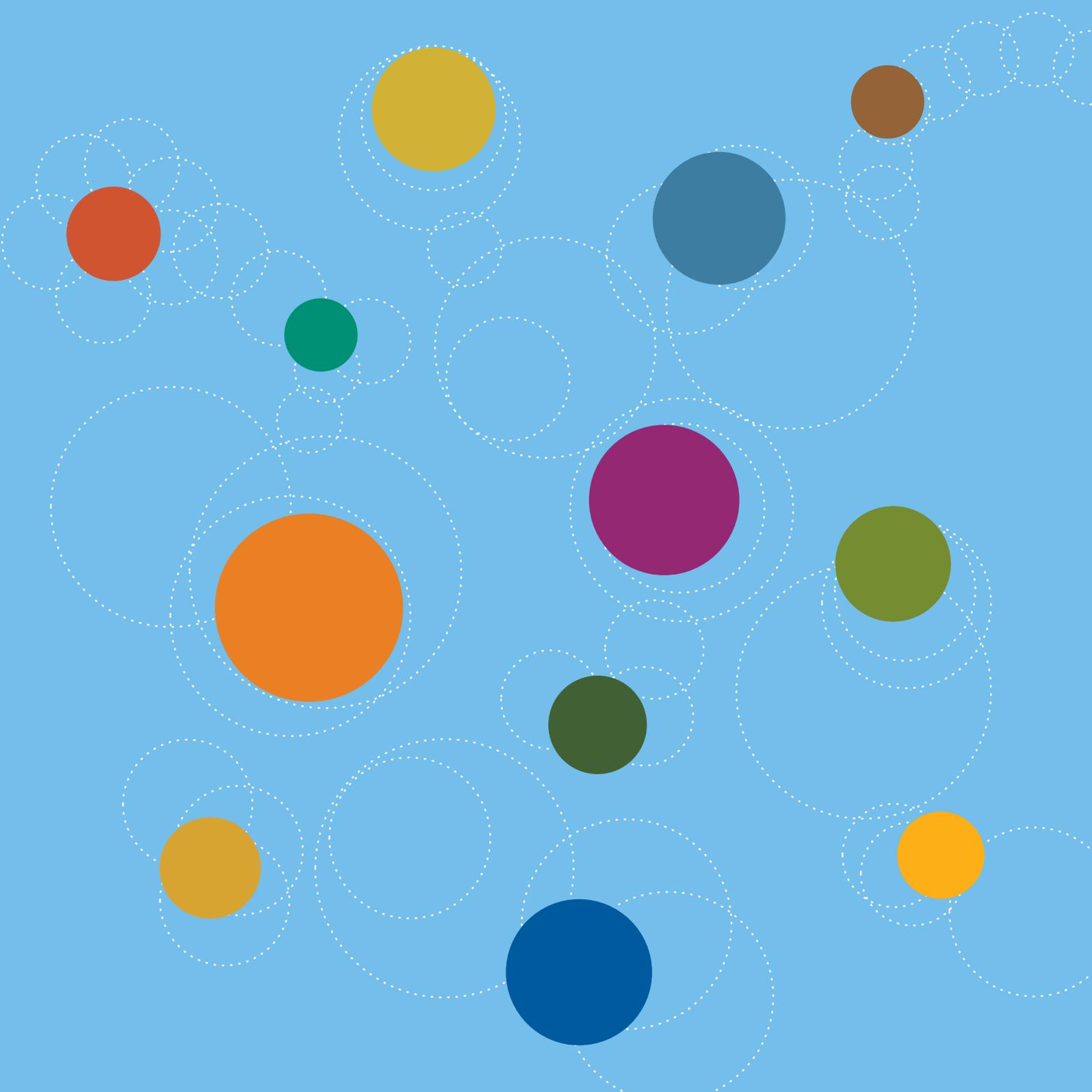
siderably better gender balance than other executive bodies.

Gender inequality can also be expressed in economic terms. In September 2003, a supplement to the Budget Bill was published for the first time clearly specifying gender inequalities.

During the year, the Government also worked in the international arena to promote gender equality. Sweden took part in a number of international conferences, among them UN meetings, at which the situation of women was discussed from various points of view.

PSYCHIATRIC CARE TO IMPROVE

In October 2003, the Government appointed a national coordination officer for mental health care, whose task over the next three years will be to identify and analyse problems and recommend improvements in health and social care in Sweden and in the rehabilitation of the mentally ill and those with mental impairments. During the past year, psychiatric care in Sweden has been a subject of fierce debate. This centred in particular on two violent attacks in Stockholm where the perpetrators had previously sought psychiatric care. The Government has noted failings in both the mental care and the social care fields. In particular, there is a lack of proper coordination between care providers.





Chapter 3 • Ministry activities

- *Prime Minister's Office*
- *Ministry of Justice*
- *Ministry for Foreign Affairs*
- *Ministry of Defence*
- *Ministry of Health and Social Affairs*
- *Ministry of Finance*
- *Ministry of Education and Science*
- *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs*
- *Ministry of Culture*
- *Ministry of the Environment*
- *Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications*
- *Office for Administrative Affairs*

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

The EU heads of state and government were due to adopt the Union's new constitution before the end of the year, but the negotiations were broken off and will be resumed in 2004. A decision was taken, however, to base the EU's new disease control agency in Sweden.

Employment and growth are essential to future welfare. In order to muster broad support for this policy objective, the Prime Minister invited the parliamentary parties, the social partners and other key organisations to a series of talks in 2003.

Negotiations on the EU's future

On 4 October 2003, an Intergovernmental Conference was launched to seek agreement on a new constitution for the EU. The aim was for the EU heads of state and government to adopt the 'Constitution for Europe' at the Brussels summit in mid-December. The negotiations were broken off when it became clear that disagreement between member states could not be resolved.

Another topic raised at the EU summit was the new European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDPC). The heads of state and government agreed to base the new agency in Sweden.

Focus on growth

Sweden must become more competitive, attractive and forward-looking, following the Swedish people's decision to reject the euro, Prime Minister Göran Persson told

the Riksdag when he presented the Statement of Government Policy on 16 September. The Prime Minister called together the parliamentary parties, the social partners and other key organisations for talks aimed at ensuring broad cooperation in the task of promoting development in Sweden. Following autumn negotiations, Göran Persson reached agreement in December with the Left Party and the Green Party on a package of measures to boost growth and reduce unemployment.

Government reshuffle

Laila Freivalds was appointed Sweden's new Minister for Foreign Affairs following the murder of Anna Lindh. At the same time, two new ministers joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs when Jan O. Karlsson left the post of Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy. Barbro Holmberg took over the migration/asylum portfolio and Carin Jämtin the international development cooperation brief. Mona Sahlin was appointed new Minister for Gender Equality Affairs when Deputy Prime Minister Margareta Winberg, who had also held the gender equality portfolio, left the Cabinet on 31 October.

New office for sustainable development

On 1 December, a special Liaison Office for Sustainable Development was established at the Prime Minister's Office. Its task is to coordinate work in this field at the Government Offices, to introduce new ideas and to further develop the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The office is also responsi-

ble for elaborating Sweden's international activities in this sphere.

Organisation of public sector scrutinised

Society should be ordered in such a way as to be easily understandable and accessible to a country's citizens, to serve its purpose and to provide a satisfactory level of universal welfare. To determine whether this is the case in Sweden, a parliamentary committee began work in January on reviewing the structure of the public sector and the division of duties between central, regional and local government. A further task will be to determine how well the Swedish administrative model – with its small government chancery and independent government agencies – has worked since Sweden joined the EU.

Public holiday on 6 June?

In mid-year, a committee was appointed to study the economic implications of declaring 6 June a public holiday. It will also consider whether such a course would necessitate moving or abolishing one of the present public holidays.

The Prime Minister's Office administers and coordinates government business and is also responsible for coordinating Sweden's EU policies, as well as for constitutional policies and election matters.

The Prime Minister's Office includes the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Office of the Director-General for Legal Affairs and the Liaison Office for Sustainable Development. The staff under the Prime Minister are political appointees, while the staff under the Permanent Secretary and the Director-General for Legal Affairs are government officials without political appointments.

In addition, the Government has a Minister for Policy Coordination based at the Prime Minister's Office.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Reform of the Swedish judiciary and police continued during the year, along with efforts to make the prison and probation service better and safer.

In the EU, member states reached an agreement under which all transference of illicit drugs will be punishable by law. Also in 2003, work began on evaluating information exchange between Europol and the member states and between the member states themselves.

A new anti-discrimination law was introduced, embracing more sectors of society than previous legislation in this field.

More police and better crime-fighting

Funding to the police was increased further in 2003 to finance the training of an additional 4,000 officers in 2002–2006. Elsewhere, the division of duties and responsibilities between the police and prosecutors is to be reviewed to enhance the speed, efficiency and quality of criminal investigations. The Economic Crimes Bureau, meanwhile, has been granted full participation in all criminal intelligence activities undertaken by the police, in a move to improve its crime-fighting ability. With the exception of the Bureau, all prosecution authorities will shortly be merged into a single authority in order to promote efficiency and strengthen the rule of law in prosecution activities.

During the year, a number of agencies in the judicial field began developing strategies for their work on discrimination cases. The strategies will consider atti-

tudes towards and the treatment of those who come into contact with the judiciary.

As the result of a change in the Secrecy Act, any details of Swedish Security Service activities recorded in a public document before 1949 are now declassified. The Records Board has been given the task of determining which individuals had trouble finding employment or experienced difficulties at work between 1 July 1945 and 30 September 1969 as a result of information supplied from the Security Service's register.

Police collaboration across borders

In November, after two years of negotiation, the EU member states agreed in principle on common rules for the fight against drug trafficking. Under these rules, all transference of illicit drugs is to be punishable by law, and the most serious offenders will be liable to heavy sentences. In addition, evaluation began of information exchange between the European Police Office, Europol, and the EU member states, and also between the member states themselves.

A more efficient judiciary

The Swedish judiciary is being reformed to boost efficiency and to enable it to respond more appropriately to the strict demands of legal security. In 2003, the Government presented an evaluation of the changes that were made in the organisation of district courts in 1999–2001. Further changes were announced in the

spring. In addition, a committee of inquiry recommended opening up the recruitment system for judges, which until now has been relatively closed.

Safer prison services

During the year, the prison and probation service was empowered to jam or otherwise disrupt unlawful mobile phone traffic to and from penal institutions by technical means. The Government also amended penal care legislation to enable the prison service to introduce comprehensive entry checks including body searches.

To combat drug abuse among inmates, the Government has introduced a three-year plan of action, which in 2003 included special checks to reduce the flow of drugs into penal institutions and detention centres, and the financing of care programmes for drug abusers. Evaluation studies showed that both the anti-drugs initiative and a trial programme to better prepare inmates for their release had produced good results.

Some new laws

On 1 July, a special terrorist offence was introduced into the Swedish Penal Code. To qualify as a crime of terror, an act must be deemed capable of inflicting serious damage on a state or an international organisation. Also, it must have been undertaken for a specific purpose.

The Government proposed that the Swedish police be allowed to carry out body searches aimed at pre-

venting the wanton destruction of property (vandalism), and also proposed increasing the maximum sentence for such offences.

Stricter provisions were introduced into the Prohibition of Visits Act offering better protection to people exposed to violence by someone with whom they have a close relationship. Bans on visits under a restraining order may now be extended to the home shared by the two parties and may cover a wider geographical area.

To protect young adolescents, especially those from other cultures, from being compelled by their families to marry at an early age, the Government proposed measures against both child marriages and forced marriages.

Working for democracy

In 2003, the Swedish people were given the opportunity to vote in a national referendum on the introduction of the euro. The turnout was 82.6 per cent and the administration of the referendum proceeded smoothly. The Government announced a new campaign to promote democracy in the run-up to the 2004 election to the European Parliament.

In September, an evaluation study showed that the series of democratic development programmes initiated by the Government in 2000–2002 had not only given those who took part greater insight into democratic issues but had also made them more interested in the subject.

Popular movements and sport

The Government wants to learn more about the activities of Sweden's popular movements. Accordingly, the funding provided to the various organisations from central, regional and local government sources is to be the subject of a survey.

Money from the proceeds of the state-owned gambling and lottery enterprise, Svenska Spel, is to be channelled to the sports movement to finance child and youth programmes. Under government guidelines, sports associations and federations are to be encouraged to open their doors to greater numbers, fees are to be kept down, and girls' sport is to be emphasised to a greater extent. In addition, the sporting movement is to join the fight against drug abuse and further develop collaboration with schools.

Integration and minorities

As of 1 July 2003, a new anti-discrimination law is in place in Sweden. The law extends protection against discrimination due to ethnic affiliation, religion or creed, sexual preference or disability to new sectors of society, including the housing market, employment

services, the restaurant trade, credit rating and business activities.

During the year, a centre against racism was established with the aid of central government funding. The Government also took a number of steps to improve the position of immigrants in the labour market. A committee report proposed ways of making it easier for newcomers to Sweden to establish themselves in the labour market and in the community at large. Also, a special Council on Roma Issues has been set up to advise the Government.

Successful metropolitan initiatives

To counteract segregation, the Government has entered into local development agreements with seven metropolitan municipalities. In December, a report on the outcome of this initiative showed that in neighbourhoods covered by the agreements unemployment had fallen, voter turnout had increased and people felt safer and had greater faith in the future. With a view to incorporating what has been achieved so far into regular, day-to-day activities in the areas concerned, the Government has allocated a total of SEK 40 million.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for constitutional law in Sweden as well as for many other kinds of legislation, such as penal law, procedural law, civil law and general administrative law. The ministry also has overall responsibility for ensuring that all legislation maintains high legal and linguistic standards.

The ministry's remit includes the judiciary, the prosecution authorities, the police authorities and the prison and probation service. The ministry also considers matters relating to pardons and criminal extradition.

Other duties include strengthening democracy and ensuring greater popular participation in decision-making processes, coordinating and developing efforts at national level to promote and protect human rights, and pursuing government policy with regard to sport and popular movements.

Other areas of responsibility include integration and national minority issues.

Some 200 government agencies are accountable to the ministry.

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 2003, Sweden initiated the establishment of an independent International Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction. Other efforts in support of peace included Swedish contributions to peacekeeping forces in the Balkans, Liberia and DR Congo.

Sweden is the first country in the world to have an all-inclusive development policy, which means that all ministries are to work together in pursuit of equitable global development.

Human rights remain a key feature of Swedish foreign policy, and the ministry's reports on how they are being respected in various parts of the world were made public for the first time in 2003.

Also during the year, Sweden chaired the Nordic Council of Ministers. Work in this forum for intergovernmental cooperation focused on closer integration.

For a safer world

Sweden promotes the interests of international peace, security and development primarily through its strong backing for the UN. The EU, however, is becoming an increasingly important player in the foreign and security policy field.

During the year, Sweden dispatched civilian police officers to help with the policing of Macedonia, and also contributed 90 members to the UN's rapid reaction force in DR Congo, as well as funding and staff to peace support missions in Liberia. In addition, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Hans Dahlgren continued

his peace efforts in West Africa as the EU's special representative there.

Besides military intervention, the UN employs targeted sanctions in pursuit of peace and security. Sweden initiated what is known as the Stockholm process to develop a manual for such sanctions. In February 2003, the Government presented the results of the Stockholm process to the UN Security Council.

The new EU draft constitution, discussed at a summit meeting in December, is intended to strengthen the Union's common foreign and security policy, to foster solidarity between member states, and to enable the EU to engage in more challenging crisis management activities than previously.

In October, Sweden and more than 90 other countries and international organisations attended the Madrid Donor Conference for Iraqi Reconstruction in the aftermath of the war. Swedish humanitarian assistance to Iraq totalled SEK 95 million in 2003.

During the year, Sweden and six other countries reaffirmed their commitment to a world free of nuclear arms. North Korea, however, decided to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Sweden also took the initiative for an EU strategy against weapons of mass destruction and for an independent International Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction.

EU of the future

On 4 October, an Intergovernmental Conference was launched to seek agreement on a new constitution for the EU. In Sweden, prior to this, the proposal had been

referred to 130 different bodies for consideration and comment. The EU heads of state and government were to take a final decision on the new constitution at a summit meeting in Brussels in December. The negotiations were broken off, however, when it became clear that disagreement between the member states was too extensive.

In April, the EU member states and the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia signed the Treaty of Accession leading to membership of the Union. On 1 May 2004, these ten countries will become EU members. The Government announced the opening of a Swedish embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia, in early 2004.

Cooperation in northern Europe

During the Swedish presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2003, the priority issue was integration, both within and between the Nordic countries, with surrounding countries and with the European community. Sweden was particularly commended for its efforts to eliminate border barriers between the Nordic countries. Sweden also completed its two-year presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) in the autumn of 2003. A January meeting under BEAC auspices led to a breakthrough in talks with Russia on an agreement concerning the disposal of nuclear waste. A number of joint meetings between Nordic and Baltic ministers were held during the year to discuss such issues as the fight against organised crime and human trafficking.

Human rights

For the first time, the Government made public the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' reports on the human rights situation around the world. In November, the Government also presented the Riksdag with a written communication on the subject of human rights in Swedish foreign policy. The document described both the progress being made in each policy area and the ways in which Sweden seeks to strengthen respect for human rights in different parts of the world.

Migration and asylum policy

During the year, the Government's work on reforming and increasing support to the asylum process focused on the situation of refugee children. One initiative was the establishment of a special council for child-related migration and asylum policy issues. The task of this body is to ensure that the interests of children are properly considered in the asylum process.

In 2003, a total of 31,355 people applied for asylum in Sweden. Many asylum-seekers lack documentation, which means long waits. During the year, the Government proposed measures designed to reduce waiting periods and hasten the enforcement of official decisions.

The Government also proposed that victims of human trafficking be given the opportunity to remain in Sweden in order to take part in criminal investigations. In addition, the EU countries agreed on a new directive governing the right to family reunion. In December, at the initiative of Sweden and others, a

global commission on migration was launched in Geneva as a means of bringing the migration issue onto the international agenda.

An equitable world free of poverty

Sweden has become the first country in the world to apply a cohesive global development policy. In the spring of 2003, the Government introduced a bill to mainstream the perspective of equitable and sustainable global development into all policy actions. The right kind of development assistance, however, can still have a major impact. Swedish aid increased during the year to 0.81 per cent of GDP. The EU, which provides more than half of all foreign aid in the world, also increased its contribution.

A total of 191 countries have signed the UN's Millennium Declaration, one of the principal goals of which is to halve the amount of extreme poverty in the world by the year 2015. To encourage fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, the Government contributed to a major information campaign in 2003. Also, the Nordic countries adopted a special declaration calling for developing countries to be given greater market access for their goods in the rich countries of the world.

In September, to raise levels of awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote a better understanding of the issue both in Sweden and in the international field, the Government appointed the world's first HIV/AIDS ambassador.

Trade for growth

The 146 members of the World Trade Organisation, WTO, met in Cancún, Mexico, in September to draw up new agreements on world trade. Prior to the meeting, the EU and the US presented a compromise solution encompassing reduced customs tariffs, restrictions on export subsidies and lower internal subsidies in the agricultural field. The WTO members had agreed beforehand to give poor countries lacking domestic drug production facilities access to life-saving medicines against such diseases as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis through the import of cheap pharmaceutical surrogates. Once the meeting in Cancún began, however, the talks broke down. The member countries failed to agree on a framework for further negotiations.

The US decision in December to lift the controversial 30 per cent protective tariffs it had imposed on steel imports 18 months earlier represented a triumph for world trade – and for the Swedish steel industry.

In the same way as global development benefits from increased trade, economic growth in Sweden hinges on the international competitiveness of Swedish enterprise. In 2003, the Baltic Sea region and Russia were the main targets for Swedish business initiatives, along with China and India. Priority areas were high-tech industries and new business spheres in which Sweden and Swedish firms have specialist skills.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs compiles the information and formulates the options on which the Government bases its foreign policy stances. The ministry's brief includes foreign and security policy, international development cooperation, trade policy, consular and civil law matters, international law and human rights, migration and asylum policy, export and trade promotion, and the dissemination of information about Sweden abroad.

Attached to the ministry on 31 December 2003 were 11 government agencies in Sweden and 102 missions (embassies, delegations, representations, consulate-generals and consulates) and 392 honorary consulates abroad.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Work began in 2003 on shaping the three-year defence programme due to be presented in 2004. Among the matters under review were the implications of different levels in the total defence budget.

Further steps were taken to strengthen crisis management capability, among them a review of emergency information and a decision to introduce a new radio communication system.

At international level, Sweden contributed to peacekeeping efforts and a number of other activities, including mine clearance.

Defence in transition

Sweden's total defence system is being adapted to today's security policy needs. During the year, the Defence Commission and the Emergency Management Agency were instructed to examine a range of issues and specify four different levels for the total defence budget in preparation for the new three-year defence programme due to be adopted in 2004. The Government also issued planning directions to the five agencies whose task is to support Sweden's military and civil defence. The agencies are to report on the implications of the various budget alternatives for their operations. In addition, a special investigator is to recommend how information from government agencies on the country's total defence and security policy might best be coordinated and improved.

A safe society

The Emergency Management Agency is to develop the RAKEL radio communication system for protection and security, with a view to facilitating inter-agency cooperation. The system may be expected to improve rescue efforts, whether they concern small accidents or major disasters. In addition, a committee presented proposals for making greater use of the Internet when conveying emergency information to the general public or between agencies.

In the autumn, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency launched a new two-year, post-secondary training programme embracing the accident prevention sphere as a whole and qualifying graduates for employment in the safety and rescue sector. In addition, a new accident prevention law was adopted emphasising the importance of preventive work and containing provisions specifying the duties both of central and local government and of private citizens.

Some international initiatives

During the year, Sweden contributed troops to peace support missions in Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan and the DR Congo. Following the conclusion of a peace agreement in Liberia in the autumn of 2003, Sweden is also taking part in the UN mission there. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency also assisted the UN with mine clearing operations in Eritrea, DR Congo and Iraq. The agency was further authorised by the Government to engage in a bridge-building project in Afghanistan, to begin cooperating

with Lithuania in the accident field, and to enter into agreements in this field with the corresponding agencies in Estonia and Latvia.

Better crisis management in the EU

The EU held its second crisis management exercise during the year, within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy. For the first time, the exercise was undertaken jointly with Nato. In order to develop their crisis management capability further, the EU states are discussing the establishment of a troop force for rapid deployment. Sweden will be taking an active part in the shaping of this joint initiative.

The forest fires that raged in southern Europe in 2003 revealed shortcomings in the EU's ability to deal with this kind of emergency. As a result, regulations were introduced for how the Community mechanism for rescue services – which is supposed to facilitate the coordination of action by national rescue services – is to be applied at EU level. The EU's capacity for dealing with attacks by terrorists using WMDs has also improved since work began on implementing an anti-terrorist action plan. In addition, the EU countries are discussing giving civil authorities access to certain kinds of military resources to enable them to cope with the consequences of terrorist attacks.

Valuable defence contract

In December, the Czech Republic decided to buy the Swedish attack jet aircraft JAS 39 Gripen for its air

force, thereby becoming the second Nato country to choose the Gripen system.

Cooperation on defence materiel

In order to strengthen Europe's defence industrial and technological base, several EU countries are working together in the defence equipment field. In 2003, a number of cooperation agreements were signed. The Riksdag granted Sweden full access to all areas of cooperation covered by the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG). The EU heads of state and government also agreed to establish an EU agency for defence capabilities development and defence equipment cooperation.

Crisis management at the Government Offices

In 2003, crisis management capacity for handling serious emergencies was reinforced and given greater priority at the Swedish Government Offices. The ministries and their various agencies have clarified who is responsible for what in the event of a serious emergency, and the country's power supply has been strengthened.

The Ministry of Defence is responsible for Sweden's total defence, for national accident prevention and preparedness, and for preparedness for severe peacetime emergencies.

The total defence comprises both military defence and civil defence, and its tasks include protecting Sweden against armed attack, asserting our territorial integrity, contributing to peace and security in the international vicinity and strengthening Sweden's capacity to deal with severe peacetime emergencies.

National accident prevention and preparedness programmes encompass government measures to prevent accidents, to limit their consequences and to rectify damage.

Preparedness for dealing with severe peacetime emergencies includes planned responses to extreme situations, for example sabotage of the power supply.

The ministry has 11 government agencies under its jurisdiction.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Growing ill-health in working life caused the Government to propose a number of measures relating to social insurance in 2003.

In the public health field, the Government proposed banning smoking in restaurants and similar establishments, and also presented a new Communicable Diseases Act. Meanwhile, Sweden adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and a national management group for public health was established under the leadership of the Minister for Public Health and Social Services.

Ten years after the Ädel old-age care reform, a committee was instructed in 2003 to review the health care and social care situation of the elderly. At the same time, the 'SENIOR CITIZEN 2005' parliamentary committee on the elderly presented 100 proposals for the long-term development of old-age policy in Sweden.

Improvements in health and medical care

In March, a committee presented proposals whereby private care providers, such as those running hospitals under county council auspices, would be allowed to treat publicly-funded patients only and not patients whose treatment was financed under private insurance schemes. Under a new nationwide telephone service, everyone in Sweden is to have rapid access to qualified medical advice round the clock. The project was launched in 2003 and will continue to receive funding from the state and the Federation of County Coun-

cils. In addition, the age ceiling for dentists and oral hygienists entitled to public subsidies was raised from 67 to 70 so as to return qualified staff for a longer period. Another new development was that from 2003 couples seeking in-vitro fertilisation will be allowed to use either eggs or sperm from external providers, but not both.

In November, a report entitled 'Transplants Save Lives' proposed that a National Council for Organ Donation and Transplantation be set up on 1 January 2005.

Also in November, the ministry proposed in a written communication that responsibility for highly specialised care be transferred to the Swedish state, while production and funding be left in the hands of the county councils. This move is aimed at intensifying the development of the most advanced, research-based types of medical care.

International cooperation

Health ministers from Chile, Germany, Greece, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK met in Stockholm in January to discuss future public health and medical care. They agreed that the care should be financed collectively and should be provided on equal terms according to needs, not financial means. An-other health meeting was held in Stockholm in June, when Sweden hosted the World Health Organisation (WHO) conference on children's health and environment. In addition, Sweden and South Africa launched a joint project in the public health field as part of the bilateral Health Forum programme.

Public health and infectious disease control

A national management group for public health was set up in September, led by the Minister for Public Health and Social Services.

In December, the Government referred to the Council on Legislation a proposal for banning smoking in all restaurants and other establishments where food and drink are served, except in special smoking rooms. Sweden also signed the WHO's new Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In the fight against drug abuse, ministers in the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Baltic States pledged to pursue restrictive and humane drug policies. Also during the year, certain types of advertising featuring alcoholic beverages stronger than 15 per cent by volume were prohibited.

The Government also presented proposals for a new Communicable Diseases Act.

New developments in social insurance

The reformed retirement pension system became fully applicable in 2003. In the process, the old basic pension was transformed into a guarantee pension. With the growth in the standard base-price amount, this meant a net increase of SEK 300–600 per month in 2003 for retired citizens who previously only had access to the basic pension sum and the pension supplement. In further moves, the basic level of parental benefit was raised to SEK 150 per day, a committee proposed improvements in the maintenance support system, and new rules were introduced under which damages or

compensation to children suffering bodily injury or abuse will no longer be taken into account when a family's housing allowance is calculated. The Government also proposed that the National Social Insurance Board, local social insurance offices and the Premium Pension Authority be given wider powers to provide services and self-service facilities over the Internet.

A healthier working life

To tackle the problem of ill-health in working life and the high costs of sickness benefit, rehabilitation and sickness compensation / activity allowances (previously disability pensions), the Government presented a bill in March on changes in the national health insurance scheme. It proposed tighter sick-listing procedures, greater use of part-time sick leave, additional training in insurance-related medicine and an increase in the number of panel doctors (physicians who examine patients for insurance purposes). Other initiatives during the year included the presentation of good practices that had enabled employers to reduce ill-health at the workplace.

Better protection for children at risk

Legislative amendments were introduced to protect children who are neglected or mistreated or risk finding themselves in such a situation. In addition, a parliamentary committee is to construct the basis for a national action plan to improve social child and youth welfare.

Health care and social services for the elderly

Up until October, when it presented its report, a parliamentary committee had been working since 1998 to lay the groundwork for the long-term development of policies for the elderly in Sweden. The report included 100 proposals for future policy measures. One problem is that collaboration between municipalities and county councils does not always work smoothly as regards health care and social services for the elderly. In April, ten years after the Ädel reform, a committee was appointed to review this policy area as a whole. Also, the Government took steps to improve the supervision of old-age care, work began on reviewing the lack of available beds in special accommodation for the elderly and disabled, and a committee began studying the problem of why municipalities and county councils do not always act on decisions to provide care and support for people in this category.

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is responsible for that part of Sweden's social welfare programme which aims to ensure the financial security of the citizen in connection with the care and raising of children, illness, disability and parental leave, and in old age.

Government policy is also concerned with creating the conditions for social and health care services of good quality that are sensitive to the needs of users.

Public health tasks include improving citizens' health, preventing disease and reducing health risks. The ministry is also responsible for coordinating work relating to the UN Child Convention.

In 2003, sixteen government agencies, two enterprises wholly or partly owned by the state and 21 social insurance offices came under the ministry's jurisdiction.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Sweden has coped well with the international recession. The employment rate is high, growth has continued satisfactorily and unemployment is still low compared with other countries. Sweden is one of the few countries to have emerged from the recession with a public finance surplus. Economic policy focused during the year on consolidating growth and combating unemployment. A number of steps were taken to this end. Municipalities and county councils, for instance, were given additional resources, study support was increased, the police and judiciary received extra funding, higher education was expanded, and further priority was given to measures in the environmental field. In addition, steps were taken to boost public confidence in the financial sector. Government administration has become more efficient, and efforts to realise the vision of a 24/7 public authority have made headway.

The Swedish economy

The international recession affected Sweden's economy in 2003. But gloomy forecasts early in the year had given way to slightly greater optimism by the time the Government presented its autumn budget. Statistics showed that the Swedish economy had performed well during the recession – better than the rest of Europe. The target of 80 per cent of the workforce in regular employment by the year 2004, however, no longer looked attainable, and the cost of ill-health in working life had risen. The Long-Term Planning Commission 2003/2004 continued to study both prospects for

growth in the Swedish economy and the question of how welfare advances are to be financed in the future.

Improvements in the financial sector

During the year, the financial supervisory authority, Finansinspektionen, was given extra resources to enable it to respond adequately to demands for increased supervisory action in the financial sector. The Government also noted the need for legislative changes in the banking, insurance and security market sector in coming years. In light of dwindling public faith in life insurance companies, the Government appointed a commission to review their operating procedures and recommend up-to-date and clearly defined regulations for this area. The Ministry of Finance also sought to develop new rules for dealing with conflicts of interest in the activities of life insurance companies. In addition, proposals were put forward during the year on stricter Swedish legislation concerning money laundering, and a committee began reviewing legislation focusing on insider trading and improper market practices.

Developments in the EU

Growth in the euro zone slowed further in 2003. Countries without adequate safety margins encountered problems with the EU's Stability and Growth Pact. In the case of Germany and Portugal, a procedure had already been introduced in 2002 to bring the deficit below three per cent, and in 2003 the same procedure had to be taken in the case of France. By

introducing spending cuts, Portugal was able to put the procedure on hold. Germany and France, however, failed to carry out the recommendations they had been given. As a result, the Commission sought to escalate the procedure against these two countries. Sweden favoured such a move, but it was turned down by the Council of Ministers.

Since the year 2000, the EU countries have been compared with one another every spring to determine how far each has progressed towards the goal of economic growth, social cohesion and respect for the environment. The 2003 report showed that further reforms are needed if the EU is to achieve its stated goals by the year 2010. A high-level group was set up to support member states in the reform of their employment sectors, and the European Growth Initiative was launched as a means of focusing more closely on investment in infrastructure, research and innovation. By comparison with other countries, however, Sweden performed admirably in a wide range of areas.

National referendum on the euro

On 14 September 2003, a national referendum on the introduction of the euro was held in Sweden. Voter turnout was 82.6 per cent, and of this total 56 per cent voted against, 42 per cent voted in favour and 2 per cent submitted blank votes. Prior to the referendum, the Ministry of Finance had undertaken a number of practical preparations for the switch to the new

currency, should this prove necessary. The experience gained from the preparatory work was evaluated and documented during the autumn of 2003. A report from the Election Authority found that the referendum had been planned and administered in exemplary fashion throughout the electoral process.

Green tax shift

The green tax shift continued in 2003. Environment-related taxes were increased while other taxes were lowered. Higher taxes were proposed for carbon dioxide and pesticides and the energy tax on electricity was increased, while tax relief on labour was introduced in the form of lower income tax and a reduction in general payroll tax.

Municipal equalisation and collaboration

In order to give municipalities and county councils equal opportunity in conducting their activities, some form of levelling mechanism is required. In 2003, a committee recommended introducing changes in the present system for government grants and equalisation payments. The Government proposed that a special system for the equalisation of costs for support and services to certain disabled groups be introduced in 2004. It also granted a total of SEK 100 million for 135 collaboration projects between municipalities and county councils to enable them to maintain proper levels of health care, education and social services.

More homes to be built

In order to boost housing construction, the Government supplemented the existing investment grants for housing provision with a special incentive for the construction of smaller rented flats up until the end of 2006. This incentive corresponds to a cut in value added tax from 25 per cent to 6 per cent.

To encourage housing construction further, the rules governing government credit guarantees in this field were amended. The size of the guarantee will now be based on the property's market value.

Greater efficiency in government administration

Sweden's central government agencies are expected to set an example in helping the Government to achieve its goal of halving illness-related absence from work by 2008. During the year, the Government set up a forum – Health in Government – as a source of inspiration for health promotion work in state administration and as a meeting point for the agencies.

Public services to the community and to business have improved as a result of the Internet. The goal is for agencies to provide universally accessible round-the-clock services. In 2003, a manifesto was drawn up presenting the Government's vision, guidelines and ini-

tiatives for the achievement of 24/7 public service.

In order to improve the management and control of government agencies, a training programme was launched during the year for members of government boards, executive committees and advisory committees. Work also began on mainstreaming gender equality, integration and environmental issues into regular state administration programmes.

The prime task of *the Ministry of Finance* is to fulfil the economic policy goals agreed on by the Government and the Riksdag. The aim is to create a basis for sound public finances in accordance with the twin policy goals of a high and sustainable level of growth and increased employment.

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for economic policy, the national budget, fiscal and customs policy, banking, insurance and security market legislation, public procurement, national gaming and lotteries, certain enterprises wholly or partly owned by the state, housing policy, county administration and regional affairs, local government finances, international economic cooperation, administrative development and government employer policy.

The ministry has under its jurisdiction some 60 government agencies and three enterprises wholly or partly owned by the state.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

A gender equality committee, a new training programme for municipal daycare attendants and the addition of 1,400 staff were among the steps taken in 2003 to improve the quality of Swedish pre-school care and education.

Other developments of note in the education and science field during the year included a quality programme for schools, continued efforts to recruit more teachers, clearer roles for the various educational authorities, a review of the degree system and the admission rules in higher education, and further investment in research.

New pre-school initiatives

The work of improving quality in pre-school care and education continued during the year. Measures included drafting 1,400 new staff into the country's municipal daycare centres and commissioning the National Agency for Education both to issue general quality guidelines for pre-schools and to present in the spring of 2004 a curriculum for a new post-secondary training programme for daycare attendants. The agency was further instructed to follow up and evaluate the expansion of family daycare programmes. In a bid to help pre-schools counteract traditional gender patterns, the Government also appointed a special gender equality committee for pre-schools and approved a film project designed to attract larger numbers of male staff to this sector.

Young people risk exclusion

The number of young people aged 16–24 who neither study, work nor seek employment has increased in recent years. In 2003, a government inquiry examined their situation and what is being done on their behalf. Its report emphasises that marginalised young people need individual care and support and that the responsibility devolving on the municipalities to ensure that these needs are met must be defined more clearly. Meanwhile, an evaluation study by the National Board for Youth Affairs showed that in 2003 most young people wanted to study and viewed lifelong learning as a natural ambition. Upper-secondary students, however, were experiencing greater stress, and there were signs of a lack of participation as well as health concerns.

Actual skills must be given their due

Employers assess potential recruits primarily on the basis of their formal qualifications. But, the Government argues, actual skills – especially those of refugees and immigrants – should also be evaluated, documented and recognised in a validation process, regardless of how they have been acquired. With this in mind, the Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry into the Validation of Adult Vocational Skills and Experience in 2004–2007, and also instructed the National Agency for School Improvement to extend the activities currently under way in this area on a trial basis.

Quality in school education

The Government launched a quality enhancement programme for Swedish schools at four regional conferences in the spring. Part of this endeavour was the restructuring of the responsible authorities from 1 March. This involved limiting the activities of the National Agency for Education to evaluation, inspection and supervision, and establishing a new authority, the National Agency for School Improvement. The former was also charged with creating new, stricter procedures for the inspection of independent schools. In addition, a special investigator put forward a draft for legislation against discrimination and other forms of abusive treatment in schools.

An OECD comparative report in 2003 showed that Swedish fourth graders came top in reading, that the number of young people graduating from degree courses of at least three years' duration was rising faster in Sweden than in other countries, and that Sweden awarded the largest number of postgraduate degrees per cohort in the OECD area.

Access to higher education reviewed

The rules concerning eligibility, assessment of qualifications and admission to higher education in Sweden are being reviewed. The primary aims are to broaden the student recruitment base, to ensure that more upper-secondary students continue directly to university and to make mathematics and languages a more popular subject choice at upper-secondary level.

International cooperation

Some 40 European countries seeking to harmonise their higher education systems agreed in September on the content of national quality assurance schemes, on the introduction of an appendix to university diplomas facilitating recognition in others countries, and on the organisation of higher education into three cycles.

In June, the Nordic ministers for education and science announced an action plan to promote mobility in research and education in the Nordic area. China and Sweden agreed during the year to step up their cooperation in the fields of higher education and research.

Further investment in research

The National Science Council is to be given additional resources for medical research in 2004, and funding to Sweden's county councils for clinically-based medical research is to be increased. The Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA, has been allocated SEK 100 million to boost applied industrial research programmes in the IT and telecom sector.

The Government wants issues of an ethical nature to be discussed outside the research community as well, and to this end presented a bill in January calling for the ethical consideration of research centring on human beings and human biological materials.

The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for child daycare provision, pre-school classes, compulsory education and equivalent forms of schooling, upper-secondary education, independent schools, adult education, Swedish-language tuition for immigrants (SFI), post-secondary education, universities and university colleges, research, study support, student welfare and youth policy.

A total of 67 government agencies come under the ministry's jurisdiction.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

In June 2003, EU ministers for agriculture reached agreement on a reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They also agreed on how the EU's ten new member states were to apply the reform programme.

Sweden looked into the possibility of halting cod fishing in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea to prevent over-fishing. Following an assessment of the situation by the European Commission, however, the move was abandoned.

Animal welfare was a centre of attention in Sweden in a number of ways, partly due to the introduction of stricter provisions in the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Welfare Ordinance.

Agricultural reform

The EU ministers for agriculture agreed on a new Common Agricultural Policy during the year. Sweden actively supported the agreement, which included two important changes. Firstly, the present system of direct price support to farmers is replaced by a system of separate income payments or farm support payable if the farmer a) fulfils the requirements of a number of EU directives concerning environment protection, animal husbandry and safe food, and b) guarantees that arable land will be properly managed. Secondly, the reform gives member states a greater say in the shaping of national agricultural policies. In December, the ministers agreed on how the new CAP was to be applied in the EU's ten accession states.

New rules for GMOs

Two EU Regulations on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) entered into force in 2003. All living GMOs will now be subject to approval before they can be released into the environment, and GM foodstuffs must be approved before use, whether they involve raw materials, such as vegetables, or processed foods. Rules concerning prior approval, including labelling requirements, have also been introduced for feed and processed feed products. Under the new rules, all products made from a GMO will be labelled accordingly.

Better protection for consumers

Consumer protection in Sweden is being strengthened by the introduction of better price information to the consumer when a specific product is marketed, better protection for the individual seeking financial advice, and a ban on e-mail advertising that targets individuals without their prior approval. At EU level, a resolution was adopted on joint initiatives to develop legislation on the safety of consumer services, including services in tourism, transportation and sports. In Sweden, the Government began work on a three-stage strategy for safe services.

Bid to stop cod fishing

Responding to the Government's plan in the autumn of 2002 to halt Swedish cod fishing in 2003, the European Commission argued that Sweden could only impose a moratorium on Swedish fishing in Swedish waters. This

would mean that Swedish fishermen could only fish for cod in non-Swedish waters while foreign fishermen could continue to fish in Swedish waters. In view of this situation, the Government called off the moratorium. The EU ministers for fisheries, however, agreed at the end of the year on a recovery plan for cod stocks in the North Sea, similar to the one already in place in the Baltic Sea as of 2002.

Fight for healthy livestock

In 2003, the EU decided to prohibit the use of growth-promoting antibiotics in animal feed throughout the Union from 2006. The measure is designed to curb the current growth in antibiotics resistance, which represents a threat to both human and animal health. In addition, a new EU directive for the control of foot-and-mouth disease has been developed. The EU ministers for agriculture also adopted a proposal for monitoring and combating zoonoses such as salmonella and other diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. In addition, the EU countries began enforcing stricter provisions concerning undesirable substances in animal feed, and sought to develop stricter rules for feed hygiene and the control of food and feed products. During the year, Sweden tested 34,575 head of cattle for BSE and is the only EU country not to have had a single case of 'mad cow disease'.

Better animal welfare

In July, the European Commission proposed the introduction of common rules for control and supervision

in the animal welfare field, along with new rules concerning animal transports and resting periods on long trips. But no limit was imposed on the total duration of such transports. The Commission is also developing a draft law for the protection of broiler chickens. In addition, all EU member states came out in November in favour of banning imports of dog and cat fur products.

In Sweden, the Animal Welfare Act will become more stringent from 2004 with the introduction of provisions requiring animals to be given quality feed in accordance with their natural eating habits and requiring stock farmers to ensure that animals showing signs of ill-health are given proper care. Furthermore, changes in the Animal Welfare Ordinance introduced stricter rules for the prior inspection of livestock buildings and other holding rooms for animals, and a limited ban on equipment that gives animals an electric shock. As of July 2003, veterinarians responsible for slaughterhouse inspection are required to take action in the event of an animal being subjected to unnecessary suffering or in the event that maltreatment is deemed likely.

During the year, preparations were made for the establishment of a new government body in this field, the Swedish Animal Welfare Agency. It began work on 1 January 2004.

Pets

To facilitate the transfer of pets – and thereby the free movement of citizens – the Government decided in 2003 that import permits from the Swedish Board of

Agriculture would no longer be required when bringing a dog or cat into Sweden from another EU country. The animal would, however, be required to have a 'passport' noting vaccinations, blood tests and whether or not it had been dewormed. A report also recommended action to deal with the problem of dangerous dogs in the community and irresponsible dog ownership. Under these proposals, a person considered a grossly unsuitable owner may be prohibited from keeping a dog.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs has a wide-ranging brief and in 2003 was responsible for such areas as agriculture and the agricultural environment, fisheries, consumer affairs, reindeer husbandry, Sami affairs, horticulture, animal welfare, food, hunting and game preservation, and higher education and research in the country's agricultural industries.

A total of 18 government agencies come under the ministry's jurisdiction.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Free admission is to be introduced at a number of state museums in Sweden, and in 2003 a decision was taken on which three museums were to be included in the first stage of the reform programme.

Expansion of the digital TV network continued during the year. The transition from analogue television broadcasting is to be completed by 1 February 2008 at the latest.

Culture for all

As of 2004, admission to three of Sweden's state-owned museums will be free – Moderna Museet, the Swedish Museum of Architecture and the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities. Culture is also to become a natural feature of workplace life and be introduced into rehabilitation programmes for the chronically ill.

The Multicultural Centre in Botkyrka, Stockholm, is to study how public authorities and institutions within the Ministry of Culture's remit are tackling cultural diversity in their activities.

Sweden also highlighted the issue of a multi-cultural Nordic area during its presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2003.

Gender equality and cultural heritage

The Government is working by various means to win broad acceptance for the introduction of a gender perspective into all activities in the cultural field, and also to mainstream gender into the operations of pub-

lic authorities and institutions in this sector.

A working group has been given a government mandate to review the question of how museums can make their activities more gender-sensitive.

The illicit trade in cultural artefacts has grown in recent decades. An international convention from 1995 includes rules for the return of stolen artefacts. In 2003, the Government ordered a committee to recommend legislation that would enable Sweden to become a party to the convention.

Remembrance Day and a new agency

In Sweden, 27 January is designated Holocaust Remembrance Day. This was the date in 1945 on which the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp was liberated. In Stockholm, the Living History Committee organised a range of remembrance programmes and presented a book containing interviews with Swedes who experienced the Holocaust in one way or another. In addition, a new government agency, the Living History Forum, was created in June, and will seek to promote work with democracy, tolerance and human rights, with the Holocaust as its starting point.

Cheaper books

Value added tax on books and magazines was reduced in January 2002. Since then, the Committee on Book Prices has kept track of price trends. Two interim reports in 2003 showed that the VAT cut did not appear to have had the desired impact in all parts of the book and magazine market.

Support for artistic activity

In June 2003, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for Literature was presented for the first time.

Also during the year, the National Council for Cultural Affairs was instructed by the Government to develop proposals for an action programme on behalf of professional dance in Sweden. The mandate is part of an initiative to enhance the status of professional dance throughout the country.

To encourage gender equality in the performing arts, the Government appointed a committee to monitor developments in this area, to make use of the knowledge and experience available, and to recommend appropriate action.

Architecture and design

A new body, the Architecture and Design Council, has been set up in this policy field. Its activities will be based on a written government communication submitted to the Riksdag in June 2003. The Council will seek to achieve the goals outlined in a government action programme entitled 'Future Design'. Recent developments in the architecture and design field have served to promote these issues, and interest in the subject has grown.

Design Year 2005

A Design Year is to be staged in Sweden in 2005. A special steering group has been set up for the purpose, with representatives from the National Museum

of Fine Arts, the National Public Art Council, the Arts Grants Committee, the National Swedish Handicraft Council, the School of Arts, Crafts and Design, the National Science Council and the Swedish Industrial Design Foundation.

The purpose of Design Year 2005 is to heighten awareness about the contribution that design can make to community life, and the goal is to encourage as many people as possible to develop their use of design, their interest in it and their understanding of it.

The transition to digital TV

In the terrestrial TV broadcasting field, the Riksdag has voted to make a complete switch from analogue to digital technology. Analogue broadcasts are to be gradually phased out and terminated by 1 February 2008 at the latest. Work continued during the year on developing proposals for the expansion of the digital transmission network to enable people in all parts of the country to view digital programmes in the future.

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for cultural policy and media policy, and also has overall responsibility for the activities of Swedish cultural attachés abroad.

Cultural policy covers general cultural activities, theatre, dance and music, libraries, literature and cultural publications, art and design, handicrafts, benefits and grants to creative artists, cinema, archives, historical environments, museums and exhibitions, architecture, design, religious communities and research in the cultural sphere.

Media policy covers the daily press, radio and TV, and the protection of children and young people from harmful content in the media.

The ministry is responsible for 27 government agencies.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change and chemicals were key issues in 2003 in environment work at both national and international level.

The Government also moved to strengthen protection of the Baltic Sea.

As a result of unique agreements between the Government, Swedish enterprise and public authorities, both grocery retailing and the construction and property sector took major steps towards sustainable development.

Further climate work

During the year, the EU member states agreed to introduce trading in emission allowances from 2005 on a trial basis. Under the scheme, the Swedish energy industry sector is to be allocated emission rights or credits corresponding to 17–18 million tons of carbon dioxide plus 2–4 million tons to be distributed later. In addition, negotiations began on a proposal from the European Commission to allow companies participating in the scheme to use credits obtained from projects that reduce emissions outside the EU to meet their own reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions.

The most important advance at the UN's annual climate conference was the establishment of rules for how the industrialised countries can regenerate forest in the developing countries as a way of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

Protecting the Baltic Sea

During the year, a number of initiatives were taken to improve the environmental situation in the Baltic Sea. The Swedish and Finnish ministers for the environment urged their colleagues around the Baltic, as well as the EU, to work actively to improve marine safety so as to reduce the risk of oil pollution in the sea following accidents. The two ministers also sought backing for an application to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to have the Baltic classified as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). Representatives of the Baltic countries were in Stockholm in September to begin work on a joint application in this matter.

Better waste management

The Government will in future be able to impose requirements concerning the content, reusability and recyclability of a given product. This is the implication of a draft law submitted in April for consideration by the Council on Legislation. The aim is to persuade industries and other enterprise to assume greater responsibility for their waste. The Government also proposed that households be given better access to refuse collection systems, that food waste be recycled more and that an advisory committee on waste be set up within the Environmental Protection Agency.

Protection against hazardous chemicals

The EU continued its efforts to develop new legislation on chemicals. The European Commission is also in the process of formulating a European strategy on mercur-

ry. In Sweden, the National Chemicals Inspectorate was charged with investigating the possibility of a general ban on mercury. In the UN, meanwhile, the governments of the world agreed to have a global chemicals strategy in place by 2005, while at home the Swedish Government decided to ratify the Rotterdam Convention on the export and import of hazardous chemicals.

Sustainable community planning

Three major railway projects were given the go-ahead by the Government in 2003 – the City Tunnel in Malmö, the final stretch of the Bothnia Line between Nordmaling and Umeå, and the West Coast Line through Lund.

Environmental impact in the grocery retail trade is to be reduced at every stage. In November, a unique agreement aimed at creating sustainable grocery retailing was signed by the Minister for the Environment, trade enterprises and municipal and regional authorities. The construction and property sector also took a crucial step towards sustainable development with the signing of a similar agreement.

Nuclear safety

During the year, the Government decided to classify the dismantling and decommissioning of nuclear power plants as an environmentally hazardous activity under the law. Also, an inquiry was launched into the financing of future costs for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste.

Environmental cooperation in the EU

In 2003, Sweden won support for a number of its standpoints when the EU's Sustainability Development Strategy was reviewed. Sweden has, for instance, actively promoted the introduction of specific energy consumption targets that would benefit economic development, employment and the modernisation of European industry. The EU ministers for the environment also decided that all member states were to formulate national objectives for increasing the share of renewable energy in their output. The member states agreed further on a basis for future Community legislation on environmental liability (with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage) and approved a draft strategy for reducing air emissions from sea-going vessels.

Further international cooperation

At the World Water Forum in Japan, representatives of more than 100 countries issued a joint declaration emphasising the need for proper management of common water resources.

The Government also approved a Swedish contribution to environmental projects in the Arctic. In Ukraine, a pan-European meeting of environment ministers agreed on the future direction of environmental cooperation in the region, and in Stockholm a group of OECD representatives studied Sweden's current environmental policy on air quality improvement.

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for issues relating to natural resources, nature conservation, biological diversity, water management and air pollution control, climate change, protection of the ozone layer, traffic environment issues, chemicals control, waste, sustainable development, the decontamination of environmentally damaged areas, environment protection, community planning, surveying, meteorology and geotechnology, construction and the indoor environment, nuclear safety and radiation protection, environmental research/monitoring, international environmental cooperation, and coordination of the Government's environment policies. The ministry also deals extensively with administrative business under the Environmental Code, the Planning and Building Act, and other legislation.

In 2003, the ministry had 13 government agencies under its jurisdiction.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The employment situation deteriorated in 2003. EU comparisons, however, showed that Sweden ranked among the leaders in terms of employment for women and older members of the workforce.

Ill-health in working life continued to be a major problem, and the Government proposed corrective measures in a number of areas.

During the year, an action plan for greater gender equality was presented. A committee report concluded that male dominance persisted among Swedish business executives but that the situation was changing.

A number of measures aimed at simplifying and improving the work situation for Swedish enterprises were put in place or entered into force.

Employment issues

The economy remained weak in 2003 and led to further dismissals, fewer job vacancies, a slight fall in the employment rate and greater unemployment, particularly among young people. Despite this deterioration in the overall situation, the number of people registered with employment offices for at least 24 months declined during the year. Compared with other EU countries, Sweden still has a high rate of employment among women and older members of the workforce.

The Government's goal of an 80 per cent employment rate still stands. In March, the Government presented an employment bill setting out ways of improving the position of those who have great difficulty

finding work. Further resources have been allocated to give an additional 1,000 people with work-related disabilities access to subsidised employment from 2003.

Health in working life

The Government presented a bill in March proposing changes in Sweden's health insurance system. Under the proposals, employers will be required to carry out rehabilitation studies in the event of extensive or recurrent staff absence due to illness. The Spring Fiscal Policy Bill proposed further measures aimed both at reducing the cost of illness-related absence from work and at helping people to return to work. As of 1 July 2003, all cases of absence due to illness must be reported to the authorities. In December 2003, the Riksdag allocated extra resources for work environment control programmes and for the activities of regional safety representatives in 2003. In June, the Government decided to appoint a committee to study company health services.

Special efforts are under way to prevent and reduce illness-related absence in the public sector. The Swedish Agency for Innovations Systems (VINNOVA) has been commissioned by the Government to monitor and evaluate trial activities in this area.

Labour law

In October, the Government decided to examine the question of whether Swedish rules concerning the right of employees to information and consultation fulfilled EU requirements in this area. A committee

report presented in June recommended simplifying both the Annual Leave Act and other legislation relating to leave. On the basis of previous recommendations from the committee, the Government is preparing a bill detailing how the requirements of the EU worktime directive are to be met.

Promoting gender equality

In a written communication to the Riksdag on gender equality policy, the Government described progress in this area since 1999, as well as the pro-equality measures taken in various policy fields and the current situation in the international sphere. The communication also included a gender equality action plan specifying measures for most policy areas.

The National Council for the Protection of Women Against Violence completed its work and described in its final report the areas in which society is failing to take proper responsibility for women subjected to male violence. A separate report showed that while male dominance persists among Swedish business executives, efforts are being made to remedy the situation. An evaluation of gender equality work at county administrative boards showed that further gender mainstreaming is required in their activities.

Business development initiatives

In February, ten new national design projects were launched with the object of boosting the number of enterprises in Sweden employing design as a means of developing their operations. The Government continu-

ed its efforts to promote entrepreneurship for young people, one of the initiatives being a trial programme focusing on municipal entrepreneurship and technical training schools. Targeted funding was supplied to both the Swedish Enterprise Agency and the ALMI business development agency to encourage young women to start and run their own businesses, and to the Swedish Association of Ethnic Entrepreneurs to provide people from immigrant backgrounds with access to entrepreneurial counselling. In addition, the Government is supporting local cooperative development centres, one aim being to encourage cooperative ventures. To promote environment-driven business development and environmental technology exports, the Government announced plans in its Budget Bill for 2004 to set up a national centre for environmental technologies. In November, a special negotiator was appointed to formulate proposals that would give businesses in the early stages of their development greater access to capital from the central government sphere. To facilitate generation shifts/shifts in ownership among Swedish enterprises, the Government presented a bill reducing gift tax on business assets.

In a November bill aimed at improving service levels and reducing waits at the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, the Government proposed dividing the agency into a Patent Office and a Company Registration Office.

During the year, the Government also sought to simplify procedures for Swedish businesses by instructing 45 agencies and each of the government ministries to examine all the regulations governing business activities. Decisions were also taken during

the year on a number of simplification measures and improvements for business companies, while several policy decisions taken previously entered into force. In addition, the Swedish Business Development Agency (NUTEK) was charged with elaborating a method for measuring a company's administrative costs, and also with carrying out trial measurements.

State-owned companies

The Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications is responsible for 44 companies wholly or partly owned by the state, including three public enterprises. Several of the companies – including Vattenfall, LKAB and SBAB – reported high earnings levels during the year. The Swedish rail company, SJ, and radio and TV operators Teracom received a capital injection from the state of SEK 1,855 million and 500 million respectively.

Growth through innovation

To stimulate growth and renewal throughout the country, the Government Offices are working on a national innovation strategy aimed at strengthening Sweden's capacity to foster expertise and translate it into sustainable growth and new jobs.

During the Swedish presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers, a Nordic innovation conference was organised in Malmö in November.

More efficient competition

The Government appointed a special investigator to examine the effects of deregulation on consumers, businesses, employment and the economy as a whole, and to recommend ways of consolidating its favourable effects.

In March, the Competition Authority applied for a summons against eleven asphalt companies suspected of having reached an agreement on prices and of having divided the market between them. It was the largest cartel case to be brought before a Swedish court.

Safe and accessible IT

The state-funded expansion of Sweden's broadband network continued during the year. In July, a new electronic communications law came into force. Its purpose is to ensure that electronic communications are widely available, as efficient as possible and open to free competition, even as it acts to strengthen consumer protection. The law is based on EU regulations aimed at harmonising the regulatory framework for electronic communications.

A new EU body has been set up to support member states and the European Commission in their efforts to make computers and networks safer. The EU countries have also agreed to implement the 'e-Europe 2005' action plan as a means of speeding up the development of an information society for all. A national IT policy strategy group has been established to advise the Government in this sphere and to work actively for the achievement of IT policy objectives.

Postal and counter services

In October, the Government appointed a special investigator to review the provision of postal and counter services in Sweden. The mandate includes examining the advisability of new regulations for postal activities and analysing the liberalisation of the market. The special investigator will also consider the need for government action with regard to basic counter services. A final report is due in 2004.

Nationwide development

During the period 2000–2003, regional growth agreements were implemented in all Swedish counties, centring on collaboration between regional players. As of 2004, these agreements will be replaced by regional growth programmes. During the year, the Government approved all the programmes submitted by Sweden's 21 counties. In addition, each county is required to draw up a regional development plan. In November, an ordinance governing regional development work entered into force, clearly defining how development programmes and sectoral coordination were to be pursued.

Since the spring of 2002, twenty-seven government agencies and a dozen players in the field have identified possible areas of coordination in and between six policy areas. A final report was delivered in October 2003. The work included reviewing the role and mandate of the National Rural Agency during the year, and the report urged the Government to consider the need for a rural development policy.

All Structural Fund programmes were evaluated in

2003, and the outcome of the study led both to changes in work methods and to simplified procedures among implementing organisations. On the basis of the study recommendations, the European Commission proposed that funds from the performance reserve be used primarily for measures in the fields of business development, broadband expansion and skills enhancement.

Air, road and sea transport

Swedish aviation continued to encounter problems. Although low-price carriers increased their market shares both in Sweden and elsewhere in Europe, the decline in air passengers continued in 2003. In the spring, international traffic in particular was adversely affected by the war in Iraq and the SARS epidemic.

New rules concerning security checks at airports were fully implemented during the summer. In its Budget Bill for 2004, the Government proposed dividing the Swedish Civil Aviation Administration in two from 1 January 2005. A new agency will be responsible for supervisory duties while the surviving public enterprise will be responsible for Sweden's state-run airports and air traffic services.

A joint project for the benefit of disabled travellers was completed in 2003. The project brought together government agencies and organisations in the quest for a transport system adapted to the needs of the disabled.

During the year, Sweden took part in EU efforts to introduce stricter marine safety laws. The EU is calling for closer checks on high-risk tankers in European waters and for tougher demands to be imposed on

independent organisations responsible for quality checks on shipping.

Infrastructural development

The National Road Administration, the National Rail Administration and the 21 counties presented proposals in August on the development of the country's infrastructure in 2004–2015. The proposals include strategies for the repair and maintenance of road and rail networks and development plans for the networks under state control. In all, the measures will cost SEK 373 billion over a 12-year period. During the year, the Railways Commission presented its final report, which included an analysis of various models for enhancing competition in rail transport.

In December, the EU member states agreed on which projects in the Trans European Transport Network to prioritise in the enlarged EU up to 2020.

Renewable electricity and other energy issues

On 1 May, Sweden introduced an electricity certification system under which power companies producing their electricity from renewable energy sources – windpower generators, biofuel-fired power plant and certain types of hydroelectric power plant – are issued with electricity certificates which can then be sold to electricity users. Users are then required by law to purchase certificates in accordance with a certain proportion of their overall consumption. The idea is to create a demand for electricity certificates that will

stimulate expansion of renewable electricity production.

In March, the Government presented its Energy Policy Bill to the Riksdag. The proposals included the introduction of monthly meter readings and measures to create a better balance in the country's electricity supply.

Joint Nordic efforts are needed to improve security of supply in the Nordic electrical power system, and cooperation between the various Nordic authorities and system operators needs to be intensified. These were the conclusions of the Nordic energy ministers following a September meeting to discuss the implications of the lengthy power cut that occurred in southern Sweden and eastern Denmark in 2003.

In July, the EU countries agreed on a directive on emissions trading in the Union. Intensive work is under way to prepare for the introduction of the scheme, scheduled for 1 January 2005.

The principal task of the *Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications* is to encourage business development, regional development and individual development in the employment market. The ministry is also responsible for the nationwide availability of secure and satisfactory communications. Its work extends across many different policy areas with the general aim of ensuring strong, sustainable growth, low unemployment and a high employment rate in Sweden.

In 2003, the ministry had 40 government agencies under its jurisdiction, including three public enterprises.

OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

Work procedures, management and administration at the Swedish Government Offices are to be made more cost-effective. Proposals as to how this can be achieved were set out in a January report.

Gender equality and diversity are priority concerns at the Government Offices, and efforts are under way to prevent the development of unjustified pay gaps between women and men.

In addition, work began in 2003 on redeveloping the Government website with a view to making both the site and the information on it more effective and up-to-date.

Greater efficiency at the Government Offices

A report in January contained recommendations on how the work of the Government Offices can be made more efficient. In many areas, these focused on how to better exploit the benefits arising from the reorganisation of the Government Offices into a single, integrated public authority in 1997. Some of the recommendations were put into practice during the year while others needed further review. A separate report was presented during the year on the perceived consequences of turning the Government Offices into an integrated authority.

Economic reporting was improved in 2003 by the introduction both of simpler rules for invoicing and payment and of a joint accounting system for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the rest of the Government Offices.

During the year, the Office for Administrative Affairs further coordinated and standardised the IT environment at the Government Offices. The greatest change was the provision of a new technical platform to Sweden's foreign missions.

Gender equality and diversity

Gender equality work is a major priority in internal development efforts at the Government Offices, and a joint method has been developed with local union representatives for surveying and analysing pay on an ongoing basis. The aim is to identify, correct and guard against unjustified gaps in pay and other terms of employment between women and men.

Steps are also being taken to increase and improve opportunities for both men and women at all levels in the Government Offices to combine work and parenthood.

Skills enhancement

During the year, additional resources were again channelled into professional development schemes for executive officers. New instruments for enhancing staff skills have been tested by the Office for Administrative Affairs, and these were made available to the various ministries in 2003.

The trainee programme is a long-term initiative aimed at increasing the number of executive officers with work experience from all government ministries. The first in the series was concluded in 2003 and a new programme was launched in the autumn of 2003.

Greater openness and accessibility

Both the external website, www.regeringen.se, and the English website, www.sweden.gov.se, are being redeveloped. The new site is to be launched on 29 April 2004. The keywords in the redevelopment work are usability and accessibility. The aim is to make the new website accessible to groups with special needs, including people with impaired vision, dyslectics, the deaf and hard of hearing, and those with learning disabilities.

For the fifth successive year, the Government Offices took part in the Göteborg International Book Fair. The main theme of the Government stand was education. Also in 2003, the general public were invited to Rosenbad and the premises of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at the Prince Royal's Palace for an Open Day on 24 May.

The Office for Administrative Affairs acts as a joint resource for the Swedish Government Offices as a whole and is responsible for administrative concerns of a cross-ministerial nature. This means that matters of common interest relating to administrative control and management, finances and staff policy, IT, the supply of premises and fittings, archives and registers, library issues and information and communication all come within the Office's remit, along with all forms of general service. Services include security and surveillance, procurement and purchasing, services to committees and commissions, switchboard staffing, cleaning and office services.

In memory of Anna Lindh

Anna Lindh (1957–2003)

Anna Lindh joined the Government as Minister for the Environment in 1994. She served as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1998 to 2003.

On 10 September 2003, Anna Lindh was attacked with a knife in central Stockholm. She died of her wounds the following morning.

Why was Anna Lindh such a very special person? I think the answer lies in the fact that she wanted to achieve so many things at once. Not since the days of Olof Palme has the expression ‘Politics is a matter of will’ been so apt. Anna Lindh held strong ideological beliefs, close to those of Palme in many respects, although not in all. In foreign policy, they were expressed in her resolute defence of human rights, of tolerance and respect for dissenting views, of the obligation of even the mightiest states to adhere to international law. And in her firm commitment to these values and her efforts on behalf of the oppressed, one thing was constantly in evidence – a burning desire to achieve something.

We saw it in Macedonia in the spring of 2001, during Sweden’s EU presidency, when she travelled in the region with Javier Solana and managed to achieve a settlement that averted another bloody war in the Balkans. She was genuinely determined – more than anyone else, it seemed – to ensure that the people of Macedonia embarked on the road to conciliation, not to armed conflict.

We saw it in the Middle East. She was as unequivocal as anyone in dissociating herself from the insane suicide attacks on innocent Israelis, but she was also outspoken enough, and courageous enough, to make clear when necessary that it was the Israeli government which was mainly responsible for the ongoing crisis.

We saw it during the Iraq crisis of 2003, when she, like so many others, condemned the use of military force without the approval of the UN Security Council. But Anna Lindh also went a step further and

initiated moves to substantially upgrade the European Union’s efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction and to promote non-proliferation. ‘Not another Iraq’ was her goal, and she pursued it relentlessly. Her strength of will was also a factor in persuading Hans Blix to accept the chairmanship of the new International Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Swedish foreign policy has developed in a number of ways in recent decades. During the Cold War era, it often involved issuing statements, making comments and presenting government opinions on various matters. Nowadays, foreign policy is also about taking an active part in things, not just expressing views. Sweden has become an actor on the international stage to a far greater extent. This was a role that suited Anna Lindh perfectly. Her strength of purpose was, of course, fundamental to her success. Whenever she entered a room where people were gathered, it was almost like an injection – here was someone who had no time to wait around, who genuinely wanted to get things done. And preferably right away. But she would never have been able to achieve all the things we remember her for had she not possessed another vital human quality as well – her strong interest in people, and her instinctive grasp of how they think and act. Over the years, countless officials at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs visited Anna Lindh’s office to go through government business with her, whether simple and straightforward or difficult and sensitive. Whatever the circumstances, Anna Lindh invariably found the time to have a private word with each and every one in the room, especially those she was meeting for the first time. Her thoughtfulness and consideration for family, friends and colleagues was well

known. Her open, outgoing personality was a tremendous asset in international public life.

A few years ago, a business magazine awarded Anna Lindh the title of 'Leader of the Year'. She was, I suspect, pretty surprised at being chosen for this honour. I don't think she saw herself as a boss in the traditional sense, as someone at the top of a hierarchy who presides over others. Anna Lindh was in so many respects her own person with her own very special qualities – someone who wanted to achieve so much, for herself as well as for others. Yet she was probably the best leader our ministry has ever had. The way in which she inspired others, and set an example to them, her humility in the face of the tough decisions that have to be taken in our line of work – all this made her both respected and loved as head of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The fact that so many ministry officials were so greatly moved by her sudden demise, therefore, is easily understood. Nor is it strange that it took us so long to turn once again to the regular, day-to-day tasks of our ministry.

I myself had the privilege of working in the room next to the Foreign Minister's during the last three years of Anna Lindh's tenancy. When I think of how a

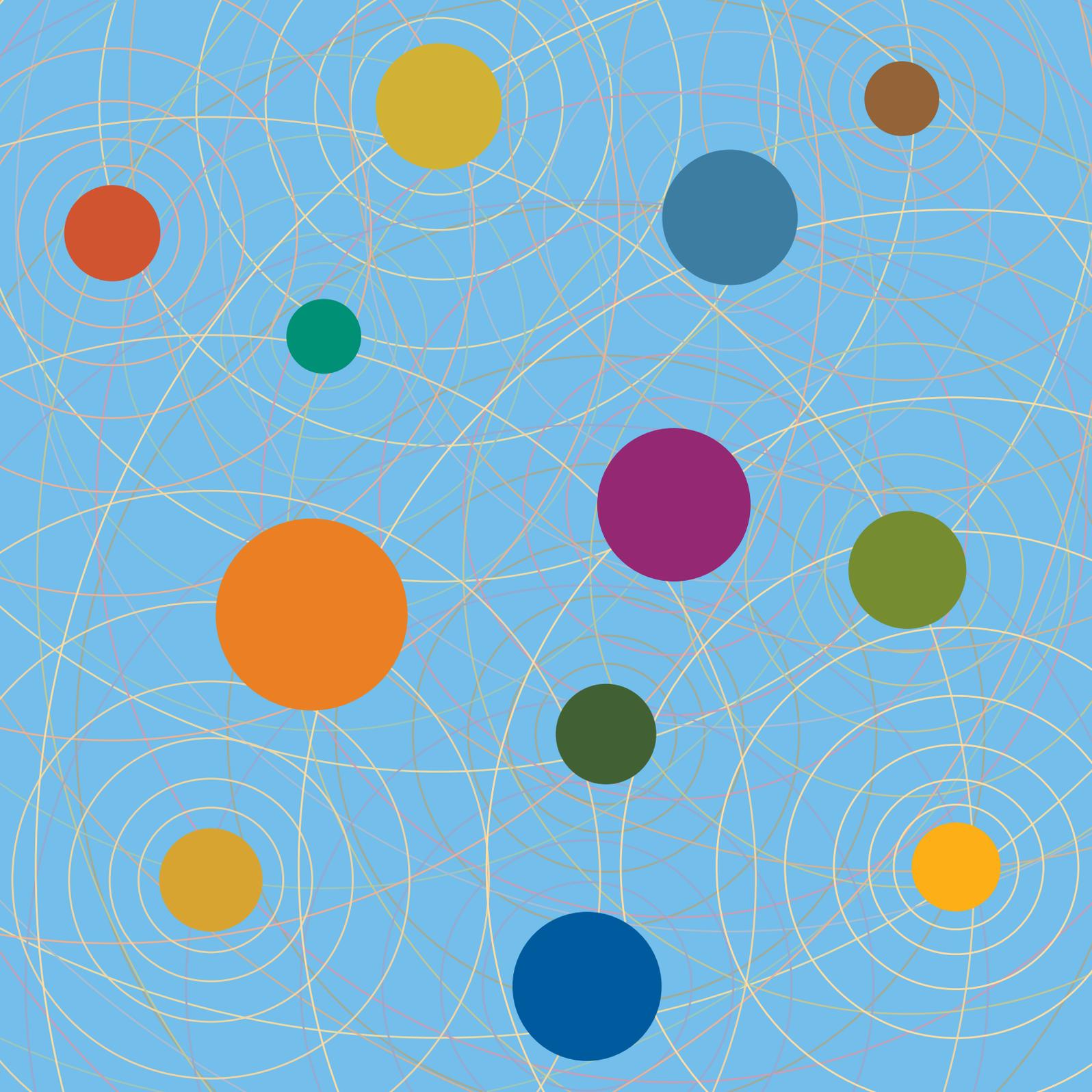
senseless act of violence put a stop to everything that remained for her to do, all that she so badly wanted to achieve, I am still deeply distressed. With the passing of time, however, I am sure this feeling will be outweighed by lighter memories of Anna Lindh and her achievements. The gleam in her eye when coming up with a new idea about how to pursue a particular matter or solve a problem. Her laughter after some self-deprecating comment, frequent evidence that she did not consider herself above anyone else in any way. Her quick steps as she hurried down the ministry stairs, intent on catching the commuter train home to Nyköping, come what may.

All these are now memories. Yet in a sense, Anna Lindh will always be with us. Her inspiring example will serve as a guide to many for a long, long time to come. And all of us who experienced her strength of purpose at close quarters will draw on the memory of it for support and inspiration in future years.

Hans Dahlgren

Swedish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

March 2004





Appendix

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- *Table of Items 2002–2003*
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THE GOVERNMENT IN 2003



Göran Persson

Born 20 January 1949 in Vingåker. University education, municipal councillor, MP, chair of the Swedish Social Democratic Party. Minister, Ministry of Education, 1989–1991, Minister for Finance 1994–1996. Prime Minister since 1996.



Thomas Bodström

Born 9 April 1962 in Uppsala. LL B, assistant legal adviser and legal counsel. Minister for Justice since 2000.



Margareta Winberg

Born 13 August 1947 in Sjuntorp. Graduate school teacher, municipal and county councillor, MP. Minister for Agriculture 1994–1996, Labour Minister 1996–1998; Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Gender Equality Affairs 1998–2002. Deputy Prime Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, 2002–2003 (30 October).



Mona Sahlin

Born 9 March 1957 in Sollefteå. MP, party secretary, entrepreneur. Labour Minister 1990–1991, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Prime Minister 1994–1995; Minister, Ministry for Industry, Employment and Communications 1998–2002. Minister for Democracy and Integration Issues at the Ministry of Justice since 2002. Minister for Gender Equality Affairs from 31 October 2003.



Pär Nuder

Born 27 February 1963 in Danderyd. Municipal councillor, MP, State Secretary. Minister for Policy Coordination in the Prime Minister's Office since 2002.



Anna Lindh

Born 19 June 1957 in Enskede. LL B, chair of the Young Social Democrats, MP. Minister for the Environment 1994–1998. Minister for Foreign Affairs, 1998–2003 (11 September).

**Jan O. Karlsson**

Born 1 June 1939 in Stockholm. BA (Econ.), State Secretary, President of the European Court of Auditors. Minister for Development Cooperation, Migration and Asylum Policy, 2002–2003 (10 October). Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, 11 September–10 October 2003.

**Leni Björklund**

Born 5 July 1944 in Stockholm. BSc, Hon. MD, municipal and county councillor commissioner, Church of Sweden Secretary-General. Minister for Defence since 2002.

**Laila Freivalds**

Born 22 June 1942 in Riga, Latvia. Appeals court prosecutor, Director General of the Swedish Consumer Agency, Consumer Ombudsman, lawyer, National Director, Swedish Performing Arts. Minister for Justice 1988–1991 and 1994–2000. Minister for Foreign Affairs from 10 October 2003.

**Lars Engqvist**

Born 13 August 1945 in Karlskrona. Journalist, chair of the Young Social Democrats, newspaper editor, Managing Director, Swedish Film Institute. Minister, Ministry of Finance and Home Affairs, 1998. Minister for Health and Social Affairs since 1998.

**Barbro Holmberg**

Born 7 April 1952 in Stensele. BSc (Soc.), State Secretary, Director General of the Swedish Migration Board. Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 10 October 2003.

**Berit Andnor**

Born 20 November 1954 in Göteborg. Graduate social worker, director of social services, county councillor, MP, chair of the National Labour Market Board. Minister for Children and Families at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs since 2002.

**Carin Jämtin**

Born 3 August 1964 in Stockholm. University studies, Head of International Development Cooperation, Olof Palme International Centre. Minister for International Development Cooperation from 10 October 2003.

**Morgan Johansson**

Born 14 May 1970 in Höganäs. BSc, municipal councillor, MP, chair of the National Council for Crime Prevention board. Minister for Public Health and Social Services at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs since 2002.



Bosse Ringholm

Born 18 August 1942 in Falköping. Chair of the Young Social Democrats, MP, county council commissioner, Director-General, National Labour Market Board. Minister for Finance since 1999.



Lena Hallengren

Born 25 December 1973 in Kalmar. Compulsory school teacher, municipal councillor, union secretary of the Young Social Democrats. Minister for Pre-School Education, Youth Affairs and Adult Learning at the Ministry of Education and Science since 2002.



Lars-Erik Lövdén

Born 11 January 1950 in Malmö. LL B, municipal councillor, MP. Deputy Minister for Finance 1998–2002. Minister for Local Government and Housing, Ministry of Finance, since 2002.



Ann-Christin Nykvist

Born 4 April 1948 in Stockholm. Graduate economist, State Secretary, Director-General of the Competition Authority. Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs since 2002.



Gunnar Lund

Born 26 July 1947 in Karlskoga. BSc and Master's degree, ambassador, State Secretary, chief Swedish negotiator at the EU intergovernmental conferences 1995–97 and 2000. Minister for International Economic Affairs and Financial Markets since 2002.



Marita Ulvskog

Born 4 September 1951 in Luleå. Journalist, press secretary, newspaper editor. Minister of Public Administration 1994–1996. Minister for Culture since 1996.



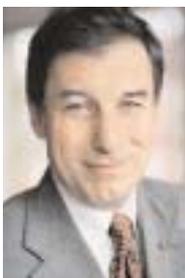
Thomas Östros

Born 26 January 1965 in Gällivare. LSc (Pol. Econ.), municipal councillor, MP. Minister, Ministry of Finance, 1996–1998. Minister for Education and Science since 1998.



Lena Sommestad

Born 3 April in Börje. Professor of Economic History, Director of the Swedish Institute for Futures Studies. Minister for the Environment since 2002.



Leif Pagrotsky

Born 20 October 1951 in Göteborg. MBA, MSc, graduate economist, senior lecturer. Minister, Prime Minister's Office, 1996–1997; Minister, Ministry for Trade and Industry, 1997–1998; Minister (Trade), Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 1998–2002. Minister for Industry and Trade since 2002.



Hans Karlsson

Born 21 October 1946 in Örebro. Housepainter, union negotiator, collective bargaining secretary, Swedish Trade Union Confederation. Minister for Employment at the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications since 2002.



Ulrica Messing

Born 31 January 1968 in Hällefors. Teacher, municipal councillor, MP. Minister, Ministry of Labour, 1996–1998; Minister, Ministry of Culture, 1998–2000; Minister, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications since 2000; Minister for Communications and Regional Development, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications since 2002.

SUMMARY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET, SEK BILLIONS

	2001	2002	2003	2003
Revenue	Outcome	Outcome	Budget	Outcome
(Cash turnover preliminary)				
Income tax – personal	33.2	- 17.2	- 23.5	- 38.1
Income tax – corporate	94.1	76.5	77.6	61.7
Other tax on income	7.6	5.8	5.2	6.1
Social security contributions	238.8	249.8	260.0	259.0
Real estate tax	23.3	23.3	21.2	21.2
Other tax on property	16.5	16.9	15.0	14.9
Value added tax	184.8	198.3	207.2	205.1
Selective purchase tax, etc	86.7	91.8	93.4	93.3
Equalisation charges, tax equalisation charge and compensation for VAT	20.9	23.7	- 7.6	- 1.8
Cash difference account	- 19.7	- 4.2	- 4.7	- 4.4
Tax abatement	- 1.6	- 5.4	- 6.7	- 8.6
Central government activities	50.8	49.1	28.5	29.2
From sale of property	0.2	0.1	15.0	0.0
From loans repaid	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.5
Computed revenue	8.4	9.9	6.3	9.5
Contributions, etc, from the EU	8.5	9.3	11.6	12.0
Total revenue	755.1	730.5	700.9	661.7
Revenue	755.1	730.5	700.9	661.7
Expenditure	716.4	729.3	715.2	708.1
Balance	38.7	1.2	- 14.3	- 46.3

SUMMARY OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET, SEK BILLIONS

Expenditure (The column heading 'Budget' refers to the sum of the central government budget and the supplementary budget)

<i>Expenditure areas</i>	2001 Outcome	2002 Outcome	2003 Budget	2003 Outcome
1. Swedish political system	5.4	7.3	7.7	7.5
2. Economic and fiscal administration	2.1	8.8	9.1	9.0
3. Tax, customs and enforcement	6.4	8.0	8.3	8.3
4. Justice	24.1	24.1	25.0	25.5
5. Foreign policy administration and international cooperation	3.0	1.1	1.3	1.1
6. Defence and contingency measures	44.9	44.6	44.7	45.1
7. International development cooperation	17.0	15.7	17.1	15.9
8. Immigrants and refugees	5.3	6.7	7.5	7.7
9. Health care, medical care, social services	29.5	31.0	34.0	34.1
10. Financial security (illness and disability)	107.3	112.9	118.6	121.5
11. Financial security (old age)	33.8	33.8	52.5	52.0
12. Financial security (families and children)	48.3	50.2	52.4	52.2
13. Labour market	58.6	61.0	63.9	64.2
14. Working life	8.5	1.1	1.2	1.1
15. Study support	19.1	20.7	21.1	19.9
16. Education and university research	33.3	40.9	42.4	42.0
17. Culture, media, religious organisations and leisure	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.4
18. Community planning, housing supply and construction	10.4	8.7	9.4	8.8
19. Regional balance and development	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.9
20. General environment and nature conservation	2.2	2.9	3.2	2.8
21. Energy	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.9
22. Communications	24.6	24.4	25.4	24.9
23. Agriculture and forestry, fisheries, etc	16.6	13.9	10.3	9.6
24. The business sector	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3
25. General grants to municipalities	100.6	102.3	71.0	72.4
26. Interest on central government debt	81.3	67.3	42.2	42.2
27. Contribution to the European Community	23.3	20.6	23.7	18.3
Take up of funds previously allocated	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Expenditure areas, total	722.0	725.3	709.1	703.5
Adjustment to cash basis	- 34.4	- 46.3	- 13.4	- 7.5
National Debt Office lending	28.8	50.3	12.0	12.1
Total expenditure	716.4	729.3	707.8	708.1

NB: The names of expenditure areas correspond to those specified in the 2003 Budget.

TABLE OF ITEMS

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Government business</i>		<i>Government Bills</i>		<i>Statutes</i>	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Prime Minister's Office	30	36	1	1	2	1
Ministry of Justice	1,724	1,681	42	42	173	158
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	884	873	16	24	37	35
Ministry of Defence	500	594	5	5	51	39
Ministry of Health / Social	2,179	781	27	27	112	99
Ministry of Finance	751	791	25	37	108	105
Ministry of Education / Science	518	537	4	4	96	53
Ministry of Agriculture / Food / Consumer Affairs	400	320	5	13	37	37
Ministry of Culture	395	383	4	2	36	22
Ministry of the Environment	720	822	10	9	58	46
Ministry of Industry / Employment / Communications	1,447	1,116	25	21	138	99
Total	9,548	7,934	164	185	848	694

Cabinet decisions on bills, statutes and terms of reference are included under registered business.

TABLE OF ITEMS

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Committee terms of reference</i>		<i>Interpellations</i>		<i>Parliamentary replies</i>	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Prime Minister's Office	1	2	4	14	8	16
Ministry of Justice	26	30	49	65	237	223
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	11	9	57	61	268	254
Ministry of Defence	13	6	12	12	51	45
Ministry of Health / Social	26	31	56	62	171	213
Ministry of Finance	20	14	53	74	157	138
Ministry of Education / Science	18	25	66	62	104	123
Ministry of Agriculture / Food / Consumer Affairs	9	7	14	16	77	73
Ministry of Culture	9	18	15	16	54	55
Ministry of the Environment	30	37	18	15	72	57
Ministry of Industry / Employment / Communications	127	147	103	89	319	245
Total	290	326	447	486	1,518	1,442

REGISTERED BUSINESS/DOCUMENTS

Registered business

Items of registered business per ministry

	2001	2002	2003
Prime Minister's Office	11,586	13,925	12,420
Ministry of Justice	13,195	13,993	14,167
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1,830	2,172	1,834
Ministry of Defence	2,985	3,023	3,013
Ministry of Health / Social	11,439	10,053	10,595
Ministry of Finance	4,729	4,865	6,654
Ministry of Education / Science	4,950	4,921	5,015
Ministry of Agriculture / Food / Consumer Affairs	3,983	3,115	2,997
Ministry of Culture	2,994	2,814	2,739
Ministry of the Environment	5,348	4,240	4,109
Ministry of Industry / Employment / Communications	11,906	12,493	9,554
Office for Administrative Affairs	1,770	1,866	2,002
Total	76,715	77,480	75,099

Note 1 Registered business

About a third of all business comprises correspondence from the general public.

One item of business usually encompasses several documents.

Items of business also include 'generic numbers' for individual documents covering the same subject.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs' business register largely comprises Government and Government Offices items and asylum and migration items.

Other items are not registered in the business register but as Ministry for Foreign Affairs documents instead.

In addition, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs keeps a separate record of business relating to cases dealt with by the European Court, the Court of First Instance, the EFTA Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Note 2 Registered business

The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health/Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education/Science, the Ministry of Agriculture/Food/Consumer Affairs and the Ministry of Culture only register official Council documents as documents, while other EU documents are registered as items of business. Official Council documents arriving at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are not included here as the system does not allow for statistical data extraction.

When an EU document initiates a Government or Government Offices item of business, the document is also registered as such.

Documents registered with the Prime Minister's Office in 2003 concerned Sweden's participation in the European Convention.

The Ministry of Finance's International Division also keeps a separate record of documents from the International Monetary Fund, the European Development Bank, the OECD and the World Bank (5,208 documents in 2000, 7,130 documents for 2001, 6,712 documents for 2002 and 6,807 documents for 2003).

REGISTERED BUSINESS/DOCUMENTS

Registered documents

No. of registered EU documents per ministry

	2001	2002	2003
Prime Minister's Office	0	0	162
Ministry of Justice	3,946	3,797	2,995
Ministry of Defence	107	190	213
Ministry of Health/Social	665	620	728
Ministry of Finance	2,353	1,648	1,020
Ministry of Education/Science	617	529	458
Ministry of Agriculture/Food/Consumer Affairs	1,387	1,344	1,549
Ministry of Culture	217	128	112
Ministry of the Environment	2,389	2,053	1,980
Ministry of Industry/Employment/Communications	2,913	3,097	3,430
Office for Administrative Affairs		1	0
Total	14,594	13,407	12,647

No. of registered documents at Ministry for Foreign Affairs

	2001	2002	2003
	109,168	96,548	91,305

Note 1 Registered business

About a third of all business comprises correspondence from the general public.

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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Number of employees calculated as employees, incl. committees, in service for the whole or part of the month of December each year.

	2002	2003
Prime Minister's Office	63	58
Ministry of Justice	339	326
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1,507	1,508
Ministry of Defence	133	144
Ministry of Health / Social Affairs	255	267
Ministry of Finance	443	473
Ministry of Education / Science	210	220
Ministry of Agriculture / Food / Consumer Affairs	132	154
Ministry of Culture	89	84
Ministry of the Environment	175	182
Ministry of Industry / Employment / Communications	498	474
Office for Administrative Affairs	579	591

Note 1: The Office for Administrative Affairs has successively taken over administrative tasks from the ministries, such as cleaning, office services, library duties and IT services.

Note 2: The above data does not include employees in projects and programmes that are not specific to a particular ministry.

STAFF CATEGORIES AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Number of employees calculated as employees, incl. committees, in service for the whole or part of the month of December each year.

		2002	2003
HEADS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS	women	142	143
	men	310	296
<i>sum</i>		452	439
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	women	1,171	1,232
	men	1,017	1,019
<i>sum</i>		2,188	2,251
ADVISERS / SPECIALISTS	women	300	310
	men	305	331
<i>sum</i>		605	641
POLITICAL APPOINTEES	women	72	77
	men	63	59
<i>sum</i>		135	136
PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	women	840	813
	men	210	201
<i>sum</i>		1,050	1,014
OTHERS	women	3	23
	men	13	21
<i>sum</i>		16	44
Government Offices, Total		4,446	4,525
<i>women</i>		2,528	2,598
<i>men</i>		1,918	1,927

Note 1: The *political appointees* category includes ministers, state secretaries and other politically appointed staff.

Note 2: The *permanent admin staff* category refers to administrative officers, clerical officers and service staff, etc.

STAFF STRUCTURE AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES

The figures refer to the situation in December each year.

	2002	2003
Average pay / month (SEK)		
PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	19,256	20,780
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	29,042	31,305
HEADS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS	46,400	49,176
ADVISERS	34,191	36,518
POLITICAL APPOINTEES	34,049	35,904
Average age		
PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	45	46
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	42	43
HEADS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS	52	52
ADVISERS	42	43
POLITICAL APPOINTEES	39	40
Average length of service, years		
PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	13	14
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	8	9
HEADS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS	16	17
ADVISERS	2	2
POLITICAL APPOINTEES	3	3

Note 1: The salaries of the Prime Minister and other ministers are not included in the figures on average pay.

RECRUITMENT AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES

	2002	2003
Externally recruited staff	436	693
of which		
from central govt activities	223	264
from municipal or		
county council authorities	18	26
from trade and industry	135	139
from the educational sector /		
higher education	38	60
Officers transferred to other ministries	91	195
Staff departures to		
other central government duties	185	165
municipal/county council authorities	13	10
trade and industry	52	43
others, incl. transfer to other ministries	196	515
retirement	27	30
Absence (number of days)		Total
Sick leave as a percentage		
of regular working hours		3,0

GOVERNMENT OFFICES EXPENDITURE (INCL. COMMITTEES), SEK THOUSANDS
PER MINISTRY

	2002	2003
Prime Minister's Office	56,853	64,239
Ministry of Justice	239,284	243,004
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1,871,193	1,906,239
Ministry of Defence	126,601	133,219
Ministry of Health/Social	181,626	208,551
Ministry of Finance	329,974	392,121
Ministry of Education / Science	133,775	149,993
Ministry of Agriculture / Food / Consumer Affairs	120,610	127,758
Ministry of Culture	74,508	74,198
Ministry of the Environment	121,609	134,080
Ministry of Industry / Employment / Communications	334,015	321,637
Office for Administrative Affairs	466,939	514,628
Government Offices general	745,639	763,006
Total	4,802,626	5,032,673

Note 1: The item headed 'Government Offices general' refers to rent costs and certain other joint costs at the Government Offices.

Note 2: In connection with cabinet reshuffles and other forms of reorganisation, a number of areas of responsibility and business categories have been redistributed among the ministries.

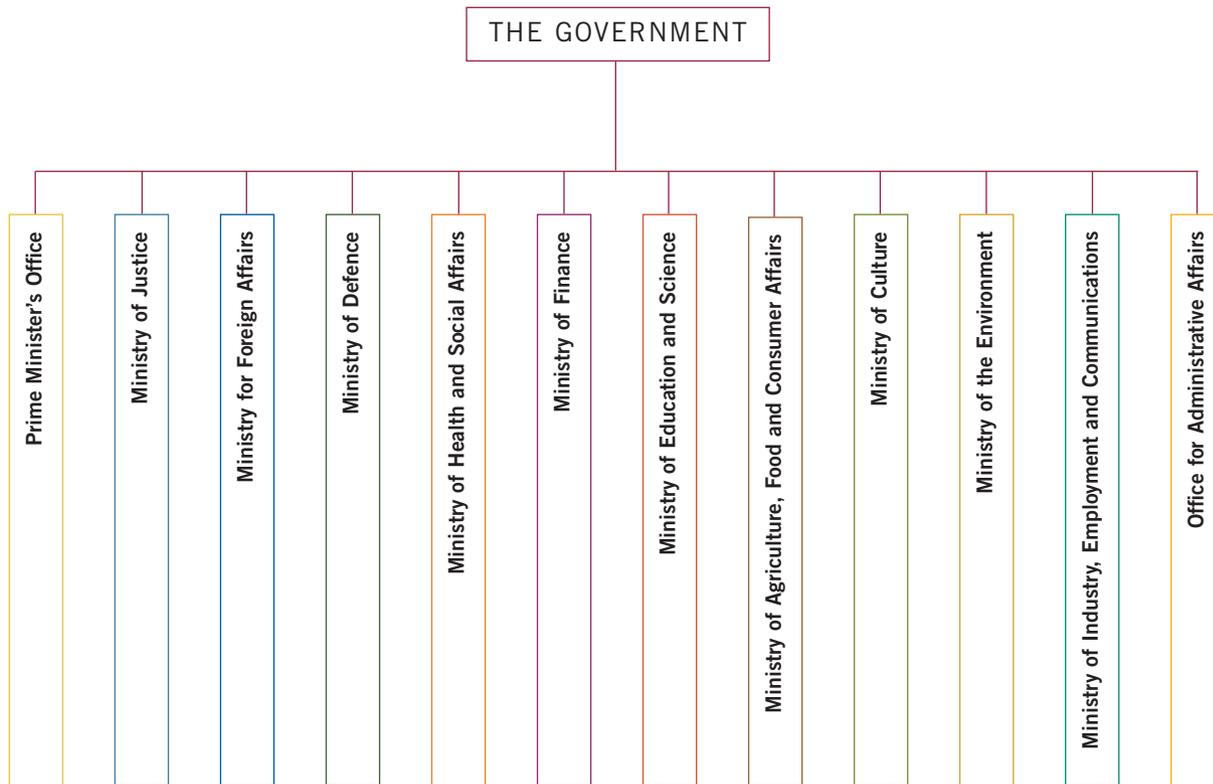
GOVERNMENT OFFICES EXPENDITURE (INCL. COMMITTEES), SEK THOUSANDS
PER COST CATEGORY

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Salaries, emoluments and other staff costs	2,578,073	2,835,999	2,933,942	3,188,045
Courses, training and conferences	54,483	184,372	50,759	43,090
Travel and allowances	281,493	326,457	246,926	244,612
Consultants and other external services, advertising	322,214	324,929	232,090	251,922
IT, incl. Maintenance and software, data communication	65,158	65,889	71,532	64,358
Telephone and mobile phone costs, postage	105,758	118,403	114,579	107,502
Furniture and fittings and other equipment, repair of equipment	45,790	87,067	30,220	34,650
Office stationery and disposable materials, books, journals	66,854	55,824	48,154	48,301
Printing and copying, bookbinding	37,446	42,490	38,842	37,130
Security and surveillance	25,539	35,933	25,496	25,740
Premises in Sweden and abroad, cleaning and maintenance	1,003,068	1,011,240	1,060,347	1,083,710
Other costs, incl. interest and amortisation payments	348,783	443,320	344,163	287,155
Revenue	- 372,067	- 423,683	- 394,424	- 383,542
Total	4,562,592	5,108,240	4,802,626	5,032,673

Note 1: The above items of expenditure pertain to appropriations for the Government Offices' administrative costs.

Note 2: The Government Offices introduced a new accounting system in 1999. Consequently, older figures are not included here as certain cost categories are not directly comparable in accounting terms further back in time.

Government Offices Organisation in 2003





THIS YEARBOOK DESCRIBES the work of the Swedish Government Offices in 2003. The Government Offices constitute a public authority in their own right and include the Prime Minister's Office, the various ministries and a joint administrative office.

The yearbook also contains statistical tables, a summary of Government decisions taken during the year, a presentation of the Cabinet line-up and details of the Government Offices' staff and finances.

The book will, it is hoped, answer some of your questions about the Government Offices. Further information is available from the Government website: www.sweden.gov.se. You are also welcome to visit the Government Offices' information centre at Drottninggatan 5 in Stockholm.



REGERINGSKANSLIET