



Press release
02 July 2010
Ministry of Justice

Evaluation of the ban on purchase of sexual services

The Inquiry on evaluation of the ban on purchase of sexual services today submitted its report *Förbud mot köp av sexuell tjänst* (Prohibition of the purchase of sexual services). En utvärdering 1999-2008 (An evaluation 1999-2008) (SOU 2010:49) to Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask. The purpose of the evaluation was to investigate how the prohibition, which has been in force for over ten years, works in practice and what effects it has had on the incidence of prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes in Sweden.

The evaluation shows that the ban on the purchase of sexual services has had the intended effect and is an important instrument in preventing and combating prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes.

Effects of the ban

The Inquiry concluded that prostitution in Sweden, unlike in comparable countries, has not in any case increased since the introduction of the ban. The ban on the purchase of sexual services has also counteracted the establishment of organised crime in Sweden. Hence criminalisation has contributed to combating prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes.

Prohibiting purchases of sexual services also has a normative effect. There has been a marked change in attitude to the purchase of sexual services that coincides with making it a criminal offence to buy sex. There is now strong support for the ban on purchasing sexual services in Sweden. The ban has proved to act as a deterrent to sex purchasers. The Inquiry could find no indication that criminalisation has had a negative effect on people exploited through prostitution.

Application of the ban

The investigation of the application of the ban shows that, following an initial period of some uncertainty, police officers and prosecutors now consider that, in general, the application works well. However, it is clear that the effectiveness of application depends on the resources deployed and the priorities made within the judicial system.

Proposed measures

The Inquiry stresses the value and necessity of continued and sustained social work to prevent and combat prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. Efforts must be coordinated if this work is to succeed. Consequently the Inquiry proposes the establishment of a national centre tasked with coordinating efforts against prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes.

The Inquiry also proposes that the maximum penalty for the purchase of sexual services be raised from imprisonment for six months to imprisonment for one year. The examination of case law made by the Inquiry shows that there is a need to be able to make a more nuanced assessment in more serious cases of the purchase of sexual services than is possible within the current penalty scale for the offence. According to the Inquiry, the current level of penalties for certain sexual purchase offences is not proportionate to the seriousness of the crime.

In the opinion of the Inquiry, a person exploited through prostitution may be regarded as the injured party in purchases of sexual services. The issue of whether the person exploited is to be regarded as the injured party must be determined in each individual case.

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Press release
09 March 2010
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swede appointed head of UN Police

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has today announced the appointment of Ann-Marie Oler as the new United Nations Police Adviser. This is the highest ranking police official in the UN system.

"The number of police officers deployed in UN missions has risen dramatically from around 1 000 in 1995 to, at present, approximately 16 000 from some one hundred different countries. I warmly welcome Ann-Marie Oler's appointment to this important position of responsibility," comments Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt.

"UN police work involves strengthening justice so as to enhance people's confidence in the justice system, which in turn prevents wars and unrest. I am very pleased that this important task has been assigned to a Swede," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Background

Ann-Marie Oler has served as UN Deputy Police Adviser since 2008. Police officers have been deployed in UN missions since 1960 but their numbers have increased dramatically in recent years. Today, some 100 countries are involved in 17 different UN missions around the world. In her role as Deputy Police Adviser, Ann-Marie Oler has worked intensively to recruit police officers to various UN missions and in particular to increase the number of women police officers.

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Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
04 February 2010
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Justice

Sweden to send police and prison officers to Haiti

The Government today decided to contribute to the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by providing three police and four prison officers.

"Sweden is providing extensive humanitarian support to mitigate the emergency situation in Haiti. We now can also supplement this support by providing police and prison officers to the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson.

The Security Council has decided to expand the mandate of MINUSTAH by an additional 1 500 police officers, including 100 prison officers, with the aim of supporting the efforts to create stability and facilitate reconstruction in Haiti.

"The disastrous earthquake that struck Haiti also damaged vital social structures, and MINUSTAH is therefore necessary not least in order to facilitate humanitarian efforts and reconstruction in the unstable and vulnerable environment in Haiti," adds Ms Carlsson.

Sweden's support for the emergency situation in Haiti now amounts to some SEK 215 million. In addition, Sweden has already paid its entire annual contribution of SEK 425 million to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The Fund is in urgent need of resources after being nearly emptied as a result of the Haiti disaster.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has some 30 people in place in Haiti, taking part in various teams. Their tasks include securing communications on site and setting up a base camp for UN staff. In addition, the Agency is seconding staff to the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF in Haiti.

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Press release
28 January 2010
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Justice

Swede made new head of EU police mission in the Palestinian Territories

Henrik Malmquist has taken over as Head of the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories. The task of the operation is to assist the Palestinian Authority in building up an effective police organisation and an improved legal system. This is the first time that a Swede has served as head of an EU led international civilian crisis management operation.

"The operation in the Palestinian Territories means that the EU and Sweden are strengthening the Palestinian police and legal system. I am very pleased that Henrik Malmquist has taken over as Head of Mission," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt.

"I am convinced that Henrik Malmquist's sound police experience and professionalism will be a great asset to the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories," comments Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask. "The decision to send Swedish personnel is an expression of Sweden's commitment," continues Ms Ask.

The EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories started on 1 January 2006 and focuses on long-term reform. In addition to Henrik Malmquist there are another nine Swedes serving in the Mission. They come from the Swedish Police Service, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the Folke Bernadotte Academy and the Swedish Prosecution Authority. Before taking up his post as Head of the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories, Henrik Malmquist served as head of the National Criminal Police in Skåne.

The Swedish involvement in the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories is part of Swedish state-building support to the Palestinians. In 2009, total Swedish support to the Palestinians amounted to some SEK 800 million. This includes humanitarian aid.

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2009



REGERINGSKANSLIET
Government Offices of Sweden

Press release
07 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

Preventing youth crime to be the theme of crime prevention conference

On 9-10 December the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) will be holding its annual conference, where crime prevention actors from all over Europe will demonstrate and exchange experiences. The conference will be held in Stockholm under the Swedish Presidency of the EU.

The aim of the conference is for participants to exchange their experiences of new methods to prevent youth crime. The focus will be on young people and crime in cyberspace, school and recruitment to criminal groups. The conference is intended for politicians, practitioners and researchers in the EU

Excerpts from the programme:

- EU Kids Online
- Recruitment to criminal groups. How to turn young people away from a life of crime.
- Preventing antisocial development in children and young people: what works?
- Effective methods of reducing school bullying.

European final in crime prevention work among young people

On Wednesday 9 December at 20.10, Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask will present a prize to the winner of the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) at Operaterrassen. Seventeen finalists have been nominated by their home countries and are competing for the title of Europe's best crime prevention project on the theme young people and crime in cyberspace, school and new recruitment to criminal groups. During the award ceremony, one winner will be announced, and two projects will be highly commended.

Media are welcome to attend both days of the conference and the award ceremony. Accreditation is required. For accreditation and further information, contact Johan Göransson.

Time and place

Time: 9-10 December
Place: Norra Latin, Stockholm.

Welcome

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External links

- [Read more at the website for the Swedish Presidency of the EU](#)



Press release
07 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

Beatrice Ask reports to the European Parliament

Today, Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask will report to the European Parliament on the area of the Swedish Presidency for which she has been responsible. Her speech will include an account of what Sweden has accomplished in her area.

Work on the Stockholm Programme has produced results. The Programme, which will be adopted by the European Council later this week, is to guide EU work over the next five years. The Stockholm Programme places clearer focus on the rights of the individual than has been the case with previous programmes.

Furthermore, during the Swedish Presidency, the EU has, for the first time, made progress in strengthening the rights of suspects. The Member States have also reached consensus on stricter criminal regulations against trafficking in human beings. Also, an action-oriented plan has been adopted on cooperation with countries outside the EU in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The EU and the USA have agreed on how judicial and police cooperation is to be conducted over the next five years in the Washington Declaration. The Swedish Presidency also took the initiative for a strategy on how to strengthen the rights of crime victims in the EU. A strategy has been adopted on how to make information exchanges between law enforcement agencies more effective and legally secure. An instrument has been negotiated on the accreditation of forensic laboratories, which will lead to better and more consistent quality of DNA and other tests in the EU. The EU has long tried to reach an agreement on how to introduce a single European patent. Decisive steps were taken in this issue during the Swedish Presidency.

Ms Ask will visit the LIBE committee at 15.00, and the JURI committee at 16.00. After delivering her report, she will be available to the media.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
04 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

Breakthrough for EU patent during the Swedish Presidency

It will be cheaper and easier for inventors and companies to protect their innovations in the EU. The EU Member States agreed today on the main elements of the EU patent and a single European Patent Court. The agreement represents a significant step towards a final solution for the EU patent.

On 4 December, the Competitiveness Council - under the leadership of Minister for Trade Ewa Björling - reached a unanimous agreement on the general focus of the European patent regulation and Council conclusions on a common European Patent Court. This is a political breakthrough in these negotiations, which have been going on for a long time now, and is a significant step towards a final agreement. The next step will be for the European Parliament to take a position on the proposal. The European Court of Justice will also need to state its opinion on the new European Patent Court.

"I am very pleased that we have finally seen a political breakthrough in these difficult negotiations that have gone on for so long. I am proud that the Council has now sent a clear and unambiguous signal to Europe's innovative companies that have long been calling for an improved patent system. The EU patent will make it much easier and cheaper to protect innovations in the EU. This will give European industry better opportunities to compete on the global market," says Minister for Trade Ewa Björling.

The general focus of the European patent regulation will now make it possible for the European Parliament to begin looking at the proposal. An EU patent will mean that people can apply for a patent to be valid in the entire EU - a market of some 500 million people. The EU patent will be cost-effective and remedy the current situation where it is much more expensive to get patent protection in the EU than in our competing markets. Protection in 13 Member States currently costs 11 times more than a patent in the United States. It is established in the Council conclusions that the annual fees are to be set at a level that promotes innovation and the competitiveness of European industry. In addition, limited translation requirements will mean considerable cost savings for the European business sector. The translation issue will be resolved in a special regulation.

The Council conclusions also contain the main elements of a single European Patent Court that will try cases on both the EU patent and existing European patents. This will bring about a considerable improvement compared to the current fragmented system where patent processes have to be conducted in each individual Member State, despite the fact that they are for the same invention. The current parallel processes also mean an increase in costs of approximately SEK 5 million in a typical case. The establishment of a single court could mean annual savings of up to SEK 3 billion for European companies. Earlier this year, the Council requested an opinion from the European Court of Justice on the new European Patent Court. The European Court of Justice has not delivered an opinion yet, and today's agreement sets out conditions for the coming opinion.

"Establishing an EU patent and a single European Patent Court is the single most important measure for promoting innovation in Europe. In view of the major simplifications and cost savings, this is, of course, also particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.



Press release
01 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

Strengthened rules against human trafficking

EU justice ministers today reached consensus on new rules to combat trafficking in human beings and protect those who fall victim to human trafficking.

After intensive negotiations during the Swedish Presidency, EU justice ministers today reached consensus on strengthened rules to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and to protect victims. The proposal contains more effective provisions in the fight against human trafficking. The new provisions will broaden the concept of trafficking in human beings to cover more cases than at present and will increase penalties at EU level. The Member States will also be given jurisdiction over offences committed abroad to a greater extent than is now the case. The focus will be put on crime victims through new, clearer rules on support to and protection for those who have fallen victim to trafficking in human beings, particularly children.

"The consensus we have now reached is an important step towards new strong rules against those who exploit vulnerable individuals. I am therefore very pleased to see that our work has led to results and I assume that this will provide the basis for a new instrument under the Lisbon Treaty," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
01 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

EU strengthens cooperation against human trafficking

Europe's interior and justice ministers agreed today to strengthen cooperation with countries outside the EU to fight human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious crime that does not stop at the EU's borders. Therefore, following an initiative from Sweden, the EU interior and justice ministers adopted an action oriented paper today on how the EU is to strengthen cooperation with countries outside the EU. This is a question of strengthening relations and cooperation with countries of origin for human trafficking and transit countries.

The action oriented paper provides the guidelines for strengthening the partnership with third countries, improving coordination in the EU through regular reviews of the measures taken, and developing measures for crime prevention, victim protection and combating crime.

"The Swedish Presidency of the EU has prioritised the issue of human trafficking. Through better cooperation with countries of origin and transit countries, we can hopefully work together to prevent people becoming the victims of human trafficking," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

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Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
01 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

Outstanding issues in the Stockholm Programme solved

At today's meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, it was the turn of the ministers of justice to discuss the Stockholm Programme. The ministers agreed that effective measures are needed against cross-border crime, but that it is just as important to guarantee legal rights. Increased safety and security in the EU must not be pursued at the expense of individual people's legal rights, integrity and privacy.

The proposed Stockholm Programme strikes a balance between better law enforcement and measures for legal rights and enhanced protection of private life. Examples of the first kind of measure are more effective police cooperation by making better use of Europol and a more carefully considered plan for future information exchange. Examples of the second kind of measure are the EU's rapid accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, giving the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights a role during the legislative process, a plan for gradually strengthening the minimum rights of defendants in criminal cases, giving greater emphasis to the rights of victims of crime, and more effective regulations on data protection.

"Our ambition in the Stockholm Programme has been to create a more secure and more open Europe, where the rights of the individual are protected and cooperation focuses on measures that provide added value for individuals. As we now approach the end of the negotiations, I feel I can confidently claim we have succeeded," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

During their meeting the justice ministers also discussed common objectives in the education and training of judges and prosecutors. The Member States were able to agree on increased education regarding the jointly adopted rules, as well as exchange programmes, to increase the understanding of and confidence in one another's legal and administrative systems.

The ministers were also able to agree on formulations in the Stockholm Programme on a coordinator for EU action against trafficking in human beings.

After the Council meeting on Monday and Tuesday, most of the outstanding issues in the Stockholm Programme have probably been resolved. On Thursday, the EU ambassadors will discuss the Programme. The aim is for the EU heads of state and government to be able to adopt the Stockholm Programme next week.

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Press release
01 December 2009
Ministry of Justice

Troika Meeting with Russia in Stockholm

On the afternoon of Wednesday 2 December, a meeting on justice and home affairs will be held between the EU and the Russian Federation within the framework of the Permanent Partnership Council.

Russia will be represented by Minister of Justice Alexander Kononov and Minister of the Interior Rashid Nurgaliev. The EU will be represented by Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström and European Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot. Representatives of the incoming Spanish Presidency will also participate.

Discussions during the meeting will cover the fight against cross-border crime, visa and migration issues and judicial cooperation in criminal and civil cases.

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Press release
30 November 2009
Ministry of Justice

Consensus on cross-border crime and migration in the Stockholm Programme

At today's Justice and Home Affairs Council, home affairs and migration ministers discussed the draft Stockholm Programme. There was broad consensus on creating a more secure and open Europe where the rights of individuals are safeguarded.

The ministers agreed that effective measures against cross-border crime must go hand in hand with guaranteed legal security for the individual. Police cooperation needs to be made more effective, for example by making better use of Europol, and the rights of individuals strengthened by measures including the EU's swift accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The meeting also discussed the issue of setting up a special coordinator for combating human trafficking. The purpose of the proposal is to achieve better coordination and use of all of the EU's resources to combat human trafficking.

"Combating human trafficking is an important priority. We have highlighted this issue in various ways. In the Stockholm Programme we set out clear objectives for action against human trafficking. A coordinator is one way of further intensifying these efforts," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

There was consensus in the Council that the EU needs a flexible migration policy to meet future labour needs while illegal migration must be combated. The importance of a common asylum system that safeguards the rights of migrants and guarantees an effective and legally certain processing of asylum application were emphasised.

"I am particularly pleased that the EU now affirms that well-managed migration can be positive for all actors, the Member States and the EU as a whole, as well as for the country of origin and the individual migrant. This should be an integral part of the further development of a common immigration policy," says Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström.

Further, the issue of strengthened solidarity between the Member States on migration issues and the situation in the Mediterranean was addressed. In this context, discussions also addressed the role of Frontex, the rights of migrants and the level of ambition in the section on asylum policy. The Presidency also aimed for a balance that would be acceptable to all the Member States and the Council took several important steps forward.

On Tuesday, the EU justice ministers will continue to discuss the Stockholm Programme. The Programme is to be adopted by EU heads of state and government at the European Council on 10-11 December.

The Stockholm Programme is to define the framework for EU police and customs cooperation, rescue services, criminal and civil law cooperation, asylum, migration and visa policy for the period 2010-2014.

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Press release
30 November 2009
Ministry of Justice

Common EU drug tracing system

The Justice and Home Affairs Council today adopted conclusions on a European system for forensic profiling of drugs.

Forensic profiling is a way of using analyses to trace the chemical make-up of confiscated drugs. The results can then be compared with analyses from other drug seizures. The forensic analysis provides a kind of "fingerprint" for the drugs and enables two or more seizures to be linked. This increases the chance of tracing the manufacturer and identifying drug distribution routes.

In September 2009 the Swedish Presidency raised the issue of the EU establishing a European system for forensic drug profiling. There is currently no permanent system for this.

In line with the conclusions adopted today, Member States are to ensure that relevant drugs traces are profiled and used to fight crime. The Member States must also work to adapt forensic methods so that they can be used in the majority of laboratories. Europol is invited to set up a special database, and the European Commission is invited to finance the project.

"A common profiling system will be extremely useful for analysing drug seizures. This will lead to more drug crimes being solved," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
30 November 2009
Ministry of Justice

EU develops law enforcement information exchange

The Justice and Home Affairs Council today decided on a strategy for a more effective and secure exchange of law enforcement information in the EU.

The lack of a common strategy for the exchange of law enforcement information has so far led to the results of development efforts being unsatisfactory, too expensive and delayed. Poor solutions for information management increase the possibility of violations of personal integrity.

Sweden has presented a proposal for a strategy on how the EU can achieve a more professional, business-oriented and cost-efficient management of IT issues, while focusing on the data protection aspects.

The strategy sets out the basic direction on how we can satisfy both law enforcement needs and privacy protection requirements, involve the right expertise and make decisions at the right level, and work horizontally across borders between different agencies.

"Exchange of information is necessary to effectively combat cross-border crime. The information strategy is important for achieving more efficient and effective management of information and IT development issues," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
24 November 2009
Ministry of Justice

Improved police cooperation between EU and Norway

On Thursday 26 November, Norway will join the EU's decision to step up cross-border cooperation, in particular to combat terrorism and cross-border crime (also known as the Prüm Treaty).

Norway's accession means that EU Member States will have access to Norway's DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registers, and vice versa. It also means that Norwegian law enforcement agencies will be able to participate in joint actions and assist EU Member States in case of major events, disasters and serious accidents.

In tangible terms this would mean, for example, that Swedish police have easier access to any links between a DNA trace found at a crime scene in Sweden and the DNA profile of a suspected offender in Norway. It will make it possible to deepen current operational cooperation with Norway; for example, it will be possible to invite police as reinforcements for international football matches.

Media are welcome to attend Norway's signing of the Prüm Treaty. Norwegian Justice Minister Knut Storberget will sign the Treaty. The EU will be represented by Swedish Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Time and place

Time: 11.30 on Thursday 26 November
Place: Ministry of Justice, Rosenbad

Note: Notification of attendance is required and should be submitted to Jeanette Mattsson.

We look forward to seeing you.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask

Jeanette Mattsson
Assistant Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
28 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

USA and EU agree on future cooperation on justice and home affairs

During the meeting held today between the EU and the USA in Washington, the parties adopted a statement on the development of future cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs.

The EU was represented at the meeting by Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask and Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström, together with Vice President of the European Commission Jacques Barrot. The United States was represented by Attorney General Eric Holder and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jane Holl Lute. Together they presented the Washington Statement at a press briefing at House of Sweden.

The Washington Statement establishes a common will to deepen cooperation between the USA and the EU for strengthened freedom, security and justice. The Washington Statement is intended to apply to cooperation for the next five years, the same period as that of the Stockholm Programme.

It contains a wish to simplify travel and trade between the EU and the USA. The parties also intend to improve the dialogue on asylum and migration.

The EU and the USA intend to continue their cooperation to fight gross cross-border crime, particularly regarding human trafficking and smuggling, the sexual exploitation of children and drugs crime. The parties emphasised the importance of cooperation between each other's law enforcement agencies.

The EU and the USA are also agreed in their cooperation to respect the rights and private lives of individuals and to strengthen the protection of personal data on each other's citizens.

"We are establishing a joint ambition to continue our cooperation to fight gross international crime. That's important. But equally important is that we are agreed on strengthening the protection of the rights of the individual. For the EU, this has been the most important issue in the negotiations," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

"It is important that the EU and the USA continue with their cooperation and intensify it with regard to migration issues, particularly when it comes to the exchange of knowledge and information. The Statement will provide good conditions for this," says Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström.

More in-depth discussions were also held at the meeting on cooperation to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly with regard to the exploitation of children, strengthened security for personal data and visa issues. Instruments of ratification were also exchanged for agreements between the EU and the USA on extradition and legal assistance in criminal cases, which means that the agreements will now enter into force.

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- [EU-US Joint Statement 28 October 2009 \(pdf 117 kB\)](#)



Press release
26 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Ask and Billström to visit the United States

On Wednesday 28 October, a meeting will be held in Washington between the EU and the United States.

The EU will be represented by Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström and European Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot. The United States will be represented by Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

The agenda includes issues relating to how the EU and the United States can become better at working together to combat human trafficking and in particular the exploitation of children. Strengthened security of personal data and visa issues will also be addressed.

When the meeting is concluded at approximately 12.00 on 28 October, the instruments of ratification of the agreements between the EU and the United States on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters will be exchanged.

The ceremony is open to the media and will be followed by a concluding press conference (valid press credentials are required for admission). The meeting will be held at the House of Sweden, the Swedish Embassy.

The ministers' visit to Washington also includes several bilateral meetings with representatives of the US government.

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Press release
23 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Breakthrough for procedural safeguards in the EU

Today EU justice ministers agreed on three instruments aimed at strengthening the procedural rights of suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings.

Discussions on the issue of procedural rights began as long ago as 2004, when the European Commission presented a proposal for a framework decision. After protracted and complicated negotiations, the Council was forced to conclude in 2007 that it was impossible to reach agreement on the issue.

The Swedish Presidency has put the issue of procedural rights back on the EU agenda. At the beginning of July, the Swedish Presidency presented a draft roadmap for procedural rights and resolution on practical measures concerning interpretation and translation. Thereafter, the Commission presented a proposal for a framework decision on interpretation and translation. After intensive negotiations, all EU Member States have now aligned themselves behind these three documents.

In a roadmap for procedural rights, the EU Member States have agreed that measures are needed at EU level and that the work should be conducted in a step-by-step process. They have also identified a number of rights on which the EU should work in future. In addition, they have agreed on a framework decision that strengthens the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and a resolution containing practical measures on interpretation and translation as a first step in the roadmap.

"This is an important step for procedural safeguards in the EU. The ministers agree about taking the rights of the individual seriously. Now work on procedural rights is expected to continue for several years to come in accordance with the roadmap," comments Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Contact

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Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
23 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Agreement on the EU Crime Prevention Network

The EU justice and home affairs ministers today agreed to amend the Council decision on the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN).

Sweden took, together with ten other member states, the initiative to amend the Council decision since an evaluation presented in the spring found that the EUCPN has not achieved its full potential. The amended Council decision means that the EUCPN will be able to focus on its core activities: gathering, analysing and sharing knowledge about crime and crime prevention methods.

"There are high expectations from the EU citizens to cooperate more within the EU to prevent and combat crime. Naturally it is important to investigate serious crimes and bring perpetrators to justice. But it is of course equally important to do what we can to prevent the crime from being committed in the first place. We have to devote more of our time to gathering knowledge about the nature of crime and effective methods to prevent it," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
23 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Improved quality of DNA profiles and fingerprints in the EU

The Justice and Home Affairs Council reached an agreement today on the accreditation of forensic science laboratories.

"The decision means that we will be setting a common quality standard for forensic laboratories in the EU. This will strengthen the legal certainty of information regarding DNA profiles and fingerprints that are exchanged between Member States to, for example, be used as evidence in criminal proceedings," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

In June 2009, Sweden and Spain presented a draft framework decision on the accreditation of forensic service providers carrying out laboratory activities. The aim of the decision is to ensure that DNA and fingerprint evidence that is exchanged between law enforcement agencies in different Member States maintains high, even standards.

The agreement means that all forensic science laboratories in the EU will be accredited by the relevant national accreditation bodies as meeting an international standard for DNA profiles and fingerprints. The standard requires that work is carried out correctly, equipment is tested, staff have the necessary skills and the entire organisation follows clear routines. Accreditation makes it possible to subsequently trace how an object or test has been handled from the moment it arrived at a laboratory to the moment a result is achieved. In concrete terms, this means that the risk of evidence being mixed up, tests being contaminated or experts drawing erroneous conclusions is reduced.

Once the framework decision enters into force, it is to be implemented within four years for activities related to DNA profiles, and within six years for fingerprint-related activities.

Contact

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Press release
23 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Financial coalitions to fight child pornography offences to receive EU support

Today, the EU justice- and home affairs ministers adopted conclusions on a European financial coalition and national financial coalitions against child pornography on the Internet.

There is a large number of commercial Internet websites selling child pornography. A credit card payment can provide immediate access to images showing serious abuse of children. The main purpose of financial coalitions is to prevent or hamper commercial dealings in child pornography. These coalitions are based on cooperation between the payment industry (banks and credit card companies), Internet providers, non-governmental organisations and law enforcement agencies.

The aim of the Council conclusions, which have come about at the initiative of Sweden, is that EU Member States are to give political support to the further development of financial coalitions, both nationally and at EU level. The conclusions also give political support to the method as such, i.e. tracing and stopping payments for child pornography. The conclusions encourage EU Member States to join the European financial coalition that has existed for a couple of years, and to work actively for the establishment of national financial coalitions. The European Commission is urged to continue its support which will lead to an operational European financial coalition.

"This is a project we believe in. It is a way of gathering together all positive forces in both the public and private sectors and in civil society in the work of fighting child pornography," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

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Press release
23 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Council conclusions on a strategy for better support to victims of crime in the European Union

The EU justice ministers adopted Council conclusions today on a strategy for better support to victims of crime in the EU.

The Council conclusions are a Swedish initiative. They raise the level of ambition by strengthening the rights of, and improving support to, people who are victims of crime in the EU; they also point the way for future work.

Free movement in the EU and increased travel mean that people are increasingly being subjected to crime in Member States other than the one in which they live. For this reason, it is important that citizens can rely on receiving protection, support and assistance, and relevant information in a language they understand if they are victims of crime in the EU.

International cooperation is necessary if this work is to be successful, and European cooperation is crucial.

"It is important to put the issue of victims of crime on the EU agenda. This is why Sweden has forged ahead and made it a priority issue during its Presidency. Today's decision is a very important step in the ongoing process," says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
22 October 2009
Ministry of Justice

Biljana Plavsic will be conditionally released

Mrs. Biljana Plavsic was convicted in 2003 by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia for crimes against humanity and sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment. At the request of the tribunal, the Swedish Government decided on 12 June 2003 that the sentence may be enforced in Sweden. Biljana Plavsic serves her sentence in a Swedish prison since 26 June 2003.

Swedish law and the agreement between Sweden and the International Tribunal states that enforcement of prison sentences imposed by the Tribunal shall be conducted in accordance with Swedish regulation governing prison sentences. The Tribunal retains a decisive influence over the sentence. The main rule in Swedish law is that conditional release takes place when the convicted person has served two thirds of the total term of imprisonment. The International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia has in a decision on September 14th 2009 consented to conditional release of Mrs. Plavsic in accordance with Swedish law. The Tribunal has, in its decision, stated that conditional release at two thirds of the prison term is in accordance with the Tribunal's case law regarding other persons convicted by the tribunal for crimes against humanity.

Today the Swedish Government has decided on conditional release of Mrs. Biljana Plavsic in accordance with Swedish law and the decision of the Tribunal. She is to be released on 27 October 2009. Thereby the enforcement of the sentence in Sweden will be terminated.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
17 September 2009
Ministry of Justice

Beatrice Ask gathers EU home affairs ministers for discussions on police cooperation

European home affairs ministers are to meet at the Europol headquarters in The Hague on 1 October. Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask has convened the meeting to discuss how EU police cooperation to prevent cross-border crime can be improved.

The Presidency has prepared three working documents as background material for the ministers' discussions:

- Identifying Europol's Role in a Europe that Protects
- Joining Forces for the Operational Implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Priorities
- Developing Synergies Between Internal and External Security

These three documents are available on the Swedish Presidency website.

The meeting will conclude with a press conference with Ms Ask, European Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot and Director of Europol Rob Wainwright.

The press conference is planned to take place at 16.30 at the Europol headquarters. Media and accreditation information is available on the Presidency website.

External links

- [Informal meeting of Ministers for the Interior at Europol on the web site for the Swedish Presidency of the EU](#)
- [Media information and accreditation on the web site for the Swedish Presidency of the EU](#)

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
07 September 2009
Ministry of Justice

Seminar: Transparency and Clear Legal Language in the EU

On Tuesday 8 September, the Swedish Presidency will hold a seminar on Transparency and Clear Legal Language in the EU. Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask and Vice-President of the European Commission Margot Wallström will hold opening speeches at 09.00 - 09.30. The media is welcome to attend. Afterwards, Ms Ask and Ms Wallström will be available to answer questions. Prior notification of attendance and press credentials are required. Notification of attendance is to be sent to Martin Valfridsson by Monday 7 September.

Time and place

Time: 09.00
Place: Rosenbad, entrance Drottninggatan 1, Stockholm

Other speakers at the seminar will include Commissioner Leonard Orban, European Ombudsman Nikiforos Diamandouros, European Data Protection Supervisor Peter Hustinx, Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman Mats Melin and Swedish Academy member Sture Allén. The entire seminar will be webcast.

External links

- [The seminar "Transparency and Clear Legal Language in the EU" on the web site for the Swedish Presidency of the EU](#)

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
13 July 2009
Ministry of Justice

Press conference with Beatrice Ask and Tobias Billström ahead of ministerial meeting

In connection with the Informal Meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers on 15-17 July in Stockholm, Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask and Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström are pleased to invite you to a press conference at Stockholm International Fairs.

Time and place

Time: Wednesday 15 July at 10.00
Place: Stockholm International Fairs, assembly at the accreditation entrance

External links

- [Accreditation for the meeting on the Web site for the Swedish Presidency of the EU](#)

Accreditation for the meeting AND prior notification of attendance are required by 16.00 on Tuesday 14 July at the latest. For prior notification, please contact Jeanette Mattsson.

We look forward to seeing you.

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask

Markus Friberg
Press Secretary to Tobias Billström

Jeanette Mattsson
Assistant Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
10 June 2009
Ministry of Justice

Swedish Ministers welcome Commission communication on the Stockholm Programme

The European Commission today presented a communication on the 'Stockholm Programme' on the direction of EU cooperation on justice and home affairs up to the end of 2014.

"We want the Swedish Presidency to contribute to a safer and more open Europe. The Commission's communication lays a good foundation for the negotiations with the other Member States and with the European Parliament this autumn," say Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask and Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström in a statement.

"We will work for an ambitious Stockholm Programme with a good balance between fighting crime effectively and protection for the privacy of the individual," Ms Ask continues.

"One of the main tasks in the area of asylum and migration will be to work for a common asylum system that is legally secure, accessible and based on solidarity between EU Member States," Mr Billström continues.

The EU's work in the area of justice and home affairs (JHA) is organised into five-year working programmes. The first was adopted in Tampere in 1999. The current Hague Programme was adopted in autumn 2004 and expires in December 2009. A new programme for the period 2010-2014 is therefore due to be adopted during the Swedish Presidency and will cover police and customs cooperation, rescue services, criminal and civil law cooperation, asylum, migration and visa policy. The working programme will be formally adopted by the EU heads of state and government in the European Council.

The Swedish Presidency of the EU intends to devote the informal ministerial meeting in Stockholm (15-17 July 2009) entirely to the Stockholm Programme. The Programme will then be dealt with in the JHA Council on 30 November to 1 December and in the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 7-8 December before it is adopted at the European Council on 10-11 December.

External links

- [Read more on the website for the Swedish EU Presidency](#)
- [European Commission outlines its vision for the area of freedom, security and justice](#)

Contact

Martin Valfridsson
Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask

Markus Friberg
Press Secretary to Tobias Billström



Press release
14 May 2009
Prime Minister's Office

Ministers' engagements weeks 21-22 2009

Subject to change.

For further information contact the Minister's press secretary.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt

18 May
Travel in Sweden

20 May
Party leader debate ahead of European Parliament election, Riksdag

25 May
Travel in Sweden

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt

18 May
Participation in GAERC, Brussels
Visit to Göteborg, Sweden

21 May
Visit to Warsaw
Visegrad Meeting

24-26 May
ASEM, Hanoi

27-28 May
Visit to Phnom Penh

Minister for Trade Ewa Björling

18 May
Visit to Göteborg, Sweden

19 May
Visit to Almi Företagspartner (Almi Business Partner)

19 May
Dialogue meeting on the export ban on Swedish snuff in the EU internal market

20 May
Advisory Committee on EU Affairs, Riksdag
Meeting with World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick at World Bank meeting, Helsinki

25 May
Speech at Africa Day Seminar on Strategic Partnerships for African Development, Stockholm

Related

- [Press contacts](#)
- [Calendar for Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt](#)
- [Calendar for Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt](#)
- [Calendar for Minister for Trade Ewa Björling](#)

27 May
Main speaker and award presenter at SwedenBIO's Annual General Meeting

27 May
Informal meeting with African ambassadors based in Stockholm on EPA negotiations

28 May
Competitiveness Council, Brussels

29 May
Visit to Tranås, Sweden



Press release
13 May 2009
Ministry of Justice

How do we strengthen cooperation to combat organized crime?

On Wednesday 13 May the Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask will hold a seminar to discuss how to combat organized crime.

Time and place

Time: Wednesday 13 May at 13.00-15.00
Place: The Conference Center in Rosenbad, Drottninggatan 1

Invited speakers are the British author Misha Glenny (author of *McMaffia*); Solveig Wollstad, head of the International Public Prosecution Office in Malmö and former national member for Sweden in Eurojust; Klas Friberg, deputy head of the Police authority, county of Västra Götaland.

The seminar will be in English.

Please R.S.V.P. to Jeanette Mattsson by 8 May.

Welcome!

Contact

Jeanette Mattsson
Assistant Press Secretary to Beatrice Ask



Press release
05 December 2008
Ministry of Justice

The protection of e.g. software, computer games, film and music is increased

Intellectual property rightholders to e.g. music, film, literature, computer games and software will be given better possibilities to act against illegal file sharing on the Internet. This is proposed in a bill adopted by the Government and delivered to the Parliament today.

- If the creators of computer games, movies or music lack the possibility of making money on their products, they will not be able to afford hiring the people they need in order for their companies to grow. This Bill gives the creative industry the possibility to grow, says Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask.

Directive 2004/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the enforcement of intellectual property rights applies to all types of intellectual property rights, such as copyright, patent, trademark and so forth, in the physical as well as the digital environment.

The Swedish legislation already complies with most of the provisions in the Directive. However, in order to reach full compliance, some amendments needs to be done. Among other things, Sweden has to introduce provisions that give rightholders a right to information on the origin and distribution networks of the goods or services which infringe an intellectual property right. In respect to the enforcement of copyright, the European Court of Justice has stated that the Member States have a certain room for manoeuvre, but the result must be an effective protection also on the Internet. Therefore, it is up to each Member State to decide if rightholders shall be given a possibility to get access to information about the identity of an individual behind an IP-address on the Internet, or if the effective protection should be accomplished in a different way.

In the area of intellectual property rights, the main rule has for a long time been that these rights should first and foremost be upheld by the rightholders themselves, through civil remedies (e.g. damages). Infringements of intellectual property rights can also result in criminal sanctions such as fines or imprisonment, but this is more of a complement to the civil remedies. However, when it comes to infringements on the Internet, it has often been almost impossible for rightholders to make use of the civil remedies. The reason for this is that all you can see on the Internet is an anonymous IP-address. Today, rightholders cannot obtain information about the identity of the person behind the IP-address.

The proposal put forward by the Government will make it possible for a Swedish court, in the same way as in many other countries, to order an Internet Service Provider to give the rightholder information about the identity of the individual behind an IP-address. The information will only be disclosed after a court order. Such an order may be issued if the rightholder has presented sufficient evidence (probable course) that an infringement has been committed from the IP-address in question. The court has to respect principle of proportionality and has to balance the rightholders interest of receiving the information against other interests, such as the integrity of the individual behind the IP-address. This means that the infringement must be of a certain degree in order for the rightholder to obtain the information. This is generally the case when e.g. one movie or one piece of music is made available to the public - e.g. via file sharing - on the Internet, since this typically results in considerable damage for the rightholder. This is also the case when it is a question of more frequent downloading. In such cases, the rightholder will normally get access to the information. However, if it is only a matter of downloading a few works, the interest of integrity will normally prevail. In such cases, the information will not be disclosed. If the person behind an IP-address is disclosed, he will receive information about this after a certain time.

This legislation will, contrary to what is normally the case concerning this kind of provisions, only apply to infringements that have been committed after the legislation has entered into force.

Furthermore, the Government will immediately initiate an evaluation concerning the application of this legislation. The evaluation shall, among other things, include a follow-up on the question whether or not the legislation primarily is used to act against more serious infringements.

The proposal does not - as claimed by some people during the debate in media - give rightholders the authority to act as policemen. It is only a question of creating a real possibility for rightholders to use the civil remedies that already exist in the legislation.

Nor does this mean that the person that holds the subscription behind the IP-address in question automatically will be responsible for illegal activities, e.g. illegal file sharing, carried out by someone via his connection to the Internet. But it will give rightholders a possibility to contact the subscriber and a possibility for the subscriber to prevent further infringements via his connection. If the rightholder wants to go further

Related

- [Read more \(in Swedish\)](#)

and obtain a court order obliging a person to pay damages, he has to initiate a proceeding against that person and in this proceeding prove that the defendant has caused the rightholder the damages claimed.

Contact

Tanja Rasmusson
Political Adviser



Press release
18 September 2008
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Defence

Sweden to send civilian observers and logistics support to Georgia

The Government decided today that Sweden will contribute personnel and equipment to the EU civilian observer mission in Georgia.

The first Swedish observers will depart for Georgia this week.

The reason for today's decision is that on 1 September, EU heads of state and government decided to send a civilian observer mission to Georgia.

The Swedish group will be made up of personnel from the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and the National Police Board. It will consist of some 25 people who will be responsible for heading a field office. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency will send IT and communications equipment and personnel who will be responsible for the installation, set up and maintenance of the mission's communications network. Funding for the mission will come from the development assistance budget.

"It is very important that the EU live up to its commitment of sending a civilian observer mission by 1 October. This will clear the way for the withdrawal of Russian troops in accordance with the Moscow agreement," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson.

In all, the EU mission will include some 230 people. Its primary task will be to observe, analyse and report on the parties' compliance with the ceasefire agreement and the subsequent agreements following the armed conflict in Georgia in August 2008.

"Providing Swedish personnel and equipment is an expression of Sweden's commitment to peace and security in the Southern Caucasus. The Swedish personnel taking part in the mission will have an important task in building up the mission and providing reports about the situation on the ground," say Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for Defence Sten Tolgfors and Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask in a joint statement.

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Press release
21 August 2008
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

State Visit to Ukraine

Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will pay a State Visit to Ukraine 30 September-3 October 2008 at the invitation of President Victor Yushchenko.

The Government of Sweden will be represented.

The preliminary programme includes visits to Kiev, the Cherson district and Crimea.

A Swedish business delegation will visit Ukraina in connection with the State Visit.

External links

- [The Swedish Royal Court](#)
- [Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine](#)
- [Embassy of Ukraine in Sweden](#)

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Press release
04 June 2008
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Justice

Meeting in Stockholm on how to relieve the pressure on the European Court of Human Rights

On 9-10 June 2008 there will be an international expert meeting in Stockholm on the European Court of Human Rights.

The meeting will particularly discuss how the member states of the Council of Europe can help reduce the number of applications to the Court, which receives far more cases each year than it can possibly deal with. Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask will give the opening address at the meeting.

The meeting is being held in the context of Sweden's present chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The meeting is an expert meeting with participants from the member countries of the Council of Europe, as well as the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis, the President of the European Court of Human Rights, Jean-Paul Costa, and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg.

Representatives of the Swedish Riksdag, Swedish courts, government agencies and the Swedish legal profession will also participate.

Individuals in the member countries can turn to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg if they consider that their rights under the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms have been violated. The Court currently has over 100 000 applications awaiting decision. The number of cases that have not yet been dealt with by the Court is growing all the time. A reform process has been under way for several years in the Council of Europe to try to ease the workload. At the same time it is also important that the member states take measures at national level that can help reduce the number of applications to the Court.

Representatives of the media are invited to attend the seminar. Advance notice is required. Please contact Maria Arenbjörk at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Related

- [The Swedish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe web site](#)

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Press release
19 March 2008
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Defence

Sweden to contribute personnel to EU mission in Kosovo

Today, the Government gave the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency, the Swedish Prison and Probation Authority and the National Courts Administration the task of making Swedish personnel available for the EU civilian crisis management mission in Kosovo - EULEX Kosovo.

Swedish judges, prison and probation authority officials, political advisers and legal experts, as well as support staff, will now be sent to Kosovo. Swedish police officers already in place as part of the UN mission in Kosovo will be transferred to the EU mission. Up to 100 Swedes may participate in the mission. Funding for the mission will come from the development assistance budget.

"This is largest ever Swedish contribution to an international civilian crisis management mission, and this reflects Sweden's commitment to stable developments in Kosovo and in the region, as well as the Government's priority to strengthen Sweden's role in international crisis management. The extent of contributions from Swedish government agencies also demonstrates the importance of joint efforts to strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo," say Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for Defence Sten Tolgfors and Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask in a joint statement.

EULEX Kosovo is a civilian crisis management mission within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The mission will help to strengthen Kosovo's police force, public prosecutors, courts, prison and probation services and customs authorities. As the first civilian EU mission, EULEX will also conduct certain tasks in the operations of the legal system.

The EU will send up to 3 500 staff, of which 2 200 are from participating countries. This makes EULEX the largest civilian mission that the EU has ever carried out.

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Press release
17 March 2008
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice

The Government presents a national strategy for international peace and security activities

Today the Government presented to the Riksdag a national strategy for Swedish participation in international peace and security activities. The strategy, the first of its kind, is intended to represent a general guideline for Swedish participation in the area of peace support.

"Through the strategy the Government is linking foreign, development, security and defence policies closer to each other. This will enable Sweden to contribute more effectively to freedom, security, democracy and development in the world," say Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt, Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for Defence Sten Tolgfors and Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask in a joint statement.

The objective is that Sweden will take greater, more coordinated responsibility in peace and security initiatives.

Swedish military commitments are to increase so as to achieve a doubling of the capability of Swedish forces abroad. On the civilian side, there will be an increased demand for civil police and staff in the legal system.

"Pressure on the international community to take part in different types of peace operations continues to increase. We are also seeing how these operations are becoming more and more complex, putting demands on a wide range of military and civilian capabilities. As an active international actor, Sweden wants to be able to contribute to the ability of the international community to deal with these increasing demands," continues the ministers' statement.

One of the bases of the strategy is that Swedish operations be designed as an integrated, cohesive policy vis-à-vis the country in question. When possible, support will be designed with both civil and military components. The strategy emphasises the possibility of development cooperation being an important part of the total Swedish capability. Security and development are mutually dependent and to achieve lasting progress in countries such as Afghanistan, this insight must be integrated into the Swedish presence.

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2007



REGERINGSKANSLIET
Government Offices of Sweden

Press release
07 November 2007
Ministry of Justice

Russia's Minister of Justice Vladimir V. Ustinov to visit Beatrice Ask

The Russian Federation's Minister of Justice, Vladimir V. Ustinov, will arrive in Stockholm for a two-day visit to Sweden.

The primary purpose of the visit is to sign, together with Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask, an agreement on a bilateral programme for cooperation in legal matters between Sweden and Russia. The cooperation programme, which is the third of its kind, deals with both criminal and civil law issues. The programme for Mr Ustinov's visit also includes a visit to the Huddinge Detention Unit.

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Press release
08 May 2007
Ministry of Employment
Ministry of Justice

Press invitation: Seminar on trafficking and forced labour, 8-9 May

Minister for Employment Sven Otto Littorin and Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask are hosting the Nordic Expert Seminar on Trafficking for Forced Labour, an expert seminar arranged at Rosenbad on 8-9 May 2007. The seminar is being organised by the Government Offices in cooperation with the OSCE, UNODC and ILO. After the seminar, the media are invited to a press conference.

Time and place

Press conference
Time: Wednesday 9 May at 15.45
Place: Pressrummet, Rosenbad

The participants in the press conference will be:

- Eva Uddén Sonnegård, State Secretary at the Ministry of Employment
- Eva Biaudet, OSCE, Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Kristiina Kangaspunta, UNODC, Chief of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
- Roger Plant, ILO, Head of the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour

Please bring your press credentials.

The Government has appointed a cross-ministry working group with the task of exploring the incidence of trafficking in human beings in Sweden and presenting proposals for a national action plan. The expert seminar is being arranged as a step in this exploratory work.

Trafficking in human beings is a global phenomenon that occurs within and across national borders, irrespective of whether a state is a country of origin, transit or destination. Trafficking in human beings is believed to be one of the most profitable forms of international organised crime.

Trafficking in human beings can never be combated by measures that are limited to the national level. Cooperation across borders between crime-fighting agencies, social agencies, national and international organisations, and cooperation between agencies and organisations within countries are both vital to achieving success.

The seminar is mainly targeting specially invited government officials and representatives of the social partners from the Nordic countries.

The discussions during the seminar will concern four areas:

1. How can crime-fighting agencies and other parties become better at identifying victims of trafficking in human beings who are subjected to forced labour?
 2. How can we in the Nordic countries work to reduce the demand for goods and services that have been produced by exploited workers?
 3. How can we become better at identifying children who have fallen victim to trafficking in human beings and how can we best support and protect them?
 4. How can we promote cooperation between crime-fighting agencies and the social partners and how can we use agency resources in the most efficient and effective way?
-

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Press release
26 April 2007
Ministry of Justice

Request for pardoning Mrs. Biljana Plavsic has been rejected

Today, the Government rejected the request for pardoning Mrs. Biljana Plavsic.

In 2003, Mrs. Biljana Plavsic was sentenced by the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia for crimes against humanity to 11 years' imprisonment. Since 2003, the sentence is being served in Sweden.

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