

## Agreement on defence

The world is in upheaval. War is being waged in our neighbourhood, while major conflicts with considerable risk of spreading are raging in other parts of the world. The rules-based world order is being challenged from many quarters. The security situation is exceptional and unpredictable.

Sweden, the EU and NATO are in the midst of a long-term confrontation with Russia. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has fundamentally changed and undermined the security situation in Europe. The outcome of the war will affect the security situation in Sweden's neighbourhood and globally for the foreseeable future. Sweden will support Ukraine for as long as it takes. It is vital that Sweden maintains a strong defence capability as part of both national and collective defence. European NATO countries need to take greater joint responsibility for the defence and security of Europe.

Against this background, an active debate is underway within NATO on the need for increased defence investment, which is expected to result in a renewed commitment: the Defence Spending Plan. It is important that Sweden can be an engaged Ally in this process and is able to meet more extensive commitments credibly.

Following talks between representatives of the Government and the opposition, the Social Democratic Party, the Sweden Democrats, the Moderate Party, the Left Party, the Centre Party, the Christian Democrats, the Green Party and the Liberal Party are in agreement on the following.

### **Sweden will meet NATO's spending targets**

#### **Military defence**

In the Budget Bill for 2026, the Government will propose that appropriations to military defence are successively increased to meet NATO's new defence spending target, which is expected to be 3.5 per cent of GDP by 2032. Defence spending will include all costs allowed by the NATO definition. How other countries report their defence spending is of importance for Swedish reporting.

Furthermore, in the Budget Bill for 2026, the Government intends to propose that a maximum of SEK 300 billion for rearmament will be financed through loans between 2026 and 2034. This is described in more detail in annex 1.

### **Defence-related investments**

If NATO were to agree on an additional target of 1.5 per cent of GDP for broader defence-related investments, Sweden should also meet that target. The precise definition of this target is not yet clear which means that it is uncertain whether any additional measures are needed to meet it. Existing expenditure should be counted towards meeting the target to the greatest extent possible.

### **Measures to accelerate and increase ongoing defence build-up**

#### *Combat readiness needs to increase*

The additional funding needed to achieve the spending targets will, based on the 2024 Defence Resolution, mainly accelerate and increase the ongoing defence build-up. The Swedish Armed Forces' ability to fulfil its tasks nationally and within the framework of collective defence needs to be strengthened based on current and future operational planning as well as the capability targets assigned to Sweden as an Ally. The combat readiness of the organisation set out in the 2024 Defence Resolution must increase.

#### *Substantial investment needs*

Against this background, there is a significant need for investment in personnel, materiel, supplies and infrastructure, in existing, planned and newly added parts of the war organisation alike. To achieve this, Sweden's defence industrial production capacity needs to increase. These efforts must reflect experiences from warfare in Ukraine, related developments in tactics and technology and innovative approaches to achieving military capability.

#### *Focus on fighting units*

A stronger personnel supply is crucial for the growth of Sweden's defence. Training and exercises for conscripted and employed personnel need to increase. Materiel for capabilities that are currently lacking or under-dimensioned needs to be procured and organised into fighting units. The detailed organisation and structure of wartime units must be determined based on the requirements of national operational planning and participation in collective defence. Increasing the combat readiness and resilience of fighting units by ensuring they are fully staffed and equipped, including reserves, will be a top priority in the next few years.

#### *Special priorities in the short and medium term*

For areas that are especially prioritised in the 2024 Defence Resolution and that also contribute to fulfilling NATO's capability targets, measures will be brought forward and supplemented; these include strengthening various types of air defence, increased operational

availability of the combat aircraft system, enhanced ground combat capability and long-range engagement capability. The procurement of spare parts and ammunition must increase significantly for all branches and functions of the defence, as must workshop capacity, stockpiling and access to wartime-essential logistics services.

Other important areas include building up mobilisation capacity, investment in facilities and other infrastructure, improved access to secure communications at different levels, as well as investment in sensors, command functions, foreign intelligence activities and security services. The combination of increased digitalisation, cloud services and qualified weapons systems will provide improved conditions for interoperability and the conduct of multi-domain operations.

#### *Increased pace of rearmament of civil defence*

The civil defence should ensure vital societal functions, contribute to military defence capabilities, protect the civilian population and maintain Sweden's will to defend itself and society's resilience to external pressure.

Civil defence refers to measures aimed at meeting the pressures and requirements imposed by a heightened state of alert and, ultimately, war. In other words, areas where it would be unreasonable to take corresponding measures or make investments based on an entity's regular responsibilities, including responsibility for peacetime crises.

#### *Research and development*

Research and development (R&D) is crucial for systematically raising and improving our total defence capability, in both the short and long term. Moreover, the ability to rapidly convert results from R&D into defence innovations is of fundamental importance to defence capability. Investments in this area should primarily strengthen research and research environments for the benefit of military defence, but research that contributes to the development of civil defence, as well as other relevant advanced technologies with dual-use applications, should also be promoted. Within certain key areas of space capability, Sweden has a national interest in maintaining independent control over its resources.

### **Continued work**

In June 2025, the Government intends to adopt immediate measures due to the defence reinforcement outlined above, and to instruct the Swedish Armed Forces and other relevant authorities to present more detailed considerations and proposals regarding the structure of the military defence in November 2025 based on the financial conditions set out in this agreement.

In the second half of 2025, the Government intends to resume talks on defence policy with representatives of the Riksdag parties, with the aim of enabling broad parliamentary support and facilitating forthcoming consideration by the Riksdag.