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EU Common Foreign and Security Policy during the Swedish Presidency



Priorities and results

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Produced by: Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
103 39 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone: +46 405 10 00
Website: www.sweden.gov.se/mfa
Graphic design: Svensk Information
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Common foreign policy during the Presidency

INTRODUCTION

When Sweden took on the task of being the last country to hold a full Presidency of the European Union under the Treaty of Nice, the two most important issues were predetermined. First and foremost was the issue of climate change and the European Union's role ahead of and during the climate conference in Copenhagen. The second issue concerned curbing the economic downturn and finding a way out of the crisis and back to a restored macroeconomic balance. In addition, changes were needed in the supervision of financial markets to reduce the risk of the events that unfolded in 2007 and 2008 being repeated in the future.

In both of these areas the European Union's role as a global actor was put to the test. Would the EU be able to speak with one voice and would its Member States be able to act together in full agreement? Would it be possible to create the new joint institutions for supervision and control that were needed in order to stabilise the financial markets? And would the European Union be in a position to exercise the global leadership that would be necessary, above all on the climate issue?

Global warming and the global financial crisis are two clear examples of how globalisation has now gone so far that we need global political solutions, not just to safeguard the positive effects of worldwide economic integration, but also to deal with the problems that arise along the way. Anyone looking for a leitmotif in the Swedish Presidency will therefore hardly be surprised to see that it has been about the EU's role as a global actor.

During the Swedish Presidency, the European Union has definitely lived up to expectations in the two most prioritised policy areas. Not only has the EU maintained an internal consensus on the climate issue, it has also achieved its objective of being the strongest driving force for an agreement in Copenhagen. There are, of course, people who would have liked to see more far-reaching pledges from the climate change conference, but the European Union can ultimately be given the credit for the fact that we nonetheless have come as far as we have.

The climate issue has, to a certain extent, overshadowed the economic issues and efforts to manage the financial crisis. And yet we have seen



Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt with the Heads of Mission in Kabul.

significant breakthroughs that have meant that the European Union has been able to act in unison in key areas to secure stability on the financial markets and regain control of macroeconomic developments. The European Union is the world's largest market, and consequently, what happens here has a major global impact. The EU's ability to match economic integration with political integration is currently an example to other parts of the world.

The third high-priority area for the Swedish Presidency was to conclude the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon and begin its implementation. Renewed failure to replace the Treaty of Nice would have seriously damaged the EU's chances of acting globally. The positive result in the Irish referendum and the other remaining countries' ratifications meant that the European Union acquired the new and firmer structure necessary to meet the expectations of the EU's global profile being raised, and to continue enlargement in southeast Europe.

The Presidency's objective in this area was thus also achieved. The new Treaty entered into force on 1 December and the two posts – the permanent President and the High Representative – have been filled. Work is under way to establish the joint European External Action Service. The basis of this work is the report written by the Swedish Presidency that was adopted by the European Council in October.

The European Union's credibility as a global actor is ultimately determined by its ability to contribute to stability in its neighbourhood and to resolve the remaining conflicts in its immediate vicinity. Continued enlargement plays a central role in this context. It is the vision of EU membership that is the driving force behind the reform process in the EU's neighbourhood, and the European Union itself represents a positive

example of how prosperity can be created through peaceful integration.

Over the past six months, Slovenia and Croatia have reached an agreement on how their border dispute can be dealt with, and Croatia now has excellent prospects of concluding its accession negotiations next year. Iceland applied for membership at the very beginning of the Swedish Presidency and the Commission is currently working on its opinion. As Iceland is already strongly integrated into the EU by virtue of its membership of the EEA, much of the work has already been done. During the last meeting of foreign ministers in December, the decision was also made to open an environment chapter in the negotiations with Turkey.

Of particular importance are developments in the Western Balkans, where major progress has been made with visa-free access for citizens of Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) from 19 December. FYROM will soon be able to initiate accession negotiations, and the Commission is working on opinions for Montenegro and Albania. As far as Serbia is concerned, the interim agreement is now ready for application. Bosnia and Herzegovina have not been able to maintain the same pace of integration as their neighbours. But during the Swedish Presidency a process has been set in motion with the aim of gradually integrating Bosnia and Herzegovina into the transatlantic structures.

In the eastern neighbourhood, the European Union's commitment to the 'Eastern Partnership' has been filled with content, including a major investment in greater energy efficiency in Ukraine. Six countries are involved in the new cooperation structure, which also includes projects with civil society and on December 22 Serbia submitted its application for membership to the Swedish presidency.

The European Union's role as a global actor is based on a clear agenda for peace, development, democracy and human rights. It has been the ambition of the Presidency to strengthen the EU's capacity to take action in international crises and to cooperate with others to contribute to global peace and development.

Much of this work involves being present in centres of conflict and monitoring events so as to be in a position to help defuse antagonisms and give support to constructive forces. The European Union's presence in Georgia has had a clear moderating influence on the conflict. Over the last six months the European Union has actively supported democratic forces and human rights movements from Honduras and Cuba in the west to Iran, Burma and China in the east.

The European Union's strong commitment to a peace agreement in the Middle East has been manifest in its support for the United States' mediation efforts and in the conclusions adopted by the EU foreign ministers in December.

The EU's role in Afghanistan has become clearer. An overview of the Member States' contributions shows that the total EU contribution amounts to 35 000 personnel and SEK 10 billion per year. During the Swedish Presidency the EU has adopted an in-depth strategy for relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the implementation of this strategy has also begun.

The anti-piracy operation off the coast of Somalia has proved to be a major success. It provides an example of how the European Union now has the capacity to lead a larger operation with broad international participation. The EU has been particularly engaged in developments in the Horn of Africa, West Africa and Zimbabwe.

During the Swedish Presidency, seven successful summits have been held with Brazil, India, China, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine and the United States. Several concrete steps have been taken towards deepened cooperation with these countries, particularly in the area of energy and climate.

Alongside the work to strengthen the EU's role as global actor, two regional initiatives have been concluded. These are the design of the European Union's Baltic Sea Strategy and the adoption of an Arctic Strategy. Regional cooperation with Russia has also become deeper. The Baltic Sea Strategy – with its emphasis on strengthening the region's competitiveness and increased action to enhance the Baltic Sea environment – could be a model for the EU's future regional cooperation projects.

The Swedish Presidency is therefore the end of an era in the development of the European Union. But it has also been the beginning of a new era as the EU has gone from being a major regional and economic power to becoming an increasingly important global and political actor as well.

To reach this position, it has been necessary to strengthen the joint institutions, and in particular those with a mandate from the citizens of Europe – the European Council and the European Parliament. But it has also been important to show that the European Union is up to the task of remaining united and taking joint action on the major global issues in which cross-border problems require cross-border solutions.

In both of these dimensions, the European Union has given clear responses over the past six months.

Issues in focus

• ENLARGEMENT

Serbia, FYROM and Montenegro have been granted visa exemption. Croatia's accession negotiations have entered the final stages and Turkey's negotiations are progressing. A membership application has been received from Iceland and applications from Albania and Montenegro are under consideration. Implementation of Serbia's Interim Agreement with the EU can now begin and an application for membership has been submitted. A process has been launched to improve conditions for closer ties between Bosnia and the EU.

• AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

An action plan for deeper cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan has been adopted with the aim of strengthening joint EU action in the region and political and civilian involvement in peace efforts in Afghanistan.

• THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

Clear conclusions on the Middle East peace process have been adopted, stating that negotiations should be based on the pre-1967 borders, that the settlements are illegal, that all final status issues should be included in the negotiations and that Jerusalem should be both parties' capital.

• EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The implementation of the Eastern Partnership is under way. Steps are being taken towards new agreements and deeper EU integration for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The European Investment Bank has created an Eastern Partners Facility on 1,5 billion euros.

• EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

With the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon, the decision was made to establish a European External Action Service (EEAS). This decision will create an improved basis on which to strengthen the EU's role in the world.

Results in important foreign policy areas during the Swedish Presidency

THE TREATY OF LISBON EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

In October the European Council approved the Swedish Presidency's report on establishing a European External Action Service, which provides the basis of the proposal to be presented by the High Representative. The report specifies guidelines for the scope of this External Action Service, its legal status and funding, how staff are to be recruited and the role of EU delegations in third countries in the new organisation. The European Council urged the High Representative to present a proposal for the design of the EEAS after entry into force of the Treaty, so that this can be approved by the Council before the end of April 2010. This request was repeated by the European Council in December.

THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

The Council decided that Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro are to be granted visa exemption as of 19 December 2009 and stated that there was a clear prospect of doing the same for Albania and Bosnia.



Photo: Gunnar Seijbold/Government Offices

The second and final day of the informal meeting of the EU foreign ministers, which was held in Stockholm at the beginning of September. Carl Bildt (centre) with the foreign ministers of Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



Slovenia's Prime Minister Borut Pahor and Croatia's Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor signed an Arbitration Agreement in Stockholm on 4 November. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt witnessed the signatures.

On the basis of the Commission's review report concerning enlargement policy, the Council adopted conclusions for the process forward in several of the countries in question (8 December):

Among progress to be noted is that:

- Croatia's membership negotiations are now entering the final phase.
- Negotiations with Turkey are continuing and it has been possible to avoid decisions on further conditions and frozen capital.
- During the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) with Turkey on December 21 the environment chapter was opened and during the IGC with Croatia the same day a number of chapters could be closed.
- The Council will return to the Commission's recommendation on a start of negotiations for Macedonia during the first six months of 2010.
- Membership applications from Iceland, Albania and Montenegro are now being processed.
- Serbia's interim agreement with the EU can now begin to be implemented and the Council will return to the issue of ratification of a partnership agreement within six months.

Slovenia's Prime Minister Borut Pahor and Croatia's Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor signed an Arbitration Agreement on demarcation of the border between these countries at a ceremony in Stockholm led by Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (4 November). This agreement has been ratified by Croatia. Ratification by Slovenia is outstanding pending an opinion from the Supreme Court and a possible referendum. Hence it has been possible to put an end to the prolonged stand-still in the

Croatian negotiations and a large number of negotiation chapters could be processed. At the General Affairs Council (7 December) the *financial package* for Croatia was adopted, specifying the framework of the financial implications of Croatia's EU membership. Writing has begun on an accession treaty for Croatia.

Photo: Virginia Mayo, AP/Scampix



At the General Affairs and External Relations Council, the foreign ministers discussed issues including Afghanistan and the Southern Caucasus. The Council also adopted conclusions on Sudan and Honduras. Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt was President-in-Office of the Council meeting, which took place in mid-September.

On December 22 Serbian President Boris Tadic submitted Serbia's membership application to Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt.

During the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) with Turkey on December 21 the environment chapter was opened and during the IGC with Croatia the same day a number of chapters could be closed.

At the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) meeting (15 September) Council conclusions were adopted clarifying that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) for Bulgaria and Romania will remain until further notice, which will help to strengthen confidence in the enlargement process.

In view of the political situation in Bosnia, the Swedish Presidency together with the USA, initiated in October a process with the political leadership in this country to create the conditions for fulfilling the remaining criteria for closing the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and taking the initial steps in the constitutional reforms required for closer ties with the EU. The process has received broad support from the EU Member States and the international community.

The Swedish Presidency and the European Commission arranged a conference on the Western Balkans in Brussels entitled 'Overcoming the

economic crisis – from regional cooperation to EU membership’ (9 December). The Western Balkan Investment Framework, a major initiative involving the participation of the European Commission and a number of banks, was also signed in connection with the conference. The European Commission’s contribution alone amounted to EUR 87 million.

The Swedish Presidency together with the European Commission arranged a conference in Brussels on how the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) can be used as a strategic instrument to drive the enlargement agenda forward (19 October). For the first time, the Council adopted conclusions that stated this political objective (8 December).

OUR REGION

Implementation of the Eastern Partnership began as planned. Progress was made both in bilateral relations and within the multilateral framework. The Swedish Presidency has helped to put the structures of this framework in place. Meetings have been held and working rules have been adopted. A number of flagship projects are in preparation including one within the rescue services, which has been launched in Göteborg. The European Commission has made great progress in drawing up a programme to support the institutions in each partner country. It is expected that these programmes can start to be implemented in 2010. During the autumn the European Investment Bank (EIB) has created a so-called Eastern Partners Facility on 1,5 billion euros, which will enable the Bank to increase involvement in and lending to the eastern partners. The first meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum was held in November.

There has been progress on negotiations on an association agreement that includes a deeper free trade agreement with Ukraine and these are expected to be concluded in 2010. The Council has decided to begin negotiations with Moldova on an association agreement and the first round of negotiations will take place early in 2010. The EU has promised that a visa dialogue with Moldova will be established in 2010.

In September, the GAERC decided to task the European Commission with producing negotiation mandates for new agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and processing of these has begun in the Council,



Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt welcomed Russian President Dmitri Medvedev to Stockholm for a third country summit. Also present at the summit was the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso.

including deeper free trade agreements with Armenia and Georgia. The Commission has preliminarily signed the visa facilitation agreement with Georgia.

The Council has decided on a further extension of visa restrictions for Belarus and further extension of the suspension of their application. In the Council conclusions regarding Belarus, the Council urged the Commission to prepare mandates for initiating negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements with Belarus, for adoption by the Council when the relevant conditions are fulfilled, and stated that the EU is ready to take steps to upgrade contractual relations with Belarus, provided that progress is made with regard to human rights and democracy.

A meeting of foreign ministers from the 33 EU and Eastern Partnership countries has been held, which evaluated the Partnership's implementation up to now, and specified future priorities.

An *EU-Ukraine* Summit was held in Kiev (4 December). At the meeting the EU and Ukraine discussed their integration and cooperation agenda. The next step in the visa dialogue was established. An agreement between Ukraine and Europol was signed in connection with the Summit.

The *EU-Russia* Summit was held in Stockholm (18 November). At the meeting Russia raised its emissions reductions targets ahead of Copenhagen and confirmed WTO membership as a top priority. Five agreements on cross-border cooperation between the EU and Russia were

signed. For the first time Russia is contributing financially to this, with EUR 160 million. This meeting welcomed the establishment of a warning mechanism ahead of potential energy crises. The parties agreed on closer cooperation concerning emergency management. Russia was also positive to the EU proposal for establishing a modernisation partnership in which closer economic integration will be a central element.

During the Swedish Presidency, a conference of foreign ministers was organised between the EU and the five Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. The meeting offered an opportunity for extensive dialogue in areas such as regional security, the economic crisis and challenges in the field of environment. At the Cooperation Council, the EU and Kazakhstan agreed to evaluate the possibilities of upgrading the legal basis for cooperation.

The Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environmental Partnership was launched at a donor conference in Stockholm (26 November). The Partnership will initially focus on projects in Ukraine. At the donor conference, support amounting to a total of just over SEK 900 million over the period 2010–2014 was confirmed. This will be supplemented by a loan from the Institute of International Finance (IFI) which is also part of the initiative.

The EEA Council was held under the chairmanship of Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt (16 November). At the meeting, where the th-



Photo: Gunnar Seijbold/Government Offices

The final third country summit of the Swedish Presidency was held between the EU and Ukraine in Kiev on 4 December 2009. In this picture (L-R): Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, Viktor Yushchenko and José Manuel Barroso.

ree EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway were represented by their foreign ministers, a review was made of cooperation in the EEA area.

During the Swedish Presidency, meetings activities at the political level in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) were able to be resumed and three ministerial meetings were held: a meeting of finance ministers, a meeting of gender equality ministers who agreed on a mechanism for following up the UfM action plan for gender equality, and a meeting of trade ministers who brought the process a step closer to a free trade area in the region. Progress was made in the work of establishing a UfM secretariat in Barcelona.

MIDDLE EAST

During the Swedish Presidency, the EU adopted conclusions that emphasise EU support for US efforts towards resumption of the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, while clarifying the basic position of the EU, i.e. that negotiations are to be based on the 1967 borders, that the settlements are illegal and that all final status issues are to be included in the negotiations, including Jerusalem.



Photo: AP Photo/Musaddiq Sadeg

Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt is seen here with Afghanistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rangin Dadfar Spanta at a press conference held in Kabul on 10 November.

The EU also adopted a declaration on the situation in Gaza. Work to provide concrete contributions to the implementation of the peace agreement has been initiated.

The disturbances in Iran in connection with the presidential election led to extensive EU coordination during the Swedish Presidency. Most of the locally employed staff

from EU embassies who had been detained were released.

The Swedish Presidency has also dealt with the issue of measures against Iran on grounds of its nuclear technology programme. The review of the existing sanctions regime has been concluded.

Negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Iraq were concluded in November. This agreement will be the first contractual relation between the EU and Iraq.

During the Swedish Presidency a Council decision was taken on the EU's preparedness to sign an association agreement with Syria.

Agricultural agreements with Egypt and Israel have been finally negotiated and signed.

ASIA

During the Swedish Presidency, the EU adopted action plans for deeper cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan, with particular focus on strengthening EU political and civil operations in the region. These were adopted at the GAERC on 26–27 October and work on implementing the strategies has now begun. The EU actively provided support to the



Photo: Karin Nylund/Ministry for Foreign Affairs

election processes before and during the parliamentary and provincial elections in August. This included financial support and the provision of an election observer mission (EOM).

European Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton, President of FICCI Harsh Pati Singhanian, Minister for Trade Ewa Björling and Minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma, seen here at the EU-India Summit, held on 6 November in New Delhi.

The EU has taken Council decisions on further sanctions against Burma, as a response to the conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi.

A Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with Indonesia, the first of its kind, was signed in connection with the foreign minister troika in Jakarta (9 November).

An EU-India Summit was held in New Delhi (6 November). Issues that were discussed included climate change and the economic crisis, but also regional issues. The Summit resulted in an Indian confirmation of the 2° Celsius goal in the area of climate, deeper cooperation in the field

of nuclear energy, disarmament and non-proliferation.

An EU-China Summit was held in Nanjing (30 November). Relations between the EU and China, climate and the economic crisis were in focus. The EU and China were able to agree on continuing to develop the strategic partnership, on upgrading the partnership in the field of climate and increasing their efforts to achieve a conclusion of the negotiations on a partnership and cooperation agreement. A declaration was adopted and five agreements on increased cooperation were entered into, including in the area of climate.

Negotiations with South Korea on a free trade agreement and a framework agreement have been concluded and the agreements preliminarily signed. These agreements provide the basis for the strategic partnership between the EU and South Korea.



Photo: Henrik Montgomery/Scanpix

Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton seen here in New York during UN week.

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

The Summit between the EU and the USA was held in Washington (3 November). The climate issue, the economic and financial situation and cooperation between the EU and the USA in Afghanistan were among the issues discussed. Important results from the Summit were the establishment of an EU-US Energy Council, deeper cooperation in the area of development, the establishment of a task force on antibiotic resistance, intensified cooperation in the Transatlantic Economic

Council, deeper cooperation in justice and home affairs, strengthened cooperation on cyber security and the adoption of a declaration on disarmament and non-proliferation.

LATIN AMERICA

The political crisis in Honduras has required an extensive commitment during the Swedish Presidency, which has resulted in Council conclusions



Brazilian President Lula da Silva, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso at the EU-Brazil Summit held in Stockholm on 6 October.

calling for a peacefully negotiated solution to the crisis and opening the way for further targeted measures against the members of the *de facto* government who were blocking a negotiated solution.

An EU–Brazil Summit was held in October. The meeting resulted in a strengthened strategic partnership. The focus of discussion was climate change and the financial crisis and a decision was made on close co-operation in the framework of both the G20 and COP15 in Copenhagen.

At the troika meeting at ministerial level with Cuba (28 November), the EU conveyed its concern about respect for human rights, reiterating that the requirement for such respect was crucial in normalising Cuba’s relations with the EU.

AFRICA

A policy for the Horn of Africa was drawn up that identifies the region’s challenges and EU priorities in order to better focus joint EU efforts for peace and development in the region, and Council conclusions were adopted.

Council conclusions on Somalia were adopted, forming both the starting point and the framework for an increased EU commitment to peace in Somalia. A subsequent high-level mission to the countries in the Horn of Africa, aimed at gaining support for the EU commitment to Somalia and preparing future operations, was held under the leadership of the



Cooperation between the EU and Africa will be developed and strengthened, Carl Bildt told African leaders in Rimini, Italy in August.

Presidency's Special Representative. Tackling the Somalia issue, including its inclusion in a regional policy, has generated a major response both in the region and among EU partners.

Council conclusions on Sudan were adopted in September, which moved the EU position forward in a coherent manner, particularly before the elections in 2010 and the referendum in 2011. Initiatives aimed at deepening the EU policy discussion concerning Sudan have been implemented, including seminars organised by the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) in Uppsala and by the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) in Paris.

The partnership within the framework of the EU–Africa Strategy has been deepened, as manifested at the ministerial troika with the African Union in October.

Within the framework of a broader Sahel initiative, the Presidency has led troika missions to Mali, Mauritania and Algeria in order to identify how EU support to the Sahel region can be made more effective and the security and development of the region be strengthened. Council conclu-

sions were adopted after the visit to Mali and a comprehensive report on the initiative is being prepared.

A ministerial troika was held in Zimbabwe. For the EU, this was the first high-level contact with Zimbabwe for eight years. The Swedish Presidency was thereby able to convey a clear message on expectations for respect for human rights, the introduction of good governance and cooperation in the government not being obstructed by elements within ZANU-PF.

A ministerial troika was held in Kenya aimed at increasing the dynamics of the reform agenda to prevent any future repetition of the considerable violence that occurred in connection with the election in December 2007. The reform agenda is broad and includes constitutional, election and land issues.

Cooperation and contacts with ECOWAS have been intensified and resulted in coordinated and effective action with regard to the current crises in West Africa (primarily Guinea and Niger). The fact that deeper cooperation has led to greater consensus was confirmed at the ministerial troika with ECOWAS in Abuja in November.

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Swedish Presidency has drawn attention to the importance of international law in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) with regard to EU policies for the Middle East, Sudan, Somalia, Georgia and the closer region.

The Council has adopted conclusions on international human rights and has updated the EU Guidelines. In cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a seminar was held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Sweden has actively pursued the EU's Common Position in support of the International Criminal Court.

The Council has adopted conclusions on work on human rights and democracy. Special Council conclusions on freedom of religion were also adopted during the autumn.

For the first time, development cooperation ministers and foreign ministers adopted Council conclusions containing an action plan for EU democracy support.

The Council took a decision on EU accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Photo: Gunnar Seijbold/Government Offices

Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson at the biggest meeting of the Presidency, European Development Days (EDD), at Stockholm International Fairs.

Over 60 diplomatic representations have been made in third countries referring to the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights, concerning the death penalty, torture and human rights defenders. Just over 50 EU and Presidency statements have been made apart from the speeches and interventions made in the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Human rights dialogues were implemented with 17 countries/organisations during the Swedish Presidency.

A new human rights dialogue was established with Indonesia. In some ten countries in conflict or post-conflict situations, the EU undertook diplomatic representations on the importance of respect for international humanitarian rights and human rights.

The EU NGO Forum on Human Rights was held in Stockholm (6–7 July) on the theme of violence against children. The anniversaries of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women have been commemorated.

Priority has been given to work on capital punishment, including a meeting led by the Minister for International Development Cooperation in connection with the UN General Assembly.

Efforts have been made to strengthen the EU's foreign policy work for LGBT people's rights. LGBT issues have been highlighted in ongoing

CFSP work. A special event was held during the General Assembly together with NGOs.

At the Swedish Presidency's initiative, a number of concrete measures have been taken to increase visibility and transparency in EU human rights work, termed the Transparency Initiative.

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

An EU-US declaration on disarmament and non-proliferation was adopted at the Summit in Washington (3 November).

An Article XIV conference supporting the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has been held.

The proactive EU work for a global Arms Trade Treaty contributed to a US re-evaluation and a UN decision on a conference in 2012 on the Arms Trade Treaty.

During the Swedish Presidency, the EU has helped to actively pursue the issue of multilateralisation of the nuclear fuel cycle (Multilateral Nuclear Approaches (MNA)) and thereby contributed to a decision on MNA at the IAEA board meeting (27 November).

A Council decision was taken on EU autonomous sanctions against North Korea in the area of dual-use products. Negotiations on a list of dual-use products were finalised during the Swedish Presidency.

Council decisions were taken on regularly published reports regarding the EU strategy on weapons of mass destruction, the EU strategy for small arms and light weapons and Member State contributions to the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

EU SECURITY POLICY AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

At the GAERC in November, a declaration on the theme of 'ESDP 10 Years – Challenges and Opportunities' was adopted, together with conclusions.

A process has been initiated to take stock of EU military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea) before and after the election in the country in 2010.

Measures were taken to achieve full staffing of the EU police mission in Afghanistan. A conference to generate forces was held at the initiative of the Presidency, which led to a further 34 seconded people being registered to join the mission.

A Council decision was taken to initiate planning for a possible mission in order to train Somali security forces.

Guidelines were adopted at the GAERC in November in order to increase the flexibility and usability of the EU Battle Groups.

A decision was taken to strengthen crisis management capability to meet the demand for civil common security and defence policy missions. This involves rapid reaction, stockpiling, funding, training in human rights and gender equality, and a process of simplifying Member States' efforts to supply more civilian staff.

Seminars on the theme of 1325 training before and during ESDP missions and on the national action plans for 1325 were held.

A discussion was initiated on strengthening the EU's role in the area of mediation. Events included a conference with all the EU Special Representatives on this issue. A strategy on how the EU is to strengthen its role as a mediator and agent for conflict prevention was approved at the GAERC in November.

Within the OSCE, the EU during the Swedish Presidency has played a prominent role in the Corfu Process regarding the future security of Europe, which in turn has enabled leading decisions for the process in future.

Council conclusions on climate and security were adopted at the Foreign Affairs Council (8 December).

Calendar

DATE	MEETING	CONTENT/RESULTS
July		
24–26	The Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Afghanistan together with US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke.	Meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Rangin Dadfar Spanta, as well as with EU election observers and the EU Police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL).
27–28	General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC)	Conclusions on Somalia adopted and a resulting Somalia mission in troika format is carried out.
September		
11	EU–South Africa Summit	Focus on follow-up of the strategic partnership between the EU and South Africa, the international economic crisis, the issue of climate change, and peace and security (primarily regarding Zimbabwe).
15	Ministerial conference between the EU and the five Central Asian republics.	Extensive dialogue in areas such as regional security, the economic crisis and environmental challenges.
19–28	Opening of the UN General Assembly	Large number of bilateral and troika meetings with the USA, Russia, Japan, India, Ukraine, Georgia, Iraq, the Palestinian Authority and others.

DATE	MEETING	CONTENT/RESULTS
October		
6	EU–Brazil Summit	Discussions focus on climate change and the financial crisis. As a result of the Summit, the EU–Brazil strategic partnership is further strengthened.
9	The EU and the USA arrange a meeting with party leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).	In light of stalled political developments in BiH, the EU and the USA take an initiative for a process with the political leaders in the country, aimed at unblocking the political situation (the Butmir Process).
26–27	GAERC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed EU strategies for Afghanistan and Pakistan. • Free trade agreement with South Korea. • Decision on additional sanctions against Burma. • Discussion on how to deal with Iran.
29–30	European Council	The meeting approves the Swedish Presidency's report on the establishment of a European External Action Service.

DATE	MEETING	CONTENT/RESULTS
November		
3	EU–USA Summit	Focus on the climate issue, the financial situation and cooperation between the EU and the USA in Afghanistan. Important results from the summit are the establishment of an EU–USA Energy Council, adoption of a declaration on disarmament and non-proliferation, deeper cooperation in the area of development, deeper cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs, etc.
4	Slovenia and Croatia sign an arbitration agreement to resolve the border dispute between the two countries at a ceremony in Stockholm.	An Arbitral Tribunal will be tasked with determining the course of the maritime and land boundaries in the disputed areas.
6	EU–India Summit	Focus on climate change and the economic crisis. Results from the meeting include Indian confirmation of the two-degree target in the area of climate, deeper cooperation in the areas of nuclear energy, disarmament and non-proliferation.
9	Foreign ministers Troika with Indonesia	Signing of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, and the launch of a human rights dialogue.
13	EU–Iraq meeting	Negotiations concluded on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Iraq.

DATE	MEETING	CONTENT/RESULTS
November		
16–17	GAERC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions on international humanitarian law (IHL) are adopted and the EU's guidelines on IHL are updated. • Conclusions on human rights and democracy work are adopted. Human rights dialogues have been implemented with 17 countries during the Swedish Presidency. • The Council approves EU/EC accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. • The Council approves visa liberalisation for Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) from 19 December.
18	EU–Russia Summit	<p>At the meeting, Russia raises its emissions reductions targets ahead of Copenhagen and confirms WTO membership as a top priority. Five agreements on cross-border cooperation between the EU and Russia are signed. The meeting also welcomes the establishment of a warning mechanism ahead of potential energy crises.</p>
30	EU–China Summit	<p>Focus on climate change and the economic crisis. Agreement is reached on continuing to develop the strategic partnership, on upgrading the partnership in the area of climate and on increasing efforts to achieve a conclusion of the negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.</p>

DATE	MEETING	CONTENT/RESULTS
December		
4	EU–Ukraine Summit	The EU and Ukraine discuss their integration and cooperation agenda. An agreement between Ukraine and Europol is signed.
7	GAC (General Affairs Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions adopted on the enlargement countries. • The meeting adopts the financial package for Croatia, which provides the framework of the financial implications of Croatia's EU membership.
8	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) – Eastern Partnership	Relations deepened in a number of areas between the EU and six countries along the Union's eastern border: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. Progress is made on the Association Agreement with Ukraine, which is expected to be adopted in 2010.
9	Conference on the Western Balkans in Brussels: “Overcoming the economic crisis – from regional cooperation to EU membership”	The Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF), a major initiative involving the European Commission and a number of development banks, is signed in connection with the conference. The European Commission's contribution amounts to EUR 87 million.

DATE	MEETING	CONTENT/RESULTS
December		
10–11	European Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croatia's accession negotiations enter the final phase. • Negotiations with Turkey continue. • Membership applications from Iceland, Albania and Montenegro are being processed. • Conclusions are adopted on EU support for the US efforts to resume the peace negotiations. The EU's basic position is clarified, i.e. that negotiations are to be based on the 1967 borders, that the settlements are illegal and that all final status issues are to be included in the negotiations, including Jerusalem. • A declaration on Afghanistan is adopted. • In light of Iran's lack of cooperation in the negotiations on its nuclear programme, a declaration on Iran is adopted. • The Stockholm Programme is adopted.
11	Troika meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad	<p>The Troika confirms the EU's position of a negotiated two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders. The discussions also confirm the EU's readiness to further develop and deepen the bilateral relations with the Palestinian Authority and to continue support for the development of a Palestinian state.</p>

For further information
you are welcome to contact:



Christian Danielsson, Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the EU
Telephone: +32 (0)2 289 56 45



Olof Skoog, Ambassador
Representative of Sweden to the EU Political
and Security Committee
Telephone: +32 (0)2 289 56 57



Björn Lyrvall
Director General for Political Affairs at
the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Telephone: +46 (0)8 405 55 93



Magnus Schöldtz
European Correspondent at the Swedish
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Coordination of EU Common Foreign and Security Policy
Telephone: +46 (0)8 405 53 75



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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden