



The Swedish Presidency of



the Council of the EU

explained by

ARPA
EU AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS



Presidency of the Council of the EU

- The Kingdom of Sweden holds the Council of the European Union presidency for the first 6 months of 2023.
- Sweden's mandate marks the end of the "trio" composed of France, the Czech Republic, and the current mandate country.
- The next rotation, which will last from July 2023 to December 2024, will be composed of Spain, Belgium, and Hungary.

Greener, Safer, and More Free Europe



Unity: Build consensus towards **robust European security and defence**, while continuing the support to the Ukraine issue.



Values: Uphold the principles of **the rule of law, freedom, and individual rights** amidst the weakening of democracy in some EU countries.



Prosperity: Creating the best conditions for an open **economy** and fostering **innovation** while working towards the **green transition**

sweden 2023.eu

4 priorities

for 6 months

1

Security: Strengthen European Security and Defence

Ukraine

Increase economic and military support

Ensure unity in decision-making

Continue pressure on Russia

Building consensus

Reforms toward EU Integration

Achieve agreement on strong EU security

Foster the Strategic Compass

Global EU Security

Partnering with strategic allies and NATO

Promotion of EU geopolitical significance

Fight cross-border organized crime

2 Competitiveness: Promoting an Open and Innovative Economy

Resilience

- Implementing reforms and investments through the Recovery and Resilience Facility

Innovation

- Establishment of the [European Innovation Council](#).
- Implementation of the [Horizon Europe Program](#)



Trade

- Building strong [trade relationships globally](#)
- Promoting sustainability in trade Agreements and reforms at the WTO

Economic and Financial Affairs

- [Deactivation of the Stability and Growth Pact's general escape clause](#)
- Combatting money laundering and terrorism financing
- Modernizing regulatory framework for financial management

2 Green & Energy Transition: Towards climate neutrality

Green Deal

- Put Fit for 55 Package into action
- Continuing informal trilogues on proposals for revision of the Renewable Energy Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive
- Revision of Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and hydrogen/decarbonized gas market package

Energy transition

- Review of CO2 emissions standards for new heavy-duty vehicles
- Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive
- Investment and regulatory measures toward innovative, fossil-free industries





“

Respect for democracy, individual rights, freedoms, and the rule of law are among the established European values. Worrying reports show that democracy is sliding in some EU Member States.

- Ulf Kristersson, Prime minister of Sweden

”

Expected Actions

- Measures of democratic monitoring
- Actions to strengthen and ensure democratic principles and rights
- Protection of democratic elections from misinformation

Democratic Values and the Rule of Law: Our foundation

3

What to **expect** from the **Swedish Presidency** of the Council of the European Union?

Ukraine

Increase the economic and military **support** given to the country while continuing sanctions and **pressure** on Russia



Economy

Enhance **competitiveness** as a way to ensure economic growth and economic resilience, and increase **geopolitical importance**

Integration

Foster ties with Eastern Partnership countries and support the **integration process** with the Western Balkans.

Reach a **consensus** on **robust EU security**.

Innovation

Fostering **innovative initiatives** to support the green and digital transition, contributing to a circular economy, and **reducing climate and environmental impact**.

Unity

Safeguard Union's values and forging and sustaining concord to achieve key regional and international objectives

What **obstacles** stand in the way of the Swedish presidency?

Domestic Divisions

The Swedish government's dependence on the far-right party will compromise its ability to protect its agenda on rule of law, migration, and climate and environmental decisions.

Internal Divisions

Within the EU, both on issues related to European values and on support for Ukraine.

Cracks have already emerged on several fronts amongst member states, jeopardizing the unity and harmony sought by Sweden.

Tensions

On the geopolitical side with Russia over the war in Ukraine and China.

On the trade and competitiveness side, the United States as a consequence of the IRA Policy.



Contact us for more information on EU policies!



arpa-eu.com



[@ARPA_EUAffairs](https://twitter.com/ARPA_EUAffairs)



info@arpa-eu.com



[ARPA - EU Affairs & Communications](https://www.linkedin.com/company/arpa-eu-affairs-communications)



[arpa_euaffairs](https://www.instagram.com/arpa_euaffairs)