



## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SWEDEN AND POLAND

The Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Poland are bound together by history, a shared geography and a common future. This deep connection and common interests are the starting point for the Strategic Partnership between Sweden and Poland.

The strategic bilateral relationship between Sweden and Poland is based on common values and respect for international law, democracy, rule of law and human rights. Together we strive to build a safe, secure and prosperous Europe with a particular focus on the Baltic Sea region. We will work to make our societies more competitive, resilient and secure.

A fundamentally worsened security situation in Europe following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the rise in geopolitical tensions worldwide and the new dimension of Sweden and Poland's relationship as NATO Allies provide a rationale for further broadening and deepening the bilateral partnership between our countries, while building on existing collaboration and lessons learned.

Russia will remain the most significant threat to Euro-Atlantic security for the foreseeable future. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is part of a wider, systematic challenge to the rules-based international order which forms the basis for security, stability and prosperity in Europe.

Sweden and Poland will further enhance cooperation to strengthen economic prosperity in the Baltic Sea region with a special focus on initiatives that make full use of the competitive advantages and unique market niches' offer of both countries.

Sweden and Poland will take leading roles in further enhancing cooperation to strengthen security in the Baltic Sea region and take initiatives to further constrain Russia's influence, scope of action and ability to cause harm. We will work together to protect our common security and strive for even deeper, broader and more effective bilateral cooperation on security and defence.

Sweden and Poland remain steadfast in our unwavering support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence, as well as its inherent right to self-defence against Russia's war of aggression. We fully support Ukraine's right to choose its own security arrangements and pursue its Euro-Atlantic integration. Together we will work to ensure that Ukraine is provided with necessary support, including military equipment and funding, so that the country can recover and build back better.

Thus, reaffirming and renewing the Strategic Partnership between Sweden and Poland set out in the *Declaration on Political Cooperation in Areas of Strategic Importance between Poland and Sweden*, signed in Warsaw on 4 May 2011, and building on existing forms of cooperation, we will further deepen and extend this partnership in areas of strategic importance for both countries.

This cooperation should include, but not be limited to, the principal areas and initiatives set out below.

## I. Principal areas of strategic bilateral cooperation

### **Security and defence**

Sweden and Poland will:

- support strong ties between Europe and North America, including by strengthening NATO, as the unique, essential and indispensable transatlantic forum to consult, coordinate and act on matters related to our collective security;
- strive for fair burden-sharing within NATO, with a view to contributing to the security of our common neighbourhood and the Euro-Atlantic region as a whole;
- cooperate to strengthen allied deterrence and defence in the Baltic Sea region by ensuring optimal effectiveness of NATO's forces, command and control, defence plans and capability development, as well as by strengthening allied military presence on NATO's eastern flank while ensuring the coherence of the collective defence arrangements on the eastern and northern flanks;
- pursue further cooperation within NATO on developing the Alliance's strategic approach to Russia;
- act to constrain and contest Russia's aggressive actions and counter its ability to pursue destabilising activities in the Euro-Atlantic area by raising the cost for Russia, as well as for Belarus for supporting Russia

in these actions, through developing further response options within NATO and the EU;

- ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts taken by NATO and the EU in response to Russian aggression against Ukraine and regarding the development of defence capabilities;
- cooperate on further sanctions towards Russia and increasing their effectiveness;
- continue to take determined action together with partners to uphold sanction pressure on Russia and to tackle all forms of sanction circumvention for as long as Russia's war of aggression continues and Ukraine's territorial integrity is not restored;
- cooperate within the EU and among its Member States to deploy further tools to constrain Russia's aggressive capabilities, reflecting the full breadth of the areas of the EU, including new measures such as tariffs, and strengthen common initiatives and actions on new economic measures targeting Russia's ability to wage its war of aggression;
- support the formulation and implementation of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy, seeking common positions and joint initiatives regarding civilian and military missions, defence industry initiatives and the European Peace Facility, with particular focus on the eastern neighbourhood;
- work on strengthening the EU-NATO relationship and contribute to unity and the reinforcement of strong transatlantic relations by cooperating in areas such as resilience and civil preparedness, space, cyber security, hybrid threats, climate and new and emerging technologies;
- work towards an enhanced bilateral Strategic Defence Partnership, building on current cooperation within already existing defence formats such as the *Framework Agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Kingdom of Sweden on Mutual Collaboration in the Field of Defence*, signed in Warsaw on 14 September 2015;
- establish a bilateral dialogue on comprehensive security in the Baltic Sea region, focusing on areas including countering hybrid threats and strengthening resilience in the field of energy security and critical infrastructure in the Baltic Sea and within the EU and NATO;
- strengthen resilience through cooperation in the areas of military and civil defence, with a focus on preparedness and crisis management in the framework of an all-hazards and whole-of-society approach in an integrated and cross-sectoral manner, including through exchange of best practice;

- cooperate against organised crime, especially in the Baltic Sea ports, targeting smuggling of narcotics and firearms as well as smuggling and trafficking of human beings;
- contribute to the process on lawful access to data for law enforcement purposes;
- as we stand on the verge of joining the EPPO together, initiate closer bilateral dialogue on how to disrupt the criminal economy, including by exchanging lessons learned, and explore possible bilateral cooperation;
- bolster exchange of good practices, experiences and lessons learnt in civil protection, civil defence and economic security;
- engage in dialogue with other EU Member States and the EU institutions in order to secure funding for projects that increase resilience, including dual-use infrastructure;
- share assessments and strengthen cooperation on political and security issues concerning the situation on the Korean Peninsula, including both states' cooperation within the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

### **Support to Ukraine and the Eastern Partnership**

Sweden and Poland will:

- support Ukraine in its efforts to exercise its inherent right to self-defence and right to choose its own security arrangements and to decide its own future;
- continue supporting Ukraine on its irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration;
- engage in joint efforts to promote global support for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, in line with the key principles and objectives of Ukraine's Peace Formula;
- strengthen cooperation in support of Ukraine and Moldova on their path toward membership of the European Union, supporting their reform efforts and concrete steps forward for Ukraine and Moldova during their EU accession processes, including gradual integration;
- support training, including under the auspices of NATO Security and Assistance Training for Ukraine (NSATU) and the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM), and develop the Joint Analysis Training and Education Centre (JATEC) as an important NATO initiative for strengthening cooperation with the Ukrainian armed forces;

- support Ukraine’s defence production capacity by identifying opportunities for priority investment areas and supporting joint procurement;
- continue support for the reform of Ukraine’s civil security sector, including through the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM);
- continue to support the International Criminal Court, as well as Ukrainian and other national investigations of international crimes committed in and against Ukraine, and continue to engage in work towards establishing an effective Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine;
- continue to engage in efforts to establish, in cooperation with Ukraine, an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury arising from the internationally wrongful acts of Russia in or against Ukraine;
- continue to support international efforts aimed at identifying sustainable funding for Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction, including through the use of extraordinary revenues stemming from immobilised Russian assets, which must remain immobilised until Russia fulfils its obligation to compensate Ukraine;
- contribute to the development of the Eastern Partnership, adapting it to the new challenges in the region and boosting its activities, while building on the successful cooperation between Sweden and Poland as founders of the initiative;
- continue support to the democratic forces and civil society of Belarus, including independent media outlets and human rights defenders, through joint initiatives, while maintaining the pressure on the authoritarian regime, and counter irregular migration and its instrumentalisation by the regime.

### **Migration and external EU border security**

Sweden and Poland will:

- together with other EU Member States, make efforts to properly protect the Schengen border, bearing in mind that the Schengen area is a fundamental achievement of the EU, enabling citizens to move freely within the Union;
- cooperate on a comprehensive approach to migration, with the aim of increasing returns and preventing and mitigating the negative effects of irregular migration that have affected the EU in recent years;

- address the long-term challenges of migration and its root causes, bearing in mind that instrumentalised migration is becoming a security issue requiring new solutions, and work on returns and reintegration as a priority;
- work jointly to maintain fundamental advantages of the well-functioning Schengen area, while keeping the security of the EU external borders at the highest level.

### **Bilateral trade, investments and economic cooperation**

Sweden and Poland will:

- organise a high-level business summit in Sweden in the second half of 2025, and the following year in Poland, focusing on innovation, including clean energy and digitalisation. The aim of the summit is to enhance the competitiveness of our two economies and deepen the cooperation between businesses in both countries. During the summit, a session on Ukraine could be arranged to support Ukraine and discuss cooperation on the green transition;
- further deepen bilateral trade and business relations and strengthen economic cooperation, while seeking to increase the volume of bilateral trade and investment, as well as transfer of know-how, and promote tourism and improved mobility as well as other vital economic interests between Sweden and Poland;
- agree to explore possible cooperation on innovation development, including research and industry collaboration;
- raise ambitions to develop cooperation on smart, green and digital industrial development, with a special focus on cluster development and collaboration;
- pursue a bilateral dialogue on investment and business climate through active interaction between the business community and authorities in Sweden and Poland on issues such as venture capital and private equity, including establishing a joint working group to foster foreign direct investments;
- develop strategic, long-term and mutually beneficial Swedish-Polish defence industrial cooperation in the air, land, space and maritime domains, and explore mutual investment opportunities, options for cooperation under the EU umbrella and partnership between small and medium-sized enterprises (SME);
- work together in the field of innovation for competitive economies, with the goal of creating strategic research and development

consortiums including private and public actors, academia and financial institutions;

- foster knowledge creation to drive innovation and build shared expertise, leveraging world-class large-scale facilities in both countries (e.g. ESS, MAX IV and Solaris) to advance collaborative research and technological breakthroughs;
- explore ways to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the Nordic Investment Bank;
- develop cooperation on research and innovation in the health care sector, exchange experiences on health system organisation in both countries, and cooperate in improving regulatory practices in the area of medicinal products and medical devices;
- encourage investment opportunities and cooperation in the field of health care, including in research and development, biopharmaceuticals and clinical operations;
- enhance cooperation on research and development within the field of new technologies and digitalisation, including 6G, cyber security and AI, and promote the use of secure and trusted connectivity, including in 5G, within the EU and globally.

### **The European single market, competitiveness and international trade policy**

Sweden and Poland will:

- work to boost the EU's competitiveness, including in energy-intensive industries, and to raise productivity growth, with a special focus on industrial and service excellence, partnerships in deep tech development and supporting the start-up ecosystem;
- contribute to the deepening of the European single market, ensuring the seamless movement of goods, services, capital and people across our borders;
- work to harmonise regulations and to improve enforcement and implementation, in order to remove existing barriers and refrain from creating new ones, fostering a more integrated and competitive single market that benefits businesses and consumers alike;
- seek to cooperate on services and on identifying service barriers, including non-regulatory barriers, in the European single market, with a particular focus on horizontal and economically significant services with the potential for high growth and added value, especially in light of the green and digital transition;

- support and boost investment growth to improve connectivity and strengthen the resilience of the European single market;
- identify and address global challenges and barriers to trade, hindering the development of economic and trade cooperation, whilst working to strengthen the multilateral trading system, including the World Trade Organization;
- work to reduce regulatory burden in order to improve framework conditions, regulatory coherence and cost-efficiency so as to create a business environment that is more conducive to productivity growth and innovation.

### **Energy, climate and environment in the Baltic Sea region**

Sweden and Poland will:

- formulate common positions within the EU, including in the Nuclear Alliance, aiming at a technology-neutral energy policy, including nuclear energy and less detailed energy regulation to give EU Member States the flexibility to choose which non-carbon technologies to use in their energy mix;
- cooperate and take action to manage natural resources sustainably, promote circular economy, support sound waste management and build resilience to natural disasters;
- continue cooperation between nuclear safety, nuclear security and radiation protection authorities, focusing on nuclear safety and security and radiation waste management;
- develop cooperation and exchange of information between relevant institutions in the field of nuclear new-build projects and nuclear waste management;
- agree to explore cooperation on research and innovation in the green transition, with a focus on advancing technologies, reducing emissions and enhancing energy resilience;
- stimulate the development of green technologies to drive a sustainable economy, promoting innovation that reduces environmental impact, supports resource efficiency and fosters long-term economic resilience;
- cooperate on adaptation to climate change with the aim to boost adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change;
- explore possibilities for cooperation in creating legal and regulatory bases for developing modern energy technologies in the Baltic Sea, such as carbon capture and storage (CCS).



## **The rule of law and human rights**

Sweden and Poland will:

- uphold respect for the fundamental values of the EU, as enshrined in the Article 2 TEU;
- engage in efforts to safeguard respect for the rule of law, including on judicial independence and combating corruption;
- foster a close dialogue with and between relevant stakeholders, such as civil society, judiciary, academia, media and international organisations, promoting a strong culture of rule of law;
- continue working on strengthening respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, promote democratic principles and respond strongly to threats to democracy, with a particular focus on the Eastern Neighbourhood;
- ensure respect for democratic values as a fundamental condition for EU membership, including full access to the single market, and support EU candidate countries in their efforts to implement reforms to this end.

## **Cultural and people-to-people contacts**

Sweden and Poland will:

- promote cultural and people-to-people exchange on various levels by encouraging exchanges of cultural projects and initiatives, as well as among artists, cultural specialists, and academics;
- support cooperation in the area of contemporary culture, particularly in the creative sectors and other fields, such as design, gaming, architecture, or fashion;
- encourage cooperation between museums and other cultural heritage institutions, especially in the area of exchange and collaboration in organising exhibitions concerning common history;
- further develop people-to-people contacts, including through common youth initiatives under EU educational and youth programmes.

## **II. Principal forms of strategic bilateral co-operation**

In order to provide guidance and a framework for our activities, and without prejudice to other formats and mechanisms, we will seek to implement the following formats for our cooperation:

- Government consultations, led by the Prime Ministers of Sweden and Poland, with the participation of relevant ministers, focusing on prioritised areas of cooperation;
- Regular joint meetings at the level of foreign affairs ministers and defence ministers (Quadriga format) to discuss threat assessments and security cooperation, including in the Baltic Sea region;
- Annual round table consultations on security and defence policy, rotationally co-chaired by the national security advisors (organised by the Prime Minister’s Office on the Swedish side and the National Security Bureau on the Polish side), including key high-level officials at the ministries of defence and the ministries of foreign affairs. The format will include focus areas for future follow-up, leading to increased and deepened cooperation;
- Consultations between relevant ministers responsible for prioritised areas such as security and defence, trade, innovation and economic cooperation, energy and climate, digitalisation, organised crime, the rule of law, hybrid and cyber threats, civil protection and civil defence, and migration, as well as vital EU issues. A format for consultations will be established as a forum to exchange experiences and find areas and forms for future collaboration;
- Consultations at senior official level between the Swedish Ministry of Defence, the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration and the Polish Ministry of National Defence, as well as other activities aimed at strengthening regular contacts at working level in the field of civil defence;
- Consultations at senior staff level between the armed forces of Sweden and Poland, as well as other activities with a view to strengthening regular, working level contacts between the armed forces;
- Regular contacts between Sweden’s and Poland’s leading research institutions and think tanks will be encouraged, with a view to sharing assessments and engaging in joint activities, in particular with a focus on security of the Baltic Sea region, the Eastern Neighbourhood and cooperation on new technologies, such as 6G, cyber security and AI;
- A platform that will be established to develop industrial cooperation, especially in security and defence, also including the experiences gained from the partnership in the platforms for innovation and energy, to develop and implement the green transition, digitalisation and state-of-the-art connectivity as areas where we have shared interests.

This Strategic Partnership will bring together governments, businesses, think-tanks and research institutions, and paves the way for deepened cooperation.

In order to ensure the implementation of this Strategic Partnership and explore further steps to enhance bilateral cooperation between Sweden and Poland, the ministries of foreign affairs of Sweden and Poland will coordinate the execution of the Strategic Partnership and review progress across the full range of areas of cooperation, in close consultation with relevant ministries and institutions.

Sweden and Poland will review the advancement of the Strategic Partnership whenever required. Amendments or adjustments of the Strategic Partnership may be agreed through regular diplomatic channels of communication between Sweden and Poland.

This Strategic Partnership is not intended to, and does not, create any legally binding rights, duties or obligations under international law on either Participant.

Harpsund on 28 November 2024

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of Sweden

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