



Ministry of Defence

Minister for Civil Defence

Dear Commissioner, Michael McGrath

I want to congratulate you on your mission to lead the work on a European Democracy Shield.

There is no doubt we need to strengthen our joint preparedness and raise the baseline of democratic resilience against hybrid threats, including FIMI. By deploying a wide range of hybrid tactics, malign actors such as Russia strive to exploit vulnerabilities in our open societies—both strategically and opportunistically—to achieve their objectives.

When shielding Europe's democracy – strong national capabilities are crucial. Countries have different experiences, expertise, and approaches to building their psychological defence. The Swedish Psychological Defence Agency is one example of preventive work in this regard, and I believe that we have a lot to learn from each other. Since we face so many common challenges, the solutions must be developed in close cooperation.

I look forward to cooperating with you and hereby send a non-paper outlining what Sweden considers important aspects in the development of a European Democracy Shield. We stand ready to contribute to collective expertise and support long-term efforts.

Yours Sincerely,

Carl-Oskar Bohlin