



Committee: European Parliament AFET

Topic: (a) Discussing the Enlargement of the European Union – Yes, No, and How? and **(b)** The Role of the European Union in the Governance of Antarctica

Delegation: Kingdom of Sweden (Swedish MEP – Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats)

Sweden joined the EU as a member state in 1995 and has since become a vital contributor to the Union through its commitment to democratic values and social equality and environmental defense and international partnerships. The AFET's and Swedish MEP 2025 agenda focuses on EU enlargement and EU governance in Antarctica because Sweden wants to achieve its strategic goals of building European unity and protecting worldwide environmental resources. Sweden maintains continuous research activities in polar regions through its Antarctic Treaty membership since 1984.

Swedish MEP – Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats are well aware of the economical and strategical benefits from a larger, democratic EU for Sweden. Not only beneficial for Sweden, but it also applies for enlargement of the European internal market, which means more trade opportunities and integrated supply chains. From political perspective Sweden sees enlargement – especially in Eastern Europe – as vital for stabilizing the EU's neighborhood and strengthening democratic institutions. Sweden is already one of the Kyev's key backers in it's reform and post war path. The Kingdom of Sweden looks upon the political and military tensions happening in the Eastern Europe as we speak with deep concern.

Swedish ministers frequently emphasize that enlargement is a »strategic investment in European peace and stability«, but in order to achieve this EU must value rule of law and independence of other states and prevent possible conflicts through responsible expansion. This reflects it's belief that institutional strenght is foundational for a long term EU stability.

Sweden backs a strict enlargement process based on merit which follows the Copenhagen Criteria which include stable institutions and democracy and human rights and rule of law and market stability. The Kingdom of Sweden along with its Swedish MEP member has demonstrated backing for Ukraine's accession through government agency-based expert reform assistance for human rights and environment chapter negotiations.

The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat's (SPRS) research activities are heavily linked to climate science and its research work in Antarctica generates information on sea level and ice sheet changes which is of great relevance for Sweden's climate policy as a result of climate change. As well, any political disputes or disagreements between EU and Antarctica will have a significant impact on future sea levels and therefore Sweden's long-term environmental and economic planning. The Madrid Environmental Protocol (1991) has ratified Sweden's MEP, and the SPRS operates according to its national law obligation to enforce this protocol. Moreover, Sweden's environmental protection also includes following the Madrid Protocol under the AST (which requires environmental assessments, minimization of fuel use, and proper waste management).

Swedish MEP (Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) is promoting a strategic partnership among other EU countries to expand EU priority areas in the context of enlargement discussions: Climate Resilience, Democratic Stability, and Geopolitical Security; in order to create a reliable partnership among their critical Nordic and Baltic allies who are also potentially key partners in advocating for EU reforms which the EU will require.

In addition the Swedish MEP believes in possibility that the EU needs its own Antarctic Research Network with Antarctica as its main representative. This would help to tighten diplomatic ties and the importance of scientific research of climate change for all the European countries. Cooperation is likely, but competition for funding and leadership may arise. This would help to promote one of the main environmental campaign in EU – sustainability.