

A FRENCH AND SWEDISH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR INNOVATION AND GREEN SOLUTIONS

A strategic partnership for innovation, digitalisation and green solutions between Sweden and France was signed in November 2017 in Göteborg by Prime Minister Löfven and President Macron.

THE PARTNERSHIP COVERS:

- Green transports, Energy and Smart Cities
- Green Finance
- Digitalisation and Start-ups
- Life Science

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARTNERSHIP IN FRANCE AND IN SWEDEN

The Embassies in France and Sweden are coordinating the implementation of the roadmap of the partnership, through high-level political visits and exchanges between all stakeholders. The Embassy of Sweden in Paris has established informal reference groups, including relevant Swedish companies and French subsidiaries to Swedish companies, to discuss and share ideas on the strategic partnership. The reference groups cover the areas of Green transport, Energy and Smart Cities, Digitalisation and Start-ups, and Life Science. The Embassy of France, with a coordinating role played by its Regional Economic Department, has organised numerous outreach sessions for key French and Swedish stakeholders and has issued a series of papers (*Sweden and the technological frontier*) on the webpages of the Economic Department.

GREEN TRANSPORTS, ENERGY AND SMART CITIES

- In November 2017, the Swedish Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth and the French Minister of Transport Elisabeth Borne jointly inaugurated the transport fair *Solutrans* in Lyon. The Embassy of Sweden and Business Sweden in cooperation with Ericsson France, IKEA, Scania, Volvo Group and the French Ministry of Transport organised a high-level seminar and Round table, in cooperation with the Swedish think tank Fores. The mayor of Göteborg, Ms. Ann-Sofie Hermansson, participated along with the transport cluster CLOSER (Göteborg). As a follow-up, Minister Borne participated in a meeting on 18 – 19 June 2018 in Göteborg, the *High-Level Meeting on Connected and Automated Driving*.
- On 20 March 2018, the Swedish company Runway Safe signed a major contract with SEAM (*Société d'Exploitation de l'Aéroport de Mayotte*) at the Embassy of Sweden in cooperation with Business Sweden for the establishment of a new innovative and secure runway system at the airport of Mayotte, opening up for similar commercial contracts for other French airports.
- On 16 May 2018, a French-Swedish meeting on expert level was held in Paris for stock-taking and sharing of experience in the Green Transport Sector as part of the innovation partnership. Particularly, the discussions focused on autonomous vehicles and electric road systems (ERS) but also on possible cooperation within other areas of the transport sector. The Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, the Swedish Transport Administration (*Trafikverket*), the Swedish government agency Transport Analysis (*Trafikanalys*), the Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden and the Embassy of France participated in the meeting.
- The French-Swedish working group on Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Cities was launched in a kick-off meeting organised on 22 May in Malmö by the Embassy of France and the Swedish Agency for Energy, as an official fringe event of CEM9/MI3. It brought together, for the first time, the main stakeholders: the national federators/platforms (Vivapolis, Smart City Sweden), the ten French and Swedish cities involved in the Alliance bilateral initiative, the governmental bodies and agencies from both countries (incl. French and Swedish Ministries) and representatives from the business (CCFS). As a follow up, a high-level meeting of the group is already planned in Paris in February 2019.

- On 11 June 2018, the Swedish State Secretary Mattias Landgren visited Paris, where he participated in the round table on Green and Secure Public Transport at the Embassy and had a meeting with the French Minister of Transport Elisabeth Borne. The discussion with Minister Borne focused on possible further cooperation between Sweden and France on electric road systems (ERS). The ministers also discussed ongoing negotiations in the EU on transport related issues, the cooperation within the Road Alliance and autonomous and connected vehicles.
- 11 – 14 June 2018, a round table on Green and Secure Public Transport was held on 11 June at the Embassy of Sweden, in the margins of the public transport fair *Transports Publics 2018 – The European Mobility Exhibition* (12 – 14 June) in Paris. The round table was organised by the Embassy and Business Sweden, with the participation of the Swedish think tank Fores, the Swedish public transport entity *Västtrafik*, the public transport entity in Stockholm SL, Île-de-France, Volvo Buses, Scania, Axis Communications and Ericsson France.
- In the margins of the Third High-Level Dialog on Connected and Automated Driving organised on 19 June 2018 in Göteborg by Sweden, the French Minister Elisabeth Borne agreed with her counterpart Minister Tomas Eneroth on key steps to be taken in the Transport sector, in the fields of automated/connected vehicles, green vehicles, and non-road modes of transport, to deliver on the roadmap of the partnership and to reinforce concretely the cooperation between both countries. These key steps were detailed in a joint press release, issued the same day.
- On 24 – 25 September 2018, SIS and AFNOR presented a common project to the other European Member States in Stockholm at the 4th plenary session of the EU sector forum for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities. As a next step, France and Sweden will in the first semester of 2019 lead negotiations with European authorities for the creation of a European technical committee.
- A preparatory meeting for the upcoming meeting of the French-Swedish working group on smart, resilient and sustainable cities (4 – 8 February) was held in Paris on 15 October 2018. The French and Swedish ministries of Environment and Energy and the Embassy of Sweden participated.
- A seminar was organised at the Embassy of France by the French Institute in Sweden on 13 November about Transportation and Smart cities (connected and autonomous vehicles, green energy, connected and green cities/building, user-centered strategies) with IFSTTAR and the Engineering School of Paris City in order to develop French-Swedish projects on education (PhD), research and test-beds.
- On 30 November 2018, a French-Swedish high-level conference on Batteries and E-Mobility (*Green Batteries : Innovation for Today and Tomorrow – Implementing the FR-SE Partnership for Innovation and Green Solutions*) was organised by the Embassy of France in Sweden with the support of KTH, Royal Institute of Technology. The conference promoted French-Swedish exchange of views between relevant public and private stakeholders. The conference was opened by the French minister of Transport Elisabeth Borne and the Swedish minister of Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg in attendance of 23 high-level speakers, i.a. Ghislain Lescuyer, CEO Saft, Per Carlsson, CEO Northvolt, Diego Pavia, CEO Innoenergy, and Sefcovic, Gwenole COZIGOU, Director value chain, UE DG GROW.
- On 5 December 2018, Swedish experts and members of Minister Borne's cabinet attended the transport fair *Les rencontres de la Filière* (FFC/Solutrans) in Lyon, with a focus on electrified roads.
- A high level meeting on autonomous trucks will take place in Paris during 2019, organised by TRM24 in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden in Paris, Business Sweden and Swedish transport companies.
- On 25 January 2019, the Embassy of France and the Swedish Transport Agency will organise an expert seminar on high speed trains as decided in the roadmap of the partnership. French stakeholders (French Ministry of Transport, SNCF Réseau, SNCF Mobilité, Alstom, Eiffage, Vinci, Systra, etc.) and Swedish experts will participate.

- ➔ A workshop on public transport will take place in the second quarter of 2019 with the cities of Paris, Lyon, Toulouse, Bordeaux, and Nantes at the Embassy of Sweden in Paris. The workshop will follow up on the contracts and partnerships established between the above-mentioned cities and relevant companies during the “road show” on public transport to these cities in 2015.
- ➔ On 5 – 6 March 2019, exchanges of experience in the field of green transport between France and Sweden will be organised during the visit of the Vice-Mayor of Paris M. Najdovski to Stockholm and Karlstad.
- ➔ On 6 – 7 May 2019, the Embassy of France will contribute to the organisation of the conference of the Swedish media group Bonnier *Ekotransport 2019*. France will be the “focus country 2019” and key speakers from France will intervene in the field of Green Transport (Renault, RATP, etc.).
- ➔ Île-de-France – Stockholm region partnership: considering the establishment of a structured regional partnership centered on promoting i.a. sustainable transport and Smart Cities solutions.
- ➔ During 2019, Sweden will participate in the inauguration of the *Test Bed for Urban Mobility – Transpolis* in Lyon, in affiliation with the Swedish transport cluster CLOSER-Lindholmen and the French transport cluster CARA.

GREEN FINANCE

- ➔ The Swedish Minister for Financial Markets and Consumer Affairs Per Bolund participated in December 2017 in a high-level conference on *Green finance at the Climate Finance Day*, at the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance (Bercy), invited by Minister Bruno Le Maire. French and Swedish cooperation in Green finance was highlighted during the high-level conference.
- ➔ In the margins of the *One Planet Summit* in Paris in December 2017, the Swedish Prime Minister Löfven and Deputy Prime Minister Lövin held a consultative meeting with representatives of Swedish companies in France regarding the innovation partnership. In March 2018, the Swedish State Secretary Niklas Johansson at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation invited Chief Information Officers and Head offices of major Swedish companies established in France to a follow-up meeting in Stockholm to discuss how to further deepen the cooperation between Sweden and France within the framework of the partnership.
- ➔ A Swedish-French high level Green Finance conference (*Green Finance – the way forward. Implementing the French-Swedish partnership for innovation and green solutions*) was organised in Stockholm on 29 May 2018 by SEB and CACIB, with the support of the Embassy of France. The speakers included i.a. Minister Per Bolund, Marcus Wallenberg (Chairman of the Swedish bank SEB), Xavier Musca (Deputy CEO of Crédit Agricole), Jean Boissinot (Director for Financial Stability, Bercy), Anthony Requin (Head of Agence France Tresor), Mats Andersson (Chairman, Swedish Green Bond Committee) and Thomas Sterner (Professor and member of the French Sovereign Green Bonds Evaluation Committee).

DIGITALISATION AND START-UPS

- ➔ In March 2018, the Swedish State Secretary Niklas Johansson at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation invited Chief Information Officers and Head offices of major Swedish companies established in France to a follow-up meeting in Stockholm to discuss how to further deepen the cooperation between Sweden and France within the framework of the partnership.
- ➔ At the initiative of the Embassy, Sweden participated for the first time with a Swedish stand in the Innovation and Start-up Tech Fair *Viva Technology* in Paris on 24-26 May 2018. The Swedish Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg inaugurated the stand. He was accompanied by a delegation of Swedish start-ups, thereby highlighting the importance of digitalisation and start-ups as reflected in the innovation partnership. Minister Damberg also met with the French Secretary of State for Digital Affairs Mounir Mahjoubi to discuss the deepening of the innovation partnership. Minister Damberg and representatives from the Swedish innovation agency Vinnova and the RISE research institute also made study visits to the Fujitsu AI Centre of Excellence in Saclay and the INRIA institute to discuss future research cooperation on Artificial Intelligence.

- A mission of French Start-ups visited Sweden on 10 – 22 September 2018, as a concrete implementation of the Start-up week mentioned by the partnership. The visit was jointly prepared by Business France and the French Chamber of Commerce in Sweden.
- The Swedish Innovation Agency (Vinnova) is, in cooperation with Bpifrance, promoting the establishment of a future partnership between major French and Swedish companies. The possibilities are explored of initiating a French-Swedish joint calls R&D collaboration within the framework of Eureka.
- Sweden will participate in the 2019 edition of Vivatech in Paris (16 – 18 May) with its own national stand.
- A one-day seminar is planned early 2019 on the theme “Digitalising small and medium-sized enterprises” to exchange best practices. Expected participants are the French *Direction Générale des Entreprises* (Francenum), the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Digilyft) and the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

LIFE SCIENCE

- The Regional Department of Health and Social affairs of the Embassy of France in Sweden organised a French-Nordic seminar on innovation focused on “ageing well” on 19 March 2018 at the French Ministry for Solidarity and Health in Paris. The seminar was opened by former Minister and incumbent High Commissioner for Pension reform Jean-Paul Delevoye, and brought together 200 participants.
- The Swedish Minister for Higher Education and Research, Ms. Helene Hellmark Knutsson, had meetings in Paris with her French counterpart Ms. Frédérique Vidal on 23 May 2018 to discuss and promote European Research and Innovation in the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework.
- The French Institute of Sweden has strengthened its actions in the field of Life Science, partly in association with Business France, and participated in the Nordic Life Science Days in Stockholm on 10 – 12 September 2018 that brought together companies, researchers and decision makers in that field.
- On 4 October 2018, Sweden participated in the annual *Séminaire national des hospitaliers (Etude nationale des coûts)* in Lyon. Swedish experts gave insights into the Swedish healthcare system (financing models, patient experience, pathway and availability of care). A workshop with participants from the Jönköping county and hospital administration and their French counterparts was organised as a side event by the Embassy of Sweden and Business Sweden.
- The Swedish Pharmacy Association and the Swedish e-Health Agency participated in a conference organised by the French Pharmacy Association on 19 October 2018 in Paris.
- On 27 November 2018, the Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden and Swecare organised a high-level conference on healthcare innovations at Collège de France, supported by the Swedish companies Astra Zeneca, Catio, Ivbar and several other partners. The Swedish Minister of Health, Ms. Annika Strandhäll, participated with a keynote speech. French and Swedish high-level speakers from academia, governmental organisations, patient associations and the industry shared their perspectives on different topics relevant to the current healthcare reform work in France and the public debate in both Sweden and France. A bilateral meeting between the French Minister of Health, Ms. Agnès Buzyn, and Minister Strandhäll was also organised.
- The French Institute in Sweden granted 24 researchers visiting grants in various fields of the partnership, promoting research on future science and innovative solutions in the Life Science cluster.