



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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## Sweden Enlargement Negotiations - Summary Result

### INTRODUCTION

Accession negotiations with Sweden were opened officially on 1 February 1993. They were concluded at the political level on 1 March 1994. Following this political agreement, the final outstanding chapter, Institutions, was settled by the Union at Ioannina on 27 March 1994 and agreed with Sweden on 30 March. The Text of the Accession Treaty and its annexes was agreed upon on 12 April 1994. The European Parliament gave its assent on 4 May approving the agreement reached with Sweden with 381 votes in favour, 21 against and 60 abstentions. The Accession Treaty will be signed in Corfu on 24 June 1994. Subject to parliamentary ratifications and the outcome of a national referendum on 13 November 1994, Sweden will join the Union on 1 January 1995.

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS

1. In certain exceptional cases where Sweden has higher levels of **protection of public health and environment** than the Union, it was agreed that Sweden (like the other three candidates) can maintain its stricter rules for a transitional period of 4 years. The provisions in question concern i.a. the classification and labelling of pesticides and certain other dangerous substances, and the marketing and use

of cadmium, arsenic and pentachloropenol (PCP). During this period the relevant Union's legislation will be reviewed.

In order to minimise the effects of the maintenance of these stricter rules on the functioning of the single market, it was agreed that they should be applied without reverting to border controls. This package solution came to be known during the negotiations as the "third option".

2. In an exchange of letters the Commission assured Sweden that the **Social Protocol** to the Maastricht Treaty would in no way require a change of existing Swedish practice in labour market matters and more particularly its system of collective agreements between the social partners.
3. In an exchange of letters with the Commission, Sweden agreed to adapt its legislation regarding **alcohol monopolies** in conformity with the "acquis" by the date of accession. This implies that it will abolish its production, import, export and wholesale monopolies. For its part, the Commission stated that it sees no reason under the present Union "acquis" to act against a Swedish retail monopoly on condition that it does not discriminate against products from other Member States.
4. In the field of **taxation** it was agreed that Sweden (as well as the other two Nordic candidates) can maintain limits on the volumes of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products that travellers can freely take with them from other Member States, for private consumption. These limits are 1 litre of spirits or 3 litres of medium strong drinks, 5 litres of wine, 15 litres of beer and 300 cigarettes or the equivalent in other tobacco products. This derogation will be reviewed by the end of 1996.

Regarding the Unions' VAT rules Sweden was granted, where requested, the same derogations from the 6th VAT Directive as present Member States. Sweden also received a one year transitional period exempting cinema tickets from VAT.

In the field of **excise duties** Sweden was granted similar derogations from the Union's rules regarding excise duties on **mineral oils** as present Member States. In addition, it was granted a transitional period of four years before fully applying the Union's rules on excise duties on **cigarettes** as laid down in Council Directive 92/79/EEC. Sweden can also continue to apply, for a transitional period of three years, a reduced excise duty rate for **beer** with an alcohol content of not more than 3.5% volume, provided that such rate respects the Union's minimum rate prescribed in Directive 92/84/EEC.

5. In the negotiations it was recognised that the three Nordic countries bring **regions** into the Union with specific handicaps unknown to the present Member States, such as long distances and low population density. A special objective was therefore created within the Union's **structural policy** (objective 6). The main criterion for its application is population density (8 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> or less). In Sweden a composite region of 450.000 people (5% of the total population) comprising certain administrative units in the counties of Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Jämtland, Västernorrland, Gävleborg, Kopparberg and Värmland will receive objective 6 status. These areas currently feature in Sweden's existing regional support areas. Average expenditure per head for the period 1995-99 will be 101 ECU (1995 prices).

Budgetary envelopes were established for Sweden of 230 MECU (95-99) for objective 6 and 1190 MECU (95-99) for objectives 2 to 5b (objective 2: industrial decline; objective 3: long term unemployment and integration of people into the labour market; objective 4: adaptation to industrial change; objective 5a: adaptation of agricultural and fisheries structures; objective 5b: rural development).

6. In the field of **agriculture**, it was Sweden's stated intention in the negotiations to integrate fully into the CAP from the first day of accession. As a result common prices will apply from day one.

A large part of Swedish agricultural land will benefit from funding under the community scheme for less favoured areas and from "Nordic support" (which is nationally funded).

A number of short transitional periods for specific **veterinary** and **phytosanitary** rules were agreed, during which Sweden can maintain a number of restrictions in those areas (such as for salmonella, BSE, classical swine fever, and antibiotics in feeding stuffs). During these periods examinations and scientific reviews will be carried out.

7. Until the establishment of a Community-wide fishing permit system (which will apply to all Community vessels in Union waters) Sweden will have access to the Union's present fishing waters on the same conditions as those applicable at present. The Swedish relative stability for the calculation of its annual fish quota is established on the basis of Sweden's traditional fishing activities over a reference period from 1989 to 1993. Sweden will receive, furthermore, from the first day of accession free access to the Community market for fish and fish products.

Sweden may continue its traditional herring fishing in the Baltic for purposes other than human consumption for a transitional period of 3 years.

The Union will contribute to the financing of the releases of smolt by Sweden for a period not exceeding 3 years.

8. Sweden will apply, as from the date of accession, the **common commercial policy**, the **common customs tariff**, the Community customs code and its implementing provisions.

Sweden will have to terminate its free trade agreements with the **Baltic States** upon accession. In case the Union has not concluded its own free trade agreements with the Baltics by that date, the Union will take the necessary measures so that products originating from the Baltic states can continue to enter the Swedish market at their present level.

9. Sweden received an open-ended derogation allowing the continued sales of the tobacco product "snus" which is prohibited in the Union.

It was also agreed that Sweden (like the other three candidates) can maintain its rules regarding the purchase of **summer houses** for a transitional period of 5 years. These rules differentiate between Swedes and foreigners.

In a joint declaration Sweden and the Union confirmed their attachment to **nuclear non-proliferation**. Sweden made a unilateral declaration that it would continue its policy of open government (**transparency**) after accession. The Union made a counter-declaration stating that it takes it for granted that, as a member of the European Union, Sweden will fully comply with Community law in this area.

10. Sweden will receive a **budgetary compensation** for the period of 1995-1998 totalling 1027 MECUS. The compensation takes into account that Sweden has already adjusted its agricultural prices towards those of the Union and is based on the fact that Sweden (as well as other candidates) will not be eligible in 1995 for certain CAP aids. In addition, the Union takes over from the four candidates certain financial obligations under the EEA.
11. Sweden will have 4 votes in Council, 22 seats in the European Parliament and one member of the Commission. Other **institutions** and bodies like the Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, as well as the European Investment Bank, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, will also have their composition adjusted to take into account accession of Sweden and the other candidate countries.