

Spring 2008

Routes - The way to integration

 On the 14th and 15th of February 2008, Stockholm Region and the City of Uppsala organised an international integration conference in Uppsala, Sweden. Participants from eight European countries met to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of integration. The conference was arranged within the INTI-financed EU-project ROUTES, in which Stockholm Region is partner and represents its stakeholders. The aim of the project is to support

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Sweden scores high on innovation Scoreboard

 According to the yearly analysis done by the European Innovation Scoreboard Sweden, together with Finland, Denmark, Germany and the UK, still show a very high performance as world innovation leaders alongside US and Japan. And while the Union

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Policy priorities for Stockholm region during 2008

Climate change might be the hottest topic in the EU and in the world right now - and it is also an important issue for the Stockholm region.



The Stockholm region will be highly affected by possible consequences of continued climate change such as risen sea level and increased precipitation due to its localisation by the Baltic Sea and by the lake Mälaren. Due to this, the region might face challenges with securing clean drinking-water, public health and infrastructure.

The Stockholm region is engaged in many ways in the climate issue. The City of Stockholm is an affiliate member of the C40 initiative (Clinton Climate initiative), a global network of large cities that aims to make a difference in the fight against climate

change in a concrete, measurable way. The member cities implement actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and work together by sharing information and best practices.

Worth noticing is also that Stockholm Region in December 2007 participated in the European Commission consultation on adaptation to Climate Change, and produced a position paper as an answer to the European Commission's green paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe - options for EU action".

The European Union plays an important role in many areas. Not the least by increasing the knowledge about how

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Visit of the Governor of Stockholm County to St. Petersburg - New Working Plan signed

On the 30th of January to the 1st of February 2008 the Stockholm County Governor, Mr Per Unckel made a visit to St. Petersburg.

Mr Unckel was joined by a delegation consisting of the President of Stockholm Business Region, Mr Olof Zetterberg; the CEO of Stockholm Business Region Development, Ms Kristina Tidestav; the Head of the Department for EU Cooperation, Stockholm County Administrative Board, Ms Anna Larsson; and the In-

ternational Director of Stockholm County Council, Mr Sören Berg.

During the visit Mr Unckel and the Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko signed a Working Plan for 2008-2009 in the frames of the Cooperation Agreement between the City of St. Petersburg and the Stockholm-Mälaren Region of

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Mr Per Unckel

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Policy priorities for the Stockholm region during 2008

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societies can work with adaptation, and with the spreading of best practices and the exchange of knowledge and information. But the work with climate change needs to be done at all levels of society, where the local, regional, national and EU-level complement each other. The regions in Europe need to work together with these issues and also involve other global actors.



recent green paper on Urban transport has therefore been handled by the Stockholm Region in the form of a position paper.

Finally, public health is an issue of growing importance. Here the EU is active for instance in the fight against obesity, promotion of a healthy lifestyle and other health-related issues, and the Stockholm region has the same perspective.

Urban transport is another important issue for the Stockholm region and a subject closely linked to climate change. The European Commission's

Many municipalities in the region have realised the importance of health and are working very actively to promote the well-being of their citizens.

>Cities and Ports – “Innovating for an inter-dependent future” Conference in Stockholm 23 - 27 June 2008



The 11th International Conference “Cities and Ports”, held in Stockholm this year, and hosted by the Ports of Stockholm, is expected to gather 400-500 participants from the global community of Ports and Cities. The aim is to exchange experiences, ideas, strategies, and above all to innovate in order to advance the collective goals and objectives of cities, ports and all the interests of the various stakeholders.

During the five days' event four main topics will be discussed:

- Innovating in the organisation of the City – Port Territory
- Innovating in Economic Performance
- Innovating in Social Cohesion
- Innovating in the Management of the Environment



The Cities and Ports conference is co-organised by the International Association of Cities (IACP) and Ports, which has 190 members from 35 countries all over the world, and Ports of Stockholm, owned by the Stockholm City.

One objective of the Ports of Stockholm is to increase the participation of representatives from the Baltic Sea area at the event. The Ports of Stockholm therefore closely cooperates with the Baltic Sea organisations Baltic Ports and Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

For more information see www.citiesandports2008.com.



Editorial

We hope you all had a good start of the New Year. For Stockholm Region the first quarter consists of quite some planning activities for all our representations, especially in the light of the Swedish Presidency of the EU next year. But also due to the fact that our Brussels Representation has to move into new premises before that.

At this moment our political committee is also preparing some statements concerning some political initiatives from the European Commission, like the EU budget, transport and environmental matters. And it is also clear that our region has specific interest in some thematic parts of the planned EIT (European Institute of Technology) – this in close cooperation with other actors within and outside of Sweden.

Except from the issues mentioned above we are also heading for the CoR's initiative, Open Days in October, and during the same month we also have our own INFO Day 2008. Besides that we are organising the visits of some high level delegations to, among others; Budapest, London and Brussels. Many of our activities are related to events of networks that we are part of, like CPMR, Eurocities, UBC etc.

Within the many projects that our region is involved in there is large activity. The ROUTES conference held last month was a big success. The final upcoming BIS-RTD conference gets good attention. Later this year the R4R high level conference in Brussels will be the marking point of the project. Please contact us if you have some ideas of thematic cooperation etc.

Thomas Friis Konst

Routes - The way to integration



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the establishment of transnational networks for cooperation to exchange and evaluate good practices and new approaches to integration work.

The main theme of the conference was how authorities and NGO's can improve their cooperation on integration of immigrants from non-EU countries. Good practices on efforts, functions and roles that NGO's have in their daily integration work were highlighted during the conference.

One of the speakers was the Vice Mayor of Stockholm, Housing & Integration division, Ms Kristina Alvendal. She spoke about the city's "investment in integration" which she illustrated with the so called *Järvalyftet*. The goal for this investment is to make the suburban area Järva outside of Stockholm a safe, pleasant and well functioning part of Stockholm to live, work and stay in. The aim is to make it an attrac-

tive part of Stockholm. To achieve this, the city is investing in four main areas:

- Good housing conditions and a more varied urban environment
- Everyday security
- Strengthened education and good language teaching
- More jobs and increased entrepreneurship

Vice Mayor Alvendal pointed out that cooperation between actors from many parts of the society is needed to succeed. She also emphasised the impor-



Ms Kristina Alvendal, Vice Mayor of Stockholm, Housing & Integration Division.

tant role for NGO's in this work and explained how the city cooperates with approximately one hundred NGO:s in their integration work.

Besides speeches from invited guests and project partners there were also roundtable discussions. During the second day of the conference all participants had the opportunity to give their view on how integration work could be improved with the help from NGO's. One of the project's main purposes is to develop a model for this part of the integration work, which up to this point is underdeveloped.



One of the roundtable discussions on integration work.

Sweden scores high on innovation Scoreboard

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still remains behind Japan and the US, Sweden, Finland and Denmark are ahead of these rivals, while Germany and the UK come in just ahead of the US.

Sweden has the highest overall level of innovation performance of all the countries included in the European Innovation Scoreboard. However, worth noticing is that the growth trend of Sweden's innovation performance over recent years has been below the average trend rate of the EU.

Among the five dimensions of innovation performance, Sweden performs particularly strongly on knowledge creation and on innovation & entrepreneurship: in both cases it is the best performing



country. It performs at a relatively lower level in the dimension of applications, although this is still above the EU average. The analysis of innovation efficiency indicates that Sweden could increase the efficiency in transforming innovation inputs into outputs.

Based on performance over a five year period, four main groupings of countries emerge:

- Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Israel, Denmark, Japan, Germany, the UK and the US are the innovation leaders, with scores well above that of the EU27 and most other countries. Sweden is the most innovative country, with the highest score of all countries.

- Luxembourg, Iceland, the Netherlands, Ireland, Austria, France, Belgium and Canada are the innovation followers, with scores below those of the innovation leaders but equal to or above the EU27.

- Australia, Estonia, Slovenia, Norway, Czech Republic, Italy, Cyprus and Spain are the moderate innovators with scores below that of the EU27.

- Malta, Lithuania, Hungary, Greece, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, Bulgaria, Portugal, Latvia and Romania are the catching-up countries. Although their scores are significantly below the EU average, these scores are increasing towards the EU average over time with the exception of Croatia. Turkey is performing below the other countries.

The Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors initiative was launched at the plenary event of the Seventh ManagEnergy Annual Conference on 29th of January this year. It is an ambitious initiative of the European Commission that brings together the Mayors of Europe's most pioneering cities in the field of energy efficiency.

The Covenant of Mayors is these cities' response to global warming - a formal commitment to reduce their CO₂ emissions - even beyond the EU 20% objectives. It is a permanent network for exchange and applying of good practices across the member cities and beyond with the overall aim to improve energy efficiency in

the urban environment and promote cleaner energy production and use. Almost 100 cities throughout Europe, including 15 capitals, have expressed their willingness to join the network. Stockholm, being one of the most successful European cities when it comes to reducing CO₂ emissions and tackling climate change, has therefore expressed an interest to join.

The main focus for the participating local authorities will be to develop and implement an action plan for reducing CO₂ emissions. In the development of this action plan, the civil society will be mobilised to participate actively by outlining the policies and the measures that need to be im-

plemented. The member cities will also commit themselves to produce an annual evaluation report and organise special "Energy days" or City Covenant Days, in close co-operation with the European Commission and other stakeholders. A European secretariat will assist the member cities and facilitate monitoring and networking as well as promotion of the network all across Europe. The commissioner responsible for energy, Andris Piebalgs, stated at the launch of the network that cities are the perfect places to deliver new ideas and innovative projects against global warming. The Covenant of Mayors initiative is as an excellent example of such an idea.

Union of the Baltic Cities - 51st Executive Board Meeting

On 7-8 February, the same days as the Committee of the Regions plenary session, Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC, held its 51st Executive Board Meeting in Brussels. Mayors, Deputy Mayors and City Directors from member cities all around the Baltic Sea gathered to discuss mainly the organisation's Action Plan 2008-2009, with emphasis on EU related activities. Since the end



UBC 51st Executive Board Meeting in the Committee of the Regions.



UBC Executive Board gathered outside the European Parliament.

of 2006 Union of the Baltic Cities is represented in Brussels by Stockholm Region with the aim to monitor and influence better the EU policies concerning the Baltic Sea region.

During the Executive Board meeting statements and contributions from UBC on the EC Blue Paper "An integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union" and on the EC Green Paper "Adaption to climate change in Europe - options for EU action" were discussed. Another initiative of high interest for UBC to follow will be the work with a European Strategy for the Baltic Sea, which is planned to be adopted during the Swedish presidency in the second half of 2009. Furthermore, the UBC Board considered the possibility to participate in Open Days in 2009, with a conglomerate constituted by the UBC member cities.

Except for the Executive Board Meeting, the board members also attended the Committee of the Region's Plenary Session, where an Baltic Sea intergroup was constituted. In the evening the national delegations from UBC

member countries were invited to a reception held in the premises of the Antenna Office at the Stockholm Region representation in Brussels.

Facts and figures:



Union of the Baltic Cities is an organisation of more than 100 member cities in the Baltic Sea Region and established in 1991. It is a voluntary, proactive network mobilizing

the shared potential of the cities for mutual interests.

UBC is a highly decentralised network of cities and provides numerous platforms for meetings between politicians, officials and specialists from cities of all sizes. Most of the practical co-operation between the members is carried out by 13 UBC Commissions: Urban Planning, Business Cooperation, Energy, Environment, Education, Tourism, Transportation, Culture, Health and Social Affairs, Sport, Information Society, Youth Issues and Gender Equality.

The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), Committee of the Regions. UBC has links of co-operation with the European Commission and numerous Baltic and European organisations.

Visit of the Governor of Stockholm County to St. Petersburg

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February the 2nd 2006. On the 1st of February the Governor met the Plenipotentiary Presidential Envoy to the Northwest Federal District, Ilya Klebanov, to discuss the prospects of cooperation between the Stockholm region and the Northwest Russia.

The programme included a visit to the



Mr Per Unckel, Governor of Stockholm County and the Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko sign a Work Plan for 2008-2009.

Exhibition Hall of Strategic Projects, and meetings with representatives of the St. Petersburg Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade, the Federal Statistic Office in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region, and the Northwest Division of the Russian Union of Travel Industry.

The prospects of healthcare cooperation within the signed Working Plan and the Cooperation Agreement were discussed during the meeting with representatives of the St. Petersburg Committee on Public Health. There were also discussions with representatives of the Association of Healthcare Managers, aimed at promoting cooperation in such directions, as experience exchange and project activities.

On the 31st of January in the frames of academic cooperation, the representatives of the Stockholm region took part in the seminar "Universities as Innovation and Regional Development Centres", organized at the Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications.



Heading for the Open Days

The Open Days 2008 are coming closer and the Stockholm Region Representation in Brussels has started its preparations, on photo with Mr Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions.



Mr Gerhard Stahl, Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions, Ms Lada Illirionova and Mr Fernando Alonso, Stockholm Region Representation.

The region of Stockholm has five permanent members in the Committee of the Regions:

Mr Paul Lindquist, Ms Maria Wallhager, Ms Kristina Alvendal and Ms Lotta Håkansson Harju. There is also one alternate member: Ms Ingela Nylund Watz.

EU on the agenda - The Stockholm region perspective

The red and green notes were risen high into the air when politicians and civil servants from the local and regional level in the Stockholm region met to discuss how to put EU on their agenda. Among the topics discussed and 'voted' for (hence the red and green notes) were how to organise public administrations to deal with European affairs, whether Turkey should join the EU and other issues.

It was on the 17th and 18th of January 2008 that more than 100 local and regional politicians together with civil servants met at the conference "That's how we lift Europe". Several speakers, working with inspiring the audience, participated in the arrangement on how to put EU on the agenda and increase the discussion on European affairs. One statement during the seminar was that

approximately 60 per cent of the issues handled on a local and regional level have been influenced in some way by decisions taken on an EU-level. Therefore, it is of most importance that the politicians integrate the EU affairs into the everyday affairs. But how could that be done?

The seminar wanted to be provocative regarding some of the presented issues. One question raised was whether the local and regional politicians ignore putting EU affairs on the agenda due to ignorance or due to lack of knowledge. Among the participants, the answer was "both". The interest for, and the knowledge of, European affairs need to increase among the local and regional actors. It is also of great importance to integrate

the national level in this work.

The Swedish minister for EU affairs, Ms Cecilia Malmström, presented the priorities for the Swedish EU presidency in the second half of 2009. The participants voted for the issues they thought to be the top priority. Climate change was the area considered to be the most important issue for the future. Another topic discussed during the conference was globalisation and immigration. Both areas are sometimes presented as a threat, but the participants were eager to show the advantages and possibilities for regional development.



Stockholm Region Representation in Warsaw - agenda 2008

It is the third year for the Warsaw representation which has now established a firm presence in Poland. The plan is to continue and develop the co-operation with regional and local authorities in Poland and Central Eastern Europe. The Warsaw office has also recently become the representative of Stockholm Fairs in Poland.

The successful co-operation agreement between the Stockholm County Council and the Mazovia Region remains a core element of the office activities, and was

one of the main reasons for opening the office. Cooperation will continue in the field of health care; diabetes prevention, prevention of cancer and rehabilitation programs for children. Other areas of cooperation will include regional development, cooperation in the field of environmental protection, EU integration and economic co-operation.

Stockholm County Council and Stockholm Region Representation plan to

organise a Swedish–Polish conference on health care that will be held on the national level and scheduled for the end of the year. The conference will concern health care in both countries and also feature workshops with experts and companies involved in the health care sector.



The representation also plans to be active in the field of EU projects, networks and other initiatives and has several ideas for this year.

Stockholm Region and Mazovia are also continuing their common participation in the EU project “Regions for Research”, where Stockholm Region is the leading partner.

Environmental issues will be a priority for the office and several activities have already started in this field. We also intend to assist our stakeholders by supporting regional commercial interests and find new ways of developing such interests.

KSL delegation to Budapest

On the 28th to 31th of May this year Stockholm Region will arrange a study visit to Budapest for the City directors from The Stockholm County Association of Local Authorities. The previous visits have been to Madrid and Warsaw and have proved to be very appreciated and fruitful. On the schedule in Budapest are, among other things, visits to the Swedish Embassy, the Swedish Trade Council and to regional authorities. The City directors are also going to visit a school that is working with an integration project.

New Managing Director for Stockholm International Fairs



Mr Patric Sjöberg

Mr Patric Sjöberg has been appointed as the new Managing Director for Stockholm International Fairs. He will start his work in summer 2008. Today Mr Sjöberg is working as a Managing Director at SAS Trading AB. He has also previously held managerial positions at IKEA.



The building of Stockholm International Fairs



LIDINGÖ STAD Lidingö City visits Brussels

One part of the activities of Stockholm Region in Brussels is to organise study visits and receive groups of politicians



From left: Mr Gustaf Lundgren and Thomas Friis Konst, Stockholm Region and Mr Kjell-Olof Karlsson, City Director and Ms Åsa Heribertson, Vice Director, Lidingö City.

and civil servants from the Stockholm region as well as from other European regions. Last year the number of visitors to the office was estimated to 3000-4000. In February this year, the Managerial body of Lidingö City visited Brussels and the office of Stockholm Region. The main aim of the trip was to learn more about the EU and to improve the understanding for working with EU projects.

Lidingö is keen on playing a more active role in Europe and has recently appointed an EU-coordinator to emphasise their interest in EU issues.

During the three days' visit the Managerial body of Lidingö visited e.g. the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, the Swedish Permanent representation and Commissioner Wallström's Cabinet.

As Lidingö has a health profile, one of their objectives with the trip was to reach a deeper understanding of the work on public health that is being carried out in Brussels. Therefore the office in Brussels arranged a more thematic meeting with a representative from the Brussels based NGO EuroHealthNet.

Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch 14 December 2007



Traditionally just before Christmas, and in the time of the Nobel Dinner in Stockholm, our Representation in Brussels arranges the Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch. This year's thematic was "Innovative ways of working, with Swedish-Chinese elements".

It was a big honour for us to receive the Chinese Ambassador to Belgium, Mrs Zhang, who held a speech on the subject. We were also very glad to have Mrs Inger Linge, President of the Stockholm County Council, in Brussels for the occasion. Other interesting

and important speeches were given by Prof Dr Boris Cizelj, from the Slovenian Business and Research Association (SBRA) and representatives from our own organisation. Master of ceremony this year was Dr Gianlorenzo Martini, Managing Director of Veneto Region Representation in Brussels.

The lunch was held at the Royal Museum of Art and History, and after the seminar the guests had a guided tour through the exhibition "China under the Roof". An Asian lunch buffet was served, and as always the Santa Lucia Choir from the Swedish Church in Brussels sang traditional Swedish Christmas songs.



Photo 1: Chinese Ambassador to Belgium Mrs Zhang and Mr Thomas Friis Konst, Head of Mission, Stockholm Region.

Photo 2: Mr Fernando Alonso, Deputy Director, Stockholm Region, Mrs Inger Linge, President of Stockholm County Council and Dr Gianlorenzo Martini, Managing Director, Veneto Region Representation in Brussels.

Photo 3: The guests attend a guided tour at the exhibition "China under the Roof".

Photo 4: From exhibition "China under the Roof".

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Stockholm City Council Presidium visit to St Petersburg, Brussels and Warsaw, March
- LRN seminar "The New Lisbon Cycle 2008-2010", Brussels, April
- Sweden-Poland Forum, April
- Pre-Info Day 2008 in Stockholm, April
- IBSG-seminar, Brussels, April
- Södertälje County Delegation to Lomza, Poland, April
- CoR Forum "Cities of the Future", Brussels, April
- BIS-RTD Final Conference, May
- Innovation Alliance Conference, May
- Study visit - Municipality Directors from Stockholm County to Budapest, May
- EREF Conference, Nova Gorica, Slovenia, June
- Sweden-Russia Forum, St Petersburg, June
- Lisbon Regions Network Conference, Emilia-Romagna, July

Growth and Jobs Summit - Focus on the Lisbon Strategy

Stockholm Region, as a member of the Lisbon Regions Network, was invited to attend the Growth and Jobs Summit which was hosted by the Lisbon Council on the 4th of March. Convening under the theme "Leading the way, managing the Risk", and on the eve of the European Council Spring Summit devoted to the Lisbon Agenda, around 200 participants spent the day discussing the state of the European economy and exploring issues ranging from climate change to human capital.

The Slovenian EU Presidency was represented by Žiga Turk, minister and national coordinator for the Lisbon Agenda, who shared his recommendations regarding impact and success of the strategy. The highlight of this year's summit was an address by José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission. His remarks took place at the launch of The Euro-

pean Growth and Jobs Monitor 2008, a leading competitiveness ranking developed jointly by the Lisbon Council and Allianz SE. The message President Barroso brought was that with the new cycle of the Lisbon Agenda commencing this year, new opportunities arise from learning from past mistakes, and ensuring future success.

The next cycle of the Lisbon Strategy will probably not be the last, as the Agenda starts to work much better than predicted. This means that the Lisbon Strategy beyond 2010 will be one of the main topics of the Swedish Presidency in the autumn 2009. For Stockholm Region, with high ambitions of implementing the Strategy on local level, and with its leading position within the Lisbon Regions Network, this topic will remain of significant importance.

Interview with Alfredo Sanchez Gimeno - Head of the Comunidad de Madrid Office

Could you describe what characterises the Madrid Region?

In the Region of Madrid's territory lays the City of Madrid - Spain's capital - and 178 other municipalities. Next to the undoubted attraction of our charming capital, a lot of tourists are surprised by the huge biodiversity in our region. The madrilenians are very receptive of this cultural diversity, and this creates a favourable atmosphere in which it is easier for new residents to very soon feel that they have become madrilenians themselves. From the economic point of view, over the last few years, the region of Madrid has experienced a spectacular economic growth.

How is Madrid represented here in Brussels?

The Comunidad de Madrid Office in Brussels takes charge of the follow-up of the EU policies affecting our region, and looks after the madrilenian interests to the EU institutions. In its structure, apart from the Regional Administration, the office also incorporates bodies as the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, Promomadrid, the Madrid Federation of Municipalities and the madri+d network which is composed of Madrid research centres.

Why is it important for Madrid to be represented in Brussels?

Our presence in Brussels allows us to have a closer contact with both civil servants and institutions active in the EU deci-

sion-making process - European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Spanish Permanent Representation, etc - which allows us to have access to early information, and to act more swiftly to pass the message across to the EU Institutions of the interests of our region.



Mr Alfredo Gimeno Sanchez

What are the main policy priorities for Madrid's European office?

We follow closely the EU policies affecting our region, that in fact are most of the competences reflected in the EU treaties. As an example, we focus on EU policies as Research and Development, Innovation, Environment, Employment and Social Affairs, Education and Culture, Immigration, Transports, Health and Consumer Protection, Cooperation to Development, etc.

What kind of relations do you have with the Stockholm region?

For more than 15 years, the Comunidad de Madrid and Stockholm Region have been tightening their links, as we have been the promoters of a better mutual understanding between the EU capital regions. At the same time, in several occasions the authorities from Stockholm Region and its municipalities have visited the Madrid Region in order to exchange opinions on projects set up in our regions. This has been very useful for both parties. Of course, the good relationship with the Stockholm Office has been going on for a long time.

What kind of future do you wish for the European Union?

The European Union has to become a key world player in the field of international economic and political equilibrium. The construction of a solid Europe will not only make a contribution to the social and economic welfare of its citizens, but it will also be to the advantage of the achievement of respect for freedom and fundamental rights - values the EU is drawing inspiration from - in the rest of the world.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the topics covered in this issue or if you wish to receive further information.