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On the project

Due to the new treaty provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and the economic crises the enlarged EU of 27 member states is on the search for a new modus operandi while also continuing membership talks with candidate countries. The EU-27 Watch project is mapping out discourses on these and more issues in European policies all over Europe. Research institutes from all 27 member states and the four candidate countries give overviews on the discourses in their respective countries.

The reports focus on a **reporting period from December 2009 until May 2010**. This survey was conducted on the basis of a questionnaire that has been elaborated in March and April 2010. Most of the 31 reports were delivered in May 2010. This issue and all previous issues are available on the EU-27 Watch website: www.EU-27Watch.org.

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Editorial Team

Publisher: Prof. Dr. Mathias Jopp
Executive Editor: Dr. Katrin Böttger
Managing Editor: Julian Plottka
Editorial Staff: Daniela Caterina, Gregory Kohler,
Christoph Kornes
Layout: Matthias Jäger

Contact: info@EU-27watch.org
www.EU-27watch.org

iep Institut für
Europäische Politik
Bundesallee 23
D-10717 Berlin
Tel.: +49/30/88.91.34-0
Fax: +49/30/88.91.34-99
E-mail: info@iep-berlin.de
Internet: www.iep-berlin.de

Sweden**Need for a new strategy**

Gunilla Herolf*

Sweden largely regards the climate conference as a failure in terms of the outcome. On the positive side, the EU had a united position, which was achieved with some difficulty, since the EU members did not find it easy to agree on the high level of reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. Another positive aspect was the total EU pledge of 7.2 billion Euros to help the least developed and most vulnerable countries, an amount that was above expectations. The negative side was dominant, however. The EU's hope was also to convince the United States and a number of other countries, particularly China, the two combined responsible for half of the greenhouse gas emissions, to increase their commitment. The USA was asked for a legally binding economy-wide commitment to reduce emissions whereas China was asked for binding actions. Both countries gave offers below expectations, however. Most commentators in Sweden have put the blame on the USA and China not being willing to make substantial and binding reductions and on some other countries obstructing the meeting with endless procedural questions. It was obvious that the EU negotiating strategy of seeking to convince the major emitters by making substantial European promises was not enough. The interests against reductions were simply too strong. In the USA, Congress was against substantial concessions and in China, the need for quick economic development was dominant.

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt sees the need for a new dynamic and believes that dynamism can be increased through a stepwise approach based on the Copenhagen Accord. A plan of action should be agreed on at the coming meeting in Bonn; thereafter, concrete measures should be taken in Mexico in order to anchor the Copenhagen Accord in the United Nations (UN) negotiation process. Another important step in this process is to start work on the financial *fast start* contributions. In order to accomplish this, member states have promised to report at the UN meeting in May or April 2010. We are to give coordinated reports on its implementation at the Mexico meeting by the end of the year and annually thereafter.¹

Prime Minister Reinfeldt, however, feels that the present approach with veto rights and the UN framework creates problems for progress. In addition to the global approach, the big countries posing problems in Copenhagen need to be approached bilaterally in order to break the present stalemate.²

Andreas Carlgren, Minister for the Environment, has similar thoughts. We should, he argues, continue to work globally, but also try alternative and complementary ways at the same time. Not least, we should intensify the pressure on the United States and China. Carlgren also thinks that it would be an illusion to believe, the way the environmental movement does, that increased European reductions would, by themselves, have an effect on others. A ten percent reduction in Europe could be nullified by China in two years if Chinese emissions continue to grow.³

Sweden has two ambitions. The first is that all countries should live up to their pledges made in Copenhagen for *fast start* support to these countries. The other is to find the money and the mechanisms for the long-term support that was also discussed at the Copenhagen meeting.

¹ Fredrik Reinfeldt before the Parliamentary Committee on EU Affairs, 30 March 2010, p. 2.

² Ibid., p. 5.

³ Andreas Carlgren: Så ska vi fortsätta arbetet med att rädda klimatet [This is how we should continue our work to save the climate], Dagens Nyheter, 3 January 2010.

Questionnaire for EU-27 Watch, No. 9

Reporting period December 2009 until May 2010 – Deadline for country reports 21 May

All questions refer to the position/assessment of your country's government, opposition, political parties, civil society organisations, pressure groups, press/media, and public opinion. Please name sources wherever possible!

1. Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty

On the 1 December 2009 the EU-reform ended with the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty. However, the new treaty provisions still have to be implemented. Some procedures and conditions have to be determined. In other cases, procedures, power relations, and decision-making mechanisms will change due to the new provisions.

- How is the work of the new President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, assessed in your country? Which changes to the role of the rotating council presidency are expected?
- How is the work of the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, assessed in your country? Please take into particular consideration both her role within the European Commission and her relationship to the Council of the European Union.
- On 25 March 2010 a "Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service" was presented. How is this concept perceived in your country? Which alternatives are discussed?
- On 31 March 2010 the European Commission presented a proposal defining the rules and procedures for the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). What are the expectations for the ECI in your country? What are the various positions concerning the rules and procedures?

2. Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Commission has given its opinion on Iceland's application for EU-membership and a decision from the Council is expected before the end of June. Croatia seems to have settled its border dispute with Slovenia. Against this background:

- Which countries does your country expect to become members of the European Union in the next enlargement round? What are the opinions in your country on the membership of these countries?
- How are the membership perspectives of those countries discussed, which are not expected to become a member in the next enlargement round?

The Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean were the last major projects dealing with the European neighbourhood:

- How are these projects assessed in your country?

3. European economic policy and the financial and economic crisis

The European Council agreed on 25/26 March on the key elements of the Europe 2020 strategy, the successor of the Lisbon strategy. While not being on the formal agenda the economic and financial situation in Greece was discussed. The European Council agreed on a finance package combining bilateral loans from the eurozone and financing through the International Monetary Fund.

- How is the finance package for Greece assessed in your country? Are there any opinions on the process, how the agreement on the package was reached?
- Which lessons should be drawn from the Greek case for a reform of the Stability and Growth Pact?
- How is the idea of "a strong coordination of economic policies in Europe" perceived in your country? What concepts of an European economic governance are discussed in your country and which role do they assign to the Euro group?
- How is the Europe 2020 strategy discussed in your country? What are the priorities for the Europe 2020 strategy from your country's perspective?

4. Climate and energy policy

The climate conference in Copenhagen took note of the Copenhagen Accord but did not reach a binding agreement. The next conference of the parties (COP 16 & CMP 6) will take place at the end of November 2010.

- How is the Copenhagen conference assessed in your country? Please take into consideration the negotiation strategy of European Union and the results of the conference.
- Does the European Union need to change its own energy and climate policy in order to give a new impulse to the international negotiations?
- Is a global agreement within the UNFCCC the best strategy to fight climate change? If not, which alternative strategy should the European Union follow?
- What is your country's position on financing mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries?

5. Current issues and discourses in your country

Which other topics and discourses are highly salient in your country but not covered by this questionnaire?