

# Defence & Security - Daily Digest

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## Defence Policy

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### Sweden prepares first line of defence against Russian bombers

Sweden's defence forces emphasise their readiness to respond to potential threats from large Russian bombers, positioning themselves as the first line of defence. Military officials stress the importance of operational preparedness from the very first day of any potential conflict, highlighting the strategic significance of Sweden's geographic position and defence posture in the current security environment.

Source: [Aftonbladet](#)

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### Wind power essential for Swedish security amid defence considerations

Sweden faces a critical debate over energy infrastructure and national security, with experts arguing that wind power must coexist with defence priorities following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The discussion centres on concerns that prioritising nuclear power over wind energy could pose significant risks to Swedish security during wartime. The debate highlights the strategic importance of renewable energy sources in maintaining operational resilience for Sweden's defence capabilities, particularly as the country adjusts its security posture in response to regional threats.

Source: [Barometern](#)

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### Swedish naval officer calls for cancellation of SEK 60 billion frigate programme

Max Falkå, a lieutenant in the Swedish Navy, has publicly criticised the government's decision to purchase four new frigates for up to SEK 60 billion, arguing that large surface

vessels are vulnerable targets in the confined Baltic Sea environment. Falkå contends that modern warfare, demonstrated by the sinking of the Russian cruiser Moskva in the Black Sea, favours distributed systems such as land-based missiles, drones, and submarines over expensive capital ships. He warns that concentrating billions of kronor in a few large platforms risks building future naval defence on outdated strategic thinking, particularly given the rapid evolution of unmanned systems and the ease with which satellites and sensors can track surface vessels in the Baltic. The officer advocates instead for a more dispersed and resilient defence architecture that reflects current operational realities.

Source: [Dagens Nyheter](#)

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### **Swedish Finance Committee backs Ukraine weapons donation and loan guarantee**

The Swedish Finance Committee has endorsed the government's supplementary budget proposal to donate rocket launchers and ammunition to Ukraine, alongside authorising a loan guarantee of SEK 2.5 billion through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Swedish Armed Forces have assessed that the materiel can be spared for a limited period, and the government will receive mandates to procure replacement equipment. The budget adjustments will reduce state expenditure by approximately SEK 5.3 billion in 2026, with further implications of SEK 5.3 billion for 2027-2028. The proposal also includes measures to strengthen Sweden's vaccine preparedness for potential influenza pandemics. A parliamentary debate and decision are scheduled for 11 March 2026.

Source: [Riksdag](#)

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### **Sweden Democrats open door to French nuclear weapons on Swedish soil**

The Sweden Democrats have expressed support for deploying French nuclear weapons on Swedish territory following the government's announcement that Sweden will participate in a French-led dialogue group on nuclear weapons. Earlier this week, France outlined a new direction for its nuclear doctrine, stating that French nuclear capabilities will be developed into a European umbrella alongside several other countries, including Sweden and Denmark. However, several opposition parties have voiced dissatisfaction with the government's decision to join the dialogue group.

Source: [Sveriges Radio](#)

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## **Kristersson says financing nuclear weapons talks not on agenda**

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has commented on discussions regarding nuclear weapons talks with France, stating that financing such discussions is not currently on the agenda. He emphasised that declining to engage in these talks would send a strange signal, given the importance of European security and cooperation among European NATO countries. Kristersson highlighted that strengthening NATO's European capabilities would benefit overall European security.

*Source: [Aftonbladet](#)*

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## **Andersson would have declined Macron's nuclear weapons invitation**

Opposition leader Magdalena Andersson (S) stated she would have rejected an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to collaborate on nuclear weapons discussions if she were Prime Minister. The remark underscores her position on Sweden's military alliances and nuclear policy, particularly in the context of NATO membership. Andersson's stance contrasts with the current government's approach under Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, highlighting differing views within Swedish politics on the extent of defence cooperation with nuclear-armed allies. The statement carries significant implications for Sweden's foreign relations and defence strategy as it navigates its new role within the NATO alliance.

*Source: [Dagens Industri](#)*

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## **Five Swedish parties back nuclear deterrence as security debate intensifies**

Five of Sweden's eight parliamentary parties support the country contributing to European nuclear deterrence, according to a survey by SVT Nyheter, marking a significant shift in Swedish security policy following NATO accession. The Moderate Party, Sweden Democrats, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Centre Party favour participation through joint NATO exercises and enhanced dialogue with France and the United Kingdom, with four of the governing Tidö coalition parties—the Moderates, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Sweden Democrats—also indicating willingness to allow nuclear weapons on Swedish territory during wartime, despite an existing parliamentary agreement prohibiting them in peacetime. Sweden has announced it will begin dialogue with France on

strengthening European nuclear deterrence amid uncertainty over United States security commitments to Europe. The Social Democrats oppose increasing nuclear arms and advocate maintaining NATO's current structure, expressing concern about undermining the Non-Proliferation Treaty, whilst the Left Party and Green Party propose legislation to ban nuclear weapons on Swedish soil in both peacetime and wartime. The debate reflects Sweden's evolving security posture and the growing divide between parties on how to respond to contemporary security challenges in Europe.

Sources: [Omni](#), [SVT Nyheter](#)

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### **Swedish government clashes with Social Democrats over French nuclear dialogue**

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson (M) has criticised the Social Democrats for their wavering position on Sweden's participation in nuclear weapons discussions with France. France plans to initiate a deeper dialogue on nuclear deterrence with several European nations, including Sweden. Kristersson has held separate discussions with Social Democrat leader Magdalena Andersson and Sweden Democrats leader Jimmie Åkesson, and has agreed to proceed with the dialogue. The Prime Minister expressed concern about what he described as an unsteady stance from the left on this security issue.

Source: [Svenska Dagbladet](#)

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### **Sweden should collaborate with France on nuclear deterrent while exploring own capabilities**

French President Emmanuel Macron announced an updated nuclear doctrine on Monday that includes expanding France's nuclear arsenal and establishing close cooperation with European allies, including Sweden. The initiative involves joint military exercises and potential deployment of French nuclear weapons in partner countries, aiming to create a European nuclear umbrella independent of the United States. Macron stated France will acquire additional warheads, cease disclosing exact arsenal numbers, and construct another nuclear-armed submarine. Swedish Supreme Commander Michael Claesson noted in February that genuine military independence from the "dimensioning threat" of Russia requires nuclear capabilities. The editorial argues Sweden should pursue collaboration with France whilst not ruling out developing its own nuclear weapons, despite opposition from the Social Democratic Party regarding potential arms races.

Source: [Dagens Nyheter](#)

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## Defence Industry

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### **Sweden selects Hyundai Heavy Industries to build new icebreakers**

Hyundai Heavy Industries, the world's largest shipyard located in Ulsan, South Korea, has been selected to construct Sweden's new icebreaker in a multi-billion kronor project that demonstrates significant international collaboration in advanced maritime technology. The selection underscores Sweden's commitment to maintaining its Arctic and Baltic Sea capabilities through modern maritime infrastructure. Industry analysts expect the market for military and commercial polar vessels to expand substantially in coming years, driven by increasing geopolitical tensions and the opening of new shipping routes in the Arctic region.

Sources: [Dagens Industri](#), [Dagens Industri](#)

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### **Dassault Aviation CEO declares FCAS fighter jet project dead**

The Future Combat Air System (FCAS), a major European fighter aircraft programme valued at SEK 1,100 billion, faces collapse due to collaboration difficulties between partners. Éric Trappier, CEO of French manufacturer Dassault Aviation, declared the project dead on Wednesday. The development has significant implications for European defence cooperation and could potentially benefit Sweden's Saab, a rival in the combat aircraft sector. FCAS involves major European defence contractors including Dassault Aviation and Airbus, and its failure would represent a substantial setback for European military integration efforts.

Source: [Dagens Industri](#)

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### **NOTE joins Swedish defence industry association**

NOTE, a manufacturing company with operations in Sweden, Finland, England, Estonia, Bulgaria, and China, has joined the Security and Defence Industry Companies Association (SOFF). The move forms part of NOTE's strategy to strengthen its position within the

security and defence sector and aligns with its strategic goals in defence manufacturing. The company reported significant sales figures over the past 12 months, reflecting its growth and commitment to the industry. The association membership signals NOTE's intention to expand its presence in the Swedish defence manufacturing sector.

Sources: [Placera](#), [MFN](#)

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## Geopolitical Developments

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### Sweden faces significantly more dangerous security period, FRA warns

Sweden is entering a significantly more dangerous period as global security tensions escalate, according to the Swedish National Defence Radio Establishment (FRA) in its annual report. Director-General Björn Lyrvall described the threat landscape as broad, complex and severe, with particular concern focused on Iran following warnings about potential retaliatory actions against Western nations, American, Israeli and Swedish targets, and attacks on Jewish communities and exiled Iranians. The agency also highlighted heightened Russian military activity in the Baltic Sea, including airspace violations of NATO member Estonia, and noted increased Russian "risk tolerance" in the region. In response to the deteriorating security situation, FRA has expanded substantially, growing from 800 staff to over 1,300 in six years, with its budget set to increase from SEK 1.2 billion to over SEK 5 billion by 2028. The agency is constructing new facilities at undisclosed locations across Sweden to enhance its signals intelligence and cybersecurity capabilities.

Sources: [Svenska Dagbladet](#), [Göteborgs-Posten](#)

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### Social Democrats warn against sale of strategic Landsort Island land

The Swedish government is considering selling state-owned land on Landsort Island, a strategically important location at the entrance to Stockholm that has served Sweden's coastal defence and maritime surveillance for over 300 years. The island housed a modern coastal artillery battery during the Cold War. Fortifikationsverket reversed its position in January and approved one land sale application after consultations with the Swedish Armed Forces, having previously deemed the same plot unsuitable for sale due to its strategic importance. Current residents, who rent their plots from the state, remain

divided on the proposed sales. The Social Democrats have called on the government to halt the plans, warning that the location could be attractive to foreign powers. Statens fastighetsverk has not yet made final decisions on pending applications.

Source: [Dagens Nyheter](#)

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### **Sweden evacuates 840 citizens from Middle East amid Iran conflict**

Sweden is conducting a major evacuation operation to repatriate citizens stranded in the Middle East following the outbreak of conflict in Iran, with Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard announcing that approximately 840 individuals will be prioritised for evacuation, focusing on families with children and sick persons. The crisis has left thousands of Swedish travellers stranded across the region, with over 1,000 flights cancelled and numerous airports either partially or completely closed, severely disrupting commercial travel routes home. Stenergard stated that around 80 flights are expected to depart for Europe in the near term, with the Swedish government examining multiple repatriation options including chartered aircraft and coordination through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The Foreign Ministry has confirmed that 14 Swedish citizens, including several young people, have made contact with authorities, with some having already returned home independently through their tour operators. Stenergard cautioned against overland evacuation attempts due to safety concerns, emphasising that commercial flights once airspace reopens would provide the most efficient method for evacuating large numbers of people. The government acknowledged that closed airspace complicates evacuation efforts for all nations, and officials stressed the urgency of the situation as circumstances continue to develop in the region.

Sources: [Head Topics](#), [Sveriges Radio](#), [Dagens](#), [Epoch Times Sweden](#), [MSN Sverige](#), [Omni](#), [Göteborgs-Posten](#), [Dagens Industri](#), [Omni](#)

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### **Swedish government addresses crisis preparedness amid threats from Russia, China and Iran**

The Swedish government is focusing on national crisis preparedness in response to global threats, particularly from Russia, China and Iran. Officials noted that these nations do not consider Swedish climate goals in their actions. The discussion comes as high school students visiting parliament demonstrate growing awareness of national security and

environmental policy concerns, reflecting increased youth engagement with defence and geopolitical issues.

Source: [Sveriges Riksdag](#)

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### **Increased protection for civilians in the Baltic Sea region and Nordic countries**

Swedish Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin announced measures aimed at enhancing the protection of civilians in the Baltic Sea region and Nordic countries. The initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen collective preparedness among nations in the area. The announcement reflects growing concerns about security and the need for improved civil defence mechanisms in the face of potential threats.

Source: [Regeringskansliet](#)

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### **Decision on the Swedish National Audit Office's report regarding the government's management of civil defence development**

On March 4, 2026, the Swedish Parliament discussed the National Audit Office's report on the government's role in the establishment of civil defence. The report highlights key aspects of leadership during heightened preparedness, municipal and regional efforts, and the responsibilities of the Civil Defence Authority. The discussion emphasizes the importance of effective governance in strengthening Sweden's civil defence capabilities.

Source: [Riksdag](#)

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### **Sweden and eight Baltic allies sign evacuation agreement amid security concerns**

Sweden has joined eight allied nations in signing a memorandum of understanding to coordinate large-scale population movements across the Baltic Sea region during crises or armed conflict. The agreement, signed on 6 February but announced on 4 March, includes the Nordic countries, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Germany. Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin (M) said the cooperation aims to handle spontaneous or planned population movements resulting from armed attacks, including potential evacuations from the Baltic states or Finland. The Swedish Civil Defence Agency hosted a meeting with representatives from the participating nations to coordinate emergency response plans and enhance regional preparedness against military threats whilst

ensuring civilian safety during crises. The initiative reflects growing regional coordination on civil defence preparedness amongst Nordic and Baltic states in response to heightened security concerns in the Baltic Sea area.

Sources: [Göteborgs-Posten](#), [Aftonbladet](#), [Svenska Dagbladet](#)

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## Other Developments

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### **Swedish Gripen jets patrol Iceland airspace in first NATO Arctic mission**

Sweden has deployed six Saab Jas 39 Gripen fighter jets to patrol Iceland's airspace for the first time as part of NATO's Arctic Sentry mission, marking a significant demonstration of military presence in the strategically important Arctic region. The operation enhances air surveillance and security capabilities whilst signalling to Russia that Sweden takes the protection of Arctic interests seriously. The deployment reflects Sweden's commitment to NATO's collective defence efforts and ongoing international cooperation in ensuring regional stability, whilst also representing an escalation in military presence as Sweden continues to assert its security role in the Arctic.

Sources: [Europaportalen - Sweden in the EU](#), [MarketScreener SE](#)

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### **Sweden plans major preparedness exercises in 2026 with road closures**

Sweden will conduct national preparedness exercises in 2026 that will result in significant road closures, particularly affecting traffic routes between the Finnish border and Boden, according to the Swedish Transport Administration. The exercises are designed to enhance Sweden's national readiness and response capabilities. The Transport Administration has issued advance notice of the planned disruptions to allow for preparation by transport operators and the public.

Source: [Nyheter24](#)

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### **Swedish military convoys transit through Norrbotten to Finland for Cold Response exercise**

Swedish military units are travelling from Boden through Haparanda and southeastern Norrbotten into Finland to participate in the Cold Response exercise, a Norwegian-led joint military drill designed to enhance readiness and defence cooperation between Nordic nations. The operation involves significant cross-border transportation of personnel and equipment, as well as substantial aviation activities that will impact the Tornedalen region. Authorities have warned residents and travellers to expect considerable disruptions, including traffic congestion, loud explosions, and aircraft noise during the military movements. The deployment demonstrates Sweden's continued integration into Nordic defence cooperation frameworks and bilateral defence collaboration with Finland, whilst representing a major logistical exercise for Swedish armed forces in the region.

*Sources: [Hbwebben](#), [Länsstyrelsen Norrbotten](#), [Haparanda stad](#), [Aftonbladet](#)*

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### **Trust in NATO falls sharply among Swedish public**

Public confidence in NATO has declined significantly among Swedish citizens, with only a small fraction expressing trust in the alliance. This contrasts sharply with other institutions, where the Swedish Police leads with 75% public trust, followed by the Armed Forces at 69%. The Swedish Royal Family has reached record approval levels, highlighting a notable divergence in public sentiment towards NATO compared to domestic institutions since Sweden's accession to the alliance.

*Source: [Expressen](#)*

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### **Swedish government announces 91 measures to strengthen cyber resilience**

The Swedish government has unveiled 91 measures designed to enhance the nation's resilience against cyber threats, forming part of a broader strategy to address escalating cyber risks and bolster national security. Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin leads the initiative, which focuses on safeguarding Sweden's digital infrastructure amid growing concerns over cyber vulnerabilities. The comprehensive package represents a significant government effort to strengthen the country's defensive capabilities in the digital domain.

*Source: [Regeringskansliet](#)*

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*This digest contains 25 articles curated for Raytheon.*

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