

*Report – Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP), 2–3 March, Stockholm*

On 2–3 March, the Riksdag organised the Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP). The conference gathered some 250 participants to discuss foreign, security and defence policy. The interparliamentary conference took place within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The conference included three theme sessions: Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the EU's Strategic Compass and the Arctic. It was co-hosted with the European Parliament and led by Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Aron Emilsson (Sweden Democrats) and First Deputy Speaker Kenneth G Forslund (Social Democratic Party). During the session on Russia's aggression against Ukraine, matters relating to the importance of unity in the EU regarding its support to Ukraine, economic, military and humanitarian support to Ukraine and EU sanctions were raised. The session was opened by Johan Forssell, Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Andrii Plakhotniuk, Ukraine's Ambassador to Sweden and Carolina Vendil Pallin, Deputy Research Director at the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI). Contributions were made by, among others, representatives from Slovakia, Greece, Lithuania, Italy and the European Parliament.

During the session on the EU's Strategic Compass, matters relating to the concrete priority measures within the four areas of the compass – action, security, investments and partners – were discussed. This session was opened by Pål Jonson, Sweden's Minister for Defence, Arnaud Danjean, former Chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament and Ewa Skoog Haslum, Rear Admiral and Chief of the Royal Swedish Navy. Contributions were made by, among others, representatives from Spain, France, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and the European Parliament.

Discussions during the session on the Arctic highlighted matters relating to security policy, climate change and the EU's common Arctic policy. The session was opened by Ann Linde, Sweden's former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Clara Ganslandt, Special Envoy for the Arctic of the European External Action Service and Tormod Heier, Professor of Military Strategy and Operations of the Norwegian Defence University College. Contributions were made by, among others, representatives from Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Sweden, the UK, Iceland and the European Parliament.

