

More, flourishing companies

General election day, September 17th, is the day when Sweden's future is to be decided, and it will be up to you and me to cast our vote. We all share the same responsibilities, and all votes are equal. Should we further and improve our welfare system, or should we downgrade by taking one out of every five tax krona out of the public coffers? Should we continue developing the Swedish welfare model – or should we abandon it?

A society that can afford education, competitiveness and security for everyone – that's our model for creating more jobs. Over the last ten years it's given Sweden a high rate of growth and low interest rates. As many as 300,000 jobs have been created during the last decade. That's good, but it's not good enough.

More education and research

We, the Social Democrats, want Sweden to be able to go on competing through knowledge and professional skills – not through wage cuts and insecure jobs. Sweden puts more per capita into research and development than any other country in the world. Now we're setting up a new objective that will see one percent of our gross national product go to research projects paid for by public money. We're increasing our investment in research by 2.3 billion kronor; we're making an extra 17,500 study places available at college and university, and we're putting 900 million kronor into research by small businesses. To raise quality standards and ensure that all pupils will be able to achieve their educational objectives, schools as a whole have been allocated sufficient funds to take on 15,000 new teachers and educational specialists. Vocationally-oriented upper-secondary school will be developed still further, not least in that we're introducing a modern apprenticeship training scheme at places of work.



Increased competitiveness

Not for twenty years have so many new companies been started up. That's good, and we're going to continue making it even easier to become an entrepreneur, to run a company and to make a business grow.

Small businesses

Running a small business in Sweden must offer security. That's why we want to improve things for small business proprietors who need public support, e.g. in the event of illness. To help make running a small business easier, we're investing in a nationwide business counselling service and are cutting down on administration in more than 300 procedures. Small businesses all over Sweden must have good access to capital in order to grow and take on employees. Two billion kronor have been earmarked for the provision of risk capital.

We're also introducing special tax cuts geared to the needs of small business owners: we've abolished inheritance and gift tax, cut employer's contributions for sole proprietorships taking on their first employee, and we're cutting taxes for close companies by one billion kronor.

By allocating one billion kronor to measures designed to boost the competitiveness of industrial sectors of special importance to Sweden's economy, we're giving extra support to areas in which Sweden is already strong. The money will be put into the aviation and space industries, forestry and wood-processing, metallurgy, the automotive industry, the IT and telecom sector, and the pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industries. Among other things, we're cooperating with the automotive industry in efforts to develop vehicles that are more environmentally sound.

Security and openness build Sweden

People who feel secure dare more and are willing to take on greater responsibilities. Security strengthens our ability to take part and adapt to changes in the outside world. This stimulates growth and creates new jobs. Just as important, however, is openness towards the outside world and new impressions. It is a combination of security and openness that over the past ten years has made Sweden a winner in the face of global competition. That's a policy we want to continue.

The alternative – a poorer Sweden

We, the Social Democrats, want to continue developing our model by committing ourselves to education, competitiveness and security for all. That's the way to ensure a continued high growth rate and more jobs for Sweden.

The Moderate-controlled right-wing alliance wants to do the very opposite. They want to abandon the Swedish model. They want to



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lower taxes for those who earn the most money, weaken labour market security and lower the level of unemployment and sickness benefits.
The model proposed by the right-wing alliance cannot stimulate growth. Instead, we would see greater social discrepancies and a Sweden on the decline.

In our Sweden, everyone is welcome. Which Sweden will you choose?



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