



The Swedish Government and Business Community demand a Free-Trade Agreement with the U.S.

On Monday July 2nd, SACC-USA hosted a seminar during Almedalsveckan, the political hot-spot in Sweden. During one week in July, politicians and business leaders mingle in the beautiful setting of the historic city of Visby. The seminar was held in the garden of the Governor of Gotland, Cecilia Schelin Seidgård.

"The spots for the seminar filled up fast and we are very happy to receive such a great interest in Swedish-American trade. USA is Sweden's fourth biggest export market and in spite of close trade relations more has to be done to enable business between the countries. Swedish business owners and leaders are also demanding more knowledge and better connections in the United States, something that our 19 regional chambers are well equipped to handle" says Therese Lindé President of SACC-USA.

The Swedish Minister of Trade, Ewa Björling started with an overview of the trade relations between Sweden and the U.S. and the goal to double Swedish exports by 2015. Thereafter the moderator, journalist Folke Rydén, led a panel discussion. The panelist consisted of Jan-Eric Sundgren (Vice President Volvo Group), Lena Olving (Vice President SAAB), Kevin Lampe (Political Adviser at Kurth Lampe) and Per Strömbäck (Spokesperson Swedish Games Industry).

In conclusion, the panelist wanted less barriers to trade in order to increase trade between the two countries and the Minister, Ewa Björling, demanded less talk and more action.

"I have since 2009 worked to push negotiations for a free trade agreement between E.U. and U.S. This has taken considerably more time than expected, but I now hope we can move forward and produce results in the next 5 years," comments Ewa Björling, Minister of Trade.

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