



1<sup>st</sup> of December 2025

## French-Swedish Business Day

**French-Swedish Business Summit 2025**

*A Decade of Action, A Century of Progress*

*High level conference*

**French-Swedish Tech & Innovation Exhibition**

*Showcase of innovations from partners and start-ups*

*Networking Cocktail*

**Soirée Franco-Suédoise**

*110th Anniversary Dinner conceived by Swedish chef Gustav Leonhardt*

*Prix d'Excellence Award Ceremony*

*Below Zero*

*Sankta Lucia*

# French-Swedish Business Day

## About the event

The French-Swedish Business Day will be celebrating the Chamber's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, a historic milestone testifying to the strong and sustainable relations between our countries and businesses. 2025 is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement, signed at Cop21. This is an occasion to blend historical legacy with forward-thinking sustainability and business strategies for a competitive Europe.

**"A Decade of Action"** – Recognizes the progress made since the Paris Agreement in 2015, highlighting the commitments and challenges of companies in the past 10 years.

**"A Century of Progress"** – Celebrates the Chamber's 110-year journey, linking French-Swedish business collaboration with long-term economic and sustainable development and shared values. In the past and for the future.

In a world of turbulence, how can French-Swedish partnerships advance innovation and leadership? And how can France, Sweden, and Europe take a leading role in building a more sustainable and secure global economy?

Since the Paris Agreement, many companies have taken significant steps to align their business models with climate goals, such as Net-Zero Commitments, Renewable Energy Transition, Decarbonising Supply Chains, Sustainable Finance & Investments, Carbon Offsetting & Removal, Circular Economy & Waste Reduction, Reporting & Transparency, and Industry-Specific Innovations.

Despite ongoing progress, fully decarbonising remains a challenge, and accountability remains a key concern.

The French-Swedish Business Day will take place in Paris on December 1st at the historic premises of Banque de Suède et de Paris, Place Vendôme.

This is a Team Sweden/Team France project, organised by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in France in collaboration with the Swedish Embassy, Business Sweden, the French Embassy and Business France, within the context and in furtherance of the Innovation Partnership Act entered between France and Sweden in 2017.

On the theme **"A Decade of Action, A Century of Progress"**, a high-level Business Summit and a French-Swedish Tech & Innovation Exhibition are being organised, followed by the networking dinner **"Soirée Franco-Suédoise"** with remittance of the Prix d'Excellence, an award that distinguishes Swedish companies for their exceptional performances on the French market.

The event aims to promote French-Swedish businesses by offering a platform for exchange of know-how and values, for the sharing of future visions and challenges, and for finding opportunities to contribute to a more sustainable, secure, and resilient global economy.. The occasion is excellent for high-level networking with decision makers and entrepreneurs, developing French-Swedish partnerships, creating new businesses and furthering trade relations between France and Sweden in both directions.

## Program

### French-Swedish Business Summit –

#### A Decade of Action, A Century of Progress

A half-day, high-level conference on the strengthening of European competitiveness by a strong and resilient European industry. Focus will be on the potential of strategic innovation collaborations and tech partnerships between France and Sweden within the areas of the bilateral Innovation Partnership Act such as security & defense, forestry, low-carbon energy systems, space, sustainable transports and digitalisation.

**13.15** Registration

Moderator: **Aurore Belfrage**, *Co-Founder SusTechable*

**14.00** Welcome remarks **Gïta Paterson**, **President Swedish Chamber of Commerce in France**

**Official Opening**

**Introduction H.E. Ambassador of Sweden to France**

**High-Level Keynotes (TBC)**

**Panel 1: Sustainable and Secure growth for European Industry**

**Focus:** Exploring how strategic industrial and academic French-Swedish collaborations can strengthen European competitiveness. Sustainable and secure growth for the European Union needs to balance economic, environmental, social, and geopolitical dimensions. How can we ensure long-term prosperity while maintaining stability and resilience?

**Key Discussion Points:** – Economic Sustainability and competitiveness, – Energy and environmental security, Mobility - Social and workforce resilience – Geopolitical stability and security, -Investment and Funding mechanisms

## Panel 2: A Decade Since the Paris Agreement: What's Next for Climate Action & Business?

**Focus:** Reflecting on the 10-year impact of the Paris Agreement, what comes next for businesses and how can we reconcile economic growth with ecological balance.

**Key Discussion Points:** What progress have French Swedish businesses made, since COP21? The importance of bioeconomy using biological resources, processes, and principles to produce sustainable goods and services? And the impact of circular and sustainable use: waste, reusing materials, and replacing fossil-based products. The potential of substituting fossil-based materials and products with biobased ones? The role of policy & regulation in accelerating climate action. How can companies align growth strategies with global climate goals?

## Panel 3: Innovation for a Resilient Future

**Focus:** Explores how technology, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation are shaping the future of sustainability, security and competitiveness. From AI-driven energy efficiency to carbon capture, next-gen materials, defense and European telecom strategy.

**Key discussions:** US, China, Europe? Competitiveness and value driven business for the future of Europe? How can Europe become a stronger place for scientific development, technology and innovation in the new world order?

**Closing remarks H.E. Ambassador of France to Sweden**

**End of conference**



## Networking Evening

### French-Swedish Tech & Innovation exhibition and Soirée Franco-Suédoise

The afternoon summit will be followed by an interactive **Tech & Innovation Exhibition**. The exhibition will feature several companies and showcase innovation and tech solutions of the future. There will be meetings, demos, networking, impact and innovation discussions, with some of Sweden's and France's most promising and passionate tech entrepreneurs, and a special focus on innovation collaborations between start-ups and large companies.

The exhibition is followed by a high-level networking evening “**Soirée Franco-Suédoise**”, which promotes Swedish gastronomy, culture, values and traditions, Swedish know-how and French-Swedish businesses. The highlight of the evening is the remittance of the **Prix d'Excellence**, awarded to Swedish companies that have especially distinguished themselves on the French market.



*Photo: Samuel Unéus*

The 110th anniversary dinner will be signed by the Swedish chef **Gustav Leonhardt**, Sweden's representative in Bocuse d'Or 2024/2025 and bronze medal winner. Despite his young age, Gustav has already achieved great success in competitions and worked at several prestigious restaurants. In 2014, he joined the Swedish National Culinary Team as a student and became an apprentice to Tommy Myllymäki, the current president of Team Sweden and Sweden's representative in Bocuse d'Or at the time. Shortly thereafter, Gustav competed in both the Swedish High School Championships (Gymnasie-SM) and the Nordic Championships for high school students, followed by winning two gold medals in the Culinary Olympics with the Swedish Junior Culinary Team. His competition success continued, and in 2021, he won the Swedish title of Årets Kock (Chef of the Year). In addition to his competition achievements, Gustav has worked at some of Sweden's most renowned restaurants, including Agrikultur and Aira in Stockholm, as well as Julita Wårdshus outside Katrineholm.

**Below Zero** is a Swedish creative art's company offering modern and innovative circus arts performances. The cold weather of Sweden shapes the company's artistic expression as creating warmth and human contact in many ways characterises Below Zero. The company's name is inspired by the circus artists' ability to look weightless in their actions, flying almost like falling snowflakes, time can seem to be frozen and weight non-existing. Coming together on stage, unaware of what is happening in the outside world, unaware of the chaos that is closing in. Below Zero communicates through balance, strength, movement and acrobatics, but when the outside no longer can be ignored, what happens then? Below Zero invites to a reflection of the current world and how we, as humans, are handling the catastrophes we bring upon ourselves. Throughout the performance contrasts with light and darkness, harmony and chaos, success and failure, the total cooperation or the absolute conflict.



*Photo: Carl Thorborg*

The evening will close with a traditional Swedish Lucia performance by the superior choir of the Swedish Church in Paris, under the creative leadership of talented musician Björn Åkerhage. Sankta Lucia represents light in the dark and a hymn of hope. It is one of the finest Swedish traditions. Rich in mysteries and signs, it evokes the day that is reborn and the approaching Christmas festivities. Celebrated on December 13th, the longest night of the year according to the ancient Julian calendar, Sankta Lucia was originally a religious festivity that came from Sicily in the 18th century. The ceremony we know today dates from 1927. Sankta Lucia is crowned with candles and surrounded by young girls and boys dressed in long white dresses, singing to the arrival of the light.

