



FRENCH-SWEDISH BUSINESS DAY
PAVILLON VENDOME
PARIS 1st OF DECEMBER 2025

SOIRÉE PRIX D'EXCELLENCE

110TH ANNIVERSARY SPEECH
GÎTA PATERSON
PRESIDENT CCSF

Swedish Minister for Climate and The Environment, Romina Pourmokhtari,
French Minister Delegate for Industry, Sébastien Martin, Attached to the Minister of the
Economy, Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty,
Director General for Trade at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Camilla Mellander,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Dear Friends,

Warmly Welcome!

Tonight is special. Celebrating 110 years of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in France is not just a milestone — it's a moment to reflect on the courage and character of the people who built it.

On 14 June 1915, in the middle of the First World War, a small group of Swedish entrepreneurs and industrialists in Paris adopted the statutes of a new Chamber, appointed their first board, and defined a clear mission: to promote Swedish business in France and spread knowledge about Swedish industry.

They could not know that this Chamber would survive world wars, economic crises, oil shocks, the birth of the EU, the euro — and still, 110 years later, be here working for the same basic idea: that trade, investment, and human relationships across borders create prosperity, resilience, and peace.

Among the personalities who shaped our early decades, one name stands in marked preeminence: Raoul Nordling — Swedish diplomat, businessman, and longtime board member of our Chamber. During the Second World War he safeguarded industrial supply lines, saved thousands of lives and helped save Paris itself.

Fast-forward

In 2015 we celebrated our centenary in the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden, on the same day that COP21 opened, and just days after the tragic Bataclan attack. It was a moment of remembrance, determination, and solidarity — a reminder that our work is never just economic. It touches society, resilience, and the values we choose to defend.

And the decade since has been intense: the Paris Agreement, Brexit, trade tensions, the pandemic shutting borders overnight, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the European energy shock, inflation, a fragmented geopolitical landscape. Yet French-Swedish cooperation has strengthened.

After President Macron made structural reforms following his election in 2017, France became investment country number one for Swedish investments in Europe during five consecutive years, and remains the number one recipient of foreign investments in Europe.

Trade has grown. Swedish exports to France are at their highest level in recent years. Our governments have together with the private sector built strategic partnerships on innovation, digitalisation, clean industry, nuclear energy, defence, space, and sustainable forestry. President Macron's 2024 state visit to Sweden pushed this collaboration even further. And Sweden's accession to NATO the same year opened new avenues for industrial cooperation.

So where are we at 110? Stronger. More relevant. The world is not getting simpler. Regulation is dense, growth uncertain, geopolitics volatile.

The Chamber provides a place where companies find clarity, support, and trustworthy partners — where ideas become projects, and long-term relationships grow.

But none of this works without people.

So tonight, let me speak from the heart. I want to thank Katarina Lööf, and every member of our dedicated CCSF team. Your commitment, professionalism, and resilience keep this Chamber relevant and impactful. You turn ideas into realities and challenges into opportunities.

Tack. Merci. Truly.

To our company partners and academic institutions — thank you for your trust, collaboration, and expertise. You are the backbone of this ecosystem and essential to today's event, and so many others.

And to our friends at the Swedish Embassy in Paris, the French Embassy in Sweden, Business France, Business Sweden, and the French Chamber of Commerce in Sweden — thank you for working with us as part of Team France Sweden. Together we offer a strong bilateral platform for business development and sustainable growth and the strengthening of European competitiveness.

Looking ahead, we will honour our legacy by continuing to build, connect, and cooperate — across companies, sectors, and borders.

Thank you for sharing the next chapter with us.

Tack så mycket. Merci beaucoup!