



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## Press release

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### **Foreign minister meeting at LKAB mine in Kiruna**

On Tuesday and Wednesday 11–12 October, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (Barents Council) will convene at LKAB's mine in Kiruna for its foreign minister meeting. The meeting marks the end of Sweden's two-year chairmanship. Joining Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt will be Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, Norway's foreign minister Jonas Gahr Støre, Finland's foreign minister Erkki Tuomioja and state secretaries from Denmark and Iceland.

In connection with this meeting a bilateral meeting will also be held between Carl Bildt and Sergey Lavrov. Apart from discussing matters of common interest, Sweden and Russia will also sign an agreement on transit of Swedish personnel and equipment via Russian territory to the Swedish ISAF mission in Afghanistan. A couple of press conferences will be arranged in connection with the meeting. Please bring a valid press card.

#### Time and place

11 October 2011

approx. 14.00 Ministers Bildt and Støre arrive in Kiruna on an ore train from Narvik.

15.30–17.00 Study visit to the SSC Esrange Space Center.

Advance registration is obligatory, via Esrange directly, [lana.svensson@sscspace.com](mailto:lana.svensson@sscspace.com), or +46 70 387 23 34.

A bus will depart from Hotel Ferrum to Esrange at 14.45, returning at 17.00.

18.30-19.00 Press conference following bilateral meeting between Carl Bildt and Sergey Lavrov.

Kiruna City Hall, Hjalmar Lundbohmsvägen 31.

### 12 October 2011

11.00-11.30 Press conference at LKAB's visitors' mine, Kiruna. NB - the time! Advance registration is obligatory, via LKAB directly, [ulrika.westerberg@lkab.com](mailto:ulrika.westerberg@lkab.com) or + 46 70 342 13 59.

Meeting place: Reception in Förmanskontoret, Kiruna

Transport down into the mine leaves at approximately 10.30.

Please arrive in good time.

### Other information

A press centre will be set up in the Lappland Room, Folkets Hus, Lars Janssonsgata 17, Kiruna.

**During the meeting, an account of the Swedish chairmanship will be delivered and a communiqué on the future of Barents cooperation will be adopted. The chairmanship will be passed on to Norway. At the same time, the Norwegian county of Troms will hand over the chairmanship of the Barents Regional Council to Norrbotten County.**

During its chairmanship, Sweden has prioritised environmentally sustainable economic development in the Barents region; this subject will also be the focus of the ministerial meeting in Kiruna. The region is already world-leading when it comes to making use of its extensive forest, mineral and energy resources in an efficient and environmentally sustainable way. Alongside this key environmental work, the Swedish chairmanship has also highlighted the issue of how we can best promote growth in the region, through cooperation on sustainable extraction, processing and marketing in the raw materials sector.

### The Barents Euro-Arctic Council

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) was established in 1993 in Kirkenes, Norway. The chairmanship rotates between Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The aim of Barents cooperation is to *strengthen peace, stability and progress by improving the opportunities for cross-border cooperation*. For more information on the BEAC, go to [www.beac.st](http://www.beac.st).