

THE SPEAKER

SVERIGES 
RIKSDAG 
THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

Stockholm 15 November 2005

Mr Christian Mejdahl
Speaker
Folketinget
Christiansborg
DK-1240 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Invitation

Interparliamentary Conference on INSPIRE, 2-4 April 2006 in Gävle, Sweden

Dear Colleague,

In the current EU debate we often discuss the involvement of national parliaments in EU matters and the positive implications this would have for EU citizens and their interest in EU affairs. I myself believe it is important that the involvement not only comprises institutional questions, but also discussions in substance in different political fields.

As we have experienced, meetings between colleagues from parliaments in the European Union to exchange views and arguments on current issues are one way to involve national parliaments more.

One subject that the Swedish Parliament would like to discuss is the directive on INSPIRE. INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) is intended to make spatial data available for Community policy-making and implementation of Community policies in the Member States. INSPIRE will be a tool for environmental policy, but it can be extended to other fields, like agriculture, transport and energy.

The Swedish Parliament and its Committee on Housing plan to hold a conference on INSPIRE on 2-4 April 2006 in Gävle¹. According to the present timetable, this will be an interesting period in the decision-making process, probably coinciding with the second reading in the Council. During this phase we believe an exchange of views among national parliamentarians will be valuable.

¹ The conference will be held in Gävle, a one hour's train-journey from Stockholm Airport (Arlanda). Gävle is a centre for geographical information in Sweden. Lantmäteriet, the government agency responsible for such information is situated here.

The national parliaments of all EU member states and candidate countries, as well as the European Parliament will be invited to the conference. We also intend to invite Stavros Dimas, the Commissioner responsible for INSPIRE, and Frieda Brepoels, the European Parliament rapporteur on INSPIRE, as keynote speakers.

The Conference will be open to the media, experts and observers from organisations etc. interested in INSPIRE. However, these persons will only be able to attend the conference as observers. It will not be possible for them to participate in debates.

It would be a great pleasure for the Swedish Parliament to welcome *three* members of your Chamber to attend the Conference. I would therefore like to ask you to forward this invitation to members involved in this matter in your Chamber.²

This preliminary invitation will be followed by a more detailed one, including a draft programme from the chairperson of the Committee on Housing, Ms Ragnwi Marcelind.

Yours sincerely,


Björn von Sydow

² In case the legislative work in your country is so organized that INSPIRE is not the responsibility of your national parliament, but rather a regional parliament, we would be happy to welcome parliamentarians at this level instead.