

Sweden

You represent the Swedish government at the negotiations on the Treaty of Lisbon. On the agenda for today are the discussions on the implementation of the Qualified Majority Voting and the extension of a combined foreign and security policy.

Qualified Majority Voting

A system of voting based on the qualified majority, which is the number of votes required in the Council. The Lisbon Treaty introduced a new system known as “double majority”. This abolishes the weighting of votes. Qualified majority is now achieved if it covers at least 55% of the member states representing at least 65% of the population. Blocking minority: At least four member states representing at least 35% of the population.

Your position

As one of the medium sized countries, Sweden does see possible problems in changing the voting system in this way which would yield more power to the larger states. If the regulation on the blocking minority is sufficiently forthcoming to the smaller states, however, Sweden would not oppose such a change.

CFSP – Common Defense and Security Policy

The Lisbon Treaty outlines many opportunities that allow for closer cooperation in Foreign and Security Policy. These measures reach from mechanisms for easier decision-making processes, over rapid access to appropriations in the budget to the possibility of a European Army.

Your position

The Swedish population is very skeptical about a common security and defense policy. They fear that it might decrease their sovereignty. As one of the neutral countries of the European Union, Sweden is very much opposed to participation in military action. Its policy is not to participate in any military alliances, with the intention of staying neutral in the case of war. The treaty must, therefore, include a regulation to ensure that this neutrality can be kept. Otherwise, it would be impossible for your government to sign the agreement.

Background

Public Opinion – The Eurobarometer

QA16.7 Trust in the European Union.

“I tend to trust it.”

Sweden: 56% vs. EU27: 57%

QA15.2 Trust in the European Commission.

“I tend to trust it.”

Sweden: 53% vs. EU27: 52%

QA22a Information level in the own Country.

"The people in my country are well informed about European political affairs."

Sweden:35% vs. EU27: 22%

QA19 To which extent do you agree with the statement: "Every European decision is the subject of negotiations in which the opinions of the national government of all member states are taken into account."?

"I agree."

Sweden: 58% vs. EU27: 63%

QA27.3: Opinion on a common defence policy among the EU Member States.

"I am for it."

Sweden 59% vs. EU27: 77%

The Swedish Parliament

The Swedish Parliament will vote on the Treaty. Both the ruling Conservative Party and the opposition are generally supportive of the treaty.

The Government: Frederik Reinfeldt, Allians för Sverige (Centre-right liberal conservative Alliance)