

Sweden's application for accession to the EEC (Stockholm, 26 July 1967)

Caption: On 26 July 1967, Gunnar Lange, Swedish Trade Minister, forwards to the President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities a letter in which his government requests the opening of accession negotiations with Sweden.

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URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/sweden_s_application_for_accession_to_the_eec_stockholm_26_july_1967-en-094cf300-6d86-4996-a6c0-af8b1d80f198.html

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Mr President,

By means of a letter dated 12 December 1961, and addressed to the President of the Council of the European Economic Community, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden requested, on the instructions of the Swedish Government, the opening of negotiations with a view to an economic association between Sweden and the European Economic Community.

On 28 July 1962, the Swedish Minister of Commerce was given the opportunity to explain the views of the Swedish Government to the Council. The Minister emphasized the desire of the Government to contribute effectively to European economic co-operation, and formulated the reserves necessitated by the Swedish Government's resolution to continue Sweden's traditional policy of neutrality.

The constructive idea of expanded European economic integration has made headway during the last few years. Recently, the Governments of the United Kingdom, of Ireland, and of Norway have applied for membership of the Community. The Swedish Government would like to remind the Community of its great interest in contributing to the search for a uniform economic solution in Europe. In this connection, it considers it to be essential to safeguard the progress made within European Free Trade Association and the resulting tariff-free Nordic market.

I have therefore been instructed by the Swedish Government to forward to you a request for the initiation of negotiations with the Community with a view to opening the way to Sweden's participation, under a form compatible with the continuation of its policy of neutrality, in the enlargement of the European Economic Community.

The Swedish Government is also ready to negotiate with the European Coal and Steel Community and with the European Atomic Energy Community.

Please accept, Mr President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Gunnar Lange