



Confédération des Employeurs Suédois
Swedish Employers' Confederation

Industriförbundet

Fédération des Industries Suédoises
Federation of Swedish Industries

Får ej publiceras före kl 16.30

PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 2001

Swedish Presidency should improve opportunities for enterprises

Swedish business leaders today summarised their priorities for the first Swedish presidency of the EU at the Autoworld in Brussels.

The presentations had one overall theme in common: The EU and its member states must move *towards a more enterprising and competitive Europe*.

Sören Gyll, formerly CEO of Volvo, is President Designate of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, a new body that in April will replace the present two leading business organisations in Sweden, the Swedish Employers' Confederation (SAF) and the Federation of Swedish Industries.

Mr Gyll gave an overview of the priorities presented by Swedish business. Under the headline **Enterprising Sweden** he stressed the need to make Europe more competitive and to develop the single market further - both by abolishing remaining barriers within the EU and by enlarging it with new members.

Anders Scharp, Chairman and formerly CEO of Electrolux, is President of SAF. Mr Scharp focussed on the need for fewer and simpler rules in order to improve the business climate and encourage new enterprises. The focus for the EU should be more on stimulating the individual and the entrepreneurial spirit.

Leif Johansson, CEO of Volvo, underlined the need to improve knowledge, competence and research. He also pointed out that a sustainable social and environmental development is not only compatible with but also actually helped by free trade and strong economic growth.

* * *

Their presentations and the official business priorities for the Swedish presidency are found at our website: **www.eu2001.swedishenterprise.se**

For further information please contact :

SAF/Industriförbundet Brussels office, 3 rue Luxembourg, B-1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 501 53 00 – Fax: +32 2 501 53 20 – Email: bryssel@saf.se