



Ministry of Justice
Division for criminal cases and international judicial
cooperation

**Information relating to actions taken by the Swedish Government since
the completion of the Review of Sweden (UNCAC)**

Ref: CU 2015/46/DTA/CEB/CSS

The following information supplements the information submitted in 2015.

The efforts to prevent and combat corruption must continue without pause and in all fields. This means that a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is required if we want to be successful in our efforts.

Criminal law sanctions against legal persons is an important tool to counter the profit motives that may be behind crimes in business activities. They provide companies with a clear incentive to organize their business in a way that reduce the risk for crime. Companies that play by the rules should not be forced to compete with companies that ignore the same rules. To make sure that the same rules apply to all companies both in theory and in practice, the criminal law legislation must be both effective and dissuasive. In 2020 new legislation entered into force. The jurisdiction of Swedish courts was extended to cover bribery offences committed abroad if they are committed during the exercise of a Swedish company's business activities regardless of the citizenship of the person who committed the offence. Moreover, the maximum amount for corporate fines was increased from 10 million Swedish Crowns to 500 million Swedish Crowns.

In September 2020 the Government appointed a committee of inquiry to make an overview of the statute of limitations in Swedish criminal law. The committee presented its report (SOU 2021:90) on 1 December 2021 and proposes, inter alia, an extension of the statutory limitation period for serious offences. Applied to the offences gross taking of a bribe or gross giving of a bribe the proposal means that the statutory limitation period will be extended from 10 years to 15 years.

The report has been sent for consultation to relevant government agencies, organisations and other stakeholders. The Government is now analysing the proposals and the result of the consultation process and will thereafter draft a

referral to the Council on Legislation and obtain the Council's view so that a bill can be proposed. A timeline for this project has not been made public, but the Government has stated that it intends to implement the proposals made by the inquiry.

The Government has announced that it intends to appoint an Inquiry to review the current legislation on bribery and other corruption offences. The details of the Inquiry's remit have not yet been formalised, but Sweden's obligations under EU law and other international commitments can form important parts of the overview, including for example recommendations and the European Commission's proposal on a directive on combating corruption.