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COVER NOTE

From:	Permanent Representation of Sweden
date of receipt:	10 October 2023
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Partial renewal of the European Court of Auditors (2024) - SE nomination letter

Delegations will find in the Annex the translation of a letter, dated 9 October 2023, from the Mr Torbjörn HAAK Permanent Representative of Sweden to the European Union, addressed to Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union.

Encl.: IM 11238 2023

2023-10-09

Permanent Representation of Sweden
to the European Union, Brussels

IM 011238 2023

10-10-2023

Brussels

Secretary-General
Thérèse Blanchet
General Secretariat of the
Council of the European Union
175, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/België

Nomination of a Swedish member of the European Court of Auditors

Dear Ms Blanchet,

Please find enclosed the Swedish Government's decision to nominate Hans Lindblad as Sweden's member of the European Court of Auditors for a term of office beginning on 1 June 2024.

(Complimentary close)

Torbjörn Haak

Ambassador

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Swedish Government

Government decision

21 September 2023

Fi2023/02522

Ministry of Finance

Permanent Representation of Sweden to the
European Union
Square de Meeûs/De Meeûssquare 30
B-1000 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/België

Nomination of a Swedish member of the European Court of Auditors

Government decision

The government has decided to nominate Hans Lindblad as Sweden's member of the European Court of Auditors for a term of office beginning on 1 March 2024.

Subject

Eva Lindström is Sweden's member of the European Court of Auditors.

In accordance with Article 286 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the term of office is six years. The current period expires on 29 February 2024.

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Visitors' address: Jakobsgatan 24

Email: fi.registrator@regeringskansliet.se

On behalf of the Swedish Government

Elisabeth Svantesson

Carl Asplund

Copy to

Hans Lindblad

SB /EUK

National Financial Management Authority

Curriculum vitae

Education

2010	Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in economics, Stockholm University Title of dissertation: <i>Essays on Unemployment and Real Exchange Rates</i>
1996	Degree of Licentiate of Arts, Stockholm University Title of dissertation: <i>Persistence in Swedish Unemployment Rates</i>
1986	Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Stockholm University
1981	Degree of Bachelor of Science in Military Studies, officer conscript, Näsbyark Naval Academy
1979	Baccalaureate, Natural Sciences, Saltsjöbadens Samskola [Saltsjöbaden co-educational school]

Positions and duties

2023-present	Chair, Produktivitetskommissionen [Productivity Commission] (Fi 2023:03) Official commission of inquiry.
2022-present	Member of the board, Fondtorgsnämnden [Swedish Fund Selection Agency] To date, management activities in connection with the establishment of a new authority.
2022-present	Member of the board of directors of Nordiska Investeringsbanken [Nordic Investment Bank] Standard management activities in a financial institution, taking into account the fact that Sweden accounts for just over one third of the bank's capital. The bank's focus is on financing various sustainable projects. The task of the board of directors is, among other things, to examine project applications, to bear responsibility for compliance and to ensure that the accounts are correct and that the bank's objectives are met.
2013-present	Member of the board of trustees of SNS [Centre for Business and Policy Studies] SNS is one of Sweden's most reputable think tanks. Being a member means, among other things, raising awareness about SNS. It is also to be regarded as an honorary position.
2023-2023	Member, Kommuninvest [Swedish local government funding agency] research committee Advisor to Kommuninvest's scientific council.
2023-2023	Alternate member of the board of directors, Regelrådet [Swedish Better Regulation Council] Regelrådet evaluates the government's impact assessments of various proposals.

- 2022-2023 Chief executive officer, Högskolan Väst [University West]
Standard management work, including follow-up to objectives, accounts and policy documents. Högskolan Väst specialises in work-integrated learning, which takes place in collaboration with both the public and the business sector.
- 2015-2023 Board member, Arbetsförmedlingen [Labour Office]
In the early years, the work was characterised by more standard management activities. Extensive work was carried out with a view to ensuring compliance, proper procurement and serviceable target and performance monitoring, etc. In recent years, the focus has shifted in favour of helping to make fundamental changes to the Office's structure, internal culture and organisation. Digitalisation and assessment of the impact of IT investments have been key elements in efforts to increase efficiency.
- 2022 Rapporteur: *Finansiering av näringslivets gröna omställning* [Financing the green transition of the business sector].
The mission was, among other things, to identify possible obstacles to the business sector's financing of its green transition and to suggest possible ways in which to avoid them. Among the subjects discussed in the report is the role of the pension system in that context.
- 2013-2022 Director-General of Riksgälden [Swedish National Debt Office] and Head of Riksgäldskontoret [Swedish National Debt Office].
The Director-General of Riksgälden is the head of Riksgäldskontoret (Riksgälden), which, at the time I left, employed around 230 people. Riksgälden's four main tasks are to act as the state's internal bank (around 200 million payments, amounting to approximately SEK 7 000 billion per annum), to issue guarantees and credits on the state's behalf, to manage the public debt, and to safeguard financial stability. The latter is achieved, *inter alia*, by defining requirements for banks' capital and debt, by bearing responsibility for managing banks in crisis in the event of a default and by administering the deposit guarantee. In addition, Riksgälden is responsible for securing financing for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel. The operations are IT-intensive, and the IT department consists of around 60 people. Riksgälden participates in several international forums, mainly linked to the design of payment systems and financial stability. Its broad mandate entails extensive contacts with other authorities and the business community.
During my time as Director-General, the authority underwent several strategic and operational changes, partly as a result of the government's expansion of Riksgälden's mandate in several different directions. The most significant of those changes was to make it the state authority responsible for crisis prevention and, if necessary, managing banks in crisis, and for administering the deposit guarantee. Riksgälden was also given special tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to reducing the burden on businesses and preventing job losses. In 2018, the government transferred responsibility for securing financing for the management and disposal of nuclear waste from SSM [Swedish Radiation Safety Authority] to Riksgälden. The changes made to the authority's activities meant updating and strengthening its vision, strategic objectives, analytical capacity and focus. Another important factor was Riksgälden's designation as an emergency authority. This introduced new requirements in terms of resilience, security, civil defence and preparedness. During my time there, the state's internal bank changed its IT system.

The new activities, IT systems and responsibilities, as well as an initial financial deficit, were fully financed through savings, impact management and streamlining.

The changes that took place strengthened and renewed the body's leadership and operations in terms of results, skills exchange, recruitment, employeeship and culture. It was particularly important to introduce a positive and constructive culture based on collaboration, objective analysis, the basic values of central government and an approach characterised by the rigour of good and well-functioning case management and exercise of public authority. The work resulted, among other things, in staff survey assessments that the board of management referred to as 'unprecedented'.

Riksgälden has the entire state's finances on its balance sheet. This, together with the significant changes made to the authority's activities, was the subject of careful auditing. In my role as head of the authority, I enjoyed very close and professional cooperation and knowledge exchange with Riksrevisionen [Swedish National Audit Office] and the consultants who assisted in the auditing of Riksgälden. Not only is such auditing important in terms of the authority's basic mandate, but Riksgälden also benefited from the exchange of knowledge that took place between the auditors, the consultants and its staff.

2013-2017 CEO, Returpack Svenska AB

Returpack is responsible for recycling aluminium cans and PET bottles. During my time there, the company's turnover was approximately SEK 2 billion. Returpack is owned equally by the trade and by Sweden's breweries. In addition to normal CEO duties, my tasks were to help to strategically develop sustainability and management efforts, and to negotiate with the owners on various contentious issues and decisions as regards direction.

2013-2020 Chair, Expert Group on Public Economics (ESO)

The ESO is a committee attached to the Ministry of Finance. Its task is to independently analyse and discuss important societal issues. This is done mainly by the board deciding to finance the production of various reports, which in turn often serve as a qualified basis for decision-makers.

2014-2015 Member of the Entrepreneurship Committee

The Committee's initial task was to comprehensively review the conditions for entrepreneurship and employment. Barely one year later, the government changed the Committee's focus, restricted its mandate and dismissed all of its members.

State Secretary for the Budget attached to the Minister for Finance, Ministry of Finance

During my time as State Secretary for the Budget, the role consisted of actively pursuing the formulation and development of economic policy and being responsible for preparing and negotiating the state budget within the Government Offices. Key aspects of that work included the drafting of proposals on how to strengthen the 'work first principle', including changes to various social security and pension schemes.

The State Secretary for the Budget was among the group of party leaders responsible for finalising the budget. The work also included the ongoing adoption of positions and the preparation of any decisions that had or could have had budgetary implications. This meant that I took part in most of the preparatory work, including

general preparation with the government and with most working groups within the Government Offices. The work included presenting the budget both internally and externally, and representing the Ministry of Finance and the government in various contexts.

Furthermore, I served as coordinating state secretary within the Ministry of Finance. This meant, among other things, acting as chair of the Ministry's steering committee, being responsible for operational planning and – through and in cooperation with the departmental heads – steering the work within the Ministry.

The State Secretary for the Budget activated and led the Ministry's crisis team, thus playing a central role in the management of various crises. This became particularly evident in the context of the 2008/2009 financial crisis – a crisis that was complex and multifaceted. For example, the work required the rapid formulation of a framework for managing banks in crisis, including proposals for new legislation on crisis management of the financial sector. Crisis management also involved the development of various 'crisis packages' for regions and sectors that were particularly severely affected. Support for other affected countries and the international response to the crisis were also key elements.

In the context of the EU, the State Secretary for the Budget acted as 'budget minister' in the Council of Ministers in respect of the EU's annual budget. The work involved negotiating the EU's annual budget both within the Council of Ministers and in conciliation negotiations with the European Parliament and the European Commission (referred to as 'trilogues'). It also included drafting and consolidating Sweden's position, securing a mandate in the Swedish Parliament and communicating externally on those issues. See also 'International posts' below.

In the first few months following the change of government in 2006, I was also State Secretary for Tax Affairs.

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|-----------|---|
| 2003-2006 | Deputy Head of the parliamentary offices of the Moderates party. Head of the 15 or so graduate administrators in the parliamentary offices. During the period in question, there was a thorough overhaul of the Moderates' policy. The same applied to the staffing, competence and position of the parliamentary offices as a hub for change. The work also included both internal consolidation and external presentations. |
| 1997-2003 | Head of Division (two different divisions) and Deputy Director General, Riksbank [Swedish Central Bank] . Work as head of the <i>Price analysis</i> and <i>Macroanalysis</i> divisions (employing around six and 20 persons respectively) involved drafting Riksbank's forecasts for the Swedish economy and developing its working methods. As Deputy Director General of the <i>Department of Monetary Policy</i> (with a staff of around 50), I was responsible for coordinating the forecasting work and establishing guidelines for the monetary policy decisions and communications of Riksbank's board of management. The work also involved representing Riksbank in various external contexts and taking part in press conferences, for example. |
| 1995-1997 | Doctoral student and scholarship holder, Stockholm University
Doctoral studies. |
| 1989-1995 | Desk Officer, Ministry of Finance

Administrator in the Economics Department with responsibility for producing various analyses and forecasts for the Swedish economy. My tasks included describing longer-term economic trends, producing mid-term assessments in |

accordance with the long-term studies and producing analyses and data for the ‘Pensions Group’, all on the basis of various models.

- 1986-1989 Research assistant/administrator, Konjunkturinstitutet [National Institute of Economic Research]
Administrator responsible for forecasting and methodological development in various parts of the Swedish economy.
- 1985 First Officer, HMS Dämman
- 1982 First Officer, HMS Norsten
- 1980 School host (part-time), Saltsjöbadens Samskola [Saltsjöbaden co-educational school]
- 1979-1980 Postman, Saltsjöbaden 1 post office

Other responsibilities

Member of Statistics Sweden’s Consumer Price Index Board, partly as government plenipotentiary (1989-1992) and partly as Riksbank’s representative (1997-1999).

Member of Riksbank’s policy group.

Member of the Ministry of Finance’s policy group.

International posts

- 2009 President of the ECOFIN BUDGET Council of Ministers during the Swedish Presidency.
The work included drafting the Council of Ministers’ proposal for the EU’s annual budget for 2010, which required extensive negotiations with the European Commission and the Member States. Subsequently, I led the Council’s negotiations with the European Parliament. Furthermore, I was responsible for external communications on the outcome of both the Council’s negotiations and the deliberations with the European Parliament. The tasks also included consolidating the positions and the negotiating mandate in the Swedish Parliament.
- 2006-2012 Swedish ‘Minister’ within the ECOFIN BUDGET Council of Ministers. The work involved arguing, pursuing and negotiating Sweden’s position on the EU’s annual budget within the Council of Ministers, vis-à-vis the Commission and the European Parliament. The work also involved ongoing consolidation work in the Swedish Parliament, as well as external communications.
- 2013-2022 Riksgälden is represented in several international forums, mainly linked to financial stability. Among other things, I took part in the Resolution Committees of the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB).
- 2022-present Member of the board of directors of Nordiska Investeringsbanken [Nordic Investment Bank] (see above).

Publications

- 2022 *Finansiering av näringslivets gröna omställning* [Financing the green transition of the business sector], report, Government Offices
- 2010 *Essays on Unemployment and Real Exchange Rates*, doctoral thesis.
- 2006 *A Simultaneous Model of the Swedish Krona, the US Dollar and the Euro*, Sveriges Riksbank.

- 2003 *The Equilibrium Rate of Unemployment and the Real Exchange Rate*, Sveriges Riksbank.
- 2003 *Penningpolitiken och EMU* [Monetary policy and EMU], Sveriges Riksbank, editor.
- 2001 *Wage Effects of Mobility, Unemployment Benefits and Benefit Financing*, Sveriges Riksbank.
- 1997 *Persistence in Swedish Unemployment Rates*, licentiate thesis
- 1988 *Två undersökningar av hushållens konsumtion* [Two surveys of household consumption], Konjunkturinstitutet [National Institute of Economic Research].
- 1987 *Hushållens köpkraft, konsumtion och sparande* [Households' purchasing power, consumption and savings], Konjunkturinstitutet [National Institute of Economic Research].

Other

In parallel with my studies, I spent several summers working as a youth education instructor within the Sjövärnsskåren [Swedish Auxiliary Naval Corps], telemarketing at IBM and as a postman. In addition, I have been a board member of the Stockholm Sjövärnsskåren and chair of a housing association in Stockholm. I have received a silver order of merit from the Sjövärnsskårens Riksförbund [National Association of the Auxiliary Naval Corps] and the medal of the Stockholm Sjövärnsskåren.

In 2019, I received the NOR medal (Nit och Redlighet i rikets tjänst [For Zealous and Devoted Service of the Realm]) for 30 years in the service of the state.

In 2023, I received His Majesty the King's medal in the 12th class of the Order of the Seraphim for 'Outstanding achievements in Swedish state administration'.

I spend my free time with family and friends, at my summer house in the Stockholm archipelago, engaging in recreational sailing, travelling and exploring the natural world.

I live with my partner and have two grown-up daughters from a previous marriage.