

A large, stylized blue flower with five petals and a yellow center. The center is a bright yellow circle with a white highlight on its right side, giving it a 3D appearance. The petals are a solid blue color and are arranged in a circular pattern around the center.

*Presentation of  
the Sweden Democrats*

The Sweden Democrats were founded in 1988 as a national-conservative party with a strong support for the basic elements in the Swedish welfare system. The current chairman of the party, Jimmie Åkesson, was elected in 2005.

The main objectives of the Sweden Democrats are to:

▷ **Restore the sense of a common identity in Sweden** through reduced immigration, a strengthening of the Swedish culture and the abolishment of multiculturalism in favour of assimilation.

▷ **Strengthen traditional values, Christian ethics, the nuclear family and the sovereignty of the Swedish state.**

▷ **Enhance the economic growth through increased support to small companies** in form of lower taxation and simplified rules.

▷ **Improve the condition for the elderly citizens** through increased resources elderly care and increased pensions for the poorest elders.

▷ **Restore the sense of security and law and order** through harder sentences for criminals and increased resources and powers to the police and the border control.



*Jimmie Åkesson, chairman of the Sweden Democrats.*

### *Results from public elections*

In every election since 1988 the Sweden Democrats have increased their share of the Swedish votes. The growth during the early years was slow but now seems to accelerate thanks to a more competent leadership and a changing image.

#### **Elections to the national parliament (Riksdagen)**

##### **1998**

Number of votes: 19 624      Percentage: 0,4 %

##### **2002**

Number of votes: 76 300      Percentage: 1,44 %

##### **2006**

Number of votes: 162 463      Percentage: 2,93 %

#### **Elections to the regional parliaments (Landstingen)**

**1988- 2002:** 0 seats

**2006:** 16 seats in 3 different regions.

### **Elections to the local municipalities (Kommunerna)**

**1998:** 8 seats in 5 municipalities

**2002:** 50 seats in 30 municipalities

**2006:** 282 seats in 145 municipalities

### **Elections to the European parliament**

**1999**

Number of votes: 8 569                      Percentage: 0,33 %

**2004**

Number of votes: 28 303                      Percentage: 1,13 %

Besides this, the Sweden Democrats also hold 4 seats in the national assembly of the Swedish Protestant Church, and in the special youth election (Ungt val) organised prior to the general elections in 2006 the Sweden Democrats gained 11.9 percent of the votes and established itself as the third largest party among young people in Sweden.

Most opinion polls after the last election have shown that the support for the Sweden Democrats is increasing and that the party will pass the 4 %-limit, required to enter the national parliament, in the upcoming national elections of 2010. In march this year, the leading institute of public opinion, Synovate-Temo, published an analysis showing that the Sweden Democrats will probably get 4,3 – 8,6 percent of the votes in the next election.

### *International cooperation*

The Sweden Democrats are not member of any international political group and do not have any formal cooperation with political parties in other countries.

In the 1990's the party had some informal contact with Front National in France, and the youth organization of the Sweden Democrats, SDU, became an observing member of the youth-wing of Euro-Nat. It soon became clear that this was a mistake on our part, and that the political differences between SDU and some of the other members of Euro-Nat were too big to be acceptable, so a year later the Sweden Democratic Youth left the cooperation altogether. Today the Sweden Democrats have no contact with Front National or any other party that used to belong to the Euro-Nat group.



*Sweden Democrats during the campaign "Defending the Crown" against the Euro in 2003.*



*Sweden Democrats demonstrate during the election to the European parliament in 2004.*

In more recent years the Sweden Democrats have had some informal contacts with the Danish Peoples Party on a regional and local level and the youth organizations of the parties have had some formal contacts. Since the beginning of October this year SDU is a member of the political group “Ungdom för ett nordiskt Norden” (Youth for a Nordic North) together with the youth organization of the Danish Peoples Party and the True Finns of Finland. The group is a part of the Nordic Children and Youth Committee which is the province of the Nordic Council.



*The members of the board of the Sweden Democrats in 2007.*

In our view the Danish Peoples Party is the European party that resembles most of the Sweden Democrats in political terms. The only main differences between the policies of the parties, as we see it, is that the Danish Peoples Party has some more far-reaching suggestions concerning immigrants and immigration and that the Sweden Democrats have a more conservative stand in some issues concerning the nuclear family and traditional values.

### *Our views on the European Union*

As mentioned earlier, one of the main objectives for the Sweden Democrats is to strengthen the sovereignty of the Swedish state. This view makes us a natural opponent to European federalism. The Sweden Democrats oppose the European Union in its current form. The party wants a strong European cooperation concerning environmental issues, trade, peace keeping, education and the fight against organised crime, but we firmly believe that all decision making should take place on a bilateral level. For the time being we will work within the European union for a less federal Europe, but if it turns out to be impossible to change the current direction, then the Sweden Democrats want Sweden to start negotiating to find a responsible and friendly way to leave the union. Perhaps by taking one step back to a position similar to the current of Norway and Switzerland.

The Sweden Democrats say **no** to:

- ▷ a higher Swedish membership fee
- ▷ an European constitution
- ▷ a Swedish membership in the monetary union
- ▷ a common European military force
- ▷ a Turkish membership in the European union

## *Our chances in the 2009 elections to the European parliament*

The results from the 1999 and 2004 elections to the European parliament has been a disappointment to the Sweden Democrats. However, several things point to a far better result in 2009 and like most of the political experts in Sweden we believe that we have a good chance to reach the required 5% of the votes and win seats in the European parliament.

▷ The support for the Sweden Democrats is bigger than ever and so is the media coverage.

▷ Since we got more than 1 % of the votes in the 2004 elections, the state will now give us free ballots that is automatically handed out to all polling stations in the country. In the last election we didn't reach more than half the polling stations with our ballots.

▷ We will be able to put more than ten times as much money in this campaign compared to 2004.

▷ The euro-sceptical, right-wing, populist party called "Junilistan", which was formed by a number of celebrities just before the 2004 elections and immediately won 14 % of the votes and 3 seats in the parliament, has now collapsed and totally disappeared from the public debate, leaving the Sweden Democrats as the only remaining challenger to the established parties and the only non-socialist, euro-sceptical party.

▷ The Sweden Democrats are the only Swedish party to say no to a Turkish membership in the European Union, an opinion that at least 50% of the Swedes agree with according to different opinion polls.

## *Why do we want to become members of the AEN?*

The answer to why we want to join the AEN is very simple. We have studied the political platforms of both AEN, UEN and the different member parties and have concluded that no other group is more similar to us or better suited for our party. If we should win seats in the European parliament in 2009 we will proudly apply for a membership in the UEN-group.

## *Are the Sweden Democrats a racist party?*

As most other parties in Europe who want to restrict immigration, the Sweden Democrats have often been accused by our opponents and left-wing media for being "extreme", "xenophobic" and "racist". Is there any truth to these accusations?



*The party congress of the Sweden Democrats in 2007.*



*Sweden Democrats celebrate the results of the election in 2006.*

As in most cases the truth lies in the eye of the beholder, but below we list some relevant information on the matter:

### Our current program says:

*“The UN-declaration on human rights is essential to the policies of the Sweden Democrats. The party strongly condemns discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, political view or ethnical background”*

*“The party condemn multiculturalism as well as racism and teachings where the ethnic origin is the only, or most important aspect when deciding if a person is, should be, or could be a part of our nation.”*

### The following has been said by some authorities on the subject:

*“The Sweden Democrats are not nazis or racists. The Sweden Democrats are not anti-democratic extremists but a parliamentary party.”*

- From the state funded report conducted by the government authority “Centrum för invandrarforskning” (Center for immigrant research), 1997.

*“The Sweden Democrats are not right-wing extremists, nor racists nor fascists”*

- Helene Lööv, doctor of history, expert on right wing extremism in Sweden and an outspoken opponent to the policies of the Sweden Democrats in the leading newspaper “Dagens Nyheter” 1998-12-05.

### More immigrant candidates than the Social Democrats

Before the last election of 2006, public service radio (Sveriges Radio) conducted a study which showed that 16% of the Sweden Democrats candidates to the municipalities were immigrants. This was a higher percentage than for the Conservative party, the Christian democrats, the Agrarian party and the Social democrats.

### Leading activist rewarded with the Herzl award

Earlier this year the leading Sweden Democratic activist, Ted Ekeroth, (brother of our international secretary, Kent Ekeroth) was rewarded with the Herzl award for his work for the Jewish people by the Swedish Zionist Federation.



*Jimmie Åkesson, chairman, Anna Hagwall, second deputy chair, Jonas Åkerlund, first deputy chair.*



*Michael Zand - one of many candidates with a foreign background.*



*Ted Ekeroth, receiver of the Herzl award, together with his brother Kent Ekeroth, international secretary of the Sweden democrats.*

## **We acknowledge and learn from our mistakes**

We believe that the information above should at least indicate that the Sweden Democrats are not a racist or xenophobic party and it is our firm belief that our political opponents only keep calling us these things in order to block a serious debate concerning the problem that Sweden are experiencing as a result of mass immigration and multiculturalism.

However, we will not hide the fact that we have made serious mistakes in our past that have made it a lot easier for our opponents to put these labels on us.

Most of these mistakes were made between the years of 1991 and 1994. During these years the party was temporarily radicalised due to bad leadership and the fact that the anti-immigration, populist party “Ny Demokrati” (New Democracy), was formed, reached the national parliament and drained our party on most of its more established members.

The worst of these mistakes was that the party didn’t distance itself from radical youths with sub cultural looks and that these were allowed to participate in some of the party demonstrations.

In 1995 New Democracy collapsed and the Sweden Democrats elected a new party leader. Since then we have been working very hard to distance ourselves from all forms of extremism, to learn from our mistakes and to change our image.

Today the Sweden Democrats are a totally different party than it was between 1991 and 1994. Almost all members from those years have left the party or have been kicked out and all members of the national board joined the party after that period.

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*Sverigedemokraterna*

Box 200 85

SE-104 60 Stockholm

Sweden

Phone: +46 8 50 00 00 50

Email: [info@sverigedemokraterna.se](mailto:info@sverigedemokraterna.se)

Web site: [www.sverigedemokraterna.se](http://www.sverigedemokraterna.se)