SCI NEWSLETTER 9

Winter 2026

Dear SCI members,

Winter has been an active and productive season for our chambers around the world, with new initiatives and collaborations further strengthening our global presence. Across the network, our chambers have welcomed new members while setting new strategies for the year ahead. Many chambers have also hosted networking events, breakfast and lunch seminars, and other activities that showcase the strength of our community.

As we move into the new year, we feel a renewed sense of energy and optimism for a successful spring and the year ahead.

Below, you will find highlights from the season — reflecting the initiatives, achievements, and connections that continue to strengthen our global Swedish business community.

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AUSTRALIA

2025 Swedish Business Awards & Christmas Dinner

The Swedish Australian Chamber of Commerce, together with the Embassy of Sweden, celebrated outstanding Swedish-related companies and professionals at the Swedish Business Awards & Christmas Dinner on 27 November 2025.

Winners included Epiroc (Innovation), Hitachi Energy (Sustainability), Mentimeter (Entrepreneurship), and Volvo Group Australia (Social Impact), among others. The event highlighted excellence across the Swedish–Australian business community and reinforced collaboration and innovation between the two countries. A special thanks to HE Klas Molin, all finalists, partners, and sponsors for making the evening a success.

SACC Sustainability Committee Sets New Leadership and Clear Priorities for 2026

The Swedish Australian Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Committee wrapped up 2025 with a strong year of achievements and set its priorities for 2026. Leadership transitioned from Flavia Vaz (Tetra Pak Oceania) to new Chair Simon Fontana (AstraZeneca ANZ) and Vice Chair Annie Miley (Sandvik Australia). The Committee will focus on circular economy, clean tech jobs and skills, sustainability reporting, and collaboration with Team Sweden and federal stakeholders, working through shared projects and smaller groups. The next meeting is in early February 2026, with members invited to contribute to the Committee's focus areas.

Sweden at IMARC 2025

The Swedish Australian Chamber of Commerce participated at IMARC 2025 in Sydney, the worlds leading mining and resources conference.

For the first time, a joint Swedish Pavilion was organized by Business Sweden and the Embassy of Sweden in Canberra under the Team Sweden banner. Swedish companies showcased world-leading solutions in sustainable, electrified and digitalised mining – highlighting how collaboration across Sweden´s global network strengthens competitiveness and positions Sweden as a trusted partner in the green transition.

With more than 9,000 participants from over 120 countries and ministerial representation from five continents, the event provided a global platform for innovation and partnership.

Swedish Australian Sustainable Innovation, Technology & Design Summit 2025

The Swedish Australian Sustainable Innovation, Technology & Design Summit 2025 united leaders from industry, academia, and government to explore cutting-edge collaboration in AI, health, sustainable food systems, urban design, and more. Over two days, the Summit sparked dialogue, shared insights, and created new partnerships between Sweden and Australia. A special thanks to all speakers, panellists, participants, and partners, including The University of Melbourne, Team Sweden, and our corporate members. Together, the event showcased how Sweden–Australia collaboration drives innovation and builds a more sustainable, connected future.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Over the first two months of the year, we at the Swedish Chamber of Commerce for the UK have hit the ground running with one word guiding us a little bit extra: **future-proofing.**

With this in mind we kicked off Q1 with two **Business Breakfast sessions.** The first took a deep dive into the shifting macroeconomic landscape and what it really means for Swedish and Nordic companies on the ground in the UK. The second focused on trade and customs, translating post-Brexit complexity into practical takeaways for businesses of all sizes moving goods across borders. Both confirmed what we're hearing from members: the appetite for clear, usable guidance has never been stronger as in these changing times.

Together with our fellow Nordic chambers in London, we also gathered for the annual **Nordic Chambers Business Forum** – this year all about happiness and wellbeing at work. The discussions brought a distinctly Nordic flavour to the question of how we build workplaces where people can thrive, and how that links directly to performance, retention, and long-term competitiveness.

Recruitment has been in full swing too. Our annual **Scholarship Programme** drew more than 150 applications, and we are now finished with interviewing candidates for the next cohort who will join us in June. At the same time, we have announced our **new Chair**, to be appointed at the AGM in June – **Mats Torstendahl from SEB** – as well as **new board members Nadine Allen** (Ericsson), **Andy Fraser** (Saab) and **Karen O'Rourke** (H&M). Their mix of experience across finance, tech, industry, and retail will add real strength to the community.

A part of the team also headed to Stockholm for **TechArena** – a brilliant opportunity to see Swedish innovation up close, and to meet founders and investors with the UK firmly on their radar.

Staying on that theme, we will be back in Stockholm in March for our **'Welcome to the UK'** event, aimed at Swedish startups and scaleups exploring the UK as their next step. Shortly after, we'll be hosting our inaugural **People & Talent Forum** in London, followed closely by the **M&A Forum**. It's shaping up to be an exciting, action-packed spring – and we look forward to keeping the ideas and experiences flowing across the wider Swedish chambers network.

FRANCE

Seminar on Soft Power in Hard Times
Together with **Swedish Policy Forum Paris**, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Martin Gelin** for an engaging and in-depth seminar on soft power in today's geopolitical landscape. Drawing on his forthcoming book Rules of Attraction: Why Soft Power Matters in Hard Times, Martin Gelin shared valuable insights into why democracies can no longer afford to underestimate soft power in an increasingly digital and polarised world.

French-Swedish Evening at Hej!Workshop
IKEA pour les pros highlighted how they support professionals at every stage of their interior design and workspace projects, from concept and planning to installation. **Groupe Kyka** shared their experience of working with **IKEA** pour les pros and how large-account solutions can serve as a real lever for growth. The evening continued with a guided tour of **Hej!Workshop**, showcasing fully equipped and thoughtfully designed workspaces adapted to the needs of today's professionals, followed by engaging discussions, networking, and a convivial cocktail.

LATVIA

We are turning 30 in 2026!
Three decades of building bridges, sparking ideas, and creating opportunities between Sweden and Latvia.

Our anniversary year has started dynamically and with plenty of activity: we have already hosted **eight events**, covering a broad range of topics — from an overview of the **latest tax changes in the Baltics**, to a **breakfast meeting with the Mayor of Riga**. We explored **Latvia's investment climate and competitiveness** together with the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), discussed **"Deficit: Opportunity or Risk?"** at a joint chamber event, and held an insightful meeting with the **new Ambassador of Sweden to Latvia**, strengthening Team Sweden ties and highlighting **#MadeWithSweden**.

We also dived into the **Pan-Baltic Macro Outlook** in cooperation with SEB and rounded off February with an expert panel discussion on the **Commercial Real Estate Outlook**, organized together with CBP. In parallel, we are preparing for the **Minister of Economics of Latvia working visit to Sweden in May**, accompanied by a large business delegation.

And this is just the beginning — much more is coming up in the spring, leading to the highlight of the summer: **the Chamber's 30th Anniversary Celebration**.

SWITZERLAND

This winter, the Swedish Swiss Chamber of Commerce has continued to strengthen its community through meaningful new initiatives and high-level engagements. We proudly launched the pilot edition of the **SSCC Mentorship Program**, connecting our Young Professional members with experienced senior leaders from within our network. The program is designed to foster knowledge-sharing, career development, and cross-generational exchange, creating valuable relationships that support both personal growth and long-term professional success. By bridging emerging talent with established expertise, we are building an even stronger and more future oriented community!

During the **World Economic Forum in Davos**, we were delighted to invite our members to the Swedish Lunch, organized in collaboration with Global Conversations. The event gathered distinguished guests and featured inspiring contributions from Jessica Rosencrantz, Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs, and Ebba Busch, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden. The program also included a special musical performance by Aloe Blacc in memory of Avicii.

In Zurich, we had the pleasure of hosting an exclusive **Economic Market Outlook Seminar** together with SEB's 1856 Family Office. The session provided in-depth insights into current market dynamics and global economic trends, offering our members valuable guidance in navigating today's evolving financial landscape.

ESTONIA

We finalised 2025 with an intensive and inspiring series of events that truly reflected the strength of our Scandinavian–Estonian community.

On 3 December, we co-hosted the **Scandinavian Business Awards** together with the Scandinavian embassies, celebrating outstanding achievements in innovation, sustainability, and cross-border cooperation. The evening concluded with our traditional **Christmas Dinner**, bringing members and partners together in a festive and relaxed atmosphere to close the year.

In mid-December, we also had the honour of hosting a **breakfast meeting with Estonia's Minister of Defence**, **Hanno Pevkur**, providing members with valuable insights into the current security landscape and regional developments.

2026 has only just begun, yet the pace remains high. We have already conducted company visits and held strategic discussions with key stakeholders, including a **lunch meeting with Estonia's Minister of Economy and Industry, Erkki Keldo**. With several high-level dialogues and member engagements already underway, we look forward to building on this strong start throughout the year.

LITHUANIA

So far, it has been a very fun and memorable season at the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania.

Pan-Baltic Macro Outlook 2026

On 5 February, the Swedish Chambers of Commerce in Lithuania and Latvia together with the Scandinavian Chamber of Commerce in Estonia hosted the Pan-Baltic Macro Outlook 2026 webinar. Economists from SEB – **Mihkel Nestor, Dainis Gašpuitis,** and **Tadas Povilauskas –** presented their outlooks for the Baltic economies, highlighting key trends for 2026 including growth prospects, inflation dynamics, labour market developments, and regional competitiveness. The discussion was moderated by **Kata Fredheim** from the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga and concluded with an engaging Q&A session. The event strengthened regional cooperation and provided members with valuable insights into the economic outlook for the year ahead.

Swedish Construction Sector Outlook – Market Insights Webinar

On 12 February 2026, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania hosted an online seminar focused on the current state of the Swedish construction sector.

The program featured a market overview by **Darius Budrys**, Commercial Attaché of Lithuania in Sweden, who analysed sector developments over the past two years, the prevailing economic environment, key challenges, and emerging business opportunities. **Vaida Strazda** shared practical insights into the day-to-day realities faced by Lithuanian companies operating in Sweden. The event concluded with a panel discussion including representatives from **Cranbalt** and **Inhus**, who exchanged experiences and perspectives on working in the Swedish market. The webinar provided participants with valuable insights into market conditions, investment risks and opportunities, sustainability trends, and partnership potential within Sweden's construction industry.

SOUTH KOREA

Closing the year on a festive note!

SCCK and the Embassy of Sweden held a **Glögg Gathering** on December 10, 2025 embracing the holiday spirit with warm mulled wine and a private exhibition of collected works. The evening provided a cozy and cultural experience as guests celebrated the season together.

New Year Party 2026

European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) New Year Party 2026, hosted by the ECCK and co-hosted by the Swedish Chamber (SCCK), Swiss Chamber (SKBC) and Spanish Chamber (ESCCK), which was held at the Urban Sky Rooftop (19F) of The Ambassador Seoul on Thursday, January 22, 2026. This year's gathering embraced the theme "A New Start Above the Seoul City Lights," offering our members a warm and uplifting evening to welcome the new year together while enjoying a stunning panoramic view of Seoul.

TURKEY

Celebrating Swedish Traditions at the Embassy of Sweden in Ankara

On September 9, 2025 we co-hosted the Traditional Swedish Crayfish Party with the Embassy of Sweden in Ankara, celebrating this cherished Swedish tradition in our capital city, together with our members and representatives from the Nordic missions. Held in the Embassy's garden, the evening provided a warm setting for cultural exchange and networking.

Guests enjoyed traditional delicacies, music, and plenty of crayfish, strengthening ties within the Swedish–Turkish business community. We were honored by the hospitality of H.E. Malena Mård, Ambassador of Sweden.

Connecting with the Sweden Alumni Network

On October 21, 2025, together with the Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul, we connected with young professionals from the Sweden Alumni Network who have studied at leading Swedish institutions. The gathering strengthened ties between alumni and the Swedish–Turkish business community.

Participants explored the history of Swedish trade and investment in Türkiye, learned about SCC's activities, and engaged with our Board members for professional insights. The evening fostered dialogue and expanded networking opportunities.

35th Anniversary of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye

On November 8, 2025, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye with a reception in Istanbul, marking three and a half decades of strengthening Swedish–Turkish business relations. The evening brought together distinguished representatives from diplomacy and the business community, underscoring the enduring partnership between our two countries.

We honored individuals who have shaped our Chamber's legacy and recognized Swedish member companies for their contributions to investment, sustainability, employment, and long-term engagement in Türkiye. The milestone reaffirmed our commitment to dialogue, sustainable growth, and cross-border collaboration.

Trade and Investment Opportunities with Sweden

On December 4, 2025, as Team Sweden, we participated in the Trade and Investment Opportunities Seminar organized by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO), bringing together representatives from the Turkish and Swedish business communities to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties.

Opening remarks were delivered by the Chairperson of ITO, followed by Ms. Karin Hernmarck, Consul General of Sweden in Istanbul, and Mustafa Münir Alaca, Chairperson of SCC. The presentation done by Dr. Mattias Lindgren, Head of Türkiye and Eurasia at Business Sweden, focused on export and investment opportunities in Sweden, alongside insights into recent developments in Sweden–Türkiye business relations. The discussions reflected strong interest in expanding economic cooperation between our countries.

Read our 35th anniversary special edition e-newsletter **here**

As the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye, we remain committed to further strengthening the cooperation of the business community between Sweden and Türkiye.

INDONESIA

NordCham had the honour of hosting two key activities in Indonesia this autumn, strengthening engagement with Swedish and European businesses.

Energy, Mining, and Indonesia Outlook Roundtable

On November 25th, NordCham Indonesia held a roundtable in collaboration with the Embassy of Finland in Indonesia, hosted at the Finnish Residence.

Bill Sullivan, Senior Foreign Counsel at **Christian Teo & Partners**, delivered opening remarks, covering developments in the energy and mining sectors as well as the broader Indonesian economic outlook.

The session featured an engaging discussion on Indonesia's economic trajectory. Key topics included downstreaming policies, energy transition goals, the investment climate, government priorities, business outlook, trade considerations and sector-specific insights.

Information Session with the Indonesian Tax Authorities

NordCham Indonesia recently held an information session with the Indonesian Tax Authorities, **Direktorat Jenderal Pajak Republik Indonesia (DJP)**.

Timon Pieter, Tax Consultant Expert at DG Tax, delivered an excellent presentation about the latest tax regulations, current developments , and the ongoing Coretax transition.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A session focusing on Indonesia's tax transformation. Key topics included the CoreTax DJP Simulator, updates to the CoreTax system, preparations for corporate and individual annual income tax filing in 2025, and security considerations..

National Economy Briefing with Danantara Indonesia

The Nordic Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia, in collaboration with the **Embassy of Sweden** in Jakarta and **Business Sweden**, hosted an exclusive information session with **Danantara Indonesia** at the Swedish Residence.

The session featured **Reza Siregar**, Chief Economist of Danantara, who shared insights into the institution's vision, mandate, and strategic role in supporting Indonesia's long-term economic transformation.

Introductory remarks were delivered by H.E. Daniel Blockert, Ambassador of Sweden to Indonesia, and Febron Siregar, Chairman of NordCham Indonesia. Both speakers spoke to the importance of dialogue between Danantara and the international business community.

USA

Celebrating 250 Years of Transatlantic Friendship
2026 marks a historic and forward-looking year for the Swedish-American Chambers of Commerce USA (SACC-USA). As we commemorate 250 years of American Independence and over two centuries of diplomatic relations between Sweden and the United States, our focus remains clear: strengthening transatlantic business, innovation, and leadership dialogue.

This winter, our CEO Karin Hammar contributed an Op-Ed in Sweden's leading business daily, Dagens Industri, outlining the U.S. and Transatlantic outlook for 2026. The article highlights both opportunities and strategic considerations for Swedish companies operating in or entering the U.S. market, reinforcing the importance of long-term partnership across the Atlantic.

Transatlantic Day 2026
Transatlantic Day is an invitation-only forum for thought leaders, hosted annually by the Swedish American Chambers of Commerce in Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Lund.

In 2026, we mark the 250-year anniversary of the U.S. Constitution and 243 years since Sweden first recognized the United States. Guided by the principle "*seek first to understand, then to be understood,*" we examined the state of affairs of the Transatlantic relationship and explored the opportunities of partnership.

Among this year's distinguished speakers was the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, Christine Toretti**,** who delivered remarks on diplomacy and the importance of Swedish–U.S. partnerships in a global context.

We extend our sincere thanks to the leaders, partners, and friends of the Swedish American Chambers of Commerce who joined us for the 2026 edition of Transatlantic Days. We look forward to welcoming participants back next year as we continue to strengthen dialogue and collaboration across the Atlantic.

Looking ahead, SACC-USA is excited for an eventful spring! **Executive Forum 2026,** our thought-leadership platform connecting Nordic and U.S. leaders and innovators, will take place on May 1 at House of Sweden in Washington D.C.

NEW YORK

A Season of Tradition, Strategy, and Groundbreaking Innovation

It has been an exceptionally active season at the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, as we continue to strengthen the bridge between Swedish ingenuity and the U.S. market through high-level networking and thought leadership.

The Return of the Lucia Trade & Innovation Award

After a decade-long pause, a cherished SACCNY tradition returned in 2025 at the historic Union Club. Reimagined as the **Lucia Trade & Innovation Award**, the 30th award was presented to **Spotify** for its transformative impact on the global music & audio industry. Preparations for the 2026 luncheon are already underway.

Executive Insight Series: Navigating Global Shifts Our latest Executive Insight sessions tackled the intersection of politics and economics:

From Free Markets to Strategic Markets: Business Leadership in an Age of Increasing Government Power: In collaboration with the Consulate General of Sweden in New York and Karl-Adam Bonniers Stiftelse, experts Daniella Ballou-Aares and Isaac Stone Fish challenged leaders to navigate the increasing influence of government power on competitive economies.

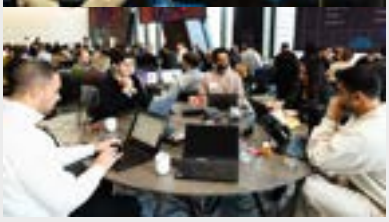
One Year of Trump: Where Are the US, EU, and Sweden Headed?: Renowned economist **Klas Eklund** provided a sharp analysis of the U.S. economy's resilience during the first year of the current administration, highlighting the agility of companies in a shifting transatlantic landscape.

Mindsets: UNLOCKED

SACCNY, the Consulate General of Sweden in New York, and the Sweden-America Foundation recently hosted GIANT Innovation Co-CEO Josh Cohen for a high-energy leadership workshop. Moving beyond the standard playbook, the session sparked bold strategy and challenged seasoned leaders to explore new dimensions of leadership.

Innovation in Action: The Finance AI Hackathon

In collaboration with **Light, Lovable, Abacum, and J.P. Morgan**, SACCNY supported a hackathon where finance teams built real-world AI applications. President Barbara Wennerholm served on the judging panel, witnessing firsthand the potential for AI to solve complex operational "headaches."



Community & Celebration: Champagne & Cheers:

Innovation is fueled by connection, and the strength of the Nordic region lies in its unity. In a standout highlight of the season, SACCNY co hosted a **Champagne & Cheers** networking event together with **all the Nordic Chambers of Commerce in New York**.

Looking Ahead Preparations are in full swing for two major milestones in 2026:

- **AI Leadership Summit 2026:** Exploring the next frontier of technology. More information here.
- **120th Anniversary Gala:** A milestone celebration honoring over a century of bridging Nordic innovation with U.S. opportunity. More information here.

SPAIN

So far, it has been an active and meaningful winter at the Swedish-Spanish Chamber of Commerce.

Queen Christina Medal Ceremony

In November, we held the very first Queen Christina Medal Ceremony. The medal recognises extraordinary contributions to Swedish-Spanish relations and is awarded only on special occasions. This first edition honoured Ingela Brandberg, Antonio Cordón, and Ingemar Naeve for their exceptional work on the Chamber's 75th anniversary book, highlighting the shared history between Sweden and Spain. The medal is named after Queen Christina of Sweden, a historical figure who contributed to strengthening the cultural and diplomatic ties between Sweden and Spain. Her 400th anniversary will be celebrated in 2026.

Christmas Gala Dinner

In December, we hosted our annual Christmas Gala Dinner, which this year was transformed into a full gala evening.

For the first time, the celebration featured live music performed by a band, alongside Swedish traditions such as a Lucia performance and Christmas buffet.

The Ocean Race – Club CEO CCHS Lunch

In January, we held the first Club CEO CCHS meeting of the year, where we welcomed Richard Brisius, Race Chairman of The Ocean Race, as guest speaker. He shared valuable perspectives on leadership, sustainability, and managing a global sporting event.

Mentorship Program Wrap-Up

Finally, in February, we concluded the 2025 edition of our Mentorship Program. The initiative connects Young Professionals with experienced mentors from our network to support their professional development. We are happy to see the strong engagement and positive feedback and look forward to launching the 2026 edition.

BARCELONA

Over the past months, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Barcelona has continued to bring members and the wider community together through meaningful and well-attended gatherings.

In mid-November, we co-organised the **seminar Benefits of the Declaration of Sustainability** at the Honorary Consulate of Sweden, together with Verify Agency of Sweden and Vati Iberia. The event focused on how companies can address ESG challenges through the Swedish Sustainability Declaration, aligned with ISO 26000, the SDGs and the EU's CSRD framework. The discussion offered practical insights and sparked valuable exchanges among participants.

Later in November, we gathered members and families for a much appreciated traditional **Christmas dinner hosted by IKEA L'Hospitalet**. The evening brought together a record number of participants and featured classic Swedish Christmas food, happy children, a professional choir and a warm festive atmosphere. The event once again served as an excellent opportunity to promote Swedish traditions among Spanish and international guests, with a generous raffle adding an extra highlight to the celebration.

During **Mobile World Congress**, taking place from 2–5 March, the Swedish Chamber has initiated a Nordic approach by co-organising a special MWC cocktail together with the Swedish, Danish and Finnish Chambers of Commerce. The event will bring together chamber members and exhibitors from the Swedish, Danish and Finnish pavilions, creating a valuable opportunity to connect with companies operating in the tech and IT sectors and gain insight into the latest business trends.

In addition, we had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from **Smart City Expo World Congress** for an informal gathering at Soho House Barcelona. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for exchange and dialogue, and we look forward to strengthening this collaboration further in 2026.

Through these activities, we continue to strengthen our network, promote Sweden and its values, and create spaces for connection and collaboration.

MALAYSIA

We have had a flying start to 2026, with a busy and energising beginning to the year for SwedCham Malaysia.

SwedCham Board Meeting and Strategy for 2026
SwedCham Malaysia has had a strong start to 2026, with high member engagement, a solid financial position, and a clear strategic focus on networking, flagship business visits — including the upcoming JS-SEZ mission — and strengthened Nordic collaboration.

We continue to support the **EU–Malaysia Free Trade Agreement** via dialogue with **H.E. Ambassador Niklas Wiberg** and **EuroCham, and engages with** Malaysia's revised Employment Pass framework, adressing concerns around talent attraction, investment, and regional competitiveness.

We are also pleased to welcome **Ms Anelia Mashevska** as our new part-time Web and Visual Communications Officer, who will support digital updates and represent SwedCham at events in Penang.

Courtesy visit to Parliament and Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister
SwedCham Malaysia joined Nordic counterparts in a high-level meeting with Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, focusing on energy transition, renewable infrastructure, and sustainable water systems. Discussions highlighted Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap and regional initiatives like the ASEAN Power Grid, emphasising long-term partnerships, knowledge sharing, and opportunities for Nordic companies in renewable energy, grid development, industrial decarbonisation, and advanced water solutions.

Ethical Supply Chains in Focus at the Swedish Residence
A timely and important discussion on ethical supply chains and the protection of migrant workers in Malaysia was held at the Ambassador's Residence.

The event was hosted by the Embassy of Sweden, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Malaysia. Ms Fanny Westerlund from IKEA Supply Chains highlighted the company's IWAY framework – demonstrating how strong policies can be translated into practical action.

Together, these initiatives reflect SwedCham's commitment to strengthening Swedish and Nordic business presence in Malaysia through advocacy, strategic partnerships, and responsible growth.

THE NETHERLANDS

Christmas and New Years Celebrations at the Swedish Chamber in the Netherlands

On December 4, 2025 we proudly hosted our much appreciated annual Sustainability and Innovation **Summit and Lucia Dinner**.

We were delighted to welcome an engaged and forward-thinking group of members and guests to this high-level forum. With distinguished speakers from Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Vattenfall, SSAB, SAAB, the Netherlands Innovation Center Sweden, RISE Research Institute of Sweden, Ericsson Netherlands, and Vattenfall, the sessions explored Sweden's global leadership in fossil-free innovation as well as the evolving landscape of AI and tech autonomy.

Following the Summit, it was time for our annual Exclusive **Lucia Dinner** at the historic St. Olof's Chapel in the heart of Amsterdam. This magical evening filled with tradition, music, celebration, and Swedish hospitality marked a festive end to the Swedish Chamber for the Netherland's 65th anniversary year.

An amazing way to end a great year, and in January we welcomed 2026 with a **New Year's Reception** on January 22 graciously hosted by H.E. Ambassador of Sweden Mr Julius Liljeström and Mrs Madeleine Hägg Liljeström at the Ambassador's residence in The Hague.

The New Year's Reception is one of the Chambers' wonderful traditions, offering a fantastic start to the upcoming Chamber year where our members and relations meet in a fantastic ambience. A warm event who fostered friendship and fellowship.

Swedish Chamber Young Professionals

The Young Professionals network of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce closed 2025 with 122 active members, continuing its steady growth and strong engagement.

This winter, we hosted several inspiring gatherings. Together with SKF, their Managing Director, Ellis-Jan van den Hout shared insights on sustainability, leadership, and the importance of values in shaping a meaningful career.

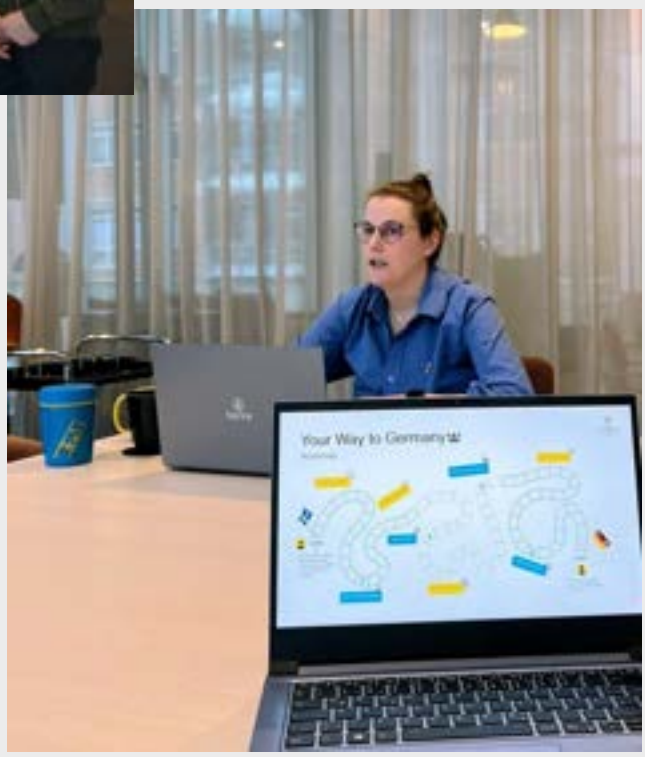
Our annual **Lucia** celebration, kindly hosted by Strömma, brought tradition to Amsterdam with a beautiful performance by a 14-member Swedish choir.

We began 2026 at Handelsbanken with our **New Year's Reception**, featuring a lively "På Spåret" inspired quiz, a festive and Swedish start to the year ahead.

GERMANY

At the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Germany, the year kicked off right away with a visit from Sweden as they welcomed a delegation of teachers from Malmö as part of **the Erasmus+ project "Bridging Futures."** The visit focused on how the Fehmarnbelt connection between Denmark/Sweden and Germany will change the dynamics between the countries. The discussions centered on youth employment, the transition from school to work, and the skills required of the next generation working in this new created mega region.

Also in January the SCI together with the German Chamber hosted the **Young Professionals After Work Network Exchange and Collaboration** and brought together YP representatives from Swedish Chambers around the world for an engaging digital session. By sharing best practices, discussing common challenges, and exploring future joint initiatives, participants strengthened global connections and generated fresh ideas for collaboration.



In February, the Chamber participated in **Trade Talks: Germany**, hosted by the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce. The session offered practical insights into doing business in Germany, one of Sweden's largest trading partner and Europe's largest economy. Senior Project Manager, Charlotte Roggenbuck, gave a short overview over the German market and the support provided by Team Sweden as well as by the Chamber itself, while member companies added hands-on perspectives. Frank Mäling (Head of Sales Germany at Polestar) stressed the importance chosing the right location in the very diverse German market and the value of the Brand Sweden, whereas Cornelia Norén (Executive Recruiter at Brightmill) highlighted the awareness for the differences between the Swedish and the German business culture.

PORTUGAL

An Exciting Spring Ahead for the Swedish-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce

An eventful and dynamic spring lies ahead for the Swedish-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce (CLS). As we close a successful year, we do so with a sense of renewed energy, fresh contributions, and a strong outlook for 2026.

We ended 2025 on a high note with our traditional **Swedish Christmas Lunch**, gathering our community one final time before the holidays. In a warm and festive setting, members and partners enjoyed Swedish delicacies such as glögg, herring, Janssons frestelse, and ris à la Malta. The celebration was crowned by our appreciated **Christmas Lottery**, featuring generous prizes from our sponsors.

Shortly before the holidays, CLS hosted the final **Swedish Entrepreneur Network (SEN)** event of the year. Swedish entrepreneurs came together for a social dinner focused on networking, idea exchange, and strengthening connections within the community, an initiative we are proud to continue developing in 2026.

Before closing the year, we finalized the **Swedish Investments in Portugal** brochure, highlighting 19 Swedish companies and their investments and contributions to the Portuguese economy, a testament to the strong and growing economic ties between our two countries.

We are also pleased to welcome several **new members** to CLS in 2026: Scania, Tabaqueira & Swedish Match, Ignease AB, Solhemmet Arkitekter AB, JLM&A (Kreab Portugal), Lusitania Nordic Partners, and CorPower Ocean. Their addition further strengthens the diversity and expertise within our network.

The year 2026 has started intensively. We are preparing the first SEN event of the year to once again gather our entrepreneurial community. At the same time, we are actively collecting data for the **Business Climate Survey 2026**, providing valuable insights into the operating environment for Swedish companies in Portugal. In April, we will also host the **CLS Padel Tournament 2026** at the much-appreciated venue from last year, combining networking, competition, and well-being.

In March CLS are collaborating with a Portuguese Chamber on a **Business Mission to Sweden from Portugal**. The aim is to introduce 5 Portuguese companies to the Swedish market and explore potential synergies. Moreover, the CLS is facilitating a separate journalist delegation to Sweden in collaboration with selected members.

Looking ahead, CLS is preparing for an engaging spring program. Among others, we are pleased to welcome an **Executive MBA visit from Stockholm University**, and we will host a **Business Breakfast** focused on Connectivity & Defense together with Ericsson, The Swedish Embassy in Lisbon, and Business Sweden.

With a strong foundation and ambitious plans, 2026 is set to be a year of continued growth, collaboration, and impactful initiatives for the Swedish-Portuguese business community.

HONG KONG

SwedCham Hong Kong Celebrates 40 years.
Change is not something we wait for; it is something we actively shape. This year, we at SwedChamHK are stepping into a new chapter with a clear ambition: to do things differently, and to do them better together.

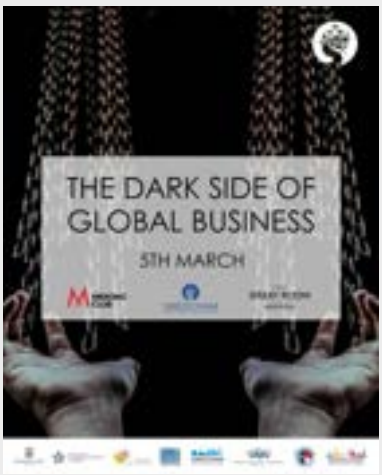
We are deepening our collaboration with the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China, exploring new ways to connect across the Greater Bay Area. At the same time, we are rethinking how we engage, from the idea of relaunching a printed magazine, to moving away from traditional sponsorship packages and instead building meaningful commercial collaborations that create real value for our members.

Our focus is simple: listen more, co-create more and ensure that membership is seen as an investment - not a cost. The results are already visible, with 50+ new members joining in the past six months.

And this is only the beginning. Welcome to an exciting Year of the Fire Horse.

40 Years – 40 Voices
Throughout the year, we will highlight 40 unique voices who have shaped the Chamber and continue to define its direction. Their stories reflect and further develop initiatives that will make a real difference.

AGM & SEMINAR
As we enter this year's AGM marks an important transition. We extend our sincere appreciation to our Chairman, **Kristian Odebjer** His stewardship has strengthened the Chamber's position. With new leadership to be elected, the focus now turns to the next chapter. Continuity matters. So does renewal.



An Event We Want to Highlight
Some of the most consequential decisions in global business are made far from where their impact is felt. In this SwedCham event, Matt Friedman, CEO of The Mekong Club, brings those hidden realities into focus, offering leaders a rare, firsthand perspective on global supply chains, human impact, and why awareness has become a core leadership capability...

Register here.

GBA Insights
We're proud to launch GBA Insights: a new members-only newsletter, created for members, by members, to help navigate one of the world's most dynamic regions: the Greater Bay Area. To celebrate the launch, the first issues are open to everyone.

INDIA

2025 was a year of momentum and meaningful collaboration for the Swedish Chamber of Commerce India, marked by progress in policy dialogue, sustainability leadership, inclusion initiatives, and community engagement, all strengthening long-term Sweden–India business ties. Building on this foundation, early 2026 has continued with focused company engagement, regional collaboration, and initiatives aimed at creating sustainable, long-term value.

Company Engagement & Business News

SCCI engaged closely with member companies across India, including meetings with Elvikon AB, Alimak Group AB in Hyderabad, Progreva in Pune and a plant visit to Haldex in Nashik highlighting strong people development and inclusive workplace practices.

Swedish companies continue to grow in India, with Nexer Group inaugurating a new office in Hyderabad and SCCI participating in the Epiroc Suppliers Growth Conference, emphasising India's role as a strategic supplier destination. Business momentum continued with IKEA's e-commerce launch in Tamil Nadu., Volvo Cars expanding its global tech hub in Bengaluru. Regionally, SCCI remains active within the SwedCham APAC & ME Network.

Swedish Corporate Championship 2025 – Bengaluru & Pune (Dec)

In 2025, the Swedish Corporate Championship closed the year on a high across Bengaluru and Pune, bringing together over 4,000 participants from more than 30 companies, a season defined by energy, sportsmanship, and strong community spirit.

Partnership in Policy

EU-India FTA & Policy Lab: The breakthrough on the EU–India Free Trade Agreement marked a pivotal shift from if change will happen to how fast. At our Policy Lab hosted by Ericsson, discussions focused on preparing for implementation, anticipating regulatory shifts, and identifying real opportunities. The key takeaway: while the FTA sets the framework, effective institutional mechanisms will determine how quickly it translates into tangible results.

From left to right: Costa, Modi & Von der Leyen

Sustainability - Business Excellence

- **Earth Stories Launch**: Read more **here**
- **Alfa Laval – Global Energy Efficiency Forum in Pune**: Read more **here**
- **Tetra Pak and SCCI roundtable**. Read more **here**

Inclusion & Equality

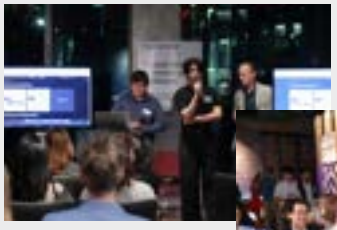
The Task Force on Gender Sensitisation continued through in-person and online sessions addressing inclusion, representation, and workplace culture. Since the launch of Task Force, the India and International Task Force has brought together approximately 250 leaders representing 46 companies across 11 countries. Through Kraftsamla, SCCI continues to advance gender equality via Access Points, an initiative providing equitable digital access for women from low-income backgrounds. The programme expands in 2026 to support 150 women.

THAILAND

An Exciting Season Ahead for the Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce
As we enter 2026, Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce continues to grow with renewed energy and strong engagement across our Thai–Swedish business community.

We are pleased to welcome **Banthita Chartsanga** as our new Administrative Officer. With a background in international relations, experience from the Hanns Seidel Foundation Thailand and the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand, June brings valuable expertise in programme coordination and event management. We also extend our sincere thanks to **Natnicha Chaiviriyapong** for her dedicated contributions to SweCham.

We warmly welcome our new members: **Alfa Laval** and **Securitas AB** (**Thailand**), strengthening our dynamic network with global expertise in innovation and security. More about our partners and members **here**



Upcoming highlights include the **IKEA Multi-Chamber Networking Cocktail**, **SweCham After Work at Westin Grande Sukhumvit**, the **Grant Thornton Workshop & Networking**, and the **APAC SweCham Webinar** on global business risks. We also co-host key events with EABC, STCC, and BCCT.

A vibrant season lies ahead – filled with networking, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and continuing to strengthen the Thai–Swedish business community together.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

We closed the year in style with our much-anticipated **Christmas Dinner**, welcoming 250 guests for an evening of celebration, networking, and community spirit. A special thank you to our Golden Star Sponsor, Gulf Rock, for their generous support in making the event such a memorable occasion.

Our 6-month **Mentorship Program** has now reached its halfway point, and the recent **Mentorship Meet-Up** highlighted the strong engagement and meaningful connections being built.

We also hosted a highly successful **CEO Breakfast**, proudly sponsored by IKEA. The event brought together business leaders for insightful discussions, knowledge-sharing, and valuable networking opportunities in an intimate setting at IKEA's beautiful cafe.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Essity as our newest Gold Member. We look forward to a strong and rewarding collaboration ahead.