

# No message to the mining industry about the municipal veto

When State Secretary Daniel Westlén (L) spoke to the entire mining industry, he promised that the ban on extracting uranium would be removed, but without saying whether the government parties have managed to agree on the future of the municipal veto.



State Secretary Daniel Westlén (L) spoke about the government's environmental and mining policy at the industry organization Svemin's annual autumn meeting. Photo: Johan Nilsson/TT



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When the mining industry gathered in Stockholm this week for its annual conference, the Minister for Climate and Environment's State Secretary Daniel Westlén was also present to talk about the government's environmental and mining policy.

And it was probably one or two of the audience who pricked up their ears a little extra after a government announcement about uranium, that is, what will happen to the current ban on the extraction and mining of uranium. A ban that was passed by the Riksdag in 2018 and came into force the same year.

"The ban on uranium mining will be removed. It will be possible to extract uranium in Sweden. There is no reason for a ban," said

Daniel Westlén.

It is a message that sounds clear and clear. But there was a crucial piece of the puzzle missing: What the future looks like for the Environmental Code's municipal veto on uranium mining. Here, the responsible ministers have previously given different answers.

"We will not remove any municipal veto on this issue," Energy and Enterprise Minister Ebba Busch (KD) told Altinget in February.

The government's plans to lift the ban have raised concerns in the municipalities around Storsjön in Jämtland, among other places. Mining in alum shale is risky and the danger of damage to drinking water is great, according to municipal politicians.

### **Pourmokhtari (L) does not want to make a promise**

Climate and Environment Minister Romina Pourmokhtari (L), on the other hand, has not wanted to make a similar promise to the municipalities.

"I can only say that the inquiry that we have appointed will look at how we can change our regulation of the possibility of mining uranium. When the investigator has presented his investigation, I will take it to heart and then present what the government's line is on this," she told Altinget in March.

### ***What Busch promised is not necessarily the government's line?***

"We have not discussed how to handle an investigation that has not presented its results yet. What she has presented there are probably the Christian Democrats' positions on this issue," said Romina Pourmokhtari.

When Altinget asks Daniel Westlén about the veto after the speech, he does not give an answer but refers to the upcoming bill. Nor does he give an answer about when a proposal will be sent out for consultation, no more than that it will take place "in the decent near future".



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