

Press release from [the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise](#)

# Minister for Climate and the Environment decides on an inquiry to abolish the ban on uranium mining

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The Minister for Climate and the Environment, Romina Pourmokhtari, has decided that a so-called letter investigation will be carried out at the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise to analyse and submit the proposals needed to enable the extraction of uranium in Sweden again.

"If the EU is to become the first climate-neutral continent, access to sustainable metals and minerals must be ensured. We need to use the uranium we have, instead of sorting it out and considering it as waste, as is the case now – due to the current ban on uranium mining," says Minister for Climate and the Environment Romina Pourmokhtari.

The Inquiry Chair will now be tasked with investigating what regulatory changes are needed to enable and clarify the conditions for uranium extraction. In addition, the Inquiry Chair will analyse whether the requirement for the Government's admissibility assessment should be limited to uranium mining only when it is a nuclear activity.

The purpose of the investigation is to remove a ban that is not needed. The extraction of uranium must be handled in the same way as the extraction of other metals, where the environmental assessment determines the conditions under which it can be permitted. Uranium often occurs together with other metals and must today be sorted out and treated as waste.

More than a quarter of Europe's known reserves of uranium are found in Sweden's bedrock. At present, it is not possible to grant exploration permits, exploitation concessions or environmental permits for uranium. In the future, it will be possible to test uranium mining in accordance with relevant environmental legislation, which means that the current ban on uranium mining will be removed.

The assignment shall be reported no later than 15 May 2024.

### Press contact

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### Shortcuts

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### Letter Investigator

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A letter investigator, unlike a committee, is not a separate authority but assists the ministry in the work of investigating a specific issue. The results of the letter investigator's assignment are presented in a memorandum that is often

published in the ministry series, abbreviated Ds.