



# Now the government is opening up for Swedish uranium mining

Telegram from TT / Omni

22 February 2024, 20.30, updated 22 February 2024, 23.43

The Tidö parties appoint a rapid investigation to make uranium mining legal in Sweden again.

Climate and Environment Minister Romina Pourmokhtari (L) calls the ban a stumbling block.

"It doesn't make sense that we have to treat uranium as waste," she says.

Since 2018, it has been forbidden to mine uranium in Sweden. The Tidö parties want to change that. An inquiry is therefore now being set up and will be completed as early as 15 May this year.

"It is not wise that we have to treat uranium as waste. It is costly and a stumbling block to the potential of Swedish deposits," says Romina Pourmokhtari.

Sweden is home to more than a quarter of Europe's known uranium deposits. Despite this, there has been no uranium mine since the 1960s. Mainly because it has not been considered profitable enough, but also because previous attempts have been met with strong local protests.

## "Mines are crucial"

Now that the government and SD want to lift the uranium ban, Romina Pourmokhtari does not primarily see new pure uranium

mines in front of her, although she does not completely rule it out.

"I think there are municipalities in Sweden that see the benefits. Mines may not be such a cozy part of the climate transition, but it is absolutely crucial. If we don't have mines, we have no electric cars, no wind turbines and no nuclear reactors," she says.

According to Pourmokhtari, the most important effect of a lifted uranium mining ban is primarily that the heavy metal will be able to be recovered as a residual product from other, already existing, mining operations.

According to the minister, it would also make it more attractive to look for other minerals and metals needed for the green transition.

"You can choose to either pump up oil and import it, or to convert. And for the transition, Sweden needs to offer Europe the metals and minerals that we have in order to increase the degree of self-sufficiency," she says.

Romina Pourmokhtari says that there is a risk that we will otherwise end up completely in the hands of dictatorships in order to provide us with critical substances.

### **"Sharp situation"**

When it comes to uranium, however, Sweden imports most of it from unproblematic countries such as Canada and Australia. Regardless, the residual products from existing Swedish mines will hardly cover that need.

But Romina Pourmokhtari says that every little step is worth something.

"If you're going to be honest and refuse to have uranium mines, then you also have to say: Here's my energy system that's going to do without the uranium mines. Either the lamps, the factories

or the Swedish economy go out, or we use the uranium we find.  
It's such a critical situation we're in.

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