



Photo: Government Offices, Svemin

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A welcome step towards increased resource efficiency

It will once again be allowed to explore and mine uranium in Sweden. The government decided on Thursday to present this proposal to the Riksdag.

"It is very welcome that the government is now removing the ban on mining uranium in Sweden. The ban has not benefited either resource efficiency or the environment," says Maria Sunér, CEO of Svemin.

Uranium is often found in the bedrock together with other valuable raw materials and therefore inevitably follows up during mining. But since it has been forbidden to take care of the uranium, it has instead had to be handled as waste. The proposals in Thursday's government decision also improve the conditions for Sweden's and Europe's supply of other important minerals.

"There are many good reasons to remove the ban, but reducing waste and increasing resource efficiency are among the most important. It will also make Sweden more attractive as a mining nation," says Maria Sunér.

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Sweden has good geological conditions and strong environmental legislation, which makes the country well equipped for sustainable mining operations. We have the EU's largest resources of uranium in the bedrock. According to SGU, these resources could supply our needs for several hundred years. Despite this, Sweden is currently completely dependent on imports because since 2018 it has been prohibited to both explore and mine uranium, something that Svemin has been highly critical of.

"We now have the opportunity to increase self-sufficiency, not only in uranium but also in the critical minerals that often occur together with uranium. This is especially important in a time of geopolitical tensions where raw materials risk becoming part of the big political game," says Maria Sunér.

The government has clearly indicated that it wants to invest in new nuclear power – something that was also brought to the fore when Vattenfall recently announced that it is proceeding with the planning of new reactors.

"It would be illogical, not to say remarkable, in light of this, not to go all the way in lifting the uranium ban," says Maria Sunér.

The changes that the Government is now proposing do not mean that the mandatory government review or the requirement for municipal approval (veto) will be removed. However, there is a memorandum on referral which means that this would be done by adapting the definition of so-called nuclear facilities to international practice. If this change is implemented, it would mean that the extraction of uranium can be tested in much the same way as other concession minerals.

– Det är viktigt att regeringen även går vidare med förslagen i denna promemoria. Det finns inga sakliga skäl till att uran prövas på ett annat sätt än andra koncessionsmineral då samma strikta miljölagstiftning skulle gälla, säger Maria Sunér.

FAKTA

Regeringen beslutade den 28 augusti att anta propositionen som baseras på promemorian Att åter möjliggöra utvinning av uran. Lagändringarna föreslås träda i kraft den 1 januari 2026.

Ett förslag om att ändra definitionen av kärntekniska anläggningar är nu på remiss. Denna ändring föreslås träda i kraft den 1 juli 2026.

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Axel Fernandez

PRESSKONTAKT

Kommunikatör

axel.fernandez@svemin.se

+46 (0)72 168 29 79

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Svemin, branschorganisationen för gruvor, mineral- och metallproducenter i Sverige, representerar ca 60 företag med 13 000 anställda inom produktion, prospektering och teknik. Vi arbetar med yttre miljö, arbetsmiljö, klimat och energi, infrastruktur, kompetensförsörjning, prospektering och branschjuridik.

The logo for Svemin, featuring the word "svemin" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "i" is replaced by a solid orange circle.

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Svemin

Box 555 25

102 04 Stockholm. (Besöksadress: Storgatan 19, plan 3)

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