

# The Harpsund meeting 9-10 June 2014

## PM Fredrik Reinfeldt's statement

The Harpsund meeting is taking place at a time when the European Union is slowly coming out of the crisis and is facing major institutional changes.

The countries meeting here are all reform oriented, focusing our economic policy on how to increase competitiveness to ensure jobs and growth. Our four countries are all listed among the world's 10 most competitive countries according to the World Economic Forum. It is therefore valuable to share and pool experiences in this group of like-minded countries.

The Harpsund meeting is about how the European Union can adapt to a changing global economy, where the weight of advanced economies is diminishing, including the EU.

The meeting is also about how the future jobs in our societies will be created. The change in the global economy requires us to reform and adapt our industries, labour markets, education systems and innovation capacity.

During these days we discussed the need to promote competitiveness and structural reforms at the same time as we ensure full implementation of measures already decided.

We have also discussed the importance of adapting the EU's trade policy to the changing global economy.

We agreed on the necessity to take action to abolish remaining barriers on the internal market, to improve cost-benefit analysis of regulations and to already now start discussions with all Member States on how to reform the next EU-budget.

We have agreed that we will contribute along these lines to the European Council discussion of political priorities at the end of June.

Finally, we have agreed that the future policy priorities of the EU must be decided before we can decide on appointments of different top jobs.