

6 MS. HELENA LINDBERG: Good morning everyone and a warm
7 welcome to Stockholm. Special welcome to Ambassador
8 Barzun and to Secretary Brad Buswell, Directors Pariat
9 and Weissenberg, and of course all of you distinguished
10 conference participants. We are holding and hosting the
11 very first Euro-Atlantic Science and Technology
12 Stakeholders Conference, and I'm very proud to have you
13 all here in Stockholm. Our agency, MSB, the Swedish
14 Civil Contingencies Agency, is very, very honored to be
15 co-organizing this conference with the U.S. Department
16 of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate.
17 Since the bilateral cooperation and the agreement, the
18 science and technology agreement, was signed in 2007,
19 where MSB was subsequently designated the Swedish
20 coordinating agency, we've had lots of productive
21 partnership with mutually rewarding activities, lots of
22 meetings, lots of projects. This conference however has
23 an even more ambitious goal, and that is to promote the
24 trans-Atlantic cooperation in a very much broader sense.
25 Often research collaboration paves the way for

1 deliberations over policy as well. And I'm confident
2 that the program we have these two days can showcase
3 many good projects that are in progress on both sides of
4 the Atlantic in the academic and in the business
5 communities. We also aim to stimulate opportunities for
6 future joint trans-Atlantic projects. When the lights
7 are switched off here tomorrow afternoon we hope that
8 the contacts that you've made, that they will be useful
9 for you in your future endeavors, whether that's in
10 academia or in businesses or in governmental agencies.

11 I would also like to make a special acknowledgment of
12 the thematic pavilions of special relevance to societal
13 security or homeland security, our mission. And those
14 pavilions are located in the exhibition area on several
15 floors. As you can see in your conference package,
16 there are five pavilions that are all hosted by Swedish
17 government agencies that are important, and they all
18 have important tasks within the societal security
19 system. And added to these pavilions are both academic
20 actors and companies, and that I think represents an
21 important model for public and private partnership that
22 we in Sweden strive to stimulate.

23 We know from experience that the future threats are
24 increasingly transboundary in nature. Transboundary in
25 the widest sense across sectors, across borders.

1 Whether we like it or not, we're all in this together,
2 and it's often been said that united we stand but
3 divided we fall. The current pandemic flu I think is a
4 good example of this type of transboundary threat. The
5 better we manage events and consequences at home, the
6 more able we are to support the international community
7 if needed. So this dimension of increasingly global
8 risks and threats was actually one of the main factors
9 influencing the decision of the Swedish government to
10 create MSB, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. MSB
11 became operational the first of January of this year as
12 the Swedish Emergency Management Agency, the Swedish
13 Risk Services Agency and the Swedish National Board of
14 Psychological Defense ceased their operations. We see
15 our role as being the engine of the larger system: To
16 lead, to coordinate all the efforts for all hazards,
17 preparedness and response in Sweden and even
18 internationally. There are many activities going on in
19 the European Union within this area of societal
20 security. We will hear a little bit about that in this
21 conference, and all these activities, they have positive
22 effects for enhancing our ability in the union to
23 prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from
24 various crisis disasters. One example of activities
25 within the EU is the continued work to enhance the

1 European Union monitoring and information center, the EU
2 MIC, their capacity for early warning and situational
3 awareness in disasters.

4 Another one, another activity is the ongoing work to
5 develop the crisis coordination arrangement, the CCA,
6 for our top level leaders. And an example with
7 particular relevance for this conference is the release
8 of the ESRIIF, the European security research and
9 innovation forums report yesterday at the European
10 security research conference. This report will be
11 influential in regards to how the EU will shape its
12 forthcoming eighth framework program in the area of
13 security research and innovation. And we shall hear
14 here at the conference from the chair of ESRIIF later
15 this morning. Looking forward to that.

16 And I also look forward to continue to develop the
17 strong partnership with DHS together with other Swedish
18 agencies. I also look forward to strengthen the ties
19 with my European counterparts. So I hope that this
20 first Euro-Atlantic conference is followed by several
21 similar events that maybe will be hosted by other
22 nations in the Euro-Atlantic area.

23 So with these words I would like to thank you all for
24 coming, some from our neighboring countries, others from
25 across the Atlantic. And I wish you all a great

1 experience. Do a lot of networking and take part in the
2 conference activities and the breakout sessions and
3 enjoy Stockholm.
4 so now join me in welcoming the undersecretary for DHS,
5 Mr. Brad Buswell. Welcome up on the floor, Brad.