

# **PRESS RELEASE: Students ask European Commission to sue Sweden on new discriminatory admissions system**

**Lund University Student Unions Association, Uppsala Student Union, Umeå Student Union, Umeå Student Union of Science and Technology and The Student Union StuFF at Linköping University sent a letter today to the European Commission, asking for legal actions against Sweden, due to the new admissions system to higher education, which discriminates applicants with foreign qualifications. The Commission has recently told Sweden that it intends to examine whether the new system is in conformity with EU law.**

“This new system has made it impossible for a lot of applicants with top grades to be admitted to popular courses and programmes. The admissions system must be reformed to fairness and due process and made not to discriminate against applicants who went to secondary school somewhere other than Sweden”, says Gabriel Ledung, President of Uppsala Student Union.

The European Commission recently sent a letter to Sweden with questions on the new admissions system, since the Commission intends to examine whether the system is in conformity with EU law on non-discrimination. Today, student unions at some of the largest universities in Sweden sent a letter to the Commission with a few clarifications and with a clear message – pursue legal action against Sweden.

“The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education has repeatedly told the Swedish Government that this discrimination is not allowed by EU law, the Lisbon Convention and other international conventions, but the Government has adopted the system anyway. We are calling on all who have an agreement with Sweden to demand it be respected. That way perhaps the Government will see reason and listen to the students, universities and the national agency”, says Magnus Roslund, Student Representative to the Lund University Board of Admissions.

The new system for access to higher education in Sweden came into effect with the admissions for the autumn semester 2010 and places applicants into different selection groups based on whether their qualifications are from Sweden or from another country. Applicants with foreign qualifications are less likely to be selected. The system has been heavily criticised and Lund University has given extra places to some applicants with foreign qualifications who were not admitted within the regular selection.

“There's so much wrong with the new admissions system that it's hard to know where to start. We hope for a thorough parliamentary investigation to do it all over and do it right. But for the Government to listen we need many voices and the EU should certainly be roaring”, says Henrik Jonsson, Vice President of Lund University Student Unions Association.

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