Committee reviewing the organisation of the railway sector

On 8 May 2013, the Swedish Government appointed a Committee with the purpose to make a review of the organisation of the Swedish railway sector, looking into the reforms made during the past 25 years and the current functioning of the sector (Dir. 2013:46). An analysis of the most important issues identified will lead to suggestions on improvements and possible changes in the legal framework. The appointment followed from a decision in Parliament in December 2012, asking for such a review.

The work of the Government Committee is carried out by means of a two-step approach. The first step was to produce a “current status” intermediary report. This report (SOU 2013:83) was published on 2 December 2013 and included:

- A functional description of the railway system used as a basis for an analysis of the allocation of tasks and areas of responsibility between different actors
- A description of the organisational development of the railway sector since 1988, including motifs behind decisions and explanations of concepts
- An analysis of the experience and effects of this development
- A mapping of relevant EU law and the resulting scope for national decisions on railway organisation
- An inventory of problems and potential areas of improvements

Following the intermediary report, and feedback provided by means of a hearing in Parliament involving both politicians and affected stake-
holders, the Government on 3 April 2014 adopted additional directives for the work to be carried out during the second step (Dir. 2014:52). There is now a focus on analysing how the organisation of the Swedish railway sector can be improved. Seven broad areas to consider (each with a number of detailed issues to investigate) have been highlighted by the Government:

1. The future development of the railway sector
2. Division of roles, responsibilities and cooperation in the industry
3. High-quality transport services in an open market
4. Use of and allocation of capacity
5. Construction and maintenance of rail infrastructure
6. Access to rail-related services
7. Regulation, monitoring and follow-up

Starting in September 2014, the Committee has organised most of its work on these areas within nine working groups. One important task is to gather information and data also on relevant international experience.

On 19 December 2014 the new Government adopted additional directives (Dir. 2014:160), asking for an intermediary report on rail infrastructure maintenance. This report was published on 16 April 2015.

The final report of the Committee is to be delivered no later than 23 December 2015.

**Dr. Gunnar Alexandersson** is the appointed Head of the Committee, leading the investigation and reporting to the Government. The Committee also employs Mrs. Åsa Tysklind as principal secretary, and the secretaries Mrs. Helena Andersson and Mr. Lars Hellsvik. An expert group of 15 people, representing various authorities, stakeholders and research institutes, has been appointed by the Government to support the Committee.

Gunnar Alexandersson has a background as a researcher in transport economics at Stockholm School of Economics. Before being appointed Head of Committee he held the position as deputy CEO at the Association of Swedish Train Operating Companies.