

INTERVIEW WITH MATTIAS KARLSSON

Interviewed by: Jakov Kamber¹

Hans Kennert Mattias Herdarv Karlsson is a Swedish politician who served as Leader of the Sweden Democrats in the Riksdag from September 2014 to November 2019. He has been a Member of the Riksdag (SD) for Scania County since October 2010. He previously served as Leader of the Sweden Democrats from 2014 to 2015. He currently heads the conservative think-tank Oikos.



It is a well-known fact that Sweden, in particular, has been the site of large migrations of people from Afro-Asian territories in recent years and that an increasing number of Sharia ghettos are being created. Today, we can hear claims that your country is one of the most extensive “multi-cult” experiments in Europe. How do you view these claims?

These claims are definitely true. Leftwing liberals and cultural Marxists have been in total control of Swedish society, at least since 1968. One of many negative results of this has been that Sweden adopted the most radical open border policies in all the western world. No other western country has accepted as many non-European asylum seekers per capita as Sweden. A direct result of this is that Sweden has gone from being one of the safest

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countries on earth to becoming the most dangerous country in Europe. Gang-related shootings, executions, bombings, and gang rapes of Swedish women occur every week. Many Swedes now feel like strangers in their own country.

Has your country seen more benefits or harm from joining the European Union from today's perspective?

My personal opinion is that EU membership has caused more harm than good. Our private company has benefited from access to the internal market, but as the example of our neighboring country, Norway, shows, this could have been achieved without the EU membership.

Our membership fee is very high, and that makes it harder for us to afford the caretaking of our sick and elderly in our own country. The EU membership has also meant a severe loss of freedom and national sovereignty, and it has also meant less border control, higher immigration, and more crime.

How important do you consider the principle of subsidiarity to be in leaving the autonomy of the jurisdiction for the internal affairs of the Member States (e.g., education, culture, freedom of the media, etc.) for the future of the European Union?

Subsidiarity is crucial because national sovereignty is crucial, and national sovereignty is crucial because there is no democracy without it.

Are you personally more for the European Union as a federal state or as a confederation of sovereign nation-states, and why?

A European demos does not exist.

Can the European Union be an equal power with Russia, China, and the United States in the future?

Europe as an entity is relatively weak at the international scene at the moment but could probably, theoretically, grow into a great power if we all decided to pursue that role as an overarching goal. In order for that to happen, even more of our national differences would have to disappear though, Europe would have to speak with a single voice on almost every global issue, the EU-budget would have to increase even further, the EU would have to build a strong common army, disagreeing nation-states would have to be disregarded even more than today. Europe would probably have to be more engaged than today in different global conflicts that don't really concern the ordinary citizens of its nations and be prepared to send many of its young people to die in those conflicts.

How well does the European Union articulate a common foreign policy today? Are you in favor of strengthening the European Union army?

In short, I think it is possible for Europe to become a great power, but I don't think it is a destiny we should pursue.

Given that the European Court of Justice may give a different judgment than the entire legal order of a Member State, is the judicial sovereignty of the Member States lost in this respect since in these cases, a different final judgment can be given than the judgment of the highest court of a Member State?

I believe that the common market is very important for the development and well-being of Europe. In order for the common market to function, there needs to be some supranational laws and regulations and a court on the European level that can enforce those laws. But besides laws and regulations that are directly linked to

the function of the common market, I don't think that the European court should have any say over the nation-states.

Is the common currency suitable for all EU members, and how has the introduction of the EURO affected your country's economy?

The common currency is more of a federalistic political idea than an economic idea, and it is a terrible idea. Sweden is not a part of the common currency. We rejected it in a referendum in 2003. I was heavily involved personally on the no-side. The decision to keep our Swedish currency has served us very well. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been saved, for example.

Can you name what uses the most of the European funds in your country?

I'm not sure. I'm guessing that it would be the regional development fund since we are a sparsely populated nation with significant differences between the city-areas and the countryside. We are a net-contributor to the EU budget, though, and I would much prefer if most of the money stayed in Sweden, to begin with. Now we have to apply for some of the crumbs of our own money, and the EU decided how may use these crumbs.

How was the migration crisis viewed in your country, and do you think the EU had an effective political and legal response to the situation?

The migration crisis was a disaster for Sweden, and I think a majority of our population would agree with that estimate today. EU completely failed in their handling of the crisis, but our own socialist government failed even more.

Do you think that, given the migration trends and population

growth in Africa and the Middle East, there may be a substitution of the domicile population, and how has your country approached the issue of migration from those parts?

There is definitely a risk that the native populations of Europe could become a minority in their own countries if the migration issue is not handled in a responsible way. In Sweden, the native population is already a minority in some parts of the country. The old establishment parties in Sweden are slowly waking up to this reality, but it is still too little and too late.

In his book *Understanding Europe*, Christopher Dawson argued that as Europe became less Christian, its influence in international relations also declined. In your opinion, is Europe's Christian identity important for its political future, and should its place be regulated at the European level, as in, say, the Hungarian constitution?

I do believe that the Christian identity is important for the future of Europe, but I don't believe that questions regarding religious identity should be regulated on a European level. The approach to religious identity should be up to every nation-state to decide.

Did the Brussels administration have a good or bad response to the corona crisis, and how did your country position itself on this issue?

The Brussels administration did not provide any relevant support during the first period of the Corona crisis. Sweden's approach to the pandemic has been relatively laissez-faire oriented so far. It's been good for our economy and personal freedoms, but it also caused a lot of unnecessary deaths amongst our elderly in the early stage of the pandemic.

What does Europe mean to you in the broadest context of the term?

For me, the concept of Europe is a shared civilization based on the philosophical heritage from Athens, Rome, and Jerusalem, but it also the cultural richness and diversity of its nation-states.

The Swedish Minister for Integration, a Social Democrat, told the audience in a Kurdish mosque in 2004 that Swedes are jealous of Kurds because they have a rich and united culture and history, unlike Swedes who boast of only stupid things like celebrating Midsummer Night. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (from the conservative “Moderate Party”) said in 2006: “Only barbarism is genuinely Swedish. Every further development came from outside. “In 2005, a journalist asked Lisa Bergh, secretary of the Swedish parliament and chief integration official, whether Swedish culture was worth preserving or not, to which she replied: “Well, what exactly is Swedish culture? I think that answers the question. “How do you view such claims that deny the existence of Swedish culture? From where does such auto-chauvinist policy originate?

I despise the oikophobia of the Swedish elites, and I have spent all my adult life fighting it. The question of the origin of this oikophobia is complex and connected to different parts of our culture and history, but the main answer is that the cultural Marxist in Sweden was very efficient in conquering all commanding heights in the Swedish society from 1968 and onwards.