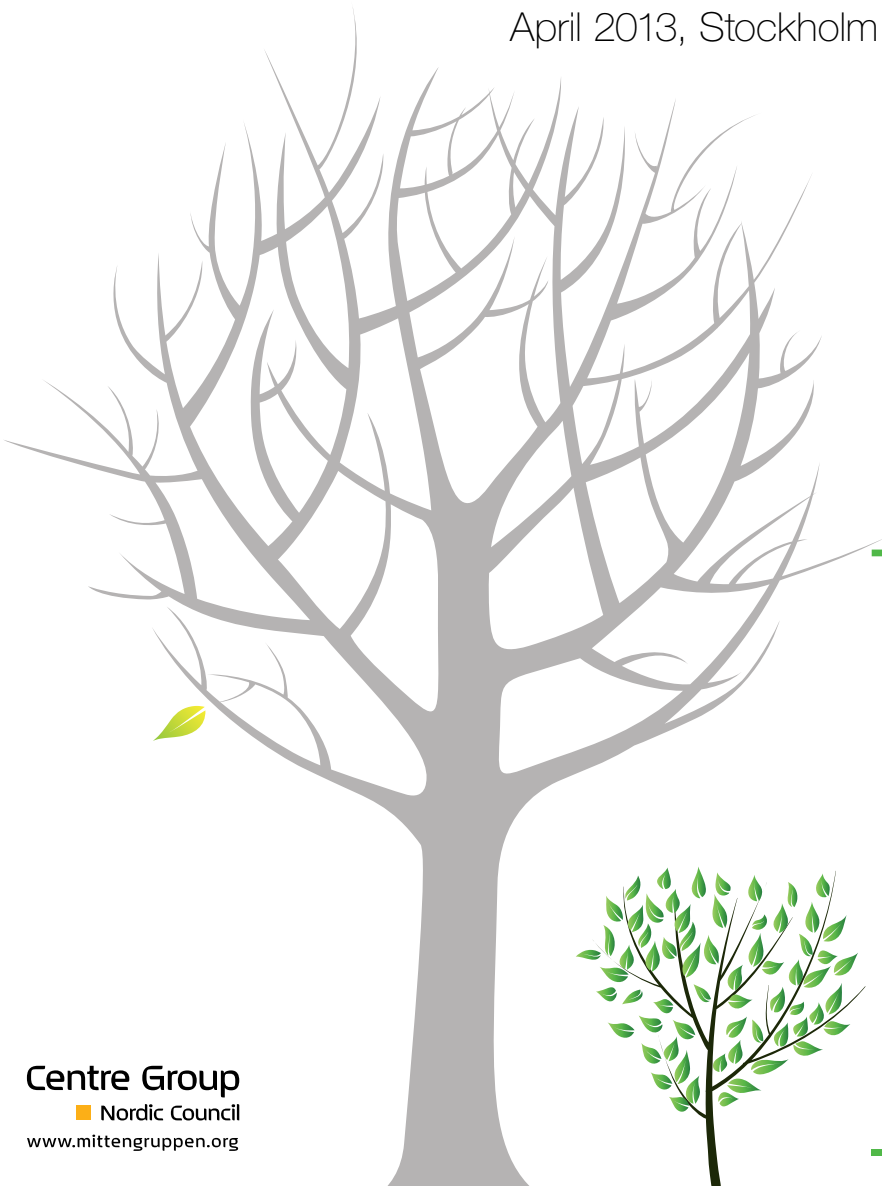


■ Centre Group in the Nordic Council's statement of principles

April 2013, Stockholm



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Centre Group

■ Nordic Council

www.mittengruppen.org



vision

A competitive, prosperous and safe Nordic region

The Nordic countries are known as stable democracies, renowned both for their competitiveness and the well-being of their populations. We have know-how that is disproportionate to our small size.

The Nordic countries have stepped up their cooperation over recent decades. However, recurrent crises and increasing international unrest have increased the need for ever deeper cooperation. We will need each other in order to cope with the challenges of the future.

The vision of the Centre Group is that in future the Nordic countries will continue to be known for their ability to combine competitiveness, prosperity and safety. All those living in the Nordic countries should have the same opportunities regardless of gender, age, and social or cultural background. For our vision to become reality there needs to be even closer and deeper Nordic cooperation.



value base

For people and humanity

The parties of the Centre Group have their origins in grassroots political movements. We support the freedom of entrepreneurship, a down-to-earth approach, decentralisation and freedom of choice.

The Centre Group works for a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable Nordic region. Lifelong learning and people's ability to make choices about their own lives are important to us.

We emphasise freedoms and rights but also the responsibilities of individuals. We support democracy and diversity, participation and equal opportunity in society.

The individual: Freedoms, rights and responsibilities

- We aim to guarantee every person freedom of choice, freedom of speech and the right to access information.
- We defend the principle of equal opportunity under the rule of law and the rights of minorities to self-determination.

- As part of society, the individual bears responsibility for democracy and the living environment as well as the social conditions and quality of life for future generations.

Society: Diverse, democratic and socially cohesive

- For us, diversity, participation, dialogue and equal opportunity are fundamental principles of society.
- Democratic values, a strong civil society, strong local decision-making power and active citizenship are the basis of welfare.
- Education, work, social cohesion, equal opportunities and public health are among the cornerstones of a high standard of living.



Our objective

A borderless Nordic region with global influence

The Centre Group wants the Nordic countries to be pioneers in the harmonisation of policies, laws and standards. The objective is a borderless Nordic region. We want more common Nordic solutions and a clearer division of responsibility to create added value and save resources.

Locally we want...

- To make the Nordic region a common market area without border restrictions on work, education, entrepreneurship, innovation, health care and treatment, infrastructure and rescue services.
- To make the Nordic region safe for all by preventing social marginalisation and division.
- To make the Nordic region a pioneer in the green economy, increase energy efficiency, promote the use of renewable forms of energy and enable the use of smart energy solutions.

- To increase Nordic research in the environment, climate, energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart energy, wellness technology, food, pharmaceuticals, IT, material technology and biotechnology.
- To create more incentives for companies to offer traineeships and apprenticeships across borders.
- To deepen Nordic security and defence cooperation.
- To deepen Nordic cooperation in the EU and the European Economic Area.
- To promote peace, democracy and wellbeing in the Nordic countries' neighbouring regions.

Globally we want...

- To foster Nordic identity so that it can continue to act as the basis for Nordic culture, fashion, food, education, green innovations and common tourism marketing.
- To act as the Nordic region in international arenas in civil crisis management, conflict solution, assistance, civil and human rights and in environmental issues.
- To strengthen common Nordic environmental and societal standards and make them internationally known and sought-after.
- To create a common Nordic strategy for the North Atlantic, the Arctic, the North Calotte and the Baltic.
- To deepen cooperation between Nordic foreign missions in lobbying and providing services to citizens.

