

## NEWSLETTER SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 2023



## Message from the CEO

### Time to stop believing in cotton candy and rainbows

*No matter how much you want to, you can't build batteries and wind turbines out of cotton candy and rainbows. We need mines, and we need mines in the EU. And if it is to become a reality, we cannot introduce laws that make it impossible for mines to develop in the EU.*

**This was the essence of what Emma Wiesner, center-party member of the European Parliament, [said in a debate in the European Parliament on 15 February](#).** And she is very right. If we are to cope with climate change, we must have access to the building blocks for the technology needed – steel, copper, lithium, cobalt, graphite, concrete to name a few. [According to the IEA](#), no less than 6 times more minerals are needed to cope with climate change.

If we also add the security policy grid, it is emphasized even more that access to important and strategic raw materials for both defence equipment and society's security is becoming increasingly central. The military intelligence service Must recently determined that the security policy situation in Europe and in Sweden's immediate area is the most serious since the beginning of the 1980s. Access to strategic raw materials becomes part of the security policy, and Sweden is sitting on a veritable goldmine regarding strategic metals in our bedrock.

**On March 14, the EU is expected to release a legislative package on critical raw materials - the [Critical Raw Material Act](#).** Exactly what it will contain is not yet known, but the purpose is precisely to secure the EU's access to strategic and critical materials. Here, both the development of domestic production and trade will be important parameters.

**In Sweden, the mining and mineral industry is waiting for the government to start delivering on the permit issues.** We believe the ambition is there, but now action is needed. Partly to implement the good parts of the proposals investigated in previous investigations, but also to present the directives for the investigation announced in the Tidö Agreement. In it, one must include questions relating to substantive law, not least how Sweden has introduced and interpreted the EU's regulations, but also dare to analyse whether the regulations themselves create difficulties for the industrial restructuring and development that is now taking place in the entire industry.

**And as said; perhaps also letting go of the belief that climate change and security policy can be based on rainbows and cotton candy.**

All the best,

*Maria Sunér*  
CEO Svemin

## Great interest in the Work Environment Conference

**On Wednesday, February 8, Svemin gathered the mining industry for the annual Work Environment Conference at Kulturens Hus in Luleå.** This year's theme was inclusion, equal treatment and values.

- Knowing and agreeing on the same values creates a feeling of togetherness and inclusion. It provides security in the workplace which contributes to creating a safety culture where everyone also feels that it is okay to raise risks and to be taken seriously, says Åsa Dahlfors, Work environment expert, Svemin.

During the day, Svemin's Work Environment Award 2023 was also awarded to Camilla Backebjörk, work environment developer at LKAB Malmberget.

- I feel incredibly proud and honored. Both for the efforts we have made and for everyone who has been on this journey - we have been many over the years and I am very grateful to work in a company that wants to get better and develop every day, said Camilla.

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## The Swedish Mine sent a love letter on Valentine's Day

**On February 14, Valentine's Day, an open (love) letter was sent to decision makers in Sweden from Den Svenska Gruvan (The Swedish Mine), where it was stated that we both need each other, politics and the mine.**

Former minister of economic affairs Karl-Petter Thorwaldson already said on day two on the job that he loves mines. When his successor Ebba Busch came to Svemin's Autumn Meeting in November, she said the same thing. Therefore, we think it was fitting with a love letter on Valentine's Day.

- The aim is that we want to build a safe and climate-smart future - together with Sweden's decision-makers. We need each other, the mine and politics, said Emma Härdmark, head of communications at Svemin, also the author of the letter to Dagens Opinion.

[Den Svenska Gruvan](#) (The Swedish Mine) is an initiative to spread knowledge about the Swedish mining industry and the Swedish mining cluster. Behind the initiative is the Swedish mining cluster through Boliden, LKAB, Zinkgruvan Mining, ABB, Epiroc, Sandvik and Svemin.



*"I also love mines!"*

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## 40 over 40 list, and Fe of the Year 2023

**For the second year in a row**, Metallkvinnor (Women of Steel) and Women in Mining Sweden, the industry organizations Jernkontoret (the Swedish Iron and Steel Producers' Association) and Svemin (the Swedish Association of Mines, Mineral and Metal Producers) and the employer organization Industriarbetsgivarna (the Swedish Association of Industrial Employers) together to recognize skilled and experienced women over 40 in the mining and steel industries.

The 40 over 40 list was established in 2022 to draw attention to and make visible 40 women in the mining and steel industries who have made special contributions in their field. For exceptionally outstanding achievements, a woman is also named Fe of the Year (Fe as in the name for the element iron in the periodic table). The winner will be presented in Stockholm on March 8.

The background to the award and the list is that women in the mining and steel industries still only make up 20 percent of all employees. In order to remain competitive on a global market, the industry needs to be attractive to all talents and potential employees with the right skills. Not least when the industry is now faced with the challenge of filling an enormous need for skills.

At the same time, when it comes to making women visible, the focus often falls on young industry talent. Against this background, we, as networks, industry and employer organisations, want to work for a more equal industry and at the same time emphasize the importance of knowledge that comes from experience. We want to highlight people who are important to our companies and often good role models.

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## Svemin welcomes evaluation on uranium ban

**The ban on mining uranium in Sweden was introduced in 2018**, and even then it was announced that a more extensive evaluation of the ban in relation to the extraction of innovation-critical metals and minerals would be carried out after five years at the latest.

- Svemin welcomes that the ban on mining uranium in Sweden is now being evaluated after 5 years, and may be removed. Already when the ban was introduced, Svemin considered that it was wrong in principle to ban the extraction of an element. Especially as this element is commonly found in the Swedish bedrock and is often included in the extraction of other materials, says Maria Sunér, CEO of Svemin.

In the Swedish bedrock, rocks and minerals that contain radioactive substances, including uranium, occur relatively often. The local variation can be large. Uranium occurs together with other minerals in the bedrock and can therefore be used as an important clue in the exploration and mapping of other metals and minerals.

Maria Sunér:

- In order to increase the possibilities for the extraction of several of the substances needed for the green transition, it is a step in the right direction to remove the ban on mining uranium. But it is even more important that the government now acts to create faster and more efficient permit processes for the mining industry in general. This is the big problem for the development of the mining industry in Sweden.

**Sweden has high requirements for environmental protection, including emissions to water.** A possible uranium mine in Sweden would be tested in accordance with the environmental code and only permitted if it can live up to these requirements. When uranium mining was banned, this meant that uranium could no longer become a by-product, but had to be handled as a waste.

- Waste management can potentially become a bigger environmental problem, which had not been sufficiently evaluated in connection with the introduction of the ban, says Maria Sunér.

The government has also recently announced a turnaround in energy policy and proposes, among other things, that Sweden's energy policy goal of 100 percent renewable electricity production should be replaced with a goal of 100 percent fossil-free. This opens up more clearly for potentially new nuclear power in the future.

- The ban on uranium mining is untimely given that new nuclear power is now being made possible. Sweden should be able to use the resources of uranium found in the Swedish bedrock for the production of nuclear fuel in the future, concludes Maria Sunér.

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## Preparation project granted for "Sustainable and secure metal and mineral supply"

**Svemin together with the entire Swedish mining and mineral cluster is taking the next step on the journey towards a sustainable and secure metal and mineral supply.**

The Swedish Energy Agency, Formas and Vinnova have been commissioned by the government to design and launch the next generation of strategic innovation programmes. Within the investment, which goes by the name Impact innovation, up to five actor-driven programme are to be formed and started up in the first quarter of 2024.

The programs must be aimed at one or more overall societal challenges and require cooperation between a broad constellation of actors.

As part of the process of designing a powerful program, [23 so-called preparatory projects are now receiving support](#) to develop program ideas together with other key players who can drive change.

**With Svemin as project coordinator**, the mining and mineral cluster as one of the 23 preparatory projects has been granted funds to develop program ideas for the next generation strategic innovation program.

- It feels good and important that we have been granted funds. Now we will concentrate on designing the Swedish Mining Innovation of the future. We now need to link up important actors who, together with the mining cluster, can face the challenge of a sustainable and secure metal and mineral supply and create a strategic innovation program that can meet the enormous development going on in the Swedish mining and mineral cluster into 2030, says Katarina Nilsson, FOI manager, Svemin.

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## Swedish Mining Research and Innovation Day 2023

### - Enabling innovation for a sustainable future

**Welcome to Swedish Mining Research and Innovation Day 2023** - Enabling innovation for a sustainable future. The annual conference and meeting place that highlights research and innovation linked to the mining and metals industry.

May 9 at Kulturens Hus in Luleå. Welcome mingle from 09:30. On the evening of May 8, a mingle dinner will also be arranged.

All info and registration at [Swedish Mining Innovation's web](#).

Welcome!

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## Exploration news from The Northern Explorer

**Starting in spring 2023**, Svemin will post weekly news about exploration in Sweden. The news is supplied by The Northern Explorer.

You will find the news every Monday under [News at svemin.se](#)