

GREATER
CoPENHAGEN
— 2025 —



A Year of Progress – Well Prepared for 2026

Throughout 2025, Greater Copenhagen has taken several important steps forward. Early in the year, we initiated a broad dialogue with the ambition of highlighting the region's role – not only as a strong engine for growth, but as a clear strategic partnership between Sweden and Denmark. This effort paid off in the Summer, when our governments, represented by Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, agreed on a joint declaration in connection with the 25th anniversary of the Øresund Bridge. It clearly demonstrates that the region ranks high on the political agenda, and that cross-border integration is gaining increased support at national level.

The celebration of the Øresund Bridge was, in itself, a reminder of how far we have come together. The bridge's 25 years symbolise far more than a fixed link – it has enabled a cross-border everyday life, work and education, and served as a foundation for ever-closer cooperation between Denmark and Sweden.

Over the past year, Greater Copenhagen has also strengthened its presence both in public debate and in wider public awareness. Our Task Force, analyses and reports – covering topics such as cross-border labour and skills matching, opportunities for non-EU citizens to work in the neighbouring country, and the potential of the future Fehmarn Belt link – have generated engagement and provided valuable insights in both the media and political discussions.

Our analyses of the border controls, which have now been in place for ten years, clearly showed that the controls are both costly and ineffective.

The findings had a strong impact in the public debate and contributed to a wider understanding of how border obstacles affect the daily lives of commuters, businesses and the development of the entire region.

At the turn of the year, Region Skåne once again assumed the chairmanship of Greater Copenhagen. I am proud and grateful for the trust this reflects. Ahead of 2026, we face several crucial matters that can move the region forward: the need for a bilateral study of Øresund capacity, essential investments in rail infrastructure, better cross-border labour market matching, and expanded opportunities for third-country nationals to work across the border. Here, Greater Copenhagen has an important role to play.

I look back on 2025 with pride in what we have accomplished – and with great confidence in what we can achieve together in the year ahead. With the foundation we have laid, Greater Copenhagen enters 2026 stronger than ever.



Carl Johan Sonesson,
Chairman of Greater Copenhagen and
Chairman of the Regional Board, Region Skåne

Annual report 2025

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A Year of Anniversaries

2025 WAS THE YEAR the Øresund Bridge marked its 25th anniversary. With the bridge came the emergence of a bridge-region with entirely new opportunities for integration across the Øresund – and, with that, for political cooperation. Under the theme “25 years of political cooperation in a bridge region”, Greater Copenhagen marked the anniversary with a website featuring photos, articles, a timeline of

key events, interviews with politicians and others who have been part of the journey – as well as an anniversary report.

“The Øresund Bridge is steel and concrete; what truly matters are the mental and cultural bridges.” said the former politician Jens Kramer Mikkelsen in one of the interviews featured in the report.

The information service Øresunddirekt also celebrated an anniversary: for 25 years, it has provided the region's residents with essential information about commuting and moving across the Øresund. And in November, Greater Copenhagen marked another milestone – the 10th anniversary of the decision to transform the Øresund Committee into Greater Copenhagen, a moment celebrated across social media.



Carl Johan Sonesson (left), Vice Chairman of Greater Copenhagen, and Lars Gaardhøj (right), Chairman of Greater Copenhagen, sent their congratulations to the bridge.



From left: Hans Wallmark, Ambassador of Sweden to Denmark; Lars Gaardhøj, Chairman of Greater Copenhagen; Jessica Rosencrantz, Sweden's Minister for European Union Affairs and Nordic Cooperation and Kristina Miskowiak Beckvard, Ambassador of Denmark to Sweden, at the celebration of the Øresund Bridge's 25th anniversary.

Declaration between Denmark and Sweden – A Significant Milestone

ON 1 JULY, the Øresund Bridge celebrated its festive 25th anniversary, with members of the royal families in attendance. At the same time, an important milestone for the region took place – something Greater Copenhagen has worked intensively towards: Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen signed the "Declaration between Denmark and Sweden on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Øresund Bridge 2025."

Greater Copenhagen welcomed the declaration and was pleased that it emphasises a strengthened commitment to cooperation across the Øresund. Many of the concrete initiatives reflect the proposals Greater Copenhagen has championed and presented to both governments. These include the need for more streamlined solutions for border controls, an assessment of capacity and redundancy requirements across the Øresund, and measures to strengthen the integrated

labour market on both sides of the strait. The declaration also opens the door to closer cooperation in emergency preparedness and digital infrastructure.

"This is a major step forward for the region's development and for our shared efforts to promote growth and progress – to the benefit of all of Sweden and all of Denmark," said Lars Gaardhøj, Chair of Greater Copenhagen.

Deklaration mellan Sverige och Danmark
I samband med Öresundsbronns 25-årsjubileum 2025

Regeringskansliet

Regeringskansliet

Erklæring mellem Danmark og Sverige
I anledning af Øresundsbroens 25-års jubilæum 2025

Regeringskansliet



Politicians mingling at the celebrations of the Øresund Bridge's 25th anniversary.



Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen signing the declaration.



Jessica Rosencrantz, Sweden's Minister for European Union Affairs and Nordic Cooperation.



From left: HM King Frederik X of Denmark; Linus Eriksson, CEO, the Øresund Bridge Consortium and HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

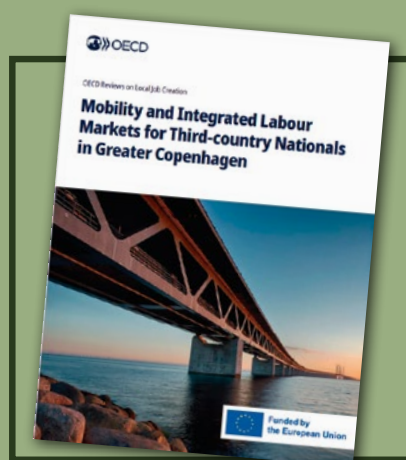


Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö and Board Member of Greater Copenhagen and Lars Gaardhøj, Chairman of Greater Copenhagen and Chairman of the Region Council, Region Hovedstaden.

This year's analyses from Greater Copenhagen



← “Matching Labour across Øresund” (January 2025)



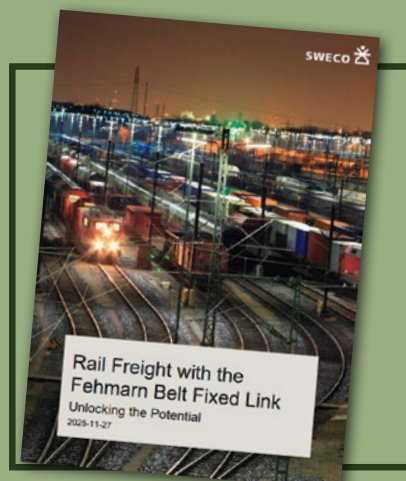
“Mobility and Integrated Labour Markets for Third-country Nationals in Greater Copenhagen” (February 2025). In collaboration with OECD →



← “10 Years of Re-introduced Border Controls at Sweden's Internal Border” (in Swedish) (November 2025)



← “25 Years of Political Cooperation in a Bridge Region” (March 2025)



“Rail Freight with the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link. Unlocking the Potential” (November 2025) →



Fully Booked Summit

The public appeal of the Øresund Bridge, Copenhagen Airport's connectivity, geopolitics and future visions – all of it came together under the theme “25 Years of Political Cooperation in a Bridge Region” at the Greater Copenhagen Summit 2025. Members met alongside representatives from the business community and political leaders, including Denmark’s Minister for Social Affairs and Housing, Sophie Hæstorp Andersen, while moderator Sofie Rud guided the on-stage discussions. The Greater Copenhagen Summit is an annual highlight of the cooperation, and this year’s particularly festive edition was fully booked.





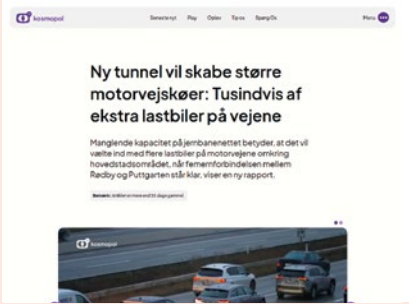
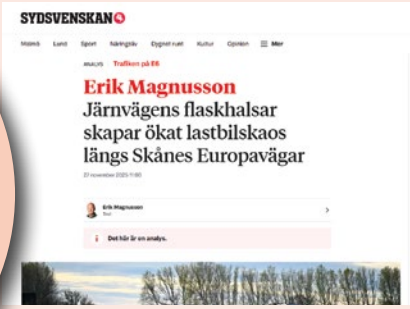
Greater
Copenhagen
Task Force

Greater Copenhagen in the Media

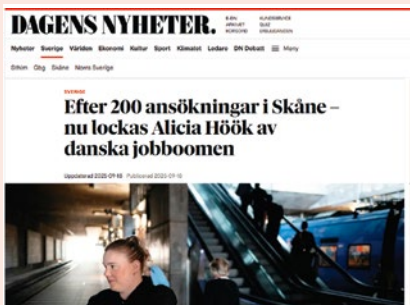
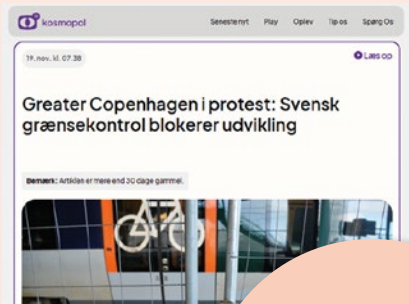
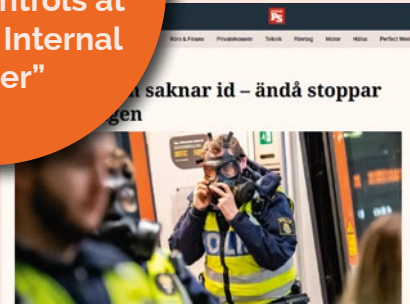
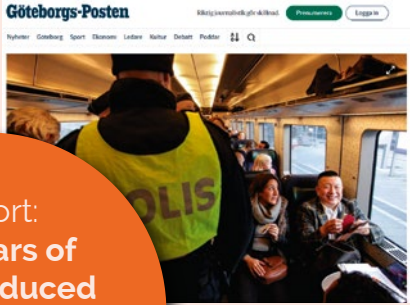
Greater Copenhagen continued to attract significant attention, and in 2025 the media coverage was exceptionally intense. The analyses published throughout the year drew considerable interest – as did the prime ministerial declaration and the work of the Greater Copenhagen Task Force. Through several opinion pieces in major national media outlets, Greater Copenhagen demonstrated the prominent role and important voice the organisation holds in the public debate.



Report:
 “Rail Freight with
 the Fehmarn Belt
 Fixed Link. Unlocking
 the Potential”



Report:
 “10 Years of
 Re-introduced
 Border Controls at
 Sweden’s Internal
 Border”



Report:
 “Matching
 Labour across
 Øresund”

“Declaration between Sweden and Denmark on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Øresund Bridge”

OECD, job fair, etc.



Opinion pieces





From left: Linus Eriksson, CEO, the Øresund Bridge Consortium; Sofie Findling Andersen, Undersecretary, Danish Chamber of Commerce; Peter Lannig Nielsen, Chairman of DI Hovedstaden; Per Tryding, Vice President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden; Jan Juul Christensen, Managing Director, Greater Copenhagen; Jessica Rosencrantz, Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs and Nordic Cooperation; Morten Dahlin, Denmark's Minister for Nordic Cooperation; Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö and Board Member of Greater Copenhagen; Carl Johan Sonesson, Vice Chairman of Greater Copenhagen and Chairman of the Regional Board, Region Skåne; Hans Wallmark, Ambassador of Sweden to Denmark; Eva Egesborg Hansen, Ambassador for Nordic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Jens Kislung, Ambassador of Denmark to Sweden (from Autumn 2025).

Ministers Discussed Concrete Proposals to Strengthen Integration

The GREATER COPENHAGEN TASK FORCE met in October to follow up on the declaration between Denmark and Sweden issued during the Summer. Jessica Rosencrantz, Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs and Nordic Cooperation, and Morten Dahlin, Denmark's Minister for Nordic Cooperation, discussed a range of concrete measures to be taken forward. These include strengthened cooperation between Swedish and Danish authorities, integrated job portals, and enhanced digital integration.

The Greater Copenhagen Task Force was established in 2021 by Greater Copenhagen in collaboration with the Danish and Swedish governments, the Danish Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden, and the Øresund Bridge Consortium, with the aim of revitalising economic integration in the region after the pandemic. Since then, the Danish Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise have also joined.





Christina Egelund, Denmark's Minister for Higher Education and Science, and Lars Gaardhøj, Chairman of Greater Copenhagen, at Folkemødet.



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greater Copenhagen's Managing Director Jan Juul Christensen at Folkemødet.



Panel discussion at Greater Copenhagen's event at Almedalen Week.

...and Much, Much More

Greater Copenhagen's activities span widely, and this became particularly clear in 2025. Two well-attended launch events for new analyses, a job fair – and, in addition, the organisation brought together members of the Swedish Parliament for seminars. At the public meetings Folkemødet and Almedalen Week, events were organised featuring, among others, Denmark's Minister for Higher Education and Science, Christina

Egelund, as well as discussions on visions for urban planning in Copenhagen.

Several campaigns also attracted attention on Greater Copenhagen's social media channels: #tættere på end du tror, highlighting cross-border labour market matching, and a December Christmas calendar leading up to the holidays.



Labour Market Campaign



Job Fair



Labour Market Matching Report



Wienerbrød and Smørrebrød Seminars



Launch Event for Report in Collaboration with the OECD (images above)



From left to right: Eva England, Senior Advisor; Niklas Hellblom, Advisor; Camilla Søe, Advisor

New Staff in the Secretariat

Three new colleagues joined the Secretariat, completing the strong team!



Christmas Calendar

The Greater Copenhagen Board 2025

Some new members will take up their positions on 1 January 2026.



Lars Gaardhøj

Chairman of Greater Copenhagen
& Chairman of the Regional
Council, Region Hovedstaden



Carl Johan Sonesson

Vice Chairman of Greater
Copenhagen & Chairman of the
Regional Council, Region Skåne



Mikaela Waltersson

Vice Chairwoman of Greater
Copenhagen & Chairwoman of the
Regional Council, Region Halland



Mikael Smed

Vice Chairman of
Greater Copenhagen &
Chairman of KKR Sjælland



Lars Weiss

Vice Chairman of Greater
Copenhagen & Lord Mayor
of Københavns Kommune



Trine Birk Andersen

Chairwoman of the Regional
Council, Region Sjælland



Anna Jähnke

Regional Council Member,
Region Skåne



Per Persson

Regional Council Member,
Region Halland



Pernille Beckmann

Mayor of
Greve Kommune



Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh

Mayor of
Malmö



Christian Orsing

Mayor of
Helsingborg



Camilla Palm

Mayor of
Kristianstad



Henrik Fritzon

Regional Council Member,
Region Skåne



Steen Christiansen

Chairman,
KKR Hovedstaden



Anders Almgren

Mayor of
Lund



Randi Mondorf

Regional Council Member,
Region Hovedstaden



Jan Hendeliowitz

Regional Council Member,
Region Sjælland



Karsten Längerich

Mayor of
Allerød kommune

Greater Copenhagen's Members

Regions



Municipalities



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