

PRESSRELEASE

Procurement of architectural services for the Swedish pavilion at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai

The Swedish Association of Architects is protesting against the procurement of architect's services for the Swedish pavilion at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. Responsible for the procurement is a committee of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Sweden.

“The conditions of the procurement are unreasonable and not in accordance with the Swedish Public Procurement Act and thus not with the EU directives on Public procurement” says Staffan Carenholm CEO of the Swedish Architects Association. “We hope that no architect is willing to tender for this”.

The architects are asked by the committee not only to deliver a price for their services they are also to submit a proposal of the design and get an independent Chinese surveyor to estimate the costs for the construction, equipment and demolition of the pavilion. Part of the compensation for the service will be a possibility to exhibit in the pavilion at the Expo.

There are many different ways to procure architectural services aimed at quality and competence, but the conditions must be reasonable. If the procurer wants sketches a design competition is the method, with a professional assessment and prices for the architects. The cost for the tender must also be in proportion with the value of the service. In this case the architects are asked to deliver the core of their service – the solution of the project – for free.

The association thinks that it is embarrassing that the Swedish Government again fail to plan the Swedish contribution to a World Expo professionally in such a way that there is time and competence to expose the quality and competence of the architects and building sector it deserves.

“It is unique that we encourage the architects not to participate in a tendering, but we judge it necessary in this case” says Staffan Carenholm.

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Information (in Swedish) is also available at <http://www.arkitekt.se/s34453>

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Sveriges Arkitekter, the Swedish Association of Architects

The Swedish Association of Architects is the unifying organisation of Sweden's architects, interior architects, landscape architects and planning architects. The Swedish Association of Architects represents 10,300 members (2008), including 95 per cent of Sweden's practising architects.