



Margot Wallström is currently the first Vice-President of the European Commission. Before taking up this position she worked for five years as EU Environment Commissioner. She has had a long career in politics and served as a Member of Swedish Parliament 1979-1985. Her ministerial career began in 1988 when she was appointed as Minister of Civil Affairs to be followed by a position as Minister of Culture and then Minister of Social Affairs. In 1998, she retired from Swedish politics to become Executive Vice-President of Worldview Global Media – an NGO based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The following year, 1999, she was appointed Member of the European Commission, under President Romano Prodi, and responsible for EU environmental policy. During her mandate she developed the EU strategy and action programme for Sustainable Development with a main focus on human health, chemicals, biodiversity and climate change. She effectively mothered REACH which is a rigorous EU regulation on chemicals. Mrs Wallström was also instrumental in concluding the ratification process of the Kyoto protocol. In 2004, when the Barroso Commission took office, she was appointed first Vice-President responsible for Inter-institutional Relations and Communication. Margot Wallström has received several honorary doctorates and awards for her work on Sustainable Development and Climate Change. She has done extensive work to endorse an EU-Africa partnership on renewable energy, champion equal opportunities and to further the CSR agenda in Europe. Since 2001 Mrs Wallström is the honorary chair of the Business Leaders Initiative on Climate Change (BLICC). In this capacity she has developed an initiative on climate change called Road to Copenhagen together with Mary Robinson and Gro Harlem Brundtland (Club of Madrid).



Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy



Ministerial Initiative

The Council's Women's Ministerial Initiative, led by The Honorable Margot Wallström is dedicated to advancing democracy, gender equality and excellence in governance throughout the world by promoting ministerial level exchange on global issues. The Council Secretariat convenes ministerial meetings for women ministers within a variety of portfolios such as health, education, environment, finance, economy and development, women's affairs and culture.

The Initiative facilitates developing cross-ministerial solutions to issues, providing a platform for these women leaders, increasing their visibility both nationally and internationally, and identifying and addressing the particular challenges facing women in ministerial leadership positions.

Goals

- Provide a vehicle for highly placed women leaders to have a collective voice on particular global issues
- Prepare, inform and shape the agendas for United Nations meetings and other multilateral meetings, conferences and conventions with a focus on gender aspects of those agendas
- Increase the visibility, participation and voice of top level women with the media, governments, academia, civil society and other policy bodies
- Share best practices and experiences amongst ministers with varying levels of tenure, government support, and number of women in individual country cabinets
- Be a resource of women leaders capable of assuming other leadership roles for multilateral, intergovernmental and national governments.



Press Inquiries:

Kim Mance, Council of Women World Leaders –
202-736-2531 / kim.mance@cwwl.org

Chris Matthews, Delegation of the European Commission –
212-401-0134 / christopher.matthews@ec.europa.eu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 12, 2007

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT TO HAND OVER LEADERSHIP TO MARGOT WALLSTRÖM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

New York, NY. - Monday, November 12, 2007. [Margot Wallström](#), Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy will visit the United States this week to accept a new role as Chair of the [Council of Women World Leaders Ministerial Initiative](#)--a position held by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright since 2002.

The handoff will occur between the two leaders in a private meeting Friday, November 16th, directly after they give a press briefing at the Jumeirah Essex House in New York City on the occasion of the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit.

The Council of Women World Leaders, a network of 35 current and former prime ministers and presidents. The Council's Ministerial Initiative is dedicated to advancing democracy, gender equality and excellence in governance throughout the world by promoting ministerial level exchange on global issues. The Initiative convenes meetings for women ministers within a variety of portfolios such as health, education, environment, finance, economy and development, women's affairs and culture.

As a top leader in Europe, Mrs. Wallström joins this extraordinary group of women leaders who provide inspiration to women around the world. Her leadership in European Union-US relations, and interest in combining economic growth with protecting the environment and social policies make her a sought after expert around the world.

More information and press kit at: www.cwwl.org/ministerial.htm

Press Briefing: 10:45am, Friday, November 16th at the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit -- Tivoli Room, Jumeirah Essex House, 160 Central Park S, New York, NY. Credentials may be obtained online at: http://womenandglobalsecurity.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=0&Itemid=46

The Council and its Ministerial Initiative provide a global architecture for women at the highest levels of government to work collectively with both multilateral institutions and grass roots efforts. Members of the Council include Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, and Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile.

The International Women Leaders Summit is a project of [The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands](#) in partnership with the Council of Women World Leaders, the [Women Leaders Intercultural Forum](#) and The White House Project.