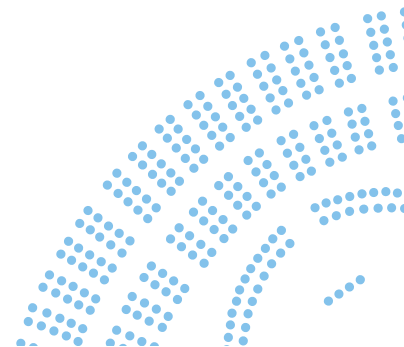
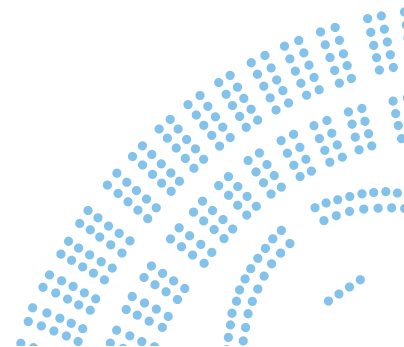


# Explaining the law – an educational, communicative and visionary task

Louise Wassdahl, Brussels, 5 December 2019



# Vision?

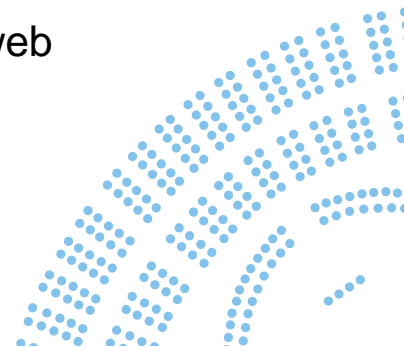






# This is how we make legislation easier for the public to understand

- Guidelines on the Intranet
- Writing workshops with language consultant
- One-day course in how to write plain language
- Two compulsory language revisions
- Course in writing government bills
- Course in writing statutes
- Writing workshop with language expert and lawyer
- Language consultation by e-mail and telephone
- Popular online version
- Word-by-word revision
- Decisions in brief on the web





Start / How the Riksdag works / Democracy / The Riksdag in Swedish society

## The Riksdag in Swedish society

The Riksdag takes decisions that affect the whole of society. There is extensive interaction between the Riksdag and other public sector actors such as the Government, public agencies, municipalities, county councils and the EU.



The Riksdag, the Government, public agencies and municipalities are examples of various actors in the Swedish public sector. They all contribute in various ways to democracy in Sweden. Photo: Melker Dahlstrand

### The Riksdag

The Riksdag is responsible for passing laws in Sweden. Decisions taken by the Riksdag apply throughout the country. This means that the Riksdag takes decisions at the national level. If the Riksdag takes a decision about schools, it may, for example, concern central government funding to education and how this is distributed. The Riksdag does not decide whether or not a particular school is to be closed, or whether an upper-secondary school is to start charging for school dinners.

#### The Riksdag

The Government

The EU

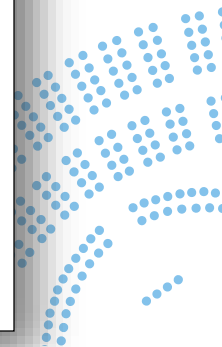
The municipalities

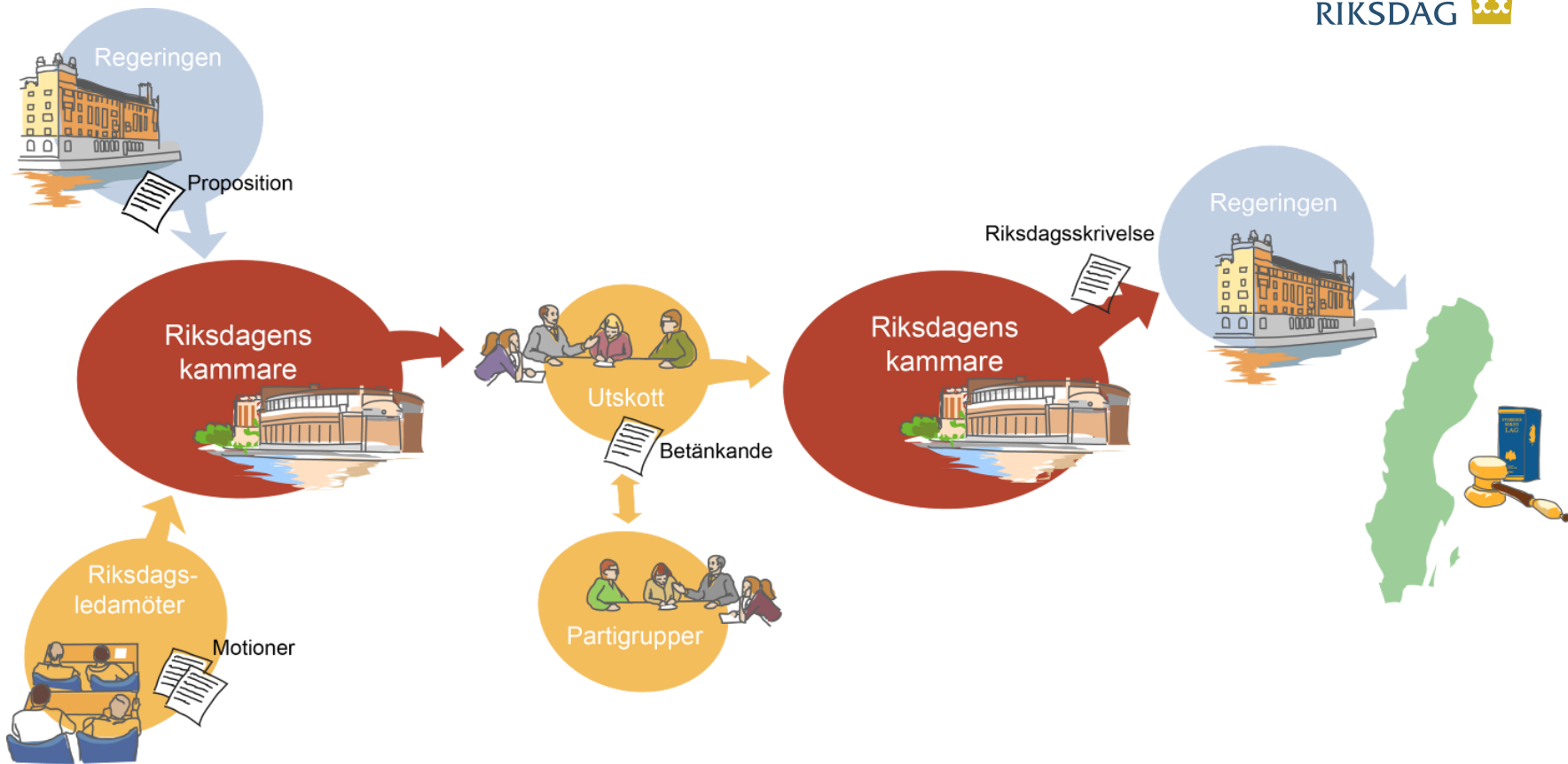
The county councils

The public agencies

The courts

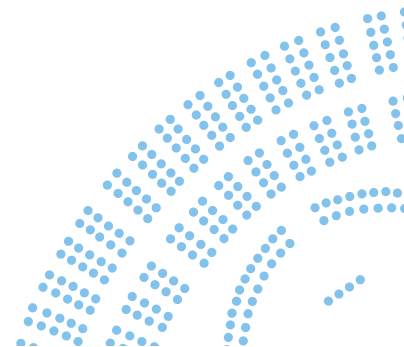
The media









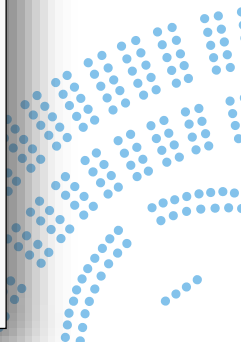




Från förslag till lag - så går det till när riksdagen stiftar lagar

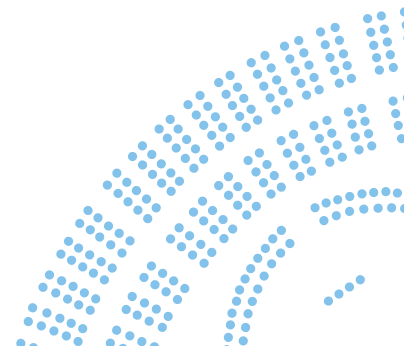
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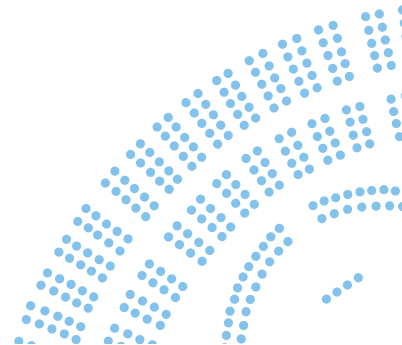


# Further measures to make legislation easier for the public to understand

- The Democracy Workshop roleplay – pupils get the chance to be Members of Parliament for a day
- Instagram, Youtube, Twitter...
- Writing tips on the Intranet – “everything” in one place
- Plain language course and course on talking about texts
- Plain language in the operational plan and the strategic plan
- Plain language coordinator at the Office of the Speaker and the Secretary-General
- Language usage expert at the Department for the Parliamentary Record
- Language group, term group, new initiative
- Inter-agency cooperation “Samspråk”
- Language Act 2009



**A good society where we solve  
problems and show that we care  
about one another.**



# Questions I ask:

1. Is teaching writers and correcting texts the most effective and best method of achieving our goals?
2. Is language the only tool or should we involve other disciplines such as rhetoric, political science, graphic design?
3. Are we ready to leave our “bubble” and help one another in order to be able to understand and convey the full picture? Is this a service the public can demand from us?
4. Can we demand something from the public?
5. Do we explain the legislative process from the perspective of the public or from our own perspective?
6. What do we actually want to achieve and why? What is our long-term objective? How can we visualise it?

