

Sweden is very suitable for mining

Reply from researchers about the mining plans in Gällöck

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It would be immoral for a rich country like Sweden to avoid responsibility and instead export the negative consequences of the mining industry to countries with less opportunities to carry out mining operations in a responsible manner. Replica from Nicholas Arndt and Valentin Troll.
Photo: TT

DEBATE

REPLY. We support Greta Thunberg in the fight against climate change, but consider her co-authorship of the debate article published in Aftonbladet on 3 February remarkable as the text is full of inaccuracies.

Sara-Elvira Kuhmunen and others claim in the article that the proposed iron mine in Gällöck would provide minimal benefits to the local population and cause a strong negative impact on the environment and society.

Mines, like all human activity, cause some disturbance to the environment. However, mines are necessary to supply metal for the energy conversion required to limit climate change, and if mining is to take place, northern Sweden is perhaps the best place.

With a focus on the most important aspects, we note that:

- Ore from the proposed mine will not be "exported to steel mills, primarily in Asia and the Middle East", but will mainly be used in Sweden. [Kallakmalm has a relatively high iron content](#) and is therefore well suited to the fossil-free steel industry in Norrbotten. Cars are Sweden's largest export commodity; producing them with locally extracted ore is climate-smart.
- Unfortunately, the amount of "metals already above ground" is not enough for the enormous amount required for the energy conversion.
- The mine will not only generate "jobs for 14 years", but rather 30-40 years.
- "Laponia risks losing its World Heritage status". The proposed mining site is over 33 kilometers from the World Heritage Site, while the 100-year-old Kiruna mine is approximately 40 kilometers away. The Aitik mine is only 13 kilometers away.
- The mine would cover an area of 14 square kilometers, about the same size as Jokkmokk, or a negligible 0.03 percent of the reindeer's pastures in Norrbotten.

The most erroneous statement "in reality it is difficult to imagine a more harmful location for a mine" is the worst.

On the contrary! Examples such as the Aitik mine show that mining can be carried out very well in Sweden, with minimal negative consequences for the environment and local communities.

Most of the world's mines are instead located in areas closer to urban areas or arable land, usually in ecologically sensitive areas where water is in short supply. Above all, poor regulation and corruption in many of these areas inevitably lead to enormous damage to both the environment and society.

It would be completely immoral for a rich country like Sweden, which is widely regarded as a pioneer in ethical and social matters, to avoid responsibility and instead export the negative consequences of the mining industry to countries with less opportunities to carry out mining responsibly.

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