Håkan Frisinger Foundation for Means of transport research

Award Presentation and Seminar 2025

TIME: Wednesday den 22 October, from. kl. 14.00 to approx. kl. 17.00
PLACE: Kanalrummet, Chalmerska Huset, Södra Hamngatan 11, 411 14 Göteborg

HÅKAN FRISINGER

Born in 1928 in Skövde, Sweden, Håkan Frisinger became Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering at Chalmers University of technology, Göteborg, Sweden in 1951. He has, except for a short employment period, always worked within the Volvo Group, within various heavy manufacturing units, successively as a mechanical engineer, materials management Director, Head of Production Technology and finally as Device and Location Manager. During a five-year-period, he was appointed Head of Group staff at the Product and Production Co-ordination.

In 1975, H. Frisinger became Head of the newly formed Industrial division, at Volvo Cars, that included product development and production. In connection with the creation of Volvo Cars AB in 1978, he was appointed Executive Director. In 1983, Håkan Frisinger became the Chief Executive Officer of AB Volvo, from which position he resigned in retirement 1987. He acted as Chairman of the Board in 1997-1999. When H. Frisinger resigned in April 1999, the general assembly of Volvo shareholders granted an amount of 10 MSEK in order to honor him through the creation of The Håkan Frisinger Foundation for Transportation Research.

Through a new thinking way, Håkan Frisinger systematically acquired an in-depth experience of all the details in the industrial process starting from the product specification, product planning, design, production scheduling, material supply, production and marketing up to a product organisation adjusted to the human condition.

Under his impulse, the development and implementation of the systems approach as well as the improvement based on it in the product's quality and productivity, and in the production technology, played a very crucial part in Volvo's exceptional success with cars during the 80's. Designed under his leadership, the 700-modelserie represents one of the Swedish engineering industry's most powerful products.

In a particularly successful manner, Håkan Frisinger has, all along his career, combined his engineering skills with the under-standings required for both strategic and operational leadership of a technical, major industrial export company. His personal and dedicated leadership was marked by an exceptional significance and a powerful impact.

VREF VOLVO RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS

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Recipient 2025, Dr. Björn Nykvist

REASON BEHIND THE DECISION:
FROM VREF-BOARD MINUTES 2025-1 (2025-06-09)

"Dr. Björn Nykvist is a Senior Research Fellow and Team Leader in Energy and Industrial Transitions at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

Dr. Nykvist is internationally renowned in the scientific community, industry, and policy arena for his influential work on the system impacts and viability of long-range Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and heavy-duty electric trucks. While performing groundbreaking scientific research, he also actively engages in public debate and successfully communicates his research with policy implications. For example, his work is frequently cited in the latest IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

His proposed programme at the Division of Environmental and Energy Systems Studies at Lund University will provide excellent opportunities for further bridging scientific and social science disciplines and offer supervision to the next generation of researchers."

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Seminar program

MODERATOR:

Lars J. Nilsson , Professor, Head of Department of Technology and Society, Lund University

14.30 – 14.45 VREF WELCOME & SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY

Torbjörn Holmström, Chairman of the VREF

14.45– 15.00 "GLOBAL OUTLOOK AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS"

Måns Nilsson, Executive Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Stockholm

This introductory presentation provides a broader view of the international/climate dimensions of electrification and how the research at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is being developed to contribute to both increased understanding of the problem and to solutions being put in place.

Måns Nilsson is the Executive Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). Måns is a scholar in the policy sciences, and his interests include policy coherence, integrated decision making, energy and industry transitions, and development policy. In recent years, he has been strongly engaged in the 2030 Agenda and is a regular advisor to the UN, OECD, the European Commission and the Government of Sweden. He has slipped more than 60 papers past unsuspecting editors of academic journals and edited two books. Måns is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA). He received his MSc from University of Lund, Sweden and his PhD degree from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.

15.00– 15.30 "BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY TRENDS"

Björn Nykvist, Head of Division - Global Agendas, Climate and Systems, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Stockholm

Electric vehicles are redefining the global transport sector, but only ten years ago, it was widely questioned whether battery electric vehicles were feasible and could ever reach cost parity with internal combustion vehicles. In this lecture, Björn Nykvist first gives an overview of his research on technology trends in battery electrification, highlighting the importance of asking the right questions about the pace of technological development. The second part focuses on his ongoing and future research at Lund University, drawing attention to the importance of making electric vehicles long-lasting and the current uncertainty surrounding battery lifetimes.

Dr. Björn Nykvist is Head of Division – Global Agendas, Climate, and Systems at Stockholm Environment Institute, and an affiliated researcher at the Department of Technology and Society, Lund University, Sweden. He has worked interdisciplinarily, leading and conducting research on sustainability, climate change, and governance of energy, transport, and natural resources since 2005. Nykvist's main research interest is in sustainability transitions, with a focus on understanding technological developments, innovations, policy analysis, and the governance of such socio-technical systems. His recent and ongoing research projects focus on electrification, low-carbon transport systems, industrial decarbonization and just transitions. His work has been published in a diverse set of high-ranking international journals covering both the natural and social sciences.

15.30– 16.00 COFFEE/TEA AND MINGLE, KINESISKA GÅRDEN

16.00– 16.30 "NOT ALL CHARGING POINTS ARE ALIKE - MODELS AND INVESTIGATIONS ON THE NEED FOR CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE"

Frances Sprei, Professor in sustainably mobility, Department of Space, Earth and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology

Charging infrastructure is essential for the electrification of the transport system. However, exactly how much and where is not easily determined, especially since not all charging infrastructure is alike. There are different logics, behavioural and technological aspects that will determine how much charging infrastructure is needed and where. I will present various studies that have examined these questions, ranging from investigations into users' mental models and their impact on charging behavior,

and consequently, charging infrastructure needs, to simulation models that estimate the need for charging infrastructure for the electrification of long-haul trucks in Europe.

Frances Sprei is Professor in Sustainable Mobility at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. Her research focuses on the transition to sustainable transport systems, with particular expertise in emerging mobility solutions such as electric vehicles, car sharing, and autonomous vehicles. She examines the interplay between technological innovation, user behavior, policy instruments, and urban planning, with the goal of identifying pathways that reduce car dependency and carbon emissions. Sprei has led and participated in numerous national and international projects on sustainable transport, often in collaboration with municipalities, industry, and policy makers. She has published widely on topics including barriers and enablers of electric vehicle adoption, the role of shared mobility in reducing car ownership, and the implications of parking policy reforms.
Beyond her research, she is actively engaged in science–policy dialogues and public outreach. She serves as chair of the Research Council for Climate Transition in West Sweden and frequently contributes to national and international debates on sustainable mobility. With a background in engineering physics and a PhD in energy and environmental systems, she brings an interdisciplinary perspective that bridges technology, policy, and societal change.

END OF THE AFTERNOON

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