

**STOCKHOLM**  
December 19, 2007

**SVEA COURT OF APPEAL**

**Svea Court of Appeal's ruling in the case against Lars-Eric Petersson (B 5291-06)**

**The Svea Court of Appeal today invalidated the charge of gross breach of trust against Lars-Eric Petersson**

The indictment was based on the presupposition that a cap of SEK 300 million applied for Skandia's Wealthbuilder bonus plan, for the total outcome to the program's beneficiaries during the period January 1, 1998 – December 31, 1999. According to the prosecutor, by signing a document referred to as Appendix 3 without the board's approval, Lars-Eric Petersson removed this cap, which entailed that an additional minimum of approximately SEK 156 million was paid out to the beneficiaries.

In the Court of Appeal's opinion, the prosecutor has not succeeded in proving his claim that the cap for Wealthbuilder was in place when Lars-Eric Petersson signed Appendix 3 in December 2000. The indictment has therefore been invalidated.

In the case, Lars-Eric Petersson submitted extensive oral and written evidence to counter the charge. The Svea Court of Appeal has found that what he has submitted and cited emphatically indicates that the cap was de facto removed either through the board's decision on January 23, 2000, or in any case through that decision combined with the board's action in the subsequent course of events which preceded Lars-Eric Petersson's signing of Appendix 3.

The Court of Appeal asserts in its findings that no one who has been questioned in this case has claimed that Lars-Eric Petersson acted in a manner that suggests that he had the intention to – as the prosecutor expressed it – “go behind the board's back.” Nor is there any evidence, in the Court of Appeal's opinion, that could suggest that Lars-Eric Petersson was unconcerned with respect to the issue of whether the cap remained or not.