

45 percent of the Swedes are unaware of the upcoming vote for the European Parliament due in two weeks.

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For Sweden 2009 is the "EU year" with prime minister Fredrik Reinfeldt as leader of the European collaboration during the second half of the year. For the Swedish government this is an important wished-for opportunity to make the country's voice heard and get backing for a number of political ideas, not least environmental and financial issues.

But for the general public in Sweden the presidency doesn't seem to be much of an issue.

It's only two week left until the Swedes are to choose their 18 representatives in the European parliament the 7th June. Still only half of the population is aware of the upcoming election, a study by DN/Synovates shows. At the same time, 52 percent of the 1,474 persons interviewed said they weren't going to vote.

"It's scandalously low figure, considering that it's only two weeks to the election", says Nicklas Källebring, opinion analyst at Synovate, to daily Dagens Nyheter.

In the study, the Social democrats was the leading party with 30.3 percent of the votes, followed by the Moderates with 26.3 percent and the Green party with 9.1 percent. The controversial Pirate party got 5.4 percent.

In the last election, in 2004, only 38 per cent of the Swedes went to the ballot-boxes. That's fewer than the 46 percent European average. Among younger people, 18 – 25 years old, only one in four made their voices heard.

Members of the European Parliament are chosen every five years through public election in the member states. In Sweden, 18 members will be elected to the parliament with a total of 736 members.