

'No support' in Sweden for EU treaty change: PM

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BRUSSELS, December 8, 2011 (AFP) - Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said on Thursday there was no backing in his country to change the EU's treaties, as he arrived at a European summit seen as the last chance to save the euro.

Asked about changing the EU's texts to enshrine greater fiscal discipline, as mooted by France and Germany, Reinfeldt said: "I have no support for a treaty change in Sweden as of now."

"We are of course willing to discuss different measures but I think the core of the problems we have in Europe is economic. They need to be dealt with now and in that capacity a treaty change could be too time-consuming," he added.

He said leaders should instead focus on implementing much-needed reforms in the most debt-stricken countries, boosting the EU's firewall against contagion in the crisis and introduce policies to get Europe's economy growing again.

In contrast, treaty change "is not at the heart of what we should be talking about tonight," he insisted.

"Tonight both markets and millions of Europeans are looking for leadership to see the solution to this deep crisis," he said.

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He said Stockholm was willing to play its part in "an IMF solution" to bolstering the EU's war chest in case it needs to bail out large economies such as Italy or Spain.

Officials are working on a plan to boost rescue funding by funnelling loans from national eurozone central banks to the International Monetary Fund.

This could raise 200 billion euros (\$266 billion) towards a trillion-euro target set at the last EU summit.

Sweden is not a member of the eurozone, after rejecting the adoption of the single currency in a referendum in 2003.