

**POLICY GUIDANCE**  
**ON**  
**BILATERAL COOPERATION FOR 2015-2019 IN THE**  
**FIELD OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY RELATIONS**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF**  
**ESTONIA**  
**AND**  
**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF**  
**DENMARK**

## **SECTION 1 – POLICY VISION**

The Republic of Estonia and the Kingdom of Denmark<sup>1</sup> have a long and enduring relationship. Our countries have contributed to the regional and international security, to the UN, to NATO and to the promotion of peace and stability.

Estonia and Denmark have had close defence cooperation since the 1990's. In 1994, a military cooperation agreement was signed, which has been valid to this day. It created the foundation for a close cooperation on both political and practical levels, and the agreement formed the framework, in which cooperation programmes and projects were drafted and implemented. The multilateral Baltic projects (e.g. BALTBAT, BALTRON, BALTNET and BALTDEFCOL) are examples of this cooperation. Estonia and Denmark also worked closely together in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, and have cooperated in both peace support and crisis management operations, thereby gaining operational experiences together.

In 2004, the already strong bilateral defence cooperation was taken to a new level with the establishment of the Danish Advisory and Training Staff (DATS) framework. As a result of this successful cooperation, an Estonian brigade (Estonian Brigade) is now fully affiliated to Danish Division.

The broad, strong and long-standing bilateral relationship between Estonia and Denmark has been nurtured by facing common security challenges and developing modern defence capabilities.

The international security environment presents and will present challenges which demand political and military action. Our countries remain ready to contribute to international peace and stability.

International and regional organisations establish a framework and the possibilities for a focused effort in conflict management and resolution. NATO, as an organisation for collective defence, is the primary organisation for security for Estonia and Denmark, and provides the essential framework for interoperability between our armed forces. Our countries will work together in

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<sup>1</sup> Pending approval by the Faroe Islands and Greenland, this agreement does not cover these parts of the Danish Kingdom.

implementing the NATO Readiness Action Plan for a modern, able and ready defence alliance. NATO must be ready to defend against and defeat threats and challenges, assure our allies, adapt to a changing security environment, manage crises, and cooperate with partners.

The UN and its peacekeeping operations are of great importance. Estonia and Denmark will work together to contribute to effective and robust full spectrum peace support operations, and to promote peaceful conflict resolution.

The EU is an important element in Estonia's and Denmark's foreign policy with its possibilities and assets. In order to ensure an efficient use of resources, our countries will work towards avoiding any unnecessary EU duplication of already existing capabilities and structures. Estonia and Denmark will contribute to EU's ability to prevent and mediate conflicts, and to build peace and security.

Transparency and confidence are cornerstones for international relations. The OSCE has shown its ability to create and sustain treaties and regimes supporting peaceful relations. Estonia and Denmark will work towards strengthening and developing the conventional arms control mechanisms, in order to promote peaceful international relations.

Regional defence cooperation is the key to a better security environment in the Nordic-Baltic region. Estonia and Denmark will make efforts to combine the NORDEFECO and Baltic defence cooperation formats, and will try to use the Nordic-Baltic defence cooperation framework in order to bring added value to existing formats.

Recognizing the long-shared interests, values and responsibilities of Estonia and Denmark, and our common understanding of the strategic security context, a deep and meaningful cooperation between our likeminded countries is imperative and underlines the need to further intensify our defence cooperation.

Taking this Policy Vision into account – and in accordance with international and/or EU law and our shared interests, values and responsibilities under NATO, EU, UN and OSCE – the Estonian Ministry of Defence and the Danish Ministry of Defence have drafted and affirmed the following Road Map for the future defence cooperation between Estonia and Denmark.

## **SECTION 2 – ROAD MAP**

Estonia and Denmark reaffirm their dedication to a key defence partnership and their intent to develop it by maintaining an annual strategic policy dialogue at Policy Director level. The dialogue will deal with areas of common interest and concern, and on regional and global strategic and political issues. The lines of effort will also be discussed at the annual strategic policy dialogue, which will lead to concluding an implementation plan. The implementation plan will be drafted on the basis of expert level talks on specific cooperation projects. Cooperation will focus on the following selected main lines of effort from 2015 to 2019.

1. Estonia and Denmark are committed to strengthen and develop the existing bilateral defence cooperation in the areas of training and exercises in order to further develop mutual interoperability and effectiveness, e.g. within the framework of the NATO Response Force, Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, UK Joint Expeditionary Force, Connected Forces Initiative and other national, bilateral and multilateral forces and arrangements.
2. Our countries will work together for raising the readiness level of the Multinational Corps Northeast.
3. The existing cooperation in the areas of exercises and operations has built synergies that are an excellent basis for further engagement in full spectrum operations, as well as in relation to specific interoperability areas. We are committed to continue this cooperation.
4. Estonia and Denmark will continue their close collaboration in the area of officers' education, and seek new opportunities to support the bilateral educational activities and the educational activities at the Baltic Defence College.
5. Estonia and Denmark will seek new opportunities to collaborate and cooperate in defence and security capacity building, as well as security sector reform initiatives.
6. Bilaterally and in the framework of NORDEFECO and the Nordic-Baltic cooperation, Estonia and Denmark will exchange information on veterans' affairs with the goal of

finding new areas for sharing experiences gained and lessons learned, in order to enhance care for soldiers who have been deployed in service.

7. Taking into consideration the growing importance of the cyber domain, cooperation between respective agencies should be enhanced.
8. Estonia and Denmark will continue and strengthen the close cooperation between the Danish Home Guard and the Estonian Defence League, in areas such as capacity building, organizational development, education, training and exercises.

Additional possible areas for future cooperation could be identified both at political and military levels if deemed mutually valuable.

This statement of principles forms the foundation for continuing the partnership and for further promoting bilateral defence cooperation between the Republic of Estonia and the Kingdom of Denmark.

Signed in .....*Brussels*..... on the ..*5. February*..... 2015 in two original copies in English language.



**Minister of Defence of  
the Republic of Estonia**



**Minister of Defence of  
the Kingdom of Denmark**