

**POLITICAL GUIDANCE**  
**FOR**  
**BILATERAL COOPERATION FOR 2015-2019**  
**IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY RELATIONS**

## SECTION 1 - POLICY VISION

The Republic of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Denmark<sup>1</sup> have a long, close and enduring relationship. Both states have contributed to regional and international security, to the promotion of peace and stability, and to NATO, EU, UN and OSCE.

Cooperation between Lithuania and Denmark is historical. Denmark was one of the first countries to re-establish diplomatic relations with Lithuania in 1991, shortly after Lithuania regained its independence in 1990. It has since been a Lithuanian ambition to work towards integration into the European security architecture, in NATO, EU and OSCE. Denmark greatly contributed to achieving these aspirations. Lithuania is now a partner which assumes regional and global responsibilities.

In 1994 Lithuania and Denmark signed a military cooperation agreement, which is valid to this day. It established the foundation for a close cooperation on both political and practical levels. The multilateral Baltic projects (e.g. BALTBAT, BALTRON, BALTNET and BALTDEFCOL) are examples of this cooperation. Initially, these cooperation projects were linked to Lithuania's transition and implementation processes. Lithuania and Denmark have also cooperated in both peace support and crisis management operations, thereby gaining operational experience together.

After the Lithuanian membership of NATO in 2004, these bilateral cooperation activities were largely taken over by the Danish Advisory and Training Staff (DATS), which since then has been assisting in capacity-building and the transformation of Lithuania's Armed Forces. This cooperation created clear benefits, as it provided both sides with multinational experience, enhanced our capacities and the interoperability between our Armed Forces. As a result of this successful cooperation, a Lithuanian brigade (The Iron Wolf Brigade) has been fully affiliated to the Danish Division in 2006, and since then has conducted training and exercise on a regular basis, following NATO standards and procedures. Thus the relationship between Lithuania and Denmark is now a partnership, which forms a solid foundation for future cooperation.

Although the future is difficult to predict, our countries shall be ready to contribute to peace and stability. The strategic landscape presents and will present challenges which demand political and

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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.

military action. It will also require a closer regional cooperation among partners to counter and manage threats to regional security and stability.

International and regional organisations create a framework and establish the possibilities for a focused and tailored effort in conflict management and resolution. NATO is the primary organization for security for Lithuania and Denmark, and it provides the essential framework for interoperability between our armed forces. NATO must be ready to defend against and defeat threats and challenges, adapt to a changing security environment, manage crises and cooperate with partners. Our countries shall work together for a modern, able and ready defence alliance.

The UN and its peacekeeping operations are of great importance. Lithuania and Denmark shall work for effective full spectrum peace support operations, and for the development of the concept of peacekeeping, in order to promote peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The EU with its influence and assets is also an important element in both Lithuanian and Danish foreign policy. Our countries shall work towards strengthening the Common Security and Defence Policy and its outreach to our partners, as well as a further development of European capabilities. We shall promote the EU-NATO cooperation and avoid the duplication of existing capabilities and structures, in order to ensure a beneficial use of resources.

Transparency and confidence are cornerstones in interstate relations. Lithuania and Denmark shall work to strengthen and develop the conventional arms control regimes through the established OSCE mechanisms in order to promote peaceful relations.

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 Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence and the Danish Ministry of Defence have formulated and affirmed the following Road Map for the future defence and security cooperation between Lithuania and Denmark.

## **SECTION 2 - ROAD MAP**

Lithuania and Denmark reaffirm their dedication to a key defence and security partnership, and intend to further develop it by maintaining an annual strategic policy dialogue at Policy Director level. The

dialogue shall be on areas of common interest and concern and on regional and global strategic and political topics. The lines of effort will also be reviewed and discussed at the annual strategic policy dialogue, which will lead to an implementation plan. The implementation plan will be drafted on the basis of expert level talks on specific cooperation projects. The cooperation is to focus on the following selected main lines of effort from 2015 to 2019.

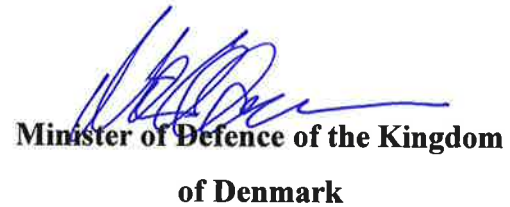
1. Lithuania and Denmark are committed to strengthen and develop the existing bilateral defence and security cooperation in order to further deepen and develop their interoperability within the areas of capability development, training and exercises. The cooperation may take place within the framework of the Connected Forces Initiative, the NATO Response Force, the UK Joint Expeditionary Force, and other bilateral and multinational forces and arrangements. The continued affiliation of the Lithuanian brigade to Danish Division will serve as the primary framework for a joint military engagement. Further, Lithuanian combat formations can be embedded in the Danish High Readiness Battle Group during deployments.
2. Lithuania and Denmark shall continue our close collaboration in the area of officers' education and shall seek new opportunities to support the bilateral educational activities, and the educational activities at the Baltic Defence College.
3. Lithuania and Denmark shall seek new opportunities to collaborate and cooperate in international military operations and missions, including capacity-building, as well as training and mentoring of third countries' security forces and security sector reform.
4. Bilaterally and in the framework of NORDEFECO and Nordic-Baltic cooperation, Lithuania and Denmark shall exchange information on veteran affairs in order to identify new areas for sharing experience gained and lessons learned, thus enhancing the care for soldiers who have been deployed in service for their country.
5. Lithuania and Denmark shall maintain an exchange of information and experience regarding "Green Defence". Within NATO, Lithuania and Denmark shall work together to raise the importance of "Green Defence" in military planning, procurement and operations. The topic can also be introduced in other relevant organisations.
6. Lithuania and Denmark shall resume their national defence volunteer force / home guard cooperation in the area of volunteer force activity network.

This statement of principles forms the foundation for the continuing partnership, and for further promotion of the bilateral defence and security cooperation between Lithuania and Denmark.

Signed in *Brussels* on the *5 February*..... 2015 in duplicate in the English language.



**Minister of National Defence of the  
Republic of Lithuania**



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