

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

## **SECTION 1 – POLICY VISION**

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

Sharing values, interests and aspirations, facing common security challenges and developing and maintaining modern defence capabilities, Latvia and Denmark will work together bilaterally, as well as in international and regional organisations.

In 1994 a military cooperation agreement was signed, which formed the foundation for the close Latvian and Danish political and military cooperation, which was implemented in specific cooperation programs and projects. Multilateral Baltic projects, such as BALTBAT, BALTRON, BALTNET and BALTDEFCOL are also examples of this cooperation.

Since 2004 this cooperation was supplemented by the Danish Advisory and Training Staff (DATS). As a result of this cooperation a Latvian brigade (The Land Forces Infantry Brigade) is now fully affiliated to the Danish Division. Latvia and Denmark also cooperated in both peace support and crisis management operations, thereby gaining valuable operational experience. The close defence cooperation since the 1990's has created the foundation for the partnership today.

Although the future is difficult to predict, our countries will be ready to contribute to peace and stability. The strategic landscape presents and will continue to present challenges which demands political and military action. It also requires close regional cooperation among partners to counter and manage challenges to our security and stability.

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

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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.

The United Nations and its peace support operations contribute to the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Latvia and Denmark will work to explore the potential of joint contributions to full spectrum peace support operations, in order to promote peaceful solution to conflicts and disputes.

The EU is also an important element in Latvia's and Denmark's foreign policy with its own possibilities and assets. In order to ensure a balanced use of resources, our countries will work to avoid any EU duplication of existing capabilities and structures. Furthermore we will work for the ability of EU to prevent conflicts, and to mediate and build peace.

Transparency and confidence are cornerstones in interstate relations. Latvia and Denmark will work to strengthen and develop the conventional arms control mechanisms in order to promote peaceful interstate relations, based on the principle of reciprocity. The OSCE could be one institution among others to pursue that ambition.

These goals and the regional and global challenges make cooperation between Latvia and Denmark even more important. Taking this Policy Vision into account – and in accordance with international and/or EU law and our responsibilities within NATO, EU, UN and OSCE – the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark have drafted and affirmed the following Road Map for the future defence cooperation between Latvia and Denmark.

## **SECTION 2 – ROAD MAP**

Latvia and Denmark reaffirm our dedication to a key defence and security partnership, and our intention to further develop it by maintaining an annual strategic policy dialogue at Policy Director level, using the opportunities to meet at the margins of other existing events to the maximum extent. The dialogue shall focus on areas of common interest and concern, and on regional and global strategic and political issues. The lines of effort shall 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 talks on specific cooperation projects.

Cooperation shall focus on these selected main lines of effort from 2015 to 2019.

1. Latvia and Denmark are committed to strengthening and developing the existing bilateral defence and security cooperation in the areas of training and exercises in order to further deepen and develop interoperability and effectiveness. This cooperation can take place within the framework of the Connected Forces Initiative and in future cooperation in the NATO Response Force, UK Joint Expeditionary Force, NATO's Standing Naval Forces, and other bilateral and multilateral forces and arrangements. The Latvian "Land Forces Infantry" brigade's continued affiliation to Danish Division could serve as the primary framework for joint military missions. One option would be that Latvian combat formations could be embedded in a Danish High Readiness Battle Group during deployments.
2. Latvia and Denmark shall continue their 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. Latvia and Denmark shall seek new opportunities to collaborate and cooperate in the area of capacity building, including the training and mentoring of third parties' security forces and security sector reforms.
4. Latvia and Denmark shall bilaterally and in the framework of NORDEFECO and the Nordic-Baltic cooperation exchange information on veteran affairs in order to identify new areas for sharing experiences gained and lessons learned, hereby enhancing care for soldiers who have been deployed in service.
5. In respect to strategic communication Latvia and Denmark shall further enhance the existing mutual cooperation on a case-to-case basis by rendering advice, assist research and provide high level lecture support within available means and resources.
6. Latvia and Denmark shall explore opportunities for cooperation and partnership between the Latvian National Guard and the Danish Home Guard.

This policy vision forms the foundation for continuing the partnership and for further promoting bilateral defence and security cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark.

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



**Minister of Defence of  
the Republic of Latvia**



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