



# Programme of the Danish NORDEFCO Chairmanship 2016

*"Promoting security through cooperation"*



# PROGRAMME OF THE DANISH NORDEFECO CHAIRMANSHIP 2016

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This programme sets the tasks and priorities for the Nordic defence cooperation 2016, in accordance to the agreed Vision 2020, other decisions taken at political level as well as new initiatives of the Danish chairmanship 2016.

The chairmanship is responsible for driving forward the work within NORDEFECO, ensuring the continuity of the agenda, maintaining orderly processes and promoting cooperation among the Nordic countries in relation to defence and thus “promoting security through cooperation”.

## **FOCUS AREAS FOR 2016**

The NORDEFECO defence cooperation is progressing, and important steps have been taken the past years, developing closer cooperation between the Nordic countries.

The Danish NORDEFECO Chairmanship encourages Nordic cooperation building on lessons learned with regard to environmental protection, surveillance and search and rescue, while taking into consideration existing work.

The Danish Chairmanship will continue the important work from the previous chairmanships, including the ongoing NORDEFECO Action Plans (NAP). As the NORDEFECO secretariat changes hands every year with the rotating Chairmanship, we intend to introduce a system for a systematic and structured hand-over of tasks maintaining institutional continuity.

The Danish Chairmanship will continue to work to strengthen our Nordic cooperation and adaptability in order to promote security and face security challenges in our region and internationally. While maintaining a peaceful, secure and collaborative Arctic, we intend to exchange views and discuss aspects concerning the security and safety challenges in the Arctic region, and paying close attention to potential for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

We intend to work to improve situational awareness in the Baltic Sea Region and common understanding of the regional security situation through closer cooperation and through specific initiatives.

We will work to foster closer political dialogue on security matters, not least at the bi-ministerial meetings. We will seek possibilities for deepening regional and multinational cooperation, and develop the necessary contacts to and dialogue with third countries and international frameworks in order to strengthen defence cooperation. We will maintain focus on the developments in the Baltic Sea area,



and work to further develop cooperation with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as stated in the Nordic-Baltic Declaration agreed upon in November 2015 in Stockholm.

The Danish chairmanship will encourage further deepening of the Nordic cooperation through unilateral declarations on easy access. We will present a new concept of "easy access declarations" enabling easy access of the Nordic countries' military capacities to each other's territories in peacetime, while not affecting national sovereignty or enabling any jurisdictional powers in each other's territories.

We will work to strengthen peace and stability through international engagements and work to further develop our Nordic coordination and cooperation in the international arena. In respect of national competences, we will work to encourage contributions to international operations, in UN missions as well as in our joint fight against ISIL. We will explore possibilities for coordinating contributions e.g. in support of the UN as well as seek to develop our cooperation and support to the East African Standby Force further.

The Danish Chairmanship will maintain focus on the important work in relation to the Nordic-Baltic capacity building projects in Ukraine and Georgia, considering possible new areas in need of focus and cooperation.



The communication strategy during the Danish chairmanship will follow that of previous chairs through the [www.nordefco.org](http://www.nordefco.org) webpage. The webpage will be used in an active manner with updated achievements and ongoing NORDEFECO work as a source of information for external audiences. Each nation will continue to plan its own communication activities according to own needs.

Two ministerial meetings will take place in March and November 2016 in Denmark, including the Autumn Nordic-Baltic (NB8) and Northern Group ministerial meetings.

Further activities during 2016 are being prepared at the moment e.g. arranging a conference on promoting security and facing security challenges in the Nordic region in close cooperation with the Nordic Council.

In the following section new initiatives as well as a list of already existing NAPs and projects, which will be continued during the Danish chairmanship, will be presented.



## NEW NORDEFECO INITIATIVES 2016

Besides the ongoing NAPs and other taskings, the Danish chairmanship intends to step-up cooperation in the near region and in international engagements.

### In the near region:

1. **Easy Access Declarations** entail enhanced cooperation enabled through streamlining and simplification of procedures regarding access to each other's territories.
  - Building on existing work regarding reducing bureaucracy, air- and sea cooperation etc. a new concept of unilateral declarations will allow military aircraft, warships or military vehicles from NORDEFECO members enhanced access to the territory of another NORDEFECO country by requiring some specific procedures to be fulfilled. The aim is to enhance and deepen Nordic defence cooperation by removing obstacles and through non-bureaucratic ways to allow easier access to other NORDEFECO countries' territory in peacetime.
2. **Follow-up on regional security challenges**, concerning overview of security related activities in the region.
  - This area of focus concerns a paper from the Political Steering Committee (PSC). A paper on regional security challenges will be presented and discussed at the ministerial meeting in March 2016.

### International engagements:

3. **Explore possibilities for better coordinated contributions from the Nordic countries to international military missions and in particular UN missions with a view to strengthen the sustainability of contributions.**
  - Building on previous work we will explore possibilities for establishing new approaches to how Nordic contributions to the UN could be best coordinated. Concretely we will explore the possibility for the Nordic countries to provide an airborne transport capacity to UN missions on a rotational basis.
  - Furthermore, it might also be taken into consideration whether the Nordic countries could offer contributions on a rotational basis to the newly established United Nations Peacekeeping Capabilities Readiness System (PCRS).



4. **Continue the joint Nordic support to the East African Standby Force (EASF)** in its further development and fulfillment of its mission of contributing to regional and continental peace, security, stability and enhanced regional integration. We will invite an EASF high level representative to join a PSC-meeting to discuss further developments of the EASF as well as take into account the report from the Nordic Advisory and Coordination Staff (NACS).
  - The EASF was declared ready for operational use at the end of 2014. In 2016 Nordic focus will be directed towards providing assistance that will support and enable the EASF to deploy in support of African Union (AU) peace operations if and when decided by the AU.
  
5. **Investigate possibilities for stronger Nordic cooperation with regard to strengthening the UN's efforts within Security and Defence Sector Reforms.**
  - With the increasing complexity of the UN Peace Operations follows an increased role for Security and Defence Sector Reform. It will be examined if the Nordic countries together could enhance the UN's work with such reforms, e.g. through financial pledges or the deployment of mentor teams or advisors.



*Photo from operation RECSYR 2014*



## FOSTER CONTINUITY TO THE ONGOING NAPs AND PROJECTS

At the ministerial meeting in Stockholm on 10 November 2015, ministers agreed to take work forward on the different NORDEFECO Action Plans and other projects.

Several NAPs and other taskings will be brought forward during 2016. We intend to work towards enhancing and continuing work on several areas of cooperation.

- Implement the **Secure Communications System** in the first half 2016 and explore opportunities to extend the secure communications to the Baltic countries.
- Continue to develop cooperation on **Air Surveillance** (NORECAS), including signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in early 2016.
- Develop work on **Alternate Landing Base** exploring the possibility to extend to armed aircraft and include Iceland.
- Continue to develop the concept of a possible **Northern flag exercise** with the precondition of the US and third country participation.
- Facilitate a Nordic meeting on exchange of best practices related to **national contingency and readiness planning**, taking into consideration previous work.
- Continue to exchange experiences and best practices, and develop cooperation within **international operations**.
- Follow-up to the **Nordic-Baltic Declaration** concerning areas of enhanced cooperation between the Nordic and the Baltic countries.
- Further develop the **Nordic-Baltic capacity building** projects in Georgia and Ukraine.
- Continue coordination of initiatives within the **Northern Group on capacity building projects** in Ukraine.
- Facilitate the further development of the **Nordic Tactical Air Transport** (NORTAT).
- Explore possibilities of extended collaboration with the US in **training and exercises** up to 2017.
- Maintain a focus on the **Cross Border Training** agreement including third party participation.
- Continue to exchange of experience on **long term defence planning**.
- Continue to discuss initiatives for recognizing and safeguarding our **veterans**.
- Continue to identify areas of Nordic cooperation within the framework of **Open Skies**.
- Ensure promotion of environmental and economical **sustainability in defence** regarding Nordic defence and consider relevant initiatives and further work.
- Continue to focus on Nordic cooperation within **Cyber**, including political dialogue.



- Continue to emphasize close dialogue between the Nordic countries and the **Nordic defence industry**.

The areas of cooperation in accordance to the "NORDEFECO Vision 2020" will be the main basis for developing the Nordic defence cooperation as well as changes to the regional and international security environment.

Initiatives and achievements will be presented in accordance to procedure at the different levels within the NORDEFECO framework. Two "production lines" are planned for 2016:

First half 2016:

- MCC/NAD/CHOD; January-February 2016
- PSC; 3-4 March 2016
- Ministerial; 30-31 March 2016.

Second half 2016:

- MCC/NAD/CHOD; April-September 2016
- PSC; 29-30 September 2016
- Ministerial; 8-9 November 2016.

