

LETTER OF INTENT

BETWEEN

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
FRANCE**

AND

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF
DENMARK**

ON

**STRENGTHENING THE BILATERAL DEFENCE
COOPERATION**

The Minister of Defence of the Republic of France and the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark, hereinafter referred to as «the Signatories»;

Mindful of their rights and obligations under the UN Charter, the North Atlantic Treaty and the Treaties of the European Union, as well as of national specificities regarding their implementation;

Keeping in mind the Agreement between the participants to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces, dated 19 June 1951;

Reaffirming their common willingness to further strengthen the relevant frameworks of multilateral cooperation in the areas of defence, peace and security;

Sharing common values, interests and responsibilities, as well as a common understanding of the international security and defence context;

Willing to build on the excellent cooperation of their armed forces that have been deployed together on several theaters over the years;

Determined to take on their responsibilities in the realm of international security, including through the deployment of their armed forces abroad when necessary;

Noting that all existing bilateral Memoranda, Arrangements, Agreements and ongoing cooperation will remain in place and are not affected by the terms of this Letter of Intent;

Affirming their will to explore all possibilities:

1. to strengthen **interoperability between their armed forces** including in crisis situations requiring rapid response;
2. to support their interoperability by **an optimized use of existing capabilities and the possible development of future capabilities**;
3. to further **reinforce their strategic dialogue** with a view to strengthening their commonality of views on international security and defence issues.

Willing to provide impetus and political legitimacy to all kinds of initiatives at all levels aiming at developing and furthering bilateral relations in defence and security matters, building on existing cooperation and seeking to identify new areas of common action with mutual benefits:

I. Declare their intention to strengthen their cooperation through the following initiatives:

1. Develop their operational cooperation.

The Signatories intend to further enhance interoperability and deployability and improve the capability to act jointly, in a bilateral or multinational framework, in all areas ranging from crisis prevention, crisis management and capability building to high-end joint operations. They intend to develop their bilateral cooperation by fostering the following actions:

- a) to keep on conducting regular meetings on operational issues between joint staff planification cells;
- b) to strengthen cooperation on exercises and training by seizing all relevant opportunities in bilateral or multilateral formats;
- c) to enhance mutual cultural awareness (e.g. through education and training) in particular through the development of the linguistic skills of French and Danish personnel respectively in English and French;
- d) to maintain and promote the exchange of personnels on all levels and where it is deemed mutually beneficial such as the posting of Danish officers to French headquarters;
- e) to develop full knowledge and interoperability of their national doctrines beyond acknowledged NATO corpus of documents;
- f) to exchange knowledge on the regions they have specific expertise on (e.g. Africa and the Arctic);
- g) to promote operational cooperation in any other domain they will deem necessary.

Without prejudice of any other action and in coherence with their other international commitments, the Signatories intend in particular to examine i.a. the possibility for i) French and Danish forces to exercise joint expeditionary skills together, inside or outside their national territories, ii) French officers to be invited onboard a Danish ship in arctic waters and for Danish officers to be invited onboard a French ship off western African coasts, iii) increased interoperability between the French Army and the Danish Air Force regarding the operational use of helicopters, iv) closer and more integrated cooperation in the realm of strategic sea transport.

2. Enhance cooperation in the domain of capabilities.

The Signatories acknowledge that enhanced interoperability should be supported by closer cooperation on capabilities. They intend to develop their cooperation on both existing material and future material by fostering the following actions:

- h) to promote regular exchange of feedback on existing, combat proven equipment and explore the possibilities of cooperation based on the possession or acquisition of similar equipment;
- i) to strengthen cooperation in the realm of capabilities – air, ground, naval and joint equipment – and the development of industrial partnerships (including R&D);
- j) to stand ready to increase their level of interoperability and cooperation, should national decisions provide new opportunities;
- k) to promote capability cooperation in any domain they will deem necessary.

Without prejudice of any other action, the Signatories intend in particular to i) examine the potential for cooperation of their defence science and technology departments, ii) consider holding annual joint specialist seminars on capability building.

3. Improve strategic dialogue.

The Signatories share the conviction that a common analysis of the international situation can only strengthen their cooperation and facilitate joint action. Therefore, they intend to reinforce their strategic dialogue by fostering the following actions:

- l) to promote formal bilateral meetings at minister's level on a regular basis;
- m) to keep on conducting regular staff talks at flag officer level, without prejudice of additional meetings between the different services whenever needed;
- n) to hold annual bilateral strategic discussions at defence policy director level with appropriate military representation;
- o) to promote direct exchanges at all levels whenever needed;
- p) to facilitate cooperation between defence think tanks;
- q) to consider positively all other opportunities to share strategic analyses.

Without prejudice of any other action, the Signatories intend in particular to i) develop dialogue on the relevant level regarding possibilities for a cooperation between the European Air Transport Command and the Nordic Tactical Air Transport cooperation, ii) exchange on national defence reforms and strategic reviews, iii) explore the possibility to organise a cycle of seminars in Paris and Copenhagen on strategic subjects of common interest.

II. Declare their intention to pursue all avenues of cooperation between the Signatories in the realm of defence and security and to complement this Letter of Intention by specific arrangements where and when appropriate.

The Signatories will in priority examine the needs for simplification of the administrative procedures with a view to foster cooperation in a pragmatic way.

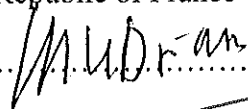
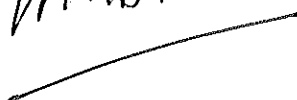
In order to identify in common the various concrete actions to be undertaken in the above-mentioned areas and the specific arrangements required, as well as to achieve a clear common understanding of their implementation, the Signatories strongly encourage direct contacts between all relevant structures within the Ministries of Defence and the Armed forces to be conducted at the earliest opportunity.

Such decentralized exchanges shall in particular provide clarity on the scope and level of any further documents to be developed to ensure best possible implementation of this letter. The progress of these discussions will be examined on the occasion of the annual bilateral strategic discussions at defence policy director level to be convened preferentially before the end of 2014, and of the next French-Danish staff talks to be convened preferentially before mid-2015.

This Letter of Intent does not constitute a commitment to fund or participate in this cooperation nor does it represent a legally binding commitment between the Signatories under international or national law.

Done in Paris, on 18th June 2014, in duplicate in the French and English languages.

The Minister of Defence
of the Republic of France

.....



The Minister of Defence
of the Kingdom of Denmark

.....
