

Denmark takes global responsibility

'Diplomacy in a Boundless World' is the title of the strategy for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This title encompasses the Danish view on the globalised world and the role of Denmark in it. Political, environmental and economic issues related to globalisation are all part of the Danish foreign policy agenda.

Denmark combines core values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law with a willingness to act. This has led to increasing activism in peace keeping, multilateral cooperation, environmental protection and the fight against poverty.

Denmark considers Asia to be a key global player economically and politically and therefore Denmark works through the EU for stronger ties to ASEAN and ASEM.

Denmark in the EU

Denmark has been a member of the EU since 1973 and has contributed to the development of the organisation from a Community with the aim of promoting internal stability through economic growth and trade to a Union with common policies in areas as diverse as agriculture, customs, the internal market etc. Amongst other things, Denmark sees the EU as a catalyst for environmental protection, economic development and global free trade. Denmark supports the enlargement policy of the EU. During the Danish EU presidency in December 2002, the Danish government hosted the European Council meeting in Copenhagen where the decision was taken to include eight Central and Eastern European countries as well as Malta and Cyprus. Furthermore The Danish currency, kroner, is tied to the Euro.

Denmark in the UN

Denmark was a founding nation of the United Nations in 1945 and has been a member of the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member four times. Most recently, Denmark joined the Security Council from January 1st 2005 until 31st December 2006. The priorities for this period were the fight against terrorism, conflict resolution, Africa and the strengthening of international law.

The battle against poverty

Denmark is strongly committed to fight poverty worldwide and holds one of the world's highest GDP-percentages for aid contributions to developing countries. In 2006, Baht 85.8 billion, approx. 0.8% of GDP, was spent on development aid. The Danish government pays special attention to helping the poor by ensuring critical investments in education and health, building up infrastructure, supporting the development of a private sector and promoting sustainable development through poverty-oriented economic growth. At the same time, Denmark demands high-quality governance and the willingness to increase respect for human rights and democracy in development co-operation. As Asian countries such as Thailand experience high growth rates, the Danish aid is shifted away from Asia to primarily African countries over time.

Ambitious about the environment

One key issue for Denmark is the global environment. In April 2007, Denmark hosted ASEM. From November 2007 a Minister for Energy and Climate has been appointed. In keeping with its commitment to address climate change, Denmark will be hosting the 15th Conference of Parties under the auspices of the UN in 2009 (the so-called COP15 meeting). It is a Danish goal that this summit must lead to a new global deal on reducing CO2 emissions that can replace the Kyoto Protocol after 2012. Denmark meets a lot of recognition due to the ambitious commitment to reduce CO2 emissions and we will use this frontrunner role to try to convince some reluctant countries to commit themselves more.

The fight for peace and security

It is important for Denmark to contribute to international peace and Denmark has been one of the countries most active in deploying peacekeeping forces. NATO continues to be the cornerstone of Danish defence and security policy. Denmark has participated in peacekeeping operations in e.g. the Balkans and Afghanistan. In addition, Denmark has, as part of an international coalition, engaged in warfare, as seen in Iraq. Overall, the active foreign policy seeks to promote human rights and democracy in the world.

Promoting free trade

In the WTO, Denmark is a strong advocate for free trade and for a rule-based international trading system. This is an advantage for both a small and open economy such as Denmark as well as for developing countries. Denmark firmly supports a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round and is willing to go far in opening up the EU markets to companies from other regions of the world. Denmark works actively in the EU and the WTO against anti-dumping duties and other arrangements that limit possibilities of free trade, not the least with Asian countries.