

# DANISH SECURITY AND DEFENCE AFTER TRUMP

Based on the Security Policy Analysis Group's 2022 report,  
"Danish Security and Defence towards 2035"



# Resumé

Based on the Security Policy Analysis Group's 2022 report, *Danish Security and Defence towards 2035*, this new report describes Denmark's current security policy situation, focusing on shifting global power dynamics, new regional threats, and a transatlantic relationship in crisis.

The structural transformation processes are evolving faster than anticipated in 2022 and are further accelerated by Trump's extensive changes to the US relationship with Europe and the rest of the world. The breach of trust regarding Ukraine, doubts about NATO's security guarantees, and demands to take over Greenland and Canada have shocked US allies. While the US remains the world's strongest military power, the American century—where the US alone could define the international order—is over. The rules-based international order is eroding, and the world's three strongest superpowers now view the EU and its values with hostility. The EU is demonstrating resolve in facing these new challenges and could assume a stronger global role.

Trump's trade war is hastening the end of globalisation. The BRICS nations are challenging the G7's economic dominance and demanding reforms of global institutions. In the new multipolar and more fluid international system, old alliances are being supplemented or replaced by new forms of cooperation.

Russia remains the only military threat to Europe, and the need to replace US contributions to NATO requires significant European rearmament. In the Baltic Sea region, the accession of Finland and Sweden, combined with Russia's focus on Ukraine, has strengthened NATO. However, Russia will quickly be able to rebuild its military strength in the region when the Ukraine war ends. Hybrid attacks from Russia are intensifying. Even if fighting in Ukraine is stopped by ceasefire or peace, Ukraine will continue to create significant tensions between Russia and Europe for many years to come and will require substantial European support. Conversely, Europe can benefit from Ukraine's strong military and extensive battlefield experience.

The Gaza war, persistent instability in the Middle East, and Russia's encroachment into the Sahel underscore that Africa and the Middle East will continue to present Europe with complex challenges, particularly illegal migration and terrorism. Climate change and the involvement of private actors in conflicts are increasingly defining security challenges to Europa.

The Arctic dimension of Danish security policy has fundamentally changed following the Trump administration's demand for control over Greenland. Overall, the drastically altered strategic environment of the Kingdom of Denmark requires significant Danish rearmament and a Danish security and defence policy that no longer relies so heavily on the US but is instead anchored in a more European NATO and strengthened defence cooperation within the EU.

The Danish version of the report can be found here: <https://udenrigspolitik.dk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Dansk-sikkerhed-og-forsvar-feb2026.pdf>

The English version of the original report from 2022 can be found here: [https://um.dk/-/media/websites/umdk/danish-site/udenrigspolitik/sikkerhedspolitik/den-sikkerhedspolitiske-analysegruppe/regeringens\\_security-policy-report\\_uk\\_web\\_09-final-a.ashx](https://um.dk/-/media/websites/umdk/danish-site/udenrigspolitik/sikkerhedspolitik/den-sikkerhedspolitiske-analysegruppe/regeringens_security-policy-report_uk_web_09-final-a.ashx)