

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK  
AMBASSADOR METTE KNUDSENS VISIT TO EASF  
9. SEPTEMBER 2016

## **The Ambassadors Speech**

I am very pleased to be here today and to sign our mutual agreement covering the period 2015 – 2017.

The creation and maintaining of EASF as a relevant and efficient mechanism that is able to respond to challenges towards peace and security in the region and across the region is the rationale for Denmark's (and the Nordic countries) involvement in EASF.

Denmark acknowledges the remarkable development that EASF has undertaken since the initiation of our cooperation in 2008. We do also recognise the significant challenges that are associated to such an endeavour bringing together 10 member states aiming for a joint vision with very different backgrounds (languages, cultures, doctrines, etc.). Denmark is a strong proponent concerning multilateralism, which has served my country well. However, we also know very well that it is not an easy way to go. But also important to acknowledge the importance that the process constitutes. The cooperation and daily dialogue between the member states of EASF is a powerful contributor to the enhancement of regional integration.

Likewise, Denmark is a strong supporter of EASFs comprehensive approach to peace and security including military, police and civilian capacities to its tool box. Denmark believes that EASFs capacities within the civilian component towards protection of civilians, child protection, human rights and the like is an indispensable accompaniment to its military and police components.

We are looking forward to continued support in the coming period and especially during the preparation and conduct of future exercises beginning with the planned EASF exercise in 2017. This exercise is essential in verifying to which extent EASF is capable to fulfil its mandate and assessing where we jointly need to work harder in ensuring EASFs relevance and full operability.

Denmark is in a process preparing the successor of the current Peace and Stabilisation Programme. I understand that an important work is undergoing regarding analysing and designing a "package" that will comprise the needed communication and information systems (CIS) for EASFs forward force headquarters. This work should conclude on a potential new donation of the needed CIS equipment complementing the EASF Start-up Kit, which was donated by Denmark and the UK to EASF in December last year. This equipment will complete the equipment needed for EASFs ability to deploy its forward force headquarters.

Thank you.