

09.11.2016

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

AND

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

AND

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ICELAND

AND

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

ON

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EASY ACCESS FRAMEWORK APPLICABLE IN PEACETIME

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland, The Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Government of Iceland, (hereinafter referred to as the Participants),

*Pursuant to* the commitments made in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Ministry of the Republic of Finland, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on Nordic Defence Cooperation (the NORDEFCO MoU), signed on 4 November 2009;

*Having regard to* the General Security Agreement on the Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (GSA) signed on 7 May 2010;

*Recalling* the importance of Nordic cooperation in light of the shared common regional defence and security interests;

*Determined to* enhance defence cooperation and to contribute to regional stability, peace and security;

*Resolved* to establish the basis for an easy access framework for all Participants with the aim of further strengthening defence cooperation in the air, land and maritime domain in peacetime.

Have reached the following understanding:

## **Section 1**

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this MoU is to establish an easy access framework whereby the Participants will commit to engage in a process of developing easy access arrangements (hereinafter referred to as Implementing arrangements) containing the provisions for access to each Participant's air, land and sea territory and specific air, land and naval bases in peacetime.

The overall aim of these Implementing arrangements is to improve the operational effect and quality of air, land and maritime operations in peacetime.

The enhanced easy access will not duplicate other efforts or activities within the framework of Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFCO) or Sea Surveillance Co-operation Baltic Sea (SUCBAS) but rather spearhead further cooperation within the realm of these two main forums of regional cooperation.

This MOU and its Implementing arrangements are not intended to conflict with national legislation of the Participants or with international law. In case of conflict, international law or national legislation will prevail. The Participants will notify each other in the event of any conflict arising between them.

## **Section 2**

### **IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS**

Implementing arrangements concerning easy access will be concluded between the Participants or any national entity duly authorised to do so by the Participants.

Implementing arrangements will state to which geographically defined areas within the Participants' territories the arrangements apply and to which specific air, land and naval bases access will be given and under what conditions such access will be given.

Unless stated otherwise in the Implementing arrangements, all territorial border crossings are to be informed to the authorities appointed by the Participants to deal with border crossings with information on the purpose of the crossing; forces allocated and position reports for operational units.

The Implementing arrangements will specify in detail the easy access procedures, activity, forces and material/equipment of the other Participants that will be given easy access to the territory of the Participants covered by the Implementing arrangement.

Provisions regarding expenses may be included in the Implementing arrangements, and unless otherwise agreed each Participant will cover its own expenses derived from activities and projects conducted under this MoU and Implementing arrangements.

### **Section 3**

#### **SECURITY OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

The General Security Agreement on the Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information, dated 7 May 2010 (GSA) will apply to classified information provided or generated under this MoU or Implementing arrangements. Specific rules concerning security of information provided or generated under this MoU may be set out in the Implementing arrangements.

### **Section 4**

#### **DISPUTES**

Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this MoU and the Implementing arrangements will be resolved by negotiations between the Participants and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

### **Section 5**

#### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

This MoU may be amended, modified at any time. Any amendment to this MoU will be made in writing by mutual consent by the Participants and with the exchange of letters.

This MoU may be terminated at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants.

Any of the Participants may withdraw from this MoU by giving at least six (6) months written notice to the other Participants.

All arrangements established as bi- or multilateral Implementing arrangements under this MOU will unless otherwise stated in the respective arrangement, terminate if this MOU is terminated.

This MoU will come into effect on the date of the last signature of the Participants.

## SIGNATURES

Dated: 09.11.2016

### For the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark



---

Mr. Peter Christensen, Minister of Defence

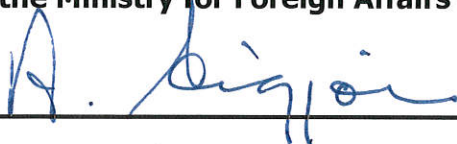
### For the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland



---

Dr. Jussi Niinistö, Minister of Defence

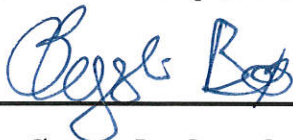
### For the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland



---

Mr. Arnor Sigurjónsson, Director of Security and Defence

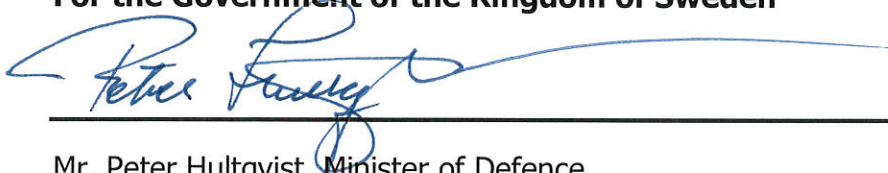
### For the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway



---

Mr. Øystein Bø, State Secretary

### For the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden



---

Mr. Peter Hultqvist, Minister of Defence