



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Danish delegation

To: Council

Subject: - **Danish strategy for measures against piracy 2011-14**
- *Information from the Danish delegation*

On 25 May 2011, the Danish Government launched a strategy for measures against piracy, which will run until 2014.

The overall purpose of the Danish efforts is to contribute to making the waters off the Horn of Africa and in the Indian Ocean safe and navigable for Danish and international shipping. The strategy covers bilateral as well as multilateral political, military, legal and capacity-building measures.

The considerable pirate activities off the coast of Somalia and far into the Indian Ocean have great personal costs for the persons held hostage and their relatives. Also the persons carrying out their work on board the ships passing through the area are affected. In addition, piracy has had a considerable negative impact on global commercial shipping and trade, not least for the African countries that experience decreasing trade and increasing commodity prices. For Denmark piracy is a noticeable problem that must be solved through international cooperation. For several years, Denmark has been engaged in combating the piracy problem through, inter alia, the International Maritime Organization, by dispatching naval forces to NATO's Operation Ocean Shield and the Danish chairmanship of the international legal working group on piracy. The new strategy aims to extend this involvement.

The strategy focuses, inter alia, on Denmark's contribution to:

- furthering international coordination and focus on the combating of piracy as well as strengthening regional and bilateral cooperation on the combating of piracy,
- combating pirates through increased Danish naval and air force activities until 2014, consisting of periodic dispatch of naval forces as well as the dispatch of a maritime surveillance plane for shorter periods of time in consideration of the armed forces' other tasks,
- continuing the Danish international lead as regards the finding of practical solutions to the legal challenges posed by the combating of piracy,
- concluding bilateral transfer agreements on the prosecution of pirates with the countries in the region,
- striving to ensure that the application process in relation to civilian armed guards is arranged in as flexible a manner as possible as well as striving to ensure that guidelines are drawn up internationally on the use of civilian armed guards,
- supporting the follow-up on ships' compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMP),

- contributing to capacity-building so that the countries in the region can themselves meet the challenges in the longer term, including support for the establishment of coast guard functions in the region as well as prison capacity in Somaliland and Puntland,
 - increasing the international efforts made to get at the men behind the pirates, for example through initiatives against money laundering.
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