

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

AND

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

AND

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF

DENMARK

AND

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ICELAND

ON

NORDIC SUPPORTIVE DEFENCE STRUCTURES (NORDSUP)

The Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland, the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, henceforth referred to as “the Participants”,

Respecting the spirit of partnership and cooperation that exists between the Participants, and desiring to develop further mutual relations in the field of defence based on mutual respect, confidence and understanding;

Acknowledging any obligation that may follow from the Participants’ membership in the European Union or NATO;

Considering the Nordic Armaments Cooperation (NORDAC) and the Nordic Coordinated Arrangement for Military Peace Support (NORDCAPS);

Noting that the restructuring of the Participants’ defence structures is an ongoing process with similar challenges, and thereby noting the conclusions of the feasibility study of August 30, 2007, of the Chiefs of Defence of Norway and Sweden;

Wishing to explore further areas and activities that may form the basis for mutually reinforcing defence structures in the future;

Hereby wishing to establish a framework, Nordic Supportive Defence Structures (NORDSUP), for defence cooperation activities within the capability development area;

have reached the following understanding:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide a framework for cooperation between the Participants in the field of capability development based on the principles of mutual interest, equality, reciprocity and sovereignty.

SECTION 2 SCOPE

The Participants will, on the basis of this MoU, identify possible areas for mutually reinforcing structures, while taking into due consideration established Nordic cooperation, such as NORDAC and NORDCAPS.

Detailed arrangements related to specific projects or activities between the Participants will, if required, be laid down in separate Implementing Arrangements. These Implementing Arrangements will be concluded under the auspices of this MoU.

Nothing in this MoU shall imply any obligation for the Participants to commit themselves to participating in certain projects or activities. Unless otherwise agreed, each Participant retains the right to withdraw at any stage from projects and activities conducted under the auspices of this MoU.

This MoU is 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.

SECTION 3 MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

A Steering Committee will be established in order to identify, develop, implement and monitor activities under the auspices of this MoU. The Steering Committee will consist of members from the Ministries of Defence or other relevant bodies of the Participants. The members of the Steering Committee may be assisted by experts.

The Steering Committee may establish expert groups or other working groups for each project or activity included under the auspices of this MoU.

The Steering Committee will agree upon Terms of reference containing procedures for its work.

SECTION 4 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Unless otherwise agreed, each Participant will cover its own expenses derived from defence co-operation projects and activities under the auspices of this MoU.

SECTION 5 SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

Any classified information and material that may be exchanged or generated in connection with this MoU will be used, transmitted, stored, handled and safeguarded in accordance with the provisions of the Nordic Security Agreement (Överenskommelse rörande säkerhetsskyddets utformning inom ramen för avtalet om nordiskt samarbete inom försvarsmaterielområdet/Overenskomst om sikkerhetstiltakenes utforming innenfor rammen av avtalen om nordisk samarbeid på forsvarsmateriellområdet) between Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden of September 1, 1995 and any successor agreement or arrangement.

SECTION 6 STATUS PROVISIONS

The Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces, signed in Brussels on 19 June 1995, with regard to reservations and statements made by States Parties to this Agreement, will, together with its Additional Protocol, apply to projects and activities covered by this MoU or subsequent Implementing Arrangements, and to the status of personnel and dependants of the Sending Party while on the territory of the Receiving Party.

SECTION 7 AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

This MoU may be amended and supplemented at any time by mutual agreements in writing between the Participants. Amendments and supplements will come into effect upon the date of latest signature and will be numbered consecutively.

SECTION 8 DISPUTES

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved through negotiations between the Participants at the lowest level possible, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or other third party for settlement.

**SECTION 9
FINAL PROVISIONS**

This MoU will come into effect upon the date of its signature by the Participants.

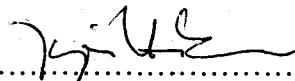
This MoU will remain in effect for an indefinite period of time.

Each Participant may terminate this MoU giving 12 months notice in writing of its intention to withdraw. Alternatively, the Participants may mutually consent to the termination of this MoU at any time.

If the MoU is terminated, the Participants will initiate negotiations to settle all outstanding mutual financial obligations, claims, disputes and security issues in accordance with this MoU. All classified information exchanged or generated under this MoU will continue to be protected in the event of termination.

Done on Bornholm, on 11 November 2008, in five originals, drawn up in the English language, one for each Participant.

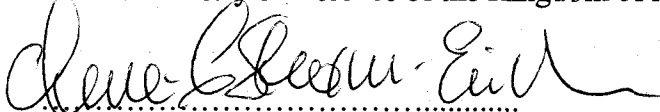
For the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland



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Jyri Häkämies
Minister of Defence

For the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway



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Anne-Grete Strøm-Erichsen
Minister of Defence

For the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden



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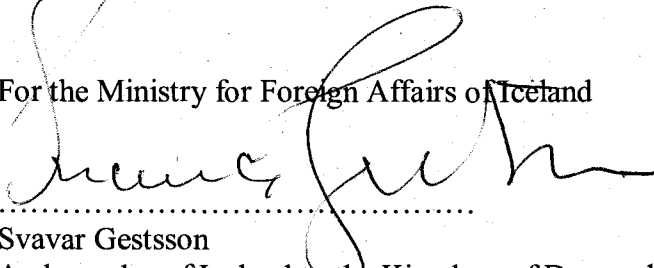
Sten Tolgfors
Minister for Defence

For the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark



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Søren Gade
Minister for Defence

For the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland



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Svavar Gestsson
Ambassador of Iceland to the Kingdom of Denmark