



Background note: A strong Europe in a changing world: The course set by the Danish Presidency

Priorities of the Danish Presidency

On 19 June 2025, under the title A Strong Europe in a Changing World, the Danish Presidency launched its programme for its incumbency during the second half of 2025.¹ The programme stands on two pillars: A secure Europe and a green and competitive Europe.

A Secure Europe

The Danish Presidency highlights that the defence of Ukraine against Russia's war of aggression is a defence of all of Europe. The EU must lend political, economic, civil and military support to Ukraine while simultaneously preparing to take responsibility for its own security by 2030. This also means that Europe must boost its resilience, robustness and deterrence against complex and hybrid threats. The EU must also increase its global influence through comprehensive partnerships with third countries.

Current geopolitical developments underline the need for an enlargement of the EU on the basis of a merit-based approach. However, the EU's enlargement also requires that internal reforms be carried out within the EU and that efforts be made to ensure the EU's fundamental values are preserved and upheld.

At the same time, the security agenda also requires the development of new and innovative solutions with a view to controlling irregular migration and reducing the number of arrivals. The EU must also bolster its democratic resilience through means such as greater digital literacy and by regulating large tech corporations, among other things.

Finally, the EU must also strengthen its economic security, among other things, by acquiring a better understanding of the risks it faces in relation to critical infrastructure, dependencies, supply chains, technological security and data leaks, and how these can be managed.

¹ <https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme-for-the-danish-eu-presidency/programme-of-the-danish-eu-presidency/>



A Green and Competitive Europe

The Danish Presidency recognises that growing levels of global competition are putting more and more pressure on the EU, and highlights the need for both joint and national measures aimed at improving the EU's competitiveness. Against this backdrop, the Presidency will prioritise work with the EU's upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and simplification agenda, including the Commission's omnibus proposal. In parallel, the internal market must also be strengthened, innovation must be promoted, and a savings and investment union must be developed. Free and fair mobility, decent working conditions, and safe and healthy working environments, meanwhile, must help ensure that the jobs of the future are created in Europe. In order to promote the EU's competitiveness, sound public economic policies and reforms will also be key.

In the area of trade policy, it is crucial that the EU retain an open approach to trade policy as this will contribute to the diversification of the EU's supply chains. More free-trade agreements must be concluded and the rules-based international trading system under the WTO must be promoted. At the same time, however, the EU must also protect its interests against unfair trading practices, dumping and economic pressure.

The level of ambition around the green transition must be upheld in a way that also strengthens the EU's competitiveness and security of supply, and which can ensure Europe's independence from Russian energy. The EU must ensure that its transition to climate neutrality by 2050 goes ahead successfully. Access to clean and cheap energy will help to boost the EU's competitiveness.