



CMS DEFENCE CONFERENCE 2025: DETERRENCE, STRATEGY, AND DANISH DEFENCE

It is turbulent and uncertain times for Europe and Denmark. At the NATO summit in June, allies agreed to commit to major new defence investments over the course of the next decade. Nonetheless, there is little clarity about the future US role in the alliance. Meanwhile, the logics and dilemmas of war and deterrence become more prevalent for decision-makers and the public – also in Denmark. The war in Ukraine has made the need for defence innovation and defence industrial capacity evident. Speed and decisiveness are now key tenets in Danish security and defence policy. It is difficult to act fast while ensuring a strategic perspective on the various challenges.

CMS Defence Conference 2025 discusses the most important topics in Danish security and defence policy, focusing on Denmark's alliances, defence technology, defence industry, and the strategic direction for Danish defence. The conference is by invitation only. Participants are key decision-makers, officials, stakeholders, researchers, opinion leaders, and members of the press – all working with and within Danish security and defence, broadly construed.

Time: Wednesday 3 December 2025, 08.30-16.30 incl. reception

Place: Ingeniørernes Hus, Kalvebod Brygge 31-33, 1780 Copenhagen V

PROGRAMME:

08.30-09.15 Arrival, registration, and coffee

09.15-09.30 Welcome and introductory remarks, CMS Director Katja Lindskov Jacobsen, Centre for Military Studies (*in Danish*)

09.30-10.00 Keynote with Tobias Elling Rehfeld, Defence Policy Director, Ministry of Defence (*in Danish*)

10.00-11.15 Panel 1: Strategi for dansk forsvar (*in Danish*)

Danmarks forsvars- og sikkerhedspolitik er i hastig forandring. Der træffes store politiske beslutninger, området tilføres enorme investeringer, og der arbejdes på at sikre både mandskab, kapaciteter og infrastruktur til et stærkere forsvar. Alt dette sker i lyset af et forværret trusselsbillede og usikkerhed om de transatlantiske allianceforsvar. Men hvad er strategien for dansk forsvar? Og kan den strategiske tænkning bedre understøtte udviklingen af forsvaret? Dette panel undersøger udfordringerne ved og mulighederne for at styrke det strategiske grundlag for dansk forsvars- og sikkerhedspolitik.

Panelists:

- Anne H. Steffensen, Danish Shipping
- Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen, Department of Political Science, UCPH
- Charlotte Flindt Pedersen, The Danish Foreign Policy Society
- Peter Viggo Jakobsen, Royal Danish Defence College

Moderator: Lise Wiederholt Christensen, Centre for Military Studies, UCPH

11.15-12.00 Lunch

12.00-13.30 Panel 2: Forsvarsteknologi og forsvarsindustri i en ufredelig tid (*in Danish*)

Krigen i Ukraine har tydeliggjort en tosidet grundpræmis for udviklingen af europæisk og dansk forsvar. På den ene side er en stærk forsvarsindustri og evnen til hurtigt at producere mange militære kapaciteter nu afgørende. På den anden side er en række forsvarsteknologier i rivende udvikling, og man risikerer at blive sat, hvis man ikke positionerer sig i det teknologiske kapløb. For småstaten Danmark skaber det svære afvejninger om investeringsbeslutninger, teknologisk og industriel autonomi, beskyttelsen af infrastruktur og internationalt samarbejde. Dette panel undersøger de teknologiske og industrielle dilemmaer i dansk forsvars- og sikkerhedspolitik – og spørger, hvad Danmark bør gøre for at håndtere dem.

Panelists:

- Kim Jesper Jørgensen, The Danish Ministry of Defence Acquisition and Logistics Organisation
- Line Sinding Skött, Microsoft
- Jakob Rousøe, Terma
- Karoline Fristed Binger, Ministry of Defence

Moderator: Tobias Liebetrau, Centre for Military Studies, UCPH

13.30-14.00 Coffee break

14.00-15.30 Panel 3: NATO, Europe, and Danish security and defence (*in English*)

NATO is transforming its deterrence and defence posture in Europe – with implications for all allies. New challenges and opportunities are emerging in relation to defence planning, security guarantees, capability development and acquisition, host nation support, diplomatic relationships, and more. Meanwhile, the uncertainties about the trajectory of US foreign and security policy raise questions about the future of the alliance – and thus the fundamental security environment for European allies. This panel offers international perspectives on the emerging transatlantic security landscape and examines what the new situation entails for European and Danish security and defence.

Panelists:

- François-Marie Gougeon, NATO HQ
- Benedetta Berti, NATO Parliamentary Assembly
- Stephen Covington, SHAPE NATO
- Rachel Ellehuus, RUSI
- Michael Zilmer-Johns, formerly Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Moderator: Niels Byrjalsen, Centre for Military Studies, UCPH

15.30-16.30 Reception