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Strengthening our common security: The Danish Battalion in Latvia

In August 2024, the Danish combat battalion arrived in Latvia as part of NATO's military presence on NATO's Eastern Flank. 850 soldiers deployed from Denmark with the mission of contributing to NATO's deterrence and defence, demonstrating NATO's unity and, together with the Armed Forces of Latvia and other Allied troops, safeguarding the defence and sovereignty of Latvia.

As the Danish Battalion, which is part of the Canadian led Multinational Brigade Latvia, concludes its tour, Denmark maintains a significant presence in Latvia, serving as a framework nation of NATO's Multinational Division North. The Danish Battalion is scheduled to return to Latvia in the autumn of 2025, continuing this important mission.

As the Danish Ambassador to Latvia, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Latvian people, the Latvian Armed Forces, the Government of Latvia and to the NATO allies who have worked alongside Denmark during this deployment. Latvia has been an exceptional host, and the Danish Battalion has been proud to contribute to the security of Latvia.

During its deployment in Latvia, the Danish battalion has enhanced its operational capabilities, strengthened interoperability with Allied armed forces and contributed to NATO's deterrence. The battalion actively participated in important exercises as Silver Arrow, Namejs and Resolute Warrior, showing Allied forces' ability to respond immediately to any threat. A number of the soldiers also participated in the military parade 18 November in Riga. An impressive display of Latvia's military capabilities and determination to defend itself, but also a testament to the Latvian people's steadfast support to their Armed Forces and NATO Allies.

The return of the Danish Battalion to Denmark does not mark an end but rather reaffirms our shared commitment to regional security. Denmark remains steadfast in its support for Latvia and the Baltic region. We will continue to contribute to NATO's deterrence and defense measures, ensuring that peace and stability prevail in our shared neighborhood.

Together, Denmark and Latvia share a profound commitment to the principles of international law, democracy and sovereign states' rights to self-determination and territorial integrity. Through our defense cooperation, we have demonstrated the power of unity and the strength of our collective defense.

As the Danish Battalion has returned home, the ties between Denmark and Latvia remain stronger than ever. As Russia continues its illegal invasion of Ukraine, and pursues its imperialistic ambitions, the demonstration of strength, deterrence, solidarity and unity is more necessary than ever. Let this chapter serve as a reminder that, in the face of challenges, our alliance stands resolute. Together, we are stronger, safer, and more secure.