

**LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN THE DEFENCE MINISTERS OF DENMARK,
ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JOINT
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

The Strategic Framework

1. Considering decades of cooperation our nations and our commitment to collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security, and;
2. Considering the NATO Connected Forces Initiative, and the utility of the Framework Nation concept in developing operational capabilities that are available to rapidly respond to developing crises, and;
3. Considering our shared experiences of deploying flexible and ready forces on operations, the participating nations express their intention to develop the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) to enhance our strategic response.

Intention for the Joint Expeditionary Force

4. The intention of participating nations is to establish the JEF with full operating capability by 2018. The JEF will be a rapidly deployable force capable of conducting the full spectrum of operations, including humanitarian assistance, conventional deterrence and war-fighting.
5. The JEF will incorporate a UK framework headquarters, including personnel from participating nations, and force elements to which JEF participating nations may assign headquarters elements, force elements, and support functions.
6. The JEF will operate to NATO doctrine and standards. JEF capabilities, interoperability, and readiness will be developed by using high-profile multilateral and bilateral exercise programmes.
7. The JEF will be available for UN, NATO, CSDP, or other operations to which nations wish to commit forces. The operational composition of the JEF will be determined by the nature of the tasks and missions it is required to undertake and the availability of units and capabilities from the JEF participating nations. The assignment of forces to the JEF will remain a national decision.

Arrangements for the development of the JEF

8. By signing this Letter of Intent, Defence Ministers from the participating nations are directing the establishment of a JEF Development Board to oversee policy and objectives, capability development, exercises, and validation of full operating capability.

9. It is intended that Defence Ministers from participating nations will sign a JEF Foundation Memorandum of Understanding prior to the declaration of full operating capability.
10. The purpose of the JEF is to permit the efficient deployment of existing and emerging military capabilities and units. Participation does not require the development of additional capabilities and units.

Signed in seven copies on 4 September 2014.

| | |
|--|--|
| The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom Denmark | |
| The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Estonia | |
| The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Latvia | |
| The Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania | |
| The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands | |
| The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway | |
| Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |