

Nordefco 2023: Swedish priorities

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Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the most extensive military aggression in Europe since the Second World War. Russia's actions are a flagrant violation of international law and the European security order. The negative effects for European and international security are far-reaching.

In this new security environment, Finland and Sweden have applied for NATO membership and Denmark has abolished its opt-out from the EU defence cooperation. These decisions will have a profound impact on the prerequisites for future Nordic defence cooperation and open new possibilities for deepened operational cooperation.

Enhanced Nordic defence cooperation in a new security context

In line with the guidance from the November 2022 NORDEFECO ministerial meeting, a new vision for enhanced and stronger Nordic defence cooperation will be developed in 2023.

Furthermore, closer coordination of the drafting of national defence white books and long-term plans will be promoted.

Support to Ukraine

The Nordic countries are committed to support Ukraine politically and financially as well as with military training and equipment. Where applicable, the Nordic countries will coordinate their support to Ukraine aiming to identify possibilities to join efforts for greater effect.

Nordic-Baltic Cooperation

Seeking to address common interests and challenges the Nordic and Baltic countries will continue and strengthen cooperation at all relevant levels.

Operational Cooperation

Aiming to enhance the capability to conduct combined or coordinated military operations, relevant parts of the Nordic trilateral forums of cooperation will be merged with NORDEFECO. Furthermore, the scope for common operations planning will be considered for areas of mutual interest.



Capability Cooperation

Nordic capability cooperation will adapt to the new security context by:

- Promoting Nordic defence capability cooperation in relation to NATO processes such as the NDPP.
- Reviewing ongoing capability formats and projects in NORDEFECO.
- Promoting work to improve the capability to receive and move military units and formations within our region. This will build upon and complement ongoing work on improving military mobility.

Training and Exercises

Develop a Nordic approach to the inclusion of third parties in exercises.

Armaments Cooperation

Measures for more proactive and increased Nordic armaments cooperation will be reviewed and addressed. The review will include areas such as Security of Supply, Rapid Procurement and Identification of Common Procurement Opportunities. To identify common Nordic projects, the strategic and forward-screening efforts initiated in 2022 will continue in 2023.