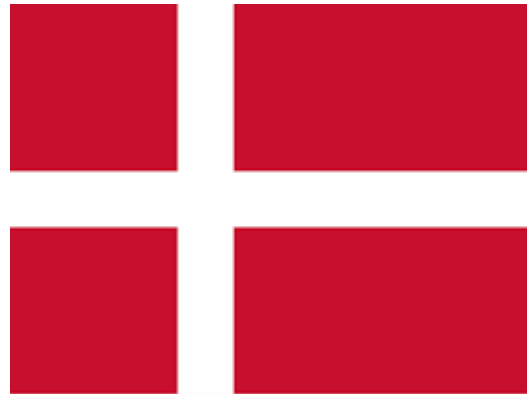


Committee: European Parliament - Foreign
affairs (AFET)
Delegation: Kingdom of Denmark



Topic one: Enlargement of the European Union - Yes, No and How?

The Kingdom of Denmark has been a member of the European Union since 1 January 1973 and is holding the Council presidency (from July to December 2025), under the slogan “A strong Europe in a changing world”. Denmark greatly benefits from the advantages that the EU offers to all Member States, for example being part of the Single Market. During Danish Presidencies lots of important changes have been made in the European Union. The Copenhagen Criteria from 1993 and a major expansion of the EU towards the east in 2002. Denmark launched for its presidency a program on 19 June, in which it stressed the importance of a further enlargement of the EU as a geopolitical necessity. Both the government’s and the people’s opinion is that the enlargement of the EU is something positive, almost necessary, that will have a positive impact on Denmark and other countries. Based on a recent Eurobarometer survey, 81% of Danes are in favor of Ukraine joining the EU. Denmark displays the highest level of the population’s knowledge regarding the enlargement of the EU (56%).

Multiple studies have been conducted regarding peoples’ way of perceiving the EU and the benefits of the EU enlargement. EU enlargement would pave the way for a stronger EU’s influence around the world. The highest share for this benefit is found in Denmark with 56%; in Denmark it (the enlargement of the EU) would improve defence against foreign influence by 55%, a positive impact on the solidarity between Member States reached just a 34% of agreement in Denmark.

Not everyone agrees that the enlargement of the EU is a positive thing; the Danish Peoples’ Party’s lead candidate Anders Vistisen believes that admitting new countries to the EU can be dangerous, he stated “ If Ukraine becomes a member of the EU, it will mean more Eastern crime, more social dumping, more welfare tourism. For Denmark alone, the

economic cost will be 26 billion in each budget period, which corresponds to 5-6 of the so-called super hospitals..”¹

The European Union should prioritise the accessions of Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans where progress is being actively made. During this presidency Denmark puts great importance on the need for Ukraine to join the EU; it seeks to ensure the EU’s political, economic, civilian and military support to Ukraine. Denmark has stood by Ukraine’s side since the beginning of the conflict, also by helping Ukraine financially and believes that a great way to help Ukraine would be for it to join the EU. Denmark will keep supporting Ukraine's democratic and institutional reform process required for the country’s accession to the EU. The aim of the Danish presidency in helping Ukraine, also by encouraging the sending of military aid from the EU’s Member States, is to improve Ukraine’s defences in a long term way, that will help the country’s accession to the EU. The Minister for European Affairs Marie Bjerre visited Ukraine on 1-2 October to show support to Ukraine and discuss the country’s following steps in fighting against corruption. Marie Bjerre stated “With this visit, we are sending a clear signal that Ukraine's future is European. Ukraine has implemented impressive reforms in the midst of war. It deserves both recognition and support. Our common security depends on Ukraine succeeding – and on the EU living up to its promise,”².

The Danish presidency is not backed by all Members and therefore cannot proceed in advancing the accession of Ukraine, Moldova and the western Balkans. The major problem on this matter is Hungary’s veto on Ukraine’s EU accession negotiations, therefore the presidency will be working on the Article 7 procedure against Hungary. The Danish Ambassador Carsten Grønbech-Jensen stated that it is Denmark’s goal to make progress with both Ukraine and Moldova simultaneously. The process of enlargement of the EU needs to be sped up. The Danish Presidency also plans to review the “Copenhagen criteria” and implement the necessary reforms, as there are adjustments needed in all four areas of criteria: political, economical, administrative and institutional. If it takes too long for candidates to be accepted into the EU, they might turn to others for help, even to

¹ Anders Vistisen url: [Report of proceedings - The need for the EU's unwavering support for Ukraine after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine \(debate\) - Tuesday, 6 February 2024](#)^v

² Marie Bjerre

https://via.ritzau.dk/pressemeddelelse/14610395/europaminister-marie-bjerre-har-besogt-ukraine-sammen-med-eus-udvidelseskommisssaer-marta-kos?lang=da&publisherId=2012662&utm_source=chatgpt.com

Russia or to China. A small step towards not making candidates lose interest is the gradual integration, in the case of Ukraine, projects like Erasmus have already been offered. The Danish Presidency wants to offer Ukraine cheap EU roaming and help in improving education, giving people opportunities for a better education. The goal of these gradual steps is to make the candidate countries familiar with the benefits and obligations that the EU membership offers.

According to the Danish Chamber of Commerce, the enlargement of the EU positively impacted the Danish Economy. For example, last year, in Denmark 70.000 full-time jobs were filled by citizens from countries that are part of the EU. In 2019, the Danish GDP increased by 47 million thanks to the people from other countries of the EU working in Denmark.

The enlargement of the EU, greatly supported by Denmark, should be merit-based; the progress of a country should be based on each countries' own efforts and progress.

The Danish Presidency of the EU will also keep on ensuring that candidate countries keep on aligning with the requirements. It is important that member countries live-up to the standards required for candidate countries, especially those regarding the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law and freedom. Denmark supports the involvement of local and regional authorities; effective local and regional self-government and democracy are after all essential for candidate countries. In the Western Balkans, the local governance systems are often taken over by influential individuals or groups. With enlargement being so important, the EU has to be ready to welcome new member states. Denmark puts great importance to the security of the EU, for example curbing irregular migration, reinforcing external borders, upholding the values that are the very core of the EU and reducing risks to the economy; helping EU candidates achieve the requested standards economically is an investment to be made carefully. In April 2025 the EU, Denmark, Sweden and Lithuania launched an EU Integration Support Programme for Ukraine - Ukraine2EU, with a total contribution of €16.7 million.

Denmark believes that changes need to be made within the EU, especially in the criteria and the too long application process. More focus needs to be given to what the candidate countries have already done and be awarded with certain benefits so that they do not lose interest in joining the EU. The enlargement of the EU is something necessary that will have a positive impact on the EU's economy and influence

[What the Danish presidency is planning for EU enlargement](#)

[What's at stake for the EU enlargement process in 2025](#)

[Denmark stresses enlargement and support for Ukraine in programme for upcoming Presidency - EU NEIGHBOURS east](#)

[Sandu calls on EU to 'get creative' in speeding up process for Moldova to join bloc | Euronews](#)

[Denmark vows 'maximum pressure' on Hungary to lift veto on Ukraine's EU bid | Euronews](#)

[Minister for European Affairs Marie Bjerre has visited Ukraine together with EU](#)

[Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos | Foreign ministry](#)

[Denmark backs simultaneous EU accession for Ukraine and Moldova | European Pravda](#)

[SEM - Denmark's Presidency of the EU Council: July-December 2025](#)

[The EU in today's newspapers Wednesday 3 September 2025 - Representation in Denmark](#)

[Denmark takes over EU Presidency with a focus on Security, Migration and Enlargement | commonspace.eu](#)

[Eastward expansion is a success for Denmark](#)

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[EU enlargement](#)

[EU Ministers for European Affairs emphasize the importance of EU enlargement and adherence to EU values](#)

https://www.avisen.dk/flertal-af-danske-eu-parlamentarikere-vil-udvide-eu_763542.aspx?utm

[EU enlargement faces challenges in terms of local governance and democracy | European Committee of the Regions](#)

["The European Union, Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden launch €16.7 million project 'Ukraine2EU' to support Ukraine's path to EU Accession and strengthen its integration efforts" | EEAS](#)

Topic two: The role of the European Union in the governance of Antarctica

Denmark acceded to the Antarctic Treaty on 5 May 1965. The Treaty is an international agreement that regulates the conditions of the South Polar region. Only 27 out of 54 countries have the right to decision making; Denmark does not have advisory status. The treaty safeguards the area and prohibits any military activities. In 1961, the Antarctic Treaty became the Antarctic Treaty system, with this specific regulations and protocols were introduced, for example the 1991 Antarctic Environmental Protocol. Denmark strongly supports the fundamental principles of the ATS. The Antarctic should stay a natural reserve where science research is conducted and peace reigns.

The Kingdom of Denmark comprises two autonomous constituent countries in the Atlantic, neither of which are EU members: the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Greenland has some agreements with the EU, for example, the Fisheries Agreement, it receives support under the current multiannual financial framework, and from the European Investment Bank and EU programmes. The European Council President António Costa said that “Preserving the territorial integrity in the Kingdom of Denmark, its sovereignty and inviolability of its borders is essential for all Member States. The European Union fully supports the Kingdom of Denmark” Greenland is important when speaking of Antarctica as the deterioration of the ice sheets in Antarctica is very similar to that seen in the beginning of the melting of Greenland. Even a study has been published, called “The Greenlandification of Antarctica”.

Denmark has greater interest towards the Arctic, rather than the Antarctic, because of Greenland. Denmark views the collaboration with the EU in the Arctic as a collaboration against climate change, and would benefit from EU polar research funds. Funds such as Horizon Europe enable Danish polar scientists to conduct research and collaborative international expeditions that would be impossible for Denmark to fund on its own. Denmark is involved in the Antarctic System Treaty, but does not operate a permanent Antarctic research station. There are many scientists and institutions working in the Antarctic, for example the Danish Meteorological Institute, the Technical University of Denmark and the Niels Bohr Institute. Denmark is especially researching science, environmental protection (crucial for Greenland) and upholding the current international government system in the Antarctic. Some of the main topics of research are: the ice sheet and climate change, the ozone and sea ice monitoring, the ice core projects (a project with the goal to retrieve the world’s oldest ice cores to study past climate) and marine biology pollution. The Beyond EPICA-Oldest Ice project has already retrieved a 2800m long ice core

from Antarctica. Danish scientists are very active in researching the Southern Ocean's ecosystem (pollution studies, marine biology, environmental DNA (eDNA)).

The Madrid Protocol's prohibition on mineral resource activities is reviewable in 2048; Denmark supports making the ban permanent.

One of the initiatives that Denmark greatly supports is the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Ocean. It fully supports the EU's and its Member States' efforts in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

CCAMLR's goal is to designate large-scale Marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean.

Denmark has no need to protect the Kingdom's sovereignty in the Antarctic, as it has none (unlike in the Arctic).

The Antarctic is an area of peace, scientific research and collaboration, and it needs to stay as such. The negative impacts of the human presence in Antarctica need to be limited, as well as measures have to be taken in order to minimise global warming which causes the melting of glaciers both in Antarctica as well as in Greenland.

Title of Study

[Antarctica: What role for the European Union? | Think Tank | European Parliament](#)

[Antarctic Treaty - Lex](#)

[The South Pole Lies in Greenland's Melting Tracks | DMI](#)

[Denmark continues its efforts to improve the marine environment by designating strictly protected areas - Ministry of the Environment and Gender Equality](#)

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[Denmark's Marine Protected Areas Assessed According to IUCN's International Definition - NaturTanken](#)

<https://um.dk/en/foreign-policy/the-arctic>

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https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-arctic_en

<https://documents.ats.aq/>

Sites were found through Chatgpt and Gemini.