copenhagen geopolitics

Fonden Kraka

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New think tank: “Denmark can become a geopolitical frontrunner”

Global threats are putting pressure on Denmark’s freedom of action. Fonden Kraka is establishing Copenhagen Geopolitics as an independent security and defence policy think tank. Led by Lars Findsen, the think tank will help to make the Kingdom of Denmark resilient in a new and more unpredictable global reality.

As we enter 2027, Denmark faces some of the greatest challenges and risks since the Second World War. A new world order is emerging, in which great-power rivalry, war and decisive elections in Europe, climate deterioration and disinformation affect our security and the very foundations of our democracy. At the same time, the technology race and artificial intelligence will challenge us – but will also expand our opportunities to create value, make decisions and develop our society.

These conditions affect and reinforce one another, and increasingly form a single, interconnected strategic reality that raises fundamental questions for the Kingdom of Denmark.

Who decides our future? What, in reality, are our most fundamental interests? What is our real room for manoeuvre, and how do we preserve our freedom of action? Which strengths and opportunities can we bring to bear? And which choices must we make now – so that in five and ten years’ time we can still shape our own future?

These are the questions the new think tank will help to answer.

Copenhagen Geopolitics has been established within Fonden Kraka, with Lars Findsen as Director. He is a former Permanent Secretary of the Danish Ministry of Defence and former head of both the Danish Defence Intelligence Service and the Danish Security and Intelligence Service.

> *"Of course, we need to understand what is changing. But we must also be clear about what we ourselves want, and where we can make a difference – for ourselves, for our interests and for the world. We are a small democratic state with an open economy that has made us prosperous. We must therefore constantly prioritise, but also balance our relations with the wider world, so that we do not lose sight of our own interests. This is about preserving our freedom of action and our democratic cohesion, and thereby securing our ability to shape our own future,"* ***says Lars Findsen.***

Denmark has strong research institutions and expert communities that provide knowledge on international affairs, security and defence. As an independent think tank – combining a strong professional environment with in-depth experience of political decision-making – Copenhagen Geopolitics will strengthen that work. Together, we can make Denmark a geopolitical frontrunner.

The core task of Copenhagen Geopolitics will therefore be to help set a strategic direction for Denmark and to ensure that policymakers and businesses have the best possible basis for their decisions. At the same time, the new world order calls for the public to be continuously involved in a stronger public conversation, so that Denmark can maintain its democratic cohesion. Copenhagen Geopolitics will contribute to that conversation.

The think tank is still being built, but Copenhagen Geopolitics has already surrounded itself with a circle of researchers, experts, former politicians and civil servants who, with their expertise and experience, can contribute ideas and support our analysis. In this context, Copenhagen Geopolitics has entered into a close partnership with the research network Navigating 360, founded by Erik Rasmussen, former editor-in-chief of Børsen and founder of Mandag Morgen. Navigating 360 brings together a group of leading researchers in areas that are central to the Kingdom's future.

As one of its first steps, the think tank will devote 2027 to exploring why a small state of 6 million inhabitants may be among the best placed to adapt to the greatest global challenges – and how we can use these strengths to make the Kingdom of Denmark a geopolitical frontrunner.

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