BEREDSKABS STYRELSEN

Technisches Hilfswerk

Status: 5th December 2025

Joint Declaration of Intent

on bilateral cooperation

between

the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)

and

the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)

hereinafter jointly referred to as the "sides"

Introduction

Guided by the idea of contributing to the friendly relations between the two countries and further developing their bilateral cooperation, and aware that civil protection and disaster risk reduction serve the welfare and safety of the people in both countries, and with the intention of strengthening cooperation in the fields of activities of mutual interest within the scope of the respective competences of the sides and thus increasing the resilience of the population to disasters, it is the desire of both sides to work together.

Background

As mentioned in the Joint Action Plan for future German-Danish cooperation an even closer bilateral relations between Germany and Denmark are a shared priority. The countries are neighbours, allies and partners in the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the United Nations (UN) and numerous other international forums such as the "International Humanitarian Partnership" (IHP).

The citizens are closely connected, not least in our shared border region, through cultural and historical ties that are supported by extensive contacts in everyday life.

Denmark and Germany are committed to a rules-based international order and are convinced that a multilateral approach is of great value in tackling the challenges of our time. The countries want to promote the cross-border exchange of ideas and best practices between our societies, economies and citizens.

This Joint Declaration of Intent is mainly based on article 2 in the 'Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Denmark on Mutual Assistance in the Event of Disasters and Major Accidents of 16 October 1985. It aims to strengthen mutual assistance in disaster relief matters acknowledging the meanwhile implemented European Civil Protection Mechanism and promotes a forward-looking approach with regard to a more common daily cross-border emergency response where and when it is beneficial for the people in need.

It does not constitute a treaty under international law, nor create any rights and obligations under international law, or affect the rights and obligations of the sides under bilateral or multinational treaties and agreements.

The cooperation of the sides under this Joint Declaration of Intent is subject to the laws and regulations of their respective countries and is subject to available resources.

Sides of the declaration

Danish Emergency Management Agency (Beredskabsstyrelsen)

DEMA assists local fire- and rescue agencies or other authorities during larger emergencies or when there is a need for special expertise or equipment.

DEMAs responsibilities are regulated by the Emergency Management Act of Consolidated Act No. 314 of 3 April 2017 (Danish: Beredskabsloven). DEMA is permitted to enter agreements of cooperation with state and regional foreign rescue services in the border areas in regards to mutual assistance in the event of accidents, as stated in the Emergency Management Act, Section 3, Subsection 3.

German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk - THW)

The German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) is a federal institution without legal capacity which has its own administrative substructure and which belongs to the area of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

THWs responsibilities are regulated by federal law in the "Law about the Federal Agency of Technical Relief" (German: Gesetz über das Technische Hilfswerk, THWG).

Based on this law THW assists local fire- and rescue agencies or other authorities during larger emergencies or when there is a need for special expertise or equipment at home and abroad.

Purpose and content of the declaration

The purpose of this Joint Declaration is to strengthen and further develop co-operation and mutual assistance in the field of civil protection and disaster management in case of disasters and large accidents. It is also striving to support integrated territorial cross-border strategies aiming at a more united, inclusive, effective and resilient Europe.

Areas and scope of cooperation

The sides agree that their cooperation aims to cover all areas related to the prevention, preparation, and management of natural disasters, as well as civil protection that fall in their respective competences. This may include within means and capabilities:

- The exchange of information, experiences and best practices
- The exchange of experience, expertise, and best operational practices through joint exercises and training as well as exchange of liaison persons and other specialized personnel in particular within the border areas;
- Invitations to conferences, workshops, training courses, and other events, in civil protection and disaster management;
- The planning of exercises of joint capacities, e.g. High Capacity Pumping

- The mutual introduction and exchange of documents on alerting and response procedures as well as exercises to strengthen cross-border interoperability
- The cooperation between the relevant youth programmes
- Mutual assistance of joint projects in the field of science and research

The specific measures on the topics mentioned above will be regularly developed by both sides in a multi-year working program.

Costs

Each side will bear its own costs arising from the cooperation, unless expressly agreed otherwise.

When financing joint activities, both sides will seek to use appropriate programmes such as the EU "Exchange of Experts" programme or comparable ones.

In the case of training courses and exercises, the inviting side will bear the costs of accommodation and catering for the participants of the invited side within the scope of its budgetary possibilities.

In case of operational support, the requesting side will cover costs for consumables as well as accommodation and catering.

Procedures for alerting and requesting support

Both sides intend to exchange information with regard to availability, organizational structure and other documents of relevance to the scope of cooperation (laws, regulations, etc.)

The sides are willing to share and maintain following documents:

- Lists of available capacities that can be alerted to support in the border area;
- Common documents on requesting, alerting and dispatching procedures (24/7) under urgency;
- A list of focal points for training cooperation and the organization of joint exercises. Any request for training cooperation or a joint exercise will be communicated as far in advance as possible.

Duty of Care

For personnel, both experts and teams, the sending side will - in accordance with the regulations of its country - make appropriate arrangements regarding consequences of accidents, illness and death for the duration of the assignment on the receiving side.

The receiving side will organize the necessary initial medical care.

Liability for damages

During operational emergency support, the requesting side covers compensation for damage caused by personnel from supporting side.

During exercises and training national regulations for liability for damages applies. The host side will offer support to the responding side in dealing with the legal consequences.

Intellectual property

For new intellectual property that arises within the framework of cooperation established by this Joint Declaration of Intent and worthy of protection, both sides are prepared to make special arrangements in this regard.

Confidentiality

Confidential information which arises in the course of the joint co-operation or which the other side receives for use will neither be published nor passed on or made accessible to third sides, whereby the relevant statutory provisions of both sides will of course be observed.

Transitional and final provisions

This Joint Declaration of Intent will come into effect on the date of signature.

It may be amended or supplemented at any time by mutual agreement. Amendments and additions should be made in the form of consecutively

numbered addenda, which will become an integral part of this Joint Declaration of Intent.

Either side may terminate the co-operation under this Joint Declaration of Intent at any time and without cause. It should notify the other side in writing, if possible three months in advance.

The sides will endeavor to hold a meeting as soon as possible after receipt of the letter of termination by the recipient in order to decide on the conclusion and/or follow-up measures. Obligations to third sides based on contracts and other joint declarations of intent will remain unaffected.

This Joint Declaration of Intent was signed in two copies in English.

Harrislee, 10th December 2025

for

Danish Emergency Management Agency

Jacob S. Deleuran

Head of National Operations

for

German Federal Agency for Technical Relief

Sören Ollhoff

State Commissioner for Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein

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WORK PROGRAMME

Danish Emergency Management Agency and Federal Agency for Technical Relief for 2026 - 2028

With reference to the Joint Declaration of Intent of 10th December 2025 on cooperation between the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) the following specialist topics, measures and priorities have been identified for cooperation in the period from 1st January 2026 to 31th December 2028:

- Regular exchange of information, experience; best practices
- Regular exchange and updates on the alerting management of the sides
- Regular exchange of available capacities (especially for quick cross border assistance)
- Subject-specific information sessions and training measures;
- Mutual support for the further development of training institutions on both sides;
- Mutual visits to operations and projects to deepen practical experience;
- Joint exercises
- Joint emergency operations and exchange of liaison persons
- Joint projects in the field of science and research

In order to deepen cooperation in disaster and civil protection, both sides seek to implement the following concrete measures and topics in the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028:

- Exchange of Experts on various levels
- Command support and communication during cross-border operations and exercises;
- Mutual introduction of alerting and response procedures with the aim to develop efficient and resilient cross-border interoperability.
- Continuation of training of liaison officers from THW and DEMA
- Exchange of experience on the subject of technical and biological location as well as recovery of persons and property

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- Continuation of joint training in the field of urban search and rescue techniques deemed appropriate
- Exchange of experience on the subject of support and bracing of objects (stabilization of the rubble of collapsed buildings and their classification);
- Planning and realization of a joint exercise
- Cooperation of special units for pumping modules within the cross-border regions
- Mutual invitations to trainings and exercises in the cross-border regions

Harrislee (DEU), 10th December 2025

Jacob S. Deleuran

for

Danish Emergency Management Agency

Sören Ollhoff

for

German Federal Agency for Technical Relief