

# News from The Kingdom of Denmark

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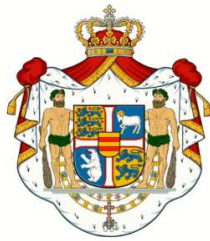
To Niels Møller Jensen <nielscmj@gmail.com>

Date Sunday, November 2nd, 2025 at 1:02 PM

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## News from Denmark

October, 2025



### The Royal Court

The royal couple has been on an official two-day state visit to Latvia, where they, in addition to experiencing Latvian culture and history, also met some of the Danish soldiers serving in the NATO brigade in Latvia. The visit was the first of three planned state visits to the Baltic countries. There are special relations between Denmark and the Baltics. We are small countries that share values and also share the challenges that come with being small countries. The Baltic countries border Russia, so there is great symbolic value in the Danish royal couple visiting Latvia and thus showing that there is cohesion across the Baltic Sea.

The program for the state visit included, among other things, a visit and wreath-laying at the Freedom Monument, which was erected in 1935 in honor of the Latvian War of Independence from 1918-1920. Since then, the monument has become a symbol of the Latvian people's broader aspiration for freedom and independence.

The royal couple also visited the Occupation Museum, which depicts the history of Latvia under the Soviet and German regimes from 1940 to 1991. In addition, the royal couple visited the Latvian Parliament and a number of cultural areas and institutions, while the first day of the visit ended with a state dinner, as is tradition.

The present and the current security situation in Europe was also reflected in the program.

During their visit, the royal couple visited a high school class that is being taught national defense – a subject that is mandatory in Latvian schools. On the same day, the royal couple visited some of the 800 Danish soldiers who are deployed to the NATO brigade based in Latvia. The visit brought joy to the soldiers. As one of them said: "I'm still very happy. It was great, and the King is an very cool person. He's very down to earth, he listened to what we said and asked good questions. It was super cool. It's been a wild experience"

The King's mother, Queen Margrethe II, was one of the first heads of state to visit the Baltic countries after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and she has said how big an impression the visits made on her.

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20 years old Crown Prince Christian has participated in a training flight with an F-16 fighter jet.

"A boyhood dream came true. I already had great respect for the pilots who fly our fighter jets, and it has only grown," says the Crown Prince. Christian shared the cockpit with an experienced fighter pilot, who flew the plane from start to finish.

The flight was one of the last daily training flights with F-16 fighter jets. Later this year, they will be fully replaced by F-35.

His father, King Frederik X, experienced his first flight with an F-16 fighter jet back in 1989. The King was also present when Crown Prince Christian flew in the F-16 aircraft.

In 2016, it was decided that Denmark would buy 27 F-35 fighter jets to replace the F-16. The Parliament has just approved to buy another 16 aircrafts so the total fleets comes to 43 fighter jets

The first aircrafts were received in 2023, and the last of the original 27 are expected to be delivered in 2026.



## Churches

Today, there are about 2,400 churches in Denmark and a number of priests think that there are too many. They propose to tear down about 200 of them. The background is, among other things, that the general tendency for people to move from the rural areas to the cities means that in some parishes there are simply not enough parishioners. Furthermore, the local parish councils do not have the finances to maintain the churches.

If you want to see where your ancestors were christened, confirmed, married and buried, you can find the location and unique aerial views of all Danish churches here

<https://mydanishroots.dk/danish-churches/>



## Antidotes

Scientists at the University of Copenhagen are developing a groundbreaking antidote for 17 dangerous snake species - based on the antibodies of a single human. They hope that they have found a completely new way to produce antidotes for snake bites.

The whole idea behind the new approach is based on a 50-year-old British punk musician's experiments with his own body. For 25 years, the former lead singer of the band Carrie, Steve Ludwin, has injected himself with venom from 35 of the world's most venomous snake species.

"I have been practicing self-immunization for almost 25 years now, where you use small doses of snake venom to build immunity", says Steve Ludwin.

His story sparked the interest of a Danish scientist from the University of Copenhagen. He has long worked with snake venom and antidotes. The idea is that the antibodies that Steve Ludwin has built up in his body can be used to produce antidotes for snake bites in a completely new and cheaper way. The University of Copenhagen has just applied for a patent for the method.

Venomous snakes are not a problem in Denmark. There is only one venomous snake here, the viper. Every year about 25 people are bitten and since 1900 a total of seven people have died from viper bites. Usually due to an allergic reaction to the venom.



## Upcoming Elections

Elections for the 98 local councils and 5 regional councils are held on the third Tuesday in November every four years - next time 18 Nov. 2025. A total of 9,290 candidates are running, almost all of whom have election posters with their portrait and possibly a tag line. Thus, there are election posters everywhere in the cities, because they can be hung on masts for street lighting and electricity supply, on roadside trees, fences, etc.

But there are strict rules about when they can be put up (12pm 25 Oct.) and must be taken down again (26 Nov.). While there are almost no false starts, it is difficult for many to get the posters removed after the election - especially for those who were not elected.



## **Common sense prevailed**

The case from last month about the butcher who was fined 40,000 DKK or about 2,800 USD for writing "egg" instead of "EGG" has found a good solution, as the police do not believe that there is a reasonable relationship between "crime" and punishment and have therefore dropped the case.



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