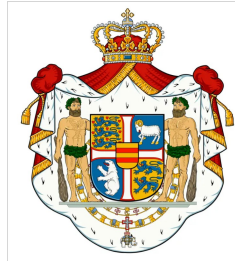


# News from Denmark

February, 2026



## The Royal Court

Queen Mary turned 54 years old on February 5 and the day after Princess Marie (wife of the King's brother, Prince Joachim) turned 50.

On 18-20 February, King Frederik visited Greenland. This was his second visit to the northern part of the Kingdom in a year. In many ways, it was both a classic and highly unusual royal visit. It was classic in the sense that the program included many familiar elements when it comes to the royal family's visits to Greenland throughout history: both young and old Greenlanders were greeted, local business people were visited, there was time for a coffee break as always, and of course there were also some magnificent nature experiences in the Greenlandic countryside.

It was nevertheless a quite unusual visit because, in addition to strengthening the internal cohesion between Denmark and Greenland, it should also cement the commonwealth for the outside world, not least the USA. And here, King Frederik plays a very crucial role as head of the Kingdom.

The chairs were stacked in the Great Hall of Christiansborg Palace. Everything was ready for the Court ball that was supposed to mark and celebrate the Danish forming of government and the historical bond between Amalienborg (The Royal Court) and Christiansborg (Folketinget, The Parliament) on February 27. But the day before the invited politicians were to sit down to dinner, the ball was cancelled by the King and Queen at the request of the Prime Minister's Office. The reason was that the Prime Minister just had called election for Folketinget.

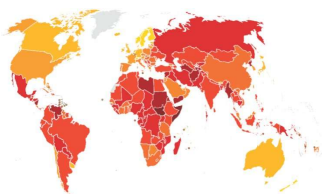


## General election

The 2026 parliamentary election will be the 72nd election to the Danish Parliament in the Kingdom of Denmark. It will be held on Tuesday, 24 March 2026. It was declared from the rostrum of the Danish

Parliament by Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. All 179 seats in the Danish Parliament are up for election, 175 in Denmark, two in the Faroe Islands and two in Greenland.

Today, there are 12 different political parties in Folketinget and a number of independent members. All 12 parties are all running for the new parliament.



## Corruption Perception 2025

Denmark remains at the top of the global corruption index in 2025 with a ranking of number one, a single score down and thus falling out of the top category from 90-100 points 'very clean'.

The chairman of the Danish branch of Transparency International said "Every year when we publish the global index, I have to defend that we are number one, because many Danes have a different perception of us than the one abroad. But both parts can be right at the same time. We also have corruption in Denmark - but fortunately at a low level."



## It's (still) the economy

At the luxury hotel d'Angleterre in central Copenhagen, you could welcome Shrove Tuesday with an exclusive Shrove Tuesday bun - if you were willing to pay the 495 DKK (80 USD) it costed.

The Minister of Justice certainly wasn't. In a post on Facebook, he raged against the expensive bun and wrote that it says more about inequality than a thousand reports and elaborated "I think it's a very good picture of a divided Denmark when it comes to the fact that we live in very different realities. A reality where someone really has to work hard and make a lot of effort to make ends meet. And then another reality where there are people who can afford to pay 500 kroner for a Shrove Tuesday bun with gold on top at Denmark's oldest luxury hotel."

His complaint was posted the same week that the government presented its food check, which will give 2,500 DKK (400 USD) to selected groups as compensation for rising food prices.



## **A new relationship**

The relationship between Denmark and the United States has been strained, to say the least, over the past year.

Donald Trump's repeated wishes - sometimes almost demands - to take over Greenland have not gone down well, and at times the risk of an armed conflict with the United States has even been speculated about. It remains an unlikely scenario, but it's something that could not be ruled out. A situation that was completely unthinkable a few years ago. As is well known, successive governments in Denmark have considered the United States to be our closest ally for decades.

The situation now also seems to have had a huge impact on the Danes' relationship with and perception of the United States. In an opinion poll, a solid majority of those surveyed said that they see the United States as an adversary instead of an ally. A full 60% consider the United States to be an adversary, with only 17% saying in the poll that they currently see the United States as an ally. 20% don't know what to think, while 3% would not answer.

The view of the United States is repeated across all population groups: Men, women, young, old, left wing voters, right wing voters, all parts of the country.

Another poll in the five biggest countries in Europe and Denmark shows that Europe is broadly dissatisfied with the US. Denmark is at the forefront, where a comparison of old and new surveys points to a collapse in relations between allies. Europe has the worst relationship with the US in over a decade.

To the question: "Overall, do you have a positive or negative attitude towards the US?" the percentage of negative attitudes in the countries was as follows:

1. Denmark 84%
2. Germany 72%
3. Spain 66%
4. Great Britain 64%
5. Italy 63%
6. France 62%

The striking figures stand in stark contrast to the figures when the Europeans were asked the same question in 2023. At that time, 80% of Danes believed that the United States was "a friend or ally", today that figure is around 26%.

Yet another poll is even more worrying: A few years ago, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said that the alliance between the United States and Denmark was so tight that a sheet of paper could not be squeezed between the two countries. For decades, the Danish-American relationship has been unwavering and shoulder-to-shoulder. The United States has been our strongest ally, our ultimate protector, the guarantor of our security, and Denmark has given high priority to cooperation.

Today, the foundation is cracked. 29% see US President Donald Trump as a greater threat to the Danish kingdom than the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Just as many respond that the threat from the two leaders is equally great while 37% point at Putin as the greatest threat to us. 5% of the population think that we are threatened by others than those two. Only four percent see the United States as an ally without reservations.

And that is not going to change anytime soon, experts estimate.

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One of the independent members of Parliament will take the government to court in an attempt to overturn the agreement on US bases in Denmark, which was concluded last year.

The agreement gave the US expanded powers at three bases in Jutland. She believes the agreement is a "gross violation of our constitution". She argues this over 163 pages.

If the court rules in her favour, the law can be annulled, and the US will not be able to have bases with permanent troops in Denmark.

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A crew member from a US submarine was evacuated seven nautical miles – about 8 miles – off of the capital of Greenland, Nuuk. The crew member required emergency medical treatment and was sent to the hospital in Nuuk. The evacuation took place with the Norwegian Armed Forces Seahawk helicopter.

It was too much of a temptation for Trump and Landry, who used the opportunity to offer help from a US hospital ship and thus demonstrate their fundamental lack of knowledge about the Kingdom, where everyone – including Greenlanders – has the right to free treatment in the health service.

The US hospital ship USNS Mercy, which Donald Trump promised to send to Greenland, left the port of Mobile on February 24, heading west. It does not immediately appear to be heading to Greenland, where it has not yet been seen.

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The tagline of Coca Cola's latest marketing campaign here says "Produced in Denmark" which indicates that the consumers' boycott of US-goods could be an issue for the company.



### **Peter, the harbinger of spring**

A real harbinger of spring - a stork - has now settled in a stork's nest in Southern Jutland. It is unusually early in the year. It is a male stork, who has been a recurring guest to the same nest since 2021. Storks overwinter in Southern Europe or Africa and come to Denmark to breed in the spring.

Peter, as the stork is named, has also previously been among the first storks to arrive in Denmark. His mate, named Petra, usually follows suit shortly after.

The weather is somewhat different than it usually is at this time of year, which is a challenge for Peter. The last many winters have been relatively mild. But this year we have had very low temperatures since the beginning of the year, and there is solid ice and snow in many places. But Peter will not go hungry to rest in the stork's nest. He is being fed with supplements.

Last year, there were ten pairs of storks breeding in Denmark. They sent 30 chicks to the wings. This was the highest number of chicks since 1985.



### **Winter Olympic medal, again**

A Danish speed skater won silver at the Winter Olympics in the men's mass start. This is only the second time in history that Denmark has won a medal at the Winter Olympics, and the first time an individual Danish athlete won a medal in the Winter Olympics. The first was won by the women's curling team in Nagano in 1998 (also silver).

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