

NEWSLETTER

# Denmark Enacts Temporary Framework to Accelerate Defence and Emergency Infrastructure

# Introduction

Denmark has taken a decisive step to strengthen its defence and emergency readiness.

Act No. 1097 of 2025, in force since 17 September 2025, introduces a temporary framework enabling the government to fast-track the construction of strategically important projects critical to national security.

The new framework – effective until the end of 2028 – allows for simplified approval processes and direct ministerial oversight of essential projects. It is designed to remove procedural bottlenecks that could otherwise delay high-priority developments such as new barracks, logistics facilities, and emergency response hubs.

According to the preparatory comments, the framework is rooted in the principles of necessity, proportionality, and legal certainty, and is strictly temporary in scope.

## Key features of the framework include:

- **Expedited approval** for projects deemed essential to national security;
- **Ministerial authority** to streamline or override certain planning and environmental rules;
- **Protection of EU environmental standards**, ensuring continued compliance with European law;
- **Possibility of expropriation**, with full constitutional compensation safeguards; and
- **Exceptional confidentiality measures** in sensitive cases, subject to parliamentary oversight

# Background

The Act applies to construction and civil works projects that serve essential defence or emergency purposes. It allows the Minister of Defence to assume permitting powers from municipalities and other agencies to accelerate decision-making, while still engaging with relevant technical authorities internally.

The framework permits targeted deviations from existing Danish legislation, such as the Planning Act or the Environmental Protection Act, where strictly necessary to deliver a qualifying project.

Importantly, EU environmental obligations – including impact assessment requirements – remain fully binding.

If needed, the state may expropriate land or rights to advance projects of national significance. The expropriation rules in the Danish Constitution continue to apply in full, guaranteeing compensation and judicial review. In exceptional instances where disclosure would compromise national security, the project may proceed under confidentiality, provided that joint ministerial approval is obtained, and Parliament is informed afterwards.

# Market Outlook

The framework represents a new momentum in Denmark's infrastructure development, signalling political commitment to deliver critical assets at speed. For the private sector, this means a rare opportunity to participate in projects backed by strong state direction, and funding certainty.

The market potential is significant. A wave of defence and preparedness investments is expected over the coming years under the current Defence Agreement, and the framework could pave the way for new public-private partnerships (PPPs) in construction and logistics.

At the same time, companies entering this space should be aware of heightened demands: security clearances, supply chain transparency, and ESG performance will remain integral conditions for participation.

For investors and developers accustomed to complex permitting processes, the Act offers a markedly clearer route to project realisation. However, this opportunity comes with the expectation that participants maintain the highest professional and ethical standards, even as procedures are simplified.

# Our Comments

Act No. 1097 creates an environment where strategic infrastructure can be delivered faster and with greater certainty – but only for those prepared to adapt to the state’s new approach. Investors, developers, and landowners should view this as a window of opportunity to align with Denmark’s long-term defence ambitions.

Those best positioned to benefit will be organisations that combine technical capability, strategic foresight, and credible partnerships with public stakeholders. Firms that can navigate complex interfaces between planning, regulation, and execution – while demonstrating reliability, discretion, and resilience – are likely to become key contributors to the next phase of Denmark’s national preparedness.



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