Denmark Prepares: Female Conscription, Funds, and Brigades

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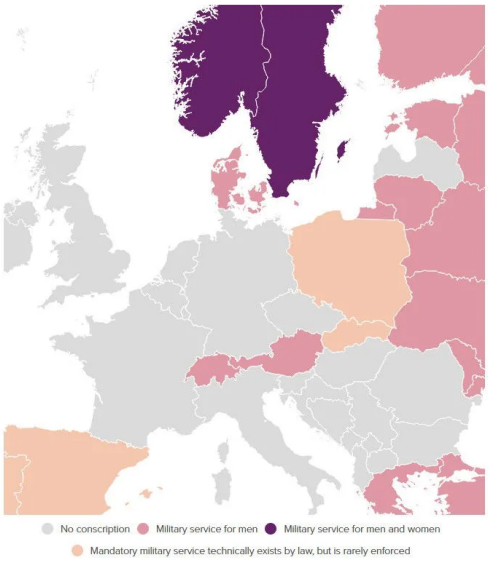
COPENHAGEN – From July 1, 2025, young Danish women may also be called for mandatory military service. This was announced by Defense Minister **Troels Lund Poulsen**, explaining that the goal is twofold: to strengthen the Danish armed forces and to anticipate full equality between men and women in national defense responsibilities.

> *"In light of the current political and security situation, the armed forces need more personnel. Extending conscription to women is a necessary and symbolically important step," Poulsen stated.*

A New Female Conscription

The measure, initially planned for 2027, has been brought forward to 2025. Girls who turn 18 after July 1, 2025, will be invited to participate in the **Defense Day 2026**, an annual event during which young people, through a **lottery**, determine the possibility of being actually called to serve, in case of a shortage of volunteers.

Currently, women in Denmark can already enlist on a voluntary basis, and in 2023 they made up about a quarter of new recruits. With this reform, Denmark becomes the third European country to introduce **female conscription**, after **Norway** (2015) and **Sweden** (2017).



Enhanced and Equal Defense

In addition to the inclusion of women, the new **framework agreement** provides for the extension of the duration of conscription from **four to eleven months** for both sexes. The

reform also includes investment in **ground-based air defenses** and the creation of an **infantry brigade of 6,000 soldiers by 2028**.

> *“We are not rearming because we want war, but to avoid it,” stated Prime Minister **Mette Frederiksen**. “We live in a world where the international order is being tested.”*

The Russian Threat and Investments

The geopolitical context, particularly the growing threat posed by Russia, has prompted Denmark to significantly increase its military spending. In **February**, the government announced an additional **increase of 6.8 billion euros** for defense over the next two years, after having already invested **5.4 billion** the previous year.

Foreign Minister **Lars Løkke Rasmussen** emphasized that although "Russia does not pose a direct threat to Denmark, we cannot afford to put ourselves in a vulnerable position.”

A NATO Commitment and for Ukraine

A founding member of NATO, Denmark is among the staunchest supporters of Ukraine in the war against Russia. Copenhagen will also provide **F-16 fighters** to Kyiv by the summer, confirming its active role in European security.

With the new plan, Denmark aims to reach the NATO target of **2% of GDP** allocated to defense. In 2024, the country spent about 1.4%.