

# Denmark – SD Priorities

*Source document: A shared future - balanced development. Denmark's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002)*

1. The welfare society must be developed and economic growth must be decoupled from environmental impacts. *(p. 2)*
  - 1.1. Welfare must be protected, strengthened and extended. *(p. 2)*
  - 1.2. All Danes must be guaranteed a dignified and safe old age irrespective of whether they have had an opportunity to save. *(p. 2)*
  - 1.3. We must create a more inclusive labour market where more people join the workforce and where there is room for those who do not fully meet the high demands for efficiency. Conditions for members of the workforce aged 50 or over need to be improved to reduce the number of people claiming early-retirement pensions, disability pensions, etc. Flexible working arrangements for the disabled (flex jobs) should also be facilitated. *(p. 2)*
  - 1.4. We must become better at using the workforce resource represented by immigrants [...] *(p. 2)*
  - 1.5. In order to ensure that as many people of working age as possible are given the opportunity of being an active member of the workforce, central and local government must provide daycare for children and care for the elderly. *(p. 3)*
  - 1.6. Long-term sustainable development is only possible in a society that solves fundamental social problems in relation to disadvantaged groups. The Danish Government's reform programme "The Common Responsibility" aims to strengthen initiatives for helping disadvantaged groups in society. [...] The objective is to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged groups. *(p. 3)*
  - 1.7. The welfare society must continue to develop. In future, the common responsibility for addressing a range of welfare tasks must be combined with individual freedom to choose between different solutions. People should have the opportunity of choosing between various private and public solutions within a number of service areas. *(p. 3)*
  - 1.8. An active policy must be pursued to promote sustainable development, and active environment policy must be pursued to ensure that future generations can live in a clean environment. There is international agreement on the fact that decoupling is the overall challenge in relation to ensuring sustainable development. This is stated in the EU's Sixth Environment Action Programme, which sets the framework for initiatives in the next decade in the EU. *(p. 3)*
  - 1.9. We must avoid critical impacts on the environment, nature and health, and we must protect and preserve special and unique natural values, which cannot be restored if they disappear. *(p. 3)*
2. There must be a safe and healthy environment for everyone, and we must maintain a high level of protection. *(p. 4)*
  - 2.1. The environmental quality in Denmark must not be harmful to humans, animals and plant life. Steps must be taken to ensure that soil, air and water are sufficiently clean and free from harmful compounds and micro-organisms so as not to impact the health of humans, plants and animals. The Danish Government's objective is that Denmark must be one of the most efficient OECD countries at reducing pollution. *(p. 4)*

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- 2.2. Climate changes are among the greatest global challenges of this century. Therefore, we should stabilise the concentration of greenhouse gases at a level that prevents harmful, man-made effects on the climate system. To live up to the Kyoto Protocol, Denmark has undertaken to reduce total emissions of greenhouse gases by 21 per cent from the 1990 level in the years 2008 to 2012. *(p. 4)*

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  - 2.3. The manufacture, use and disposal of products and goods must not be harmful to the environment and human health. *(p. 4)*

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  - 2.4. Consumption of hazardous chemicals must be reduced to a minimum. Industry must assume responsibility for examining the hazards of chemicals and ensure that they can be used without jeopardising health and the environment. *(p. 4)*

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  - 2.5. The precautionary principle will be instrumental in securing this protection [for humans and the environment] and is a principle recognised by treaty in the EU as well as Danish policy. We must take action at the smallest hint of any unacceptable risk or hazard. *(p. 4)*

### 3. We must secure a high degree of biodiversity and protect ecosystems *(p. 4)*

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- 3.1. Nature and the ecosystems are vital to all life on Earth. The development potential of both present and future generations depends on viable and varied natural resources. This is why we must enhance the quality of nature and increase the forest area. *(p. 4)*

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  - 3.2. We must reduce physical impacts on nature and in particular the discharge to nature of nutrients and environmentally harmful compounds. In the interests of our descendants, industries that are detrimental to nature must adjust their use of natural resources and contribute to the development of technological solutions so that environmental impacts can be curtailed. *(p. 4)*

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  - 3.3. Certain values inherent in cultural and natural landscapes, special landscape types and the diversity of species and genetic pools are irreplaceable. We must prioritise and target the initiatives to protect biodiversity by enhancing the quality of existing natural areas, increasing the size of natural areas and developing better cohesion between natural areas. *(p. 5)*

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  - 3.4. We must ensure that the population has easy access to outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature in forests and in the open country. Finally, we must - also out of consideration for tourism - safeguard our historic environment, including historic traces in the landscape and the historic heritage that lives on in rural districts and coastal regions. *(p. 5)*

### 4. Resources must be used more efficiently *(p. 5)*

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- 4.1. Over the coming years, we can expect a growing global population and increasing economic wealth - also in developing countries. We must therefore use the available natural resources in a sustainable way. *(p. 5)*

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  - 4.2. Danish enterprises must produce their products efficiently so that still fewer resources are used per unit produced. *(p. 5)*

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  - 4.3. We must adjust our patterns of consumption and methods of production so that the production and consumption of goods and services are less detrimental to the environment and offer improved resource utilisation. *(p. 5)*

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  - 4.4. We must continue to develop new technology, new materials and new solutions to redirect society towards sustainable development. The wider use of existing technologies and new technological breakthroughs present an opportunity to develop more sustainable methods of production. By changing the technological bases of production we can in the long-term significantly reduce the dependence of society on certain resources. *(p. 5)*

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- 4.5. It is important to provide the right framework and a strong platform for the development and dissemination of new environmental technologies and for the removal of any barriers to the market access of such technologies. *(p. 6)*
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5. We must take action at an international level *(p. 6)*
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- 5.1. Denmark will work actively to promote global sustainable development. *(p. 6)*
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- 5.2. Denmark will contribute to creating a world of peace and stability building on democracy and respect for human rights. Denmark must sustain its efforts to combat poverty and achieve growth and social development in the poor countries of the world. Economic and social development in the poor regions of the world must contribute to global sustainable use of resources and conservation of nature and the environment. *(p. 6)*
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- 5.3. Denmark will give priority to multilateral and bilateral assistance to developing countries and Central and Eastern European countries in partnership with governments, civil societies and business communities in these countries, so that we achieve the most efficient measures. *(p. 6)*
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- 5.4. Denmark will help integrate environmental considerations into EU sector policies, and attaches importance to ensuring that the EU Heads of State and Government follow these endeavours. *(p. 6)*
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6. Environmental considerations must be taken into account in all sectors *(p. 6)*
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7. The market must support sustainable development *(p. 7)*
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- 7.1. Prices that reflect the actual costs to society encourage consumers and producers to make sustainable choices. The polluter-pays principle must be followed. Market-oriented means such as environmental taxes, subsidies and tradeable quotas can be used for this purpose. *(p. 7)*
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- 7.2. Reliable information about how products affect the environment is important in order to increase supply and demand for environmentally friendly products. Incentives and framework conditions that make it attractive for both manufacturers and consumers to supply and demand sustainable products are to be created. *(p. 8)*
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8. Sustainable development is a shared responsibility, and we must measure progress. *(p. 8)*
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- 8.1. Consumers and producers, employees, society's institutions, children and young people are all key players in the achievement of sustainable development. They must be involved and share in the responsibility. Information, education and teaching can disseminate knowledge about sustainable development and thereby change attitudes and behaviour. *(p. 8)*
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- 8.2. Research and development must ensure that we always have a good knowledge base. *(p. 8)*
- 8.2.1. The Government has established an Environmental Assessment Institute. Through research at a high international level, the Institute must ensure that environment targets are reached in the most cost-effective way. The Institute must achieve a general view of the current and long-term environment situation, both in Denmark and globally. In relation to this, the institute must call upon and utilise all the knowledge and competencies that have been built up by other national and international research institutions. Furthermore, this knowledge and insight must be disseminated to the public and to political decision makers. *(p. 8)*

## 9. Climate change (p. 15)

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- 9.1. In the long term, the atmospheric content of greenhouse gases must be stabilised at a level sufficiently low to prevent anthropogenic hazardous impacts on the climate. Unavoidable climate change must take place at a pace that allows ecosystems to adapt and ensures that food production is not threatened. (p. 15)
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- 9.2. In 2005, the aim is to cut Danish CO2 emissions from energy consumption by 20 per cent compared to the 1988 level. Pursuant to EU agreements on distribution of EU emission reductions under the Kyoto Protocol, Denmark must reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 21 per cent in 2008-12 compared to 1990. (p. 16)
- 9.2.1. The Government regularly monitors progress and whether we are ensuring "the most cost-effective approach for society when achieving environmental objectives". (p. 17)
- 9.2.2. In order to live up to the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol all sectors of society must contribute to the reduction of emissions, for example, as described in the EU's Sixth Environment Action Programme. For example, this applies to energy production, transport, agriculture, forestry, industry and households. (p. 17)
- 9.2.3. In terms of energy production, a possible extension of the CO2 quota scheme within the field of electricity generation will probably result in increased use of renewable energy and natural gas. (p. 17)
- 9.2.4. The transport sector must contribute to achieving Denmark's commitment of reducing CO2 emissions by 21 per cent in 2008-12 compared to 1990. (p. 17)
- 9.2.5. With respect to forestry, the increase in woodland areas will lead to absorption of CO2 during the generation of new forests, increasing the scope for biomass use. This is one reason why the Government aims at increasing woodland areas within one tree generation (80 to 100 years). (p. 17)
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- 9.3. It is necessary to reduce emissions of strong industrial greenhouse gases such as HFCs, PFCs and SF6. (p. 17)
- 9.3.1. Denmark is working actively to make the Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol efficient instruments in the fight against climate change. The Danish Government will use the flexible mechanisms in the Kyoto Protocol by initiating projects that contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions abroad, so that CO2 reductions in other countries financed with Danish money are included in Denmark's CO2 budget and meeting international CO2 obligations. (p. 17)
- 9.3.2. Based on the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Government will conduct an analysis of possible climate effects in Denmark and draw up potential scenarios to establish a foundation for the necessary emergency measures. We must therefore also carry out research on the consequences of climate change. (p. 17)

## 10. Biodiversity - Nature protection and public access to nature (p. 18)

- 10.0.1. Efforts must be made to protect and restore habitats for indigenous animals and plants in order to have large viable populations on land and in freshwater and marine environments. The efforts will include areas where nature is allowed to develop freely with no significant degree of human influence. (p. 20)
- 10.0.2. In 2003 the Danish Government will present a collated action plan for the preservation of biodiversity, so that Denmark can live up to the requirements and expectations of the UN climate convention on biodiversity and within the EU on the nature area. (p. 20)
- 10.0.3. Research and monitoring nature will be developed with knowledge about how we preserve and utilise nature sustainably. Overall nature and environment monitoring will provide information regarding the extent to which we achieve the objectives agreed. (p. 20)
- 10.0.4. An important element in future initiatives for nature will be to enhance local participation and involvement. Municipalities will be more involved and dialogue between the public and the authorities will be a vital prerequisite for future initiatives. (p. 20)

- 10.0.5. Denmark will continue its active role in international cooperation on biodiversity through contributing to binding decision-making in the implementation of the Convention [on Biodiversity]. (p. 21)
- 10.0.6. At EU level, Denmark will contribute actively to fulfilment of the objectives from the Gothenburg meeting in 2001 on curbing reductions in biodiversity before 2010. This is to take place through implementation of the Habitat Directive, the Sixth Environment Action Programme, and the four sector action plans for biodiversity regarding agriculture, fisheries, development cooperation and conservation of natural resources. (p. 21)

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10.1. Denmark is a beautiful country with many lovely natural areas and a good environment, and this must remain so. Sustainable development means that we must safeguard nature's scope for development. Therefore, it is important to have prioritised and targeted preservation of species, habitat types, ecosystems and genetic diversity. (p. 18)

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10.2. Biodiversity considerations must be integrated into the activities of the sectors involved. (p. 18)

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10.3. Public awareness must be increased for people to understand that certain natural assets associated with natural and cultural landscapes, habitats and the diversity of species and gene pools are unique and irreplaceable. (p. 18)

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10.4. The public must have good access to nature, forests and the open countryside. (p. 18)

## 11. Environment and health - Chemicals, environmental pollution, food, physical working environment and physical indoor conditions (p. 22)

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11.1. Denmark should be a country where pollution from products, food, working environment, traffic and physical indoor conditions affecting the population's quality of life and health is constantly falling. [...] The protection level must take account of especially sensitive groups of people - such as children, pregnant women, people who suffer from allergies or from chronic illness - and of particularly vulnerable ecosystems. (p. 22)

- 11.1.1. Denmark must reduce harmful impacts on human health and on the environment to the greatest possible extent, no matter what the source. The Government plans to formulate a strategy for the connection between environmental factors and health, which is to clarify and prioritise measures against harmful impacts on health from, for example, environmental factors, chemicals in products and goods, food, working environment, physical indoor conditions and traffic. (p. 22)

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11.2. Harm to animals and plants from pollution should also be limited. (p. 22)

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11.3. Chemicals used in society must not have any undesirable impact, such as carcinogenic effects, reproduction toxicity, mutagenicity or effects on vulnerable ecosystems. By 2020, no products or goods on the market may contain chemicals or have highly problematic effects on health and the environment. (p. 22)

- 11.3.1. Manufacturers, importers and authorities alike must make sure that chemicals, pesticides and biocides can be used in a way that is safe for human health and the environment. (p. 23)

- 11.3.2. Denmark must take active measures with respect to chemicals by phasing out hazardous chemicals by 2020 that, on the basis of new knowledge, prove to have harmful effects on human health and the environment. (p. 23)

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11.4. The use of chemicals must be limited, and whenever relevant any chemicals with harmful effects on human and animal health and on nature must be prohibited. (p. 23)

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11.5. We must avoid unnecessary tests and experiments on animals, including repetition of experiments that have already been carried out. At the same time, we must ensure that the tests carried out entail as little suffering as possible to the animals. (p. 23)

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11.6. Biocide consumption must be reduced as much as possible or substituted by less harmful compounds. (p. 24)

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11.7. Contaminated soil must not threaten drinking water or human health. (p. 24)

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- 11.8. By 2020, there must be no emissions to air, soil, or water which are harmful to human health or the environment. (p. 24)**
- 11.8.1. Denmark must reduce acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone. Effective implementation of international regulations on the emission of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC and NH<sub>3</sub> in Denmark by 2010 has top priority. (p. 25)
- 11.8.2. In 2003, the Government will present a strategy for reduced noise from road traffic. This strategy will include information regarding the feasibility of achieving a significant reduction in the number of dwellings severely affected by road noise. In addition, the strategy will assess the macro-economic costs. All dwellings exposed to train traffic noise exceeding 65 dB are expected to be offered noise protection by 2010. (p. 25)
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- 11.9. By 2020, pathogenic micro-organisms must be reduced to a level that does not pose a threat to human health. (p. 24)**
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- 11.10. Ozone depletion must be halted to reduce the number of skin cancer cases in humans and improve the growing conditions of plants. Denmark will continue its international efforts to phase out ozone-depleting compounds. (p. 25)**
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- 11.11. Clean drinking water remains a high priority. The ban on pesticides endangering the groundwater must remain in force. (p. 25)**
- 11.11.1. Regional and local authorities and water utility companies must now implement the groundwater mapping framework and groundwater protecting measures to secure clean groundwater in the long term. (p. 26)
- 11.11.2. Denmark must continue its efforts to minimise the threat to groundwater posed by the MTBE petrol additive, preferably by permanently phasing out this compound. (p. 26)
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- 11.12. Food must be safe and healthy and of high quality. Food safety must be absolute and the presence of chemical pollutants must be minimised. (p. 26)**
- 11.12.1. Food-borne illnesses must be combated. The use of additives must be limited as much as possible, and limit values must be established for concentrations of undesirable residues in food. (p. 26)
- 11.12.2. Food labelling must be improved and misleading information avoided. (p. 27)
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- 11.13. All Danish workplaces should form a safe and healthy basis for creativity, quality and productivity. In 2020 no one will be exposed to harmful impacts from chemical substances at work, especially carcinogenic compounds, organic solvents, and heavy metals. (p. 27)**
- 11.13.1. In coming years, health and safety measures must also concentrate on implementing the seven visions of the Action Programme for a Clean Working Environment 2005. (p. 27)
- 11.13.2. The use of chemicals at workplaces must be minimised. Work-related injuries caused by exposure to carcinogenic compounds and organic solvents or heavy metals must be avoided by using the least hazardous compounds or materials (the substitution principle). (p. 27)
- 11.13.3. Health and safety must be improved through dialogue and cooperation between employees, enterprises, the social partners, and the Government. (p. 27)
- 11.13.4. Companies must receive clear directions for use from manufacturers. Health and safety conditions must be included at the planning stage. Suppliers must be motivated to develop products that take health and safety into account. The social partners must support initiatives to phase out problematic compounds. (p. 27)
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- 11.14. Physical indoor conditions in dwellings must not constitute a nuisance to residents. Construction and housing materials should be of a quality that neither emits nor develops harmful compounds. (p. 27)**
- 11.14.1. Further development and increased demand for the Danish indoor climate labelling scheme is to be encouraged. (p. 27)
- 11.14.2. Instruments to document the effects of building products on the environment and indoor climate must be developed. (p. 27)

## 12. Resources and resource efficiency (p. 28)

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- 12.1. A long-term aim is to increase resource efficiency significantly during the course of one generation. First of all, we must limit the use of natural resources that are particularly scarce or vulnerable, or particularly harmful to the environment when used. [...] a long-term target has been set to limit resource consumption to about 25 per cent of the current level. (p. 28)
- 12.1.1. The Government will investigate whether the goals of more resource efficiency and waste minimisation are best achieved using targeted market-based measures. Investigations will include whether revision of the existing economic measures, including taxes on raw materials, etc. could be appropriate. Product prices should fully reflect the resource consumption and environmental impact of products. (p. 30)
- 12.1.2. Product-oriented environmental initiatives are important. Companies are therefore encouraged to develop and market more clean and environmentally friendly products. (p. 30)
- 12.1.3. It should also be easy and attractive for consumers to choose green products. Consumers must have sufficient and relevant information on the impact of products and goods on the environment. (p. 30)
- 12.1.4. All stakeholders must enter into binding cooperation on preventing waste. In 2003 the Government will present a strategy aimed at preventing this loss of resources and the environmental pressure associated with waste. (p. 30)
- 12.1.5. By recycling waste we save virgin resources. The objective of the waste plan, Waste 21, is to recycle 64 per cent of waste amounts by 2004 and to reduce landfilled waste amounts to 12 per cent. (p. 30)
- 12.2. In Denmark, sustainable use of raw materials must be achieved by developing new technologies, increased coordination of the extraction of raw materials, and increased knowledge concerning total remaining raw material reserves. Recycling and use of substitution materials for non-renewable raw materials remain priorities. (p. 30)
- 12.2.1. Oil and gas production must take maximum account of health, the environment as well as flora and fauna. This should be achieved in collaboration with the North Sea countries through targeted management of compounds discharged into the sea. (p. 31)
- 12.3. Various considerations must be combined to minimise conflicts between different uses of the same piece of land. Outside urban areas, diversified land use must be promoted. (p. 31)
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## 13. Denmark's international activities (p. 32)

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- 13.1. Denmark supports the overall objective of global sustainable development (p. 35)
- 13.1.1. In the EU, Denmark will continue efforts to foster integration of environmental considerations into all policy areas with a view to achieving sustainable development. (p. 36)
- 13.1.2. Denmark seeks to strengthen EU environmental regulation (p. 36)
- 13.1.3. An important goal for Denmark is for candidate countries to be admitted to the EU without long transition periods. (p. 36)
- 13.1.4. Through its development cooperation and longterm binding partnerships with selected developing countries, Denmark helps combat poverty in the world. The partnerships are aimed at enhancing the possibilities of the developing countries to create economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development processes that favour the poor. (p. 36)
- 13.1.5. Denmark's environmental support for the Arctic region will allow us to continue monitoring the environmental impact on the area to provide documentation of developments in regional and global environmental impacts. [...] The overall objective is to limit pollution of the environment and ensure conservation of nature in the Arctic, including support for implementation of the international Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, and help to ensure environmental sustainable development with special emphasis on sustainable utilisation of natural resources in the Arctic. (p. 37)

- 13.1.6. In the ongoing WTO negotiations we should make sure that trade plays a full and efficient role in fostering sustainable development. (p. 38)
- 13.1.7. The Government is striving, in accordance with the resolution of the Folketing (Danish Parliament), to ensure that the World Summit results in a global deal on sustainable development and a global partnership. (p. 38)

#### 14. Food production - food safety, agriculture and fisheries (p. 40)

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- 14.1. **Denmark's objective for food production is to ensure that the food produced and sold to consumers is healthy and of high quality and that the level of information on food is high. [...] A crucial objective is to achieve an unconditionally high level of food safety by continuing the fight against diseases caused by food. (p. 41)**
  - 14.1.1. In the EU, Denmark will advocate that the control of pesticide residues in food be based on the precautionary principle (p. 42)
  - 14.1.2. The Government's aim is to reduce the use of additives as much as possible. [...] Furthermore, Denmark is still working to amend EU regulations on the additives nitrites, nitrates and sulphites. (p. 43)
  - 14.1.3. The conscious consumer policy for the food industry should comprise improved labelling regulations, protection against deception and better general information. (p. 43)
  - 14.1.4. An efficient effort in the nutrition field is the goal to improve the population's health and prevent illnesses. [...] This is why the Government is launching special strategy plans for these illnesses. (p. 43)
  - 14.1.5. The animal feed area is to be controlled more efficiently, and openness concerning the content of animal feed mixtures must be a requirement. The Danish Government supports the current EU initiatives for animal feeds and want to see tighter rules for additives in feed. (p. 43)
  - 14.1.6. The position of the food sector must be consolidated by further innovation, research, dissemination of knowledge, product development and corporate flexibility. As a consequence, Denmark must provide optimal opportunities for exploiting research results in the area. As part of the Government's overall growth strategy, "Determined Growth", it will initiate an analysis of innovative possibilities to promote growth in all parts of the food sector. (p. 43)
  - 14.1.7. In the spring of 2001, the Danish Innovation Act for the food sector came into force. [...] One objective of the act is to subsidise and thus promote enterprising projects in the prioritised areas. Thus, the Act will constitute a major tool in efforts targeted at ensuring environmentally sustainable and competitive food production. (p. 44)
  - 14.1.8. In an international context, Denmark will safeguard its interests by upholding the requirements for a high level of food safety, environmental protection and animal welfare in the EU, the WTO and other influential forums. At the same time, Denmark will maintain the demand for liberalisation of trade in food products; i.e. the removal of trade barriers coupled with the phasing out and removal of subsidies distorting competition. (p. 44)
- 14.2. **Production methods that preserve the resource basis of the agricultural and fisheries sectors and secure the environment, nature, animal welfare and good working conditions must be promoted. (p. 41)**
  - 14.2.1. Agricultural loss of nitrate, phosphorus and ammonia must be brought down to a level that represents no nuisance to people, that safeguards the aquatic environment and vulnerable types of nature, and that promotes a rich animal and plant life. (p. 46)
  - 14.2.2. Regional protection of the aquatic environment will be enhanced as part of the implementation of the [EU] Water Framework Directive by establishing environmental goals for surface water and the groundwater. (p. 46)
  - 14.2.3. In the coming years, livestock farming must be evaluated locally and regionally in the context of the sensitivity of nature and the environment. (p. 46)

- 14.2.4. As part of sustainable food production, the Government wants to see further development of the organic sector on the basis of consumer demand and common EU rules. An important part of this development will be the possibility to strengthen sales of Danish organic products in export markets. (p. 46)
- 14.2.5. The Government is hopeful that pesticide use can be minimised within the next few years. [...] Denmark's long-term goal is to develop cultivation strategies that reduce the agricultural sector's dependency on pesticides enabling their use to be phased out to the widest extent possible. (p. 46)
- 14.2.6. Agriculture and the individual farmer have an important role to play in nature management. Nature must be protected and biodiversity ensured. Vulnerable types of nature and nature in agricultural land must be protected through the preservation, re-establishment and strengthening of meadows and dry grassland as well as small biotopes such as water holes and hedgerows. Dispersion corridors in the open country must also be safeguarded, since they improve the conditions for wild animals and plants. (p. 47)
- 14.2.7. FØTEK - The Danish Research and Development Programme for Food Technology will promote research projects with commercial perspectives that are carried out in cooperation with agricultural operations, enterprises, sector organisations, and research institutions. The objective is to contribute to developing the position of the Danish food industry in export markets and the possibilities for the industry to increase growth through adaptation to market demands, including consideration of environmental sustainability in production. (p. 47)
- 14.2.8. The approval of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) should be assessed on the basis of concrete environmental, health and agricultural assessments governed by the precautionary principle in all respects. [...] When gene technology is used, the consumer must be informed through product labelling. (p. 47)
- 14.2.9. The genetic resources of agriculture must be preserved both nationally and globally. [...] The Government will expand the existing livestock gene bank and draw up a national strategy plan for agricultural plant-genetic resources. (p. 47)
- 14.2.10. Denmark will work to change EU agricultural policy towards a more market-oriented direction in the midterm evaluation in 2002/2003 and with the expiry of Agenda 2000 in 2006. (p. 47)

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**14.3. Cost-effective production and marketing should be promoted in the food-producing sectors. (p. 41)**

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**14.4. Fisheries activities should be limited as soon as possible and adjusted to the volume that the fish stocks can sustain. (p. 49)**

- 14.4.1. Fish discards must be limited further, and in some types of fisheries, unintentional by-catches - including of harbour porpoise - are too high. (p. 49)
- 14.4.2. The Government will continue its work to promote the integration of environmental and sustainability considerations in the fisheries sector, nationally, in the EU, and internationally. In this connection, importance is attached to following up regional agreements and action plans in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea aimed at making fisheries more sustainable. The establishment of an efficient partnership charged with restoring the North Sea cod stocks is one specific goal. (p. 49)
- 14.4.3. In 2001, the Danish Parliament adopted (V 117) a range of central objectives for the development of a national fisheries policy in the years to come. One objective calls for the modernisation, renewal and simultaneous reduction of the fisheries fleet. (p. 49)
- 14.4.4. In relation to the activities aimed at fisheries, the Government will give high priority to developing selective and gentle fisheries tackle, so that unintended by-catches and undesired pressure on the sea bed, its natural animal and plant life, and the overall ecosystem can more easily be avoided. (p. 49)
- 14.4.5. Research and data collection are to enhance the understanding of marine ecosystems and their interrelationship with human impacts. [...] Activities are also targeted at establishing a superior knowledge base that will enable us to better target our relevant nature protection considerations in relation to fish management in marine areas. (p. 49)

**15. Forestry (p. 50)**

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- 15.1. The forested area of Denmark must be increased so forest landscapes cover 20 - 25 percent of the Danish area in the course of one tree generation (80-100 years). (p. 51)

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- 15.2. The Government will promote near to nature and environmentally friendly forest management and protect the natural assets in forests. *(p. 51)*
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- 15.3. The population should be more involved in decisions concerning forests. *(p. 52)*
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- 15.4. Denmark will continue its efforts aimed at gradually more binding international cooperation on forests through international agreements and conventions. Denmark will follow up international agreements, promote sustainable forestry and make experience gained available to others. *(p. 52)*

## 16. Industry, trade and services *(p. 53)*

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- 16.1. The Government intends to cooperate with market players to establish an environmentally friendly market. This requires the introduction of framework conditions motivating enterprises to make environmental efforts on a voluntary basis, while also boosting their competitiveness. *(p. 56)*
- 16.1.1. Economic and fiscal control measures will be relevant to achieve this goal. One example is to have prices reflect the actual environmental costs. *(p. 56)*
- 16.1.2. Another important tool is environmentally friendly public procurement. *(p. 57)*
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- 16.2. Safeguard and improve recreational opportunities for tourists, local inhabitants and disabled people, for example by improving access to natural areas from housing and holiday areas. *(p. 57)*
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- 16.3. The public must have better and easier access to information about environmental and ethical aspects of production, goods and services. *(p. 57)*
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- 16.4. Cleaner technology and products must be developed and made more widespread. We must develop and advocate the use of cleaner technology and products and provide room for new solutions, radical innovations, and technological advancement. In addition, products must be made more durable and easier to repair, upgrade or recycle than at present. *(p. 57)*
- 16.4.1. The Government will work to make it possible to include environmental considerations in EU tenders and procedures, and for their incorporation into international standardisation work. *(p. 57)*
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- 16.5. Use and development of methods that bring environmental considerations into corporate decision-making must be strengthened to increase the number of Danish enterprises using environmental management and recognised environmental management systems. *(p. 58)*

## 17. Transport *(p. 59)*

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- 17.1. To decouple growth in the impacts of transport on the environment and health from economic growth. *(p. 59)*
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- 17.2. Health, environmental and safety considerations must be integrated into transport policy. *(p. 57)*
- 17.2.1. The Government will follow up on the strategy proposed by the EU Transport Council and on the transport-related sections of the EU's work for sustainable transport including the conclusions made by Heads of State and Government at the European Council in Gothenburg in June 2001. Similarly, the Danish Government will apply the OECD guidelines for sustainable transport policy which were adopted as part of the OECD environment strategy for sustainable development in 2001. *(p. 63)*
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- 17.3. To reduce national emissions of greenhouse gases and to ensure that air pollution from traffic constitutes no health hazard to the population. *(p. 59)*
- 17.3.1. The transport sector's contribution to the total Danish climate efforts will be assessed in relation to where "the most cost-effective solution for society when achieving environmental objectives" can be achieved. *(p. 61)*

- 17.3.2. The Danish Government's longterm target for 2030 is reduction in transport-sector CO2 emissions by 25 percent, compared to 1988 levels. This ambitious target assumes that economic growth is decoupled from developments in CO2 emissions from the transport sector. (p. 61)
- 17.3.3. By the year 2010, the Government aims to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons by 60% compared to the 1988 level and to halve emissions of particles from urban traffic during the same period. (p. 61)
- 17.3.4. Municipalities can utilise the possibilities in the Road Traffic Act to strengthen local initiatives for a better urban environment. The Road Traffic Act provides examples of possible pilot projects involving environmental zones and other initiatives. (p. 61)

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**17.4. Traffic noise must be reduced to a level which ensures that nobody is exposed to significant negative health impacts. (p. 59)**

- 17.4.1. The Danish Government has set up a "Road Noise Group" to prepare a broadly based proposal for a road-noise strategy. [...] This will be within the framework of the forthcoming Environmental Noise Directive. (p. 61)

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**17.5. Transport must be safe for everybody. (p. 59)**

- 17.5.1. The goal of the Danish Road Safety Commission's Action Plan for 2000 is to reduce road casualties (fatal and serious injuries) by 40% by the end of 2012. The Government intends to realise this goal through measures to constrain traffic speeds in particularly dangerous and exposed places, and encourage the wearing of seat belts, improvements in road design, marking and traffic development, as well as more information, and better training for road users. (p. 61)

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**17.6. The negative impact of the transport system on the natural habitats of animals and plants must be curbed. (p. 59)**

- 17.6.1. Public planning initiatives must essentially respect all protected areas and listed buildings and consider natural assets. Such initiatives should also preserve the character of large unspoilt landscapes, ensuring that they remain free of noise nuisances and fragmentation. It is important to safeguard wildlife, ensuring that animals can pass traffic systems, especially at stream valleys and dispersion corridors. (p. 62)

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**17.7. The transport system must ensure that the population has access to work, shops, public services and leisure-time activities, and all citizens must be ensured efficient mobility through public and private transport solutions. (p. 59)**

- 17.7.1. The Danish Government supports the conclusion from the EU Council in Gothenburg in 2001 that transport prices should reflect the true cost of transport to society to a greater extent. Therefore, the Government will regularly consider whether a green market economy for transport can contribute to sustainable development. [...] The Danish Government will establish a committee, which will investigate the possibility of restructuring vehicle registration taxes to promote sales of environmentally friendly vehicles. The Government will research road-pricing programmes, which are being promoted in other countries, and analyse their potential effects in a Danish context. (p. 62)
- 17.7.2. Information on environmentally friendly choices of transport must be available so that people can make their own decisions. For passenger traffic, this means promoting the quality of public transport where an adequate basis exists through national and international competition. Likewise, cycling and walking are attractive alternatives. (p. 62)
- 17.7.3. In freight transport, the emphasis will be on information on facilities for combined transport solutions involving more extensive use of rail and sea transport. (p. 63)

## **18. Energy (p. 64)**

- 18.0.1. As part of its efforts to boost energy savings, Denmark introduced a new Energy Savings Act in 2000, intended to pave the way for better planning, coordination and prioritisation of overall efforts to cut energy consumption. (p. 66)

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- 18.1. Anthropogenic climate change and SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions must be limited [...] Denmark intends to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by about 30 per cent and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by about 45 per cent compared to the 1998 levels by the end of 2010. (p. 64)
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- 18.2. The Government intends to develop market-oriented instruments that can ensure stable, cost-effective energy supply, and promote environmental objectives while maintaining balance in the economy. (p. 65)
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- 18.3. The expansion of renewable energy supplies must continue as renewable energy also contributes to a cost-effective means of fulfilling environmental goals - including the CO<sub>2</sub> objective. (p. 65)

## 19. Urban and housing development (p. 67)

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- 19.1. The Government's primary objective is to promote sustainable development of towns, housing and buildings. (p. 67)
- 19.1.1. There should be efforts to mix housing and the other urban functions. A mixture of services, trades, and different types of housing will make towns more vibrant, diverse and socially sustainable. (p. 68)
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- 19.2. Residents and users in individual urban and housing areas should participate actively in this development, for instance through a lifestyle that calls for everybody to consider the environment and limit resource consumption as much as possible in their everyday lives. [...] With respect to social life, buildings and infrastructure, towns must be organised and managed with a view to significantly reducing resource consumption and environmental impacts. (p. 67)
- 19.2.1. Initiatives in especially exposed urban and residential areas will be developed through urban regeneration projects focusing on social sustainability, integration and employment. Two specific aims are to involve all citizens and to integrate social, economic and environmental initiatives in local communities. (p. 69)
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- 19.3. Towns and cities must secure a framework for continued growth and they must provide attractive localisation for new businesses. (p. 67)
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- 19.4. Urban transport should be organised so as to achieve the most effective utilisation of the overall transport system, and so that more can benefit from using public transport. (p. 67)
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- 19.5. There must be a balance in the housing market, and the individual should have a real choice between renting and owning a dwelling. (p. 67)
- 19.5.1. The Danish Government will ensure that more rented social housing is built and encourage construction of private rented housing, including student accommodation in the large university towns, and housing for the elderly. (p. 68)
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- 19.6. Improve the quality of urban recreational opportunities. (p. 67)

## 20. Measures and knowledge base (p. 70)

- 20.0.1. In order to achieve "the most cost-effective solution for society when achieving environmental objectives", the Government will submit a report in 2002 on the green market economy. This will analyse the possibilities for practical use of market-oriented tools for the promotion of a better environment, including economic tools such as taxes and subsidies, tradeable pollution permits and quotas, user charges, property rights, phase-out of environmentally harmful subsidies, rules on liability, etc. (p. 72)
- 20.0.2. It is necessary to examine whether the existing subsidy schemes should be changed or adjusted to prevent them from harming the environment. (p. 73)
- 20.0.3. There is a need to disseminate knowledge of existing, environmentally friendly technologies and develop new technology, new materials and new solutions to redirect society towards sustainable development. (p. 73)

- 20.0.4. We need to strengthen the interplay between the public and private sectors on research, development, and dissemination of green technologies. Universities and the corporate sector must be more open to cooperation on research, technological development, education, and training. (p. 73)
- 20.0.5. Environmental regulation will represent the required minimum basis for environmental behaviour and will determine the framework conditions capable of motivating enterprises to pay greater attention to developing and selling environmentally friendly products and to undertaking other voluntary green initiatives. (p. 73)

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**20.1. Research and development in support of sustainable development should be strengthened. (p. 73)**

- 20.1.1. Knowledge of the link between activity and environmental impacts provides an improved decisionmaking basis, and the methods for strategic environmental impact assessment must therefore be upgraded. (p. 74)

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**20.2. Attention will be also be directed to information, education and teaching. (p. 74)**

- 20.2.1. The education sector plays an important role, for example through teacher and educator training which should focus on helping children and young people understand the problems associated with sustainable development. (p. 74)

## **21. Public participation and Local Agenda 21 (p. 75)**

- 21.0.1. Denmark will work internationally to ensure that the principles of the Aarhus Convention are employed more extensively [...] in global and international negotiations and reflected in global and international conventions and legal instruments. (p. 77)
- 21.0.2. Local Agenda 21 activities should be further promoted. (p. 77)

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*Total number of priorities: 200*

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