

TALE TIL DANISH MARITIME FORUM, ONSDAG D. 7. OKTOBER 2015

[Indledning]

Your excellences, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Danish Government to welcome you all to the Danish Maritime Forum and to Copenhagen.

[Danmark som søfartsnation – før og nu]

Denmark is a maritime nation by heart. When we are asked about our relation to the sea, we tend to answer that Danes have saltwater in the blood.

For generations, Danes have sailed all over the world. Denmark was a leading maritime nation back when ships were built in wood, and the goods were tea, spices and sugar.

And Denmark is a leading maritime nation today, when ships are high-tech, built in steel, and transport containers, iron and oil.

[Den maritime verdens betydning]

The maritime industry plays an important role in securing a better future for us all. It is the backbone of world trade, and a cheap and clean form of transportation. Raw materials and consumer goods are shipped all over the world. It is said that 90 pct. of all exports are transported by ship.

The maritime industry is indeed a global industry.

Therefore, it is influenced by global challenges, such as geopolitical crises, demographic shifts and changing patterns of production and consumption. At the same time, there is an increasing demand for energy efficient transport, while the customers demand efficiency and cheaper prices.

Luckily, being a global industry also means having global opportunities. New markets, new products and new technologies arise constantly.

This uncertainty – whether it is good or bad – demands greater cooperation. Both across borders and regions and between the public and private sector.

[Main messages: open markets, global regulation, listen to the industry]

I will highlight three areas where I think that we should focus our international cooperation.

First, we must cooperate to ensure *open markets and free trade*. This is important for the efficient distribution of food, goods and energy all over the world. Human wellbeing and continued growth relies on goods being transported freely.

Secondly, we must cooperate to ensure relevant international regulations and global enforcement. Without this, we risk that the safety of our seafarers and the protection of the marine environment is undermined.

Thirdly, we must ask ourselves: How can we ensure that the burdens we put on the maritime industry are not greater than the benefits we seek to obtain? We need to find the right balance and make room for the industry to find new solutions.

Innovation is necessary if we want more efficiency, better protection of the environment, as well as cheap and safe transportation.

[Afslutning – cooperation and sustainability]

This is the second time that we host the Danish Maritime Forum. At last year's Forum, it was stated *that collaboration across the entire industry is necessary*. It was also stated, *that we need a more proactive approach by the industry leaders in order to unleash the potential of the industry*.

I fully agree. This is why the Danish Maritime Forum is such an important event. We bring together regulators and the industry side by side so we can exchange ideas and viewpoints.

I thank you all for coming to Copenhagen. I wish you all a good and productive Maritime Forum.