



## All at sea? UK-German co-operation in the Nordic-Baltic region

Britain and Germany are keen to deepen defence co-operation. The two countries should work together more closely in the Nordic-Baltic region, where they have long-standing shared interests.

That is the conclusion of a new policy brief for the Centre for European Reform, with generous support from the **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) UK & Ireland**. Regardless of how the war in Ukraine ends, Russia will remain a threat to the interests of EU and NATO countries in the Nordic-Baltic region, and the UK and Germany are both contributing to the defence of their allies there. But Anglo-German co-ordination could be improved.

The policy brief, '[All at sea? UK-German co-operation in the Nordic-Baltic region](#)', analyses UK, German and NATO/EU interests in the Nordic-Baltic region, and their vulnerabilities, including the risks to sub-sea infrastructure. The policy brief recommends that the UK and Germany deepen their dialogue on the threats in the region and how to counter them jointly. It suggests that the UK and Germany should launch a discussion with the countries of the region on NATO's current complex command arrangements, and whether a holistic approach to the security of the Nordic-Baltic region would be more effective. It recommends that the UK start a discussion with its Nordic and Baltic partners on the future of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), which could be more valuable if integrated into NATO's plans for the region. And it proposes that the UK and Germany should consider how they could jointly make a bigger contribution to the security of critical infrastructure in region.

Ian Bond, the policy brief's author, said *"The Nordic-Baltic region hardly seems to feature on the lists of areas for UK-German co-operation, despite the new British government's interest in stepping up bilateral collaboration. But it's an area where the two countries have shared interests and complementary capabilities, and they could make an important contribution to the security of their allies and partners in the face of a growing Russian threat."*

This policy brief is the third of the CER/KAS project, "[Plotting a Course Together: UK-EU Co-operation in Times of Uncertainty](#)". This paper focuses on the scope for UK-German security co-operation in the Nordic-Baltic region. The first paper focused on UK-EU co-operation in relation to Ukraine. The second looked at the prospect of a second Trump presidency and its impact on UK-EU relations.

**Notes for editors:**

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