DANISH INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC

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• Key definitions

• The Danish/Greenlandic interests

• The challenges and the answers

• Denmark/Greenland and the The Continental Shelf
KEY DEFINITIONS

• The Kingdom of Denmark: three entities: Denmark, Greenland and the Faroese Islands
• Pre 1953-constitution: Greenland a colony
• From 1953-constitution: equal partner in the Kingdom.
• 21 June 2009: new law on Self Rule: Greenlandic ownership of ressources, including in the Continental Shelf
• But only one subject of international law, one party to UNCLOS

➤ foreign affairs remains the competence of the Realm = Copenhagen in cooperation with Nuuk.

• Note: Greenland is not a member of the EU.

• A point on geography
THE INTERESTS

- Danish interests in the Arctic = Greenlandic interests in the Arctic + Danish interests.
- Resources: yes
- Environmental protection: YES
- Protecting the indigenous people and their way of life: YES
- SAR: YES – here and now.
- Security policy: yes
THE CHALLENGES AND THE ANSWERS

• THE CHALLENGES:
  • A strategy
  • Environmental protection
  • SAR
THE ACTORS

• The Arctic States
  • The 8
  • The 5
    • “who will they look to?”
• The non Arctic States
• The EU
• The IMO
The answers

• The strategy

  • With Greenland, with the 8 and the 5

  • In the Arctic Council – a positive development but more needed

  • Not necessarily all the way with the EU
The content:

- The Ilulissat Declaration
  - Rule of law (UNCLOS)
  - Cooperation
- Not just words – operative cooperation on all levels
• The environmental protection
  • IMO: yes – but
    • takes time,
    • role of non Arctic States?
  ➢ Regional arrangements/Arctic Council
  ➢ National measures:
    • UNCLOS 234
    • Surveillance and control
• SAR
  • Cooperation – yes (MFA, MoD etc)
  • Costs – Ministry of Finance: ?!; non Arctic States?!

> Prevention is key

➢ Conclusion I: A question of political will - and diplomacy.
HANS ISLAND

• The history:
  • “facts” – as seen from Copenhagen
  • Importance?

• The way ahead:
  • 2005 declaration: discussions and cooperation
  • A best practice!
DENMARK/GREENLAND AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

• 16 December 2014 – plenty of time?
• The areas:
  • North and South of the Faroese
  • North, North East and South of Greenland
• Data-collection, negotiation, submission, CLCS-discussions, negotiation
• Data-collection: Ministry of Science and Technology, GEUS – Continental Shelf Project
  • In cooperation with Canada and Russia
• Negotiation: MFA with Greenland
• Submission: The scientists and the MFA–with Greenland/Faroese
• CLCS-discussions and negotiations: MFA with Greenland
THE SET UP – collection and submission

Government of Denmark
Self Rule Government of Greenland
Self Rule Government of the Faroese

Joint Committee

Committee on the Faroese
Ad hoc committee Faroese
Committee of Greenland
THE SET UP - negotiation

- A specially appointed team – MFA with Greenland and the Faroese (and participation of the Faroese and Greenland)
THE FIRST SUBMISSION

• Area North of the Faroese Islands – the Banana Hole
• Partial submission
• To the CLCS on 28 April 2009
• The overlapping claims:
  • The “Agreed Minutes” between Norway, Iceland and Denmark/Faroese
THE NOW KNOWN ISSUES

• One or more submissions?
• The political interest
• The work load!
• The lawyers and the scientists
THE FUTURE ISSUES

• The data collection in the Arctic: a special regime?

• 2014 is not that far away.

• The peaceful settlement of overlapping claims
CONCLUSION

• The legal framework is in place
• The Arctic States are cooperation on both operational and political level
• Need for more political cooperation
• The Continental Shelf delineation in the Arctic Ocean a test case for the peaceful settlements of disputes
• The diplomats and the politicians have to work hard!