



DANISH STATE VISIT TO FRANCE

– A PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT HEALTHCARE



ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY
Paris



Danish
Industry



From March 31 to April 2, Their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark led an official state visit to France, underscoring the close and historical ties between Denmark and France.

The King and Queen were accompanied by a large business delegation, reflecting Denmark's strong positions in health, green transition, and defence. A total of 56 Danish companies participated across three sector tracks, with the shared goal of strengthening resilience in each sector. Furthermore, the state visit presented a unique opportunity to initiate and strengthen concrete Danish and French partnerships that foster cooperation, innovation, and supply chain security in these important sectors at a time where Europe faces challenges to its competitiveness and resilience within energy, health and defence amid a changing geopolitical landscape.



ECONOMIC FORUM WITH FOCUS ON RESILIENCE

The Economic Forum on April 1, held at Palais Brongniart, was a key event centred on resilience, competitiveness, and innovation, in health, energy and defence, with high-level participation from the Danish royal couple, French and Danish ministers, and French President Emmanuel Macron, who outlined three strategic priorities for Europe's future with the clear message that Europe needs robust, coordinated, and simplified frameworks to stay competitive and deliver better health, security, and sustainability outcomes for its citizens.

This high-level dialogue was followed by concrete outcomes, as several agreements were signed between French and Danish stakeholders in the fields of energy and health, strengthening bilateral cooperation in these critical sectors. This resulted in six agreements within health and life sciences being signed, further cementing the strong partnership between Denmark and France.

First of all, the Declaration of Intent between the Danish and French Ministers of Health, Sophie Løhde and Yannick Neuder was renewed. The agreement reaffirms the two countries' shared commitment to building resilient healthcare systems, enhancing chronic disease management, and promoting cross-border collaboration on health data and digital health. In addition, four specific bilateral agreements were signed between Danish and French stakeholders.

Ascendis Pharma partnered with the Société Française d'Endocrinologie to support research in rare endocrine diseases, offering new funding opportunities for pioneering French scientists. Cortrium signed an agreement with Ramsay Santé, paving the way for the implementation of ECG solutions in selected hospitals, aimed at improving early diagnosis and easing pressure on clinical staff. Novo Nordisk France and the RED/INNOVHEM network signed a letter of intent to support the REVE project – an initiative targeting improved care and follow-up for patients living with sickle cell disease. Finally, the Novo Nordisk Foundation and the French research institute, Inria, committed to jointly exploring quantum technologies, with the ambition to enhance Europe's leadership in digital health and quantum science.



HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE – A SHARED AGENDA ON RESILIENCE AND DATA

These themes were explored further during the subsequent healthcare conference which focused on resilience in healthcare. The Danish Minister for the Interior and Health, Sophie Løhde, opened the conference in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, stressing the pressing global situation which calls for Europe to maintain its leading position in life sciences, while also accelerating efforts to remain competitive and secure robust innovation and supply chains in challenging times. The Minister emphasized that in order to keep our healthcare systems competitive, companies must be globally competitive too. **Healthcare and the life sciences sector are interdependent and strengthening one reinforces the other.** This mutual reinforcement is essential for preparing our healthcare systems for the challenges ahead.



HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE: RESILIENCE IN HEALTHCARE

After the opening speech, the moderator invited everyone to engage in open dialogue, highlighting the opportunity for French and Danish participants to exchange not only best practices but also forward-looking ideas around the tables and engage in discussions inspired by the following panel debates.

The first roundtable addressed how to create resilient healthcare systems. Participants included Jonas Egebart, Director General of the Danish Health Authority, Grégory Emery, Director General at the French Directorate-General for Health, and Nils Falk Bjerregaard, Director General of the Danish Medicines Agency.

The debate provided valuable insights and important takeaways were given as answers to three guiding questions: on how to build resilient healthcare systems in the face of demographic and structural pressure;

which instruments, and cross-border collaborations can support adaptability and innovation; and how to ensure resilience in the management of chronic diseases. These questions anchored the dialogue and prompted concrete reflections from both the Danish and French perspectives.



A key focus was Denmark's upcoming National Healthcare Plan, which will redefine the role of general practitioners to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and strengthen care closer to the citizen. **This shift towards primary care was presented as a central strategy for enhancing system preparedness and ensuring more sustainable healthcare delivery.**

Other key take aways from the session was the **emphasis on prevention and lifelong learning as pillars of resilient systems.** It was underlined that health considerations must be integrated across public policy areas and that healthcare professionals need access to continuous skills development to adapt to future challenges.

Another important take away concerned the **need for emergency response capacity**, including robust medical supply chains and cross-sectoral preparedness, being prepared to adjust faced with an unforeseen future. The discussion highlighted the importance of scenario planning, emergency stockpiling, and joint crisis exercises — including civil-military collaboration — to strengthen European response capacity in times of uncertainty.

Following the panel debate, participants in the conference engaged in moderated table discussions, guided by questions where participants were invited to reflect on how their own institutions contribute to resilience, including through innovation, workforce strategies, or new approaches to chronic disease management. These sessions allowed representatives from companies, public institutions, and hospitals to share practical examples, notably the Danish healthcare reform, which sparked particular interest from the French side.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE

A shared emphasis on strengthening primary care, prevention, and preparedness highlighted clear opportunities for further dialogue on how to build more resilient and citizen-centred health systems.



HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE: PANEL DEBATE ON DATA AND RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEM

While the first roundtable highlighted structural strategies for resilience, the second debate explored the role of data in creating resilient health systems. Panellists included David Sainati, Co-Head of the Digital Health Delegation at the French Ministry of Health, Thomas Fredenslund, Director General of the Danish Health Data Authority and Corinne Collignon, Head of the Digital Health Mission at the French National Authority for Health.

The debate and discussions centred on how real-world data can support personalised care, how the European Health Data Space (EHDS) can accelerate innovation, and how to build public trust in data use. Cross-border alignment and shared ethical standards were recurring themes.

Among the key takeaways was the transformative potential of the European Health Data Space (EHDS). It was described and discussed how EHDS can enable secure, cross-border access to patient records and accelerate research through the secondary use of health data. Real-world use cases illustrated how French and Danish institutions could collaborate to improve both care delivery and innovation capacity.

A second takeaway concerned the importance of digital infrastructure at the local level, particularly in primary care. It was stressed that investment in IT systems outside hospitals is crucial to ensure that knowledge, decision support, and patient empowerment tools reach the home and general practitioner level. This will also contribute heavily to achieving the goals of ongoing health reforms in both countries.

Finally, the panel pointed at that **public trust and ethical governance are essential to unlocking the full value of health data**. Transparency about data use, citizen control over their own data, and the development of new tools—such as environmental “eco-scores” for digital applications—were presented as practical strategies to build and sustain trust in digital health innovation.

In the evening, the King and Queen hosted a return dinner – which provided participants with a valuable opportunity to meet stakeholders from both the Danish and French sides and to engage in further discussion and knowledge sharing from the learnings during the day.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE

Public trust, investment in digital infrastructure, and enabling the power of cross-border use of health data were highlighted as key enablers in using data to strengthen health resilience – pointing to shared priorities for further dialogue between Denmark and France.

RESILIENT HOSPITALS: HÔPITAL FOCH

On April 2, Her Majesty the Queen, Madam Macron and Minister of Health from Denmark and France, Sophie Løhde and Yannick Neuder visited Hôpital Foch together with both France and Danish stakeholders. The visit began with opening remarks by the ministers stressing the great challenges we are facing and underlining that collaboration is needed to improve our preparedness and resilience.

A roundtable discussion followed, moderated by Antoine Malone from the French Hospital Federation, with contributions from Jakob Hendel, Deputy Director at Amager and Hvidovre Hospital in Denmark, and Jacques Léglise, Director at Hospital Foch. During the discussion it was highlighted that staff expectations have evolved significantly in the hospital sector with regards to **continuity of care**. From the Danish side, emphasis was placed on the **importance of digital tools**, while the French representatives shared how the hospital is **implementing AI** to streamline administrative tasks and support chronic disease management. It was discussed how Denmark's reforms aim at **shifting care toward the primary sector** – reducing hospital pressure and enhancing care closer to home. But also, a sincere interest in Danish models such as shared access to patient records for families, prescription access across sectors, and the 72-hour responsibility model for post-discharge care was being mentioned as inspirational on the French side.

Amager and Hvidovre Hospital is working on and is already a key player in supporting other facilities with patient data and empowering citizens through digital access and education. On the French side, Jacques Léglise stated that France shares the same vision as Denmark regarding hospitals which stay at the centre of specialised care while helping the healthcare system thrive around it by supporting primary care.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE

The shared interest in continuity of care, including digital tools, shared access to patient data, and post-discharge models, points to valuable opportunities for mutual learning, as well as the role of AI in the current transformation of healthcare systems

HOSPITAL STRONGHOLDS AND TOUR

After the debate the delegation split into six groups to explore various topics within the hospital strongholds. The groups focused respectively on: lung transplants, patient experience and cancer surgery, neuroradiology, the emergency department, the simulation centre for education, and health innovation.

Lung transplantation

Foch Hospital is a leading transplant center in France, performing 80 lung transplants annually. These transplants are supported through lung rehabilitation. During the tour, a machine capable of keeping lungs alive was demonstrated, using a live pig's lung as an example. The machine can maintain lung function for up to 12 hours and is primarily used for education and research. The group had many questions for Pr. Sage, head of the thoracic surgery department, particularly regarding the technical and medical aspects of the procedure.

Patient Experience

The tour of the Patient Experience and International Department at Hôpital Foch highlighted the hospital's dedication to patient-centered care. The International Department offers tailored services for international patients, with larger rooms, family-friendly spaces, and relaxing lounges to ensure comfort. Dr. David Khau emphasized the importance of creating a welcoming environment. In the Oncology Department, Dr. Jaafar Bennouna explained how personalized care plans are developed, combining innovative treatments with emotional support. The Living Lab gathers feedback to continuously improve patient experiences, allowing staff, patients, and families to collaborate on enhancing services. The hospital's holistic approach prioritizes both medical and emotional well-being.

Neuroradiology

New technologies in neurosurgery were presented, including new X-ray machines. It was explained that artificial intelligence is now used to analyze X-ray images based on various parameters. In practice, this analysis is always complemented by

a professional assessment. If the expert's judgment differs from the automated evaluation, additional scans are performed before making a diagnosis or recommending treatment. Videos also demonstrated the use of robotics in medical procedures. To address the shortage of doctors in rural areas, research is being conducted to use robotics for simple surgeries and imaging procedures.

Emergency department

The visit to the emergency department provided insight into the organization of the patient pathway and the modularity of spaces adapted to patient flow. At Hôpital Foch patients are no longer accompanied beyond the admissions and waiting area, but are guided with the FollowMe application, which enables both patients and their relatives to follow the care process in real time, contributing to better stress management.



Simulation Centre

Hospital Foch's simulation centre is dedicated to training hospital personnel at all levels. Nurses, midwives, and surgeons participate in regular programs at the centre - including yearly brush-up courses as well as advanced skills development in specialized programs. The centre reflects a strong focus on professional development and clinical excellence and contains state-of-the-art simulation tools. For example, a mannequin that can be controlled to show different symptoms, all operated by the educator to train medical staff in handling strokes and unforeseen complications. The centre also offers external training courses throughout the year, and cooperates with French and international organisations to offer courses tailored to the needs and levels of each country.

Health innovation

The health innovation tour at Foch Hospital showcased how AI is transforming medical practice by enhancing efficiency and patient care. Foch personnel explained how AI aids in generating medical reports, streamlining documentation while allowing doctors to focus more on patient interaction. Although not yet fully autonomous in diagnosing, AI contributes to more efficient workflows by managing medical data and supporting decision-making. While integrating AI poses challenges, such as data privacy, simple data anonymization help mitigate risks. They also discussed using voice biometrics to detect potential health issues, reflecting AI's growing role in personalized medicine. The conversation wraps up with a brief mention of the potential risks of AI technology, but overall, there is optimism about the positive impacts it will have on patient care and healthcare delivery.

The visit concluded with a networking lunch, where all participants could network and engage in further dialogue in the settings of the hospital garden.



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