Greenland’s state-building: consequences on Arctic developments and global energy security

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Greenland

- 2 166 086 km² (about half of the European Union)
- 56 890 inhabitants (as of 1st July 2011)
- Self-governed territory within the Kingdom of Denmark (2009)
- A ‘laboratory’ of the challenges at stake in the Arctic: climate change, natural resources, geopolitics, etc.

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What is at stake?

- **Climate**: a ‘laboratory’ of our planet – a tool for ‘creative diplomacy’ on climate change

- **Energy**: hydrocarbons, minerals, water, …

- **Geopolitics**: at the intersection of various interests – a key for future developments in the Arctic
Green growth = Rare Earth Elements = Greenland
A key to global challenges

• Environmental security: Greenland’s icecap

• Energy security (low-carbon economies): Rare Earth Elements
Greenland’s state-building

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Greenland’s state-building process

• The ‘Enoksen’ (fast) approach

• The ‘Kleist’ (pragmatic) approach

The main issue: how much independent can/would Greenland be?
Challenges facing a Greenlandic state

• **Economic autonomy** (on the long term)

• Highly educated population

• **Stronger focus on the international** (education, etc.)
‘Soft power’ and education: key to Greenland’s future educating the future elite and shaping its orientation in world politics
The political elite of Greenland

It is about 44 persons (December 2011):

- 9 ministers
- 31 members of the Parliament
- 4 mayors
Major partners on education

- European Union
- Denmark & Nordic countries
- United States of America
Conclusion

Given Greenland’s strategic assets:

- Crucial to enable and secure a solid economy in the case of a Greenlandic state

- Risk of foreign assistance in case of economic difficulties: could have consequences for developments in the Arctic and global energy security

- In the interest of Greenland, its Arctic neighbours and the global economy that Greenland keeps an economic ‘security net’.

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Thank you!

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