

# COALITION AGREEMENT

People's Party (Fólkaflokkurin) – Unionist Party  
(Sambandsflokkurin) – Centre Party (Miðflokkurin)

Tórshavn, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **AN EXCEPTIONAL SOCIETY**

The People's Party (Fólkaflokkurin), the Unionist Party (Sambandsflokkurin) and the Centre Party (Miðflokkurin) have agreed to form a coalition government.

The Coalition's aim is for the Faroe Islands to become an exceptional society.

To reach this goal we will work to resolve important issues, which enable society to move forward.

Given the changes the world is undergoing and the demands that are being placed on us as a nation, the Coalition holds the view that long-term political programmes and reforms that establish a political strategy for our society and our industry are needed.

The Coalition prioritises areas that create value for our society and are crucial to ensuring continued development, growth and welfare.

In our political work we will only seek legislative changes when there is agreement between the coalition parties.

The Coalition is convinced that the political system must adhere to long-term plans, and that tangible reforms and structural changes will be required over the coming years. The aim is to foster a sustainable economy and to prepare the Faroe Islands to tackle the challenges and harness the opportunities that lie ahead.

The Coalition will adopt dynamic forward-looking energy and environmental policies in line with international standards and commitments.

The Coalition will implement a variety of measures to expand the housing market. We will explore alternative financing solutions as well

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as increase and broaden the availability of housing for persons with special needs.

Business and industry require a sound framework in order to operate in the open market. We need a fisheries management system that fosters economic, industrial, biological and environmental sustainability, while securing the highest possible level of value-added processing and development in the Faroe Islands.

## **ECONOMIC AND FISCAL AFFAIRS**

### **Economic and financial policies**

The Faroese society faces great economic challenges – in particular when considering the cyclical fluctuations in the economy stemming from our primary sector. Sensible and firm governance is necessary to ensure that the Faroe Islands can overcome such challenges without risk to our welfare.

Long-term budgets that secure the future of our welfare will be prepared for both operating costs and investments.

The goal is an economy that does not depend on external assistance, and in which people and industry have the freedom and opportunity to manage their own affairs and futures. This will be achieved through robust systems of support for entrepreneurship where the private sector and government organise a forum for growth with a view to securing continued economic growth through tax policy stimuli.

Our economic policy will be prudent and responsible. In order to reduce cyclical fluctuations, we must adopt countercyclical fiscal and economic policy measures enabling the government to be more cautious during economic expansion and thereby allow for increased spending when economic growth slows down or stalls.

### **Tax policy**

The tax system will be changed to further incentivise work and economic growth. A plan will be prepared to gradually reduce income tax over the coming years. Our objective is to ensure that wages are not hollowed out by too heavy taxation, but it should always pay to work.

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This is necessary to ensure continued economic growth and to maintain the level and standards of public services.

Total foreign income exempt from tax in the Faroe Islands shall never be considered to be in excess of DKK 65,000, which is equivalent to the basic personal tax-free allowance.

Any paying pension contributions made abroad should be offset against the mandatory pension contributions in the Faroe Islands.

In order to boost the supply of labour and enhance opportunities for people of retirement age to work, the Government will revise the regulations for offsetting wage income against pension payments to ensure that it always pays to work.

The value-added-tax system will be revised to make it more user and industry friendly.

To meet the demand for housing and other public utility spaces the Government will explore the opportunities in reviewing regulations and allowing new methods of ownership and financing. The aim is to ensure diversified housing opportunities for all in the Faroe Islands.

### **FISHERIES**

It is imperative that our fisheries management system foster economic, industrial, biological and environmental sustainability coupled with the highest possible levels of value-added processing and development in the Faroe Islands.

Rights to harness the natural resources that belong to the people of the Faroe Islands may be granted for a limited period of time, such rights can revert back to public ownership pursuant to the regulatory framework in force.

Research and development in fisheries and food production are crucial if we are to secure the competitiveness of the Faroese fishing industry and to fully harness its potential for added value.

Fisheries will be based on a system of licences with 10-year terms of notice.

A percentage of the catch, equivalent to one-year fishing rights in the 2019 auction, including the proportion of blue whiting, Norðhav herring, and mackerel that is above the threshold stipulated in article 15 of the Act on the Management of Living Marine Resources, will be pooled with the development quotas and then divided into two parts.

The first part will be available for experimental and current development quotas, while the second part will be issued as licences with 10-year terms of notice. The second part cannot exceed the size of the percentage of the one-year quota at the 2019 auction. Any reduction of the total quota will be taken from these quotas until the total quota is in line with the threshold.

The existing development quotas will be reviewed and may be converted to licences with 10-year terms of notice, if they are found to add value and be sustainable.

Quotas auctioned as 3 and 8-year fishing rights will be converted into

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licences with 10-year terms of notice and will after the auctioned term ends be subject to resource tax. The same terms will apply to all Flemish Cap and Barents Sea licences.

The resource tax will be a profit-based payment taking into account interest rates, oil prices and the market price of fish. Government revenues under current conditions should therefore remain at approximately the same level as in 2018.

To ensure that unused fishing rights are harnessed, experimental quotas may be issued to supplement fishing trials.

Fishing licences will be assigned to named vessels, i.a. to ensure that crews receive correct wages. Transfers will be permitted and quotas or fishing days may be transferred for one year or permanently assigned to a different vessel.

Optimal utilisation of resources is achieved when licences are issued as individual quotas. This is why the Coalition will aim at organising all fishing efforts into individual quotas.

Clear regulations will be issued for tourist fishing.

Fishing licences will be subject to an obligation to use the assigned rights. Should a fishing licence remain unused for two years it will revert to public ownership. In order to transfer one year of the quotas or fishing days to another party, the licence-holder must have used a certain percentage of the licence in the preceding year.

The fishing days system will remain in force and a management plan will be prepared.

To guarantee diverse and broad ownership, restrictions will be imposed on the share each individual owner may hold of the fishing rights in each vessel class and of each species of fish.

All catch is to be landed in the Faroe Islands. Exceptions will, however, be made for fisheries in remote waters when warranted on grounds of quality, cost or other considerations, as well as for fisheries where the

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capacity to receive the catch in the Faroe Islands is limited. Exceptions should also be permissible when special circumstances apply.

Checks on foreign ownership in the fishing industry will be reinforced. This applies to foreign control as well as prevention of transfer pricing. Existing foreign ownership in the industry will be allowed to continue, while foreign ownership in new companies is capped at 25% to allow the Faroese fishing industry to benefit from investor know-how. It is necessary to ensure that majority control in companies remains in Faroese hands at all times.

The current scheme with closed areas in the Faroe Shelf will be reviewed. Fishing trials in the Faroe Bank will continue in order to assess whether fisheries can resume.

The conditions governing transferability must ensure that the fishing capacity in deep waters cannot move unhindered to shallow waters.

In the event that fishing rights are permanently transferred, the sale of these rights will be liable to taxation.



### **HEALTH**

Our health is of vital importance to us all. A well functioning health service is a prerequisite for wellbeing and should therefore be given the highest priority.

The health service should operate as a single patient-centred entity. Physical and mental health and healthcare should be placed on even footing. It is critical that patients are rapidly diagnosed

In order to provide health services of the highest quality, it is important to offer good working conditions for healthcare workers.

There is a growing need for healthcare workers, including staff with special qualifications. It is therefore necessary to support a working environment within the health services that is conducive to professional development. This includes a focus on continuing education and technical degrees. The educational programmes on offer within the field of healthcare will be expanded.

The Faroe Islands will be structured as a dementia-friendly society in accordance with the Government's dementia plan.

The health service will seek agreements with top-ranking hospitals abroad on cooperation, staff development and treatment, with a view to creating a rota system designed to retain competences and skills in the Faroe Islands.

Rapid diagnosis and treatment will be the cornerstones of public health policy. A treatment guarantee scheme will be implemented stipulating that nobody should wait for treatment for more than 30 days.

Waiting times for patients will be shortened and the hospital service will be required to publish waiting times for different treatments. The causes of waiting lists will be continuously analysed.

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Digital records of hospital activities will be improved to provide hospital management with the necessary administrative tools to organise operations more rationally.

Talgildu Føroyar (Digital Faroe Islands – the Government’s digitalisation initiative) shall encompass the hospital service. Digital communication between institutions, public administration and pharmacies will be further developed.

A solution must be found that enables linking Faroese and Danish social security numbers when registering Faroese patients receiving treatment abroad.

Patient care must be a cohesive, interdisciplinary effort with close cooperation between the hospitals, all other sectors of the health service and specialised treatment abroad. A joint committee will be formed to ensure full utilisation of all three hospitals.

The rules on accompaniment for treatment abroad should be revised. All patients who are sent abroad for treatment must be entitled to accompaniment.

The health service must become more involved with preventative measures, for example by focusing on public health initiatives and dissemination of information. Greater emphasis will be placed on exercise, healthy diet, etc.

Rehabilitation will be reinforced throughout the country. We will draft new legislation, which guarantees that individual care plans are drawn up covering physical, mental and social needs. The Government will also follow the recommendation on the rehabilitation of persons living with Parkinson’s disease, sclerosis and other neurological challenges.

Plans to organise long-term physical rehabilitation services will be implemented as soon as possible.

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Suitable treatment or other assistance will be provided for people with acquired brain injuries.

A new cancer plan will be drawn up.

A diabetes centre will be established and the option to bring in external expertise should be examined.

Psychiatric patients will be guaranteed emergency treatment at accident and emergency departments.

More specialist physicians will be hired, including a geriatrician.

The possibility of introducing declarations of work capacity issued by general practitioners will be examined.

We should prevent any unnecessary duplication of functions in the health service.

### **SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

The Coalition recognises that no chain is stronger than its weakest link, and it is determined to adopt dynamic social policies centred on the needs of the individual and affording everyone the opportunity to enjoy a fulfilling day-to-day with the best possible quality of life.

Age should not determine when workers leave the labour market. The statutes relating to public servants and other directives will be changed accordingly.

The guiding principle is that a person's capacity to work, not their age should determine when they leave the labour market.

To secure current and future pensioners an age-security-fund will be set up, which will pay out all public pensions with a standard personal tax-free allowance and a further taxable supplement. This will give pensioners with no other income a significant increase in disposable income. The adjustment in pension payments to offset wage income will be changed to make sure that it actually pays to work.

The Coalition will introduce a care supplement for dependent persons living at home aged between 18 and 66, while the user co-payment scheme for home care will be reviewed.

The Coalition will launch an immediate joint review of the legislation governing elder care with municipalities and other relevant authorities. Professional standard requirements will be set and actual care needs shall determine staffing levels. The funding model will also be subject to review.

The Coalition will review and update the welfare bill drafted to replace the Act on Social Care (Forsorgarlógin).

Concerning persons aged between 18-66 the provisions in the  
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guidelines on cooperation between care services (Markamótaskjalið) will be implemented.

The Coalition will accelerate the construction of accommodation such as sheltered housing, shared housing and residential homes for people with special needs.

A spokesperson for persons with special needs due to disability or illness will be appointed in cooperation with MEGD (the federation of organisations for persons with disabilities in the Faroe Islands).

Substance abuse treatment services for women will be improved and better services will be made available to children and young people growing up in homes affected by mental illness and substance abuse.

Municipalities will be permitted to pay a portion of the cost of childcare services directly to parents when they choose alternative childcare options or choose to mind their own children at home. This is based on the guiding principle that the funds shall follow the child.

Maternity leave will be extended to at least 52 weeks and the scheme will be made more flexible. This measure is intended to enable parents for example to work reduced hours and use the leave with greater flexibility.

Maternity leave for the self-employed will be reviewed.

The Coalition will review and build on the agreement "Tann góða tilgongdin" (The good process). An interdisciplinary team of practitioners will be assigned to families who have children with special needs, so that care and support can become more comprehensive and effective.

The Coalition will draw up an overarching action plan on disability-related policies for the Faroe Islands.

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The arrangement for the provision of physical aids will be reviewed.

The Coalition will seek an agreement between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the relevant trade unions regarding protections in the event of strikes.

The Coalition will take steps to ensure that care work around the country is prioritised equally throughout the year.

The work of organisations and institutions that provide aid and/or treatment will be bolstered.

Anti-bullying measures at day-care centres and schools are to be strengthened.

The sign language interpreter service will be reinforced.

The Coalition will prioritise the care, leisure and employment opportunities and offers available to persons with physical or intellectual impairments. Public institution will lead the way in creating employment opportunities.

The Coalition will revise the legislation governing parental custody, so that children have a right to both their mother and father and parental rights and obligations are affirmed.

The family is the cornerstone of society and should therefore receive the highest priority in law.

## **EDUCATION**

A good school is the foundation of society. The public education system should guarantee a sound education in practical and intellectual skills and capacities, and everyone should have the opportunity to gain an education. Public school will continue to be based on Christian ethics and Faroese culture.

The public primary and lower-secondary school should be for everyone. All pupils in public schools shall be taught to the highest standards and receive solid education options.

The Coalition will seek adjustments and amendments of the legislation governing the public school system to enhance the quality of delivery; these will include provisions on class sizes, special education and staffing.

It will also be necessary to strengthen the creative subjects and crafts, digital skills and language development.

Additionally, it will be necessary to reinforce language and cultural instruction for pupils of migrant background.

We should continue to support pupils with reading and writing difficulties in order to enable them to access education on equal footing.

The Coalition will seek to enhance the education opportunities following on from primary and lower-secondary school for students with mental challenges/intellectual impairments.

Coordination between the day-care system and public schools will be enhanced and the law governing day-care centres will be reviewed.

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The Coalition will increase support for private schools and continuation schools to foster further development.

Everyone should have the opportunity to receive an education at upper secondary level or vocational training.

The current system of pathways in secondary education has been in effect for a few years and is due for review.

International trends necessitate reinforcing the humanities.

Vocational educations in the Faroe Islands are of great societal importance. We must continue to develop and adapt these programmes. Personal tax allowance will be increased for apprentices.

The Coalition will work to prepare and establish possible new vocational educations in areas such as aquaculture and fisheries.

The Coalition wishes to develop and strengthen the University of the Faroe Islands. The University should be internationally accredited as soon as possible and become party to the Bologna Accord.

The University should emphasise educations forecast to be in demand in business, industry and society in general.

The organisation of the University will be reviewed, while the degree programmes in education, social education and nursing will be evaluated.

High priority should be attached to the importance of research in contemporary society.

The Coalition will prioritise research projects, which have the potential to develop and foster a more diverse business sector, including research in biotechnology and information technology.



The EU research cooperation (currently Horizon 2020) will be evaluated.

### **CULTURE**

The Coalition attaches great importance to creating a sound framework for culture, arts and sports.

The Coalition will lend as much support as possible to the vital voluntary work that the Faroese Confederation of Sports (ÍSÍ) and its associations, Parasport Føroyar, sports clubs, scouts, craft associations and hobby clubs, congregations and individuals do to enable children and youth to learn and grow.

Knowledge of our living history, Faroese language, Faroese chain dance, visual arts, crafts, music, literature and poetry should be strengthened.

When public buildings are built, a set fraction of the construction cost will be used for decorative art.

The Coalition will support Faroese membership in international sports federations as well as participation in international competitions. Efforts will continue to secure Faroese membership of the International Olympic Committee.

The Coalition aims to support elite sports and elite athletes.

The Coalition will work towards the goal that all children who so wish can have the opportunity to join the music school.

The Government will work towards establishing an art school system for children and young people of school age.

The Coalition will support museums around the country that showcase

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and preserve our cultural history and heritage.

The cultural and artistic grant schemes will be reviewed.

The cap on tax-free income in sports will be changed.

The Coalition will review the plan for the use of the buildings in Hoydalar.

The freedom to apply for grants from funds in the Faroe Islands and abroad should be a self-evident option for public institutions.

The Coalition will review the legislation governing the Faroese public radio and television broadcaster (Kringvarp Føroya) in particular its structure with a board and newsrooms, its public service obligations, licence fee, as well as in relation to ensuring media independence.

The system of financial subsidies to the media will be revised.

The Coalition will work to strengthen our mother tongue, including providing more Faroese educational material for primary and lower secondary school, as well as upper secondary school.

The production of Faroese material for children and youths will be a priority across all media platforms.

Sign language interpretation and subtitles in television will be strengthened. An initiative on “speech to text” for the visually impaired will receive support.

The Coalition will draft a bill on integration with special regard to Faroese as a second language.

Efforts to establish a legal framework for the Faroese national church will continue in cooperation with all parties in the national church.

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We must build a national theatre where we can offer the creative arts a place to grow and showcase its fruits, a venue that will lift up our artists to an international level.

## **ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Climate change permeates public discourse around the world. This Coalition will implement initiatives to reduce emissions and pollution. The Coalition will also work to protect our fragile nature and environment.

Our approach to greening the Faroe Islands will be determined in cooperation between national government, municipalities and industry. Work will be coordinated in an advisory committee for energy, where these three parties will present their recommendations on how to become a greener country. The tripartite negotiations between these parties will result in both short-term and long-term targets for the benefit of a greener Faroe Islands.

If we are to become a greener and more sustainable society, the population, business and industry must work together. We will make green energy solutions cheaper for the consumer and implement systems and legislation that will cut e.g. pollution and food waste. Bottle deposit systems and recycling should also be prioritised.

The production of green energy must be considerably accelerated. To achieve this target, the coalition will work to ensure greater competition in the production and distribution of energy.

The Coalition will work to unbundle SEV's power grid from other activities, so that the cost of grid services becomes completely transparent. Full transparency will underpin opportunities for private companies to lease, generate and sell their products.

We will tackle pollution problems, particularly that of plastic pollutants, through preventative measures. Noise and air pollution caused by ships must be addressed, and this can be achieved through cooperation between national and local government and industry. The Government

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will implement regulation to restrict such pollution.

The acts on the environment, plant and wildlife protection and biodiversity will be reviewed with regard to the division of responsibility between national and local government. A new act governing the use of chemical substances will also be implemented.

The building code in force will be reviewed and adapted to Faroese circumstances.

Public buildings shall to the greatest extent possible have green energy solutions.

Almost half of Faroese emissions are from ships. It is therefore imperative that the fleet is renewed and older vessels are replaced by new vessels that pollute significantly less.

Knowledge in the field of new energy sources in the Faroe Islands will be a priority, including researching and recording hot springs in the Faroe Islands.

The Government will support the planting of trees.

Emergency preparedness in the event of oil pollution will be coordinated and enhanced with clearer distribution of tasks.

## **TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

The purpose of our industrial policy is to develop existing industry and trade and encourage new activities that are sustainable and highly profitable.

The Coalition's industrial policy will be based on the principle that capital and labour should be free to move to businesses that generate profits.

The public authorities must generate a robust framework for trade and industry enabling businesses to operate on market economy terms.

The Coalition will emphasise business and industry related education, training and research.

The Coalition will seek the most favourable trade agreements with countries that constitute major markets for Faroese trade.

The fish farming industry has grown to a large job-creating industry, and market access for this industry should be continually improved.

The Government will support opportunities for production and development of the Faroese breeds of salmon and trout, as well as Faroese solutions in the fish-farming sector as a whole.

The Coalition will work to stimulate development, growth and diversification in the fish-farming sector, including access to the open ocean for farming, while ensuring that all measures taken are based on a biologically sound foundation.

The potential for farming fish on land should also be harnessed and work carried out to develop opportunities for ocean ranching and other types of farming, including seaweed and shellfish (mariculture).

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We must protect the environment and always seek solutions to restrict pollution.

Tourism is a rapidly growing service industry, which is conditional on tourists coming to our country and spending money. We should strive to foster an organized tourist sector, which is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable and creates many jobs while at the same time causes minimal disturbance to village life and nature.

The Coalition will seek an agreement between landowners/leaseholders and the tourist industry together with national and local government on how to organise excursions in nature on a sustainable basis and coordinate fees etc., in order to foster stable and secure working conditions for the tourist sector.

Public transport fees paid by international tourists for travelling in the Faroe Islands will be reviewed.

It is important that tourism remains an industry for the whole country and that profits accrue to the areas where activities take place.

Research has a significant role to play in the development of Faroese society. It matters to how we live our lives and how we organise our society. This is why it is crucial that we have industrial research.

The Faroe Islands is a food exporter, so it is self-evident that research should be carried out on food industry, the marine environment and other related areas. Research should also be undertaken to study the impacts of industry on our fjord environments.

The Coalition will seek to raise the profile of the Faroe Islands as a location for international research in oceanography.

The Coalition will draw up an agricultural policy oriented towards the development of Faroese agricultural products with due consideration

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for the sustainable use of infield and outfield, which will serve as a foundation for continued commercial development of agriculture. The aim is for the Faroe Islands to become self-sufficient in agricultural products.

Any transferable systems of farming rights should be based on criteria such as the right to produce straw fodder.

We should bolster milk production in the Faroe Islands and review the current scheme to increase profitability.

Vocational course-based training in agriculture will be strengthened to provide qualifications for those who intend to take over farm tenure.

We will boost the Faroese ICT-industry. To this end the Government and public bodies will purchase Faroese ICT solutions whenever possible. The Government will also work to make ICT an export industry.

To guarantee a level playing field in the telecommunications market, the Government will initiate full ownership separation of the public telecommunications network.

Public works will be put out to tender and independent tradespeople will be allowed to enter bids.

The Government will work to stimulate Faroese shipbuilding.

Over the coming years the fishing industry will need to renew and replace its fleet. In this context, the Government will strive to ensure that as much of the work as possible is carried out in the Faroe Islands.

This will be achieved through continued specialisation and development of the fisheries supply industry and a division of labour between Faroese and foreign shipyards on larger projects.



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The Coalition will emphasise training and educating staff for the growing restaurant industry in the Faroe Islands. Developing the restaurant industry will also be a component of food production research.

It is our vision that the Faroese shipping industry should become a major international player generating profits, progress and welfare. Legislation and executive orders must therefore be up-to-date to allow the Faroe Islands to be competitive as a shipping nation.

Our fishing and fish-farming industries need to be able to market themselves as sustainable and environmentally friendly industries. It is therefore imperative that the supply industries that provide goods and services for these industries are energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

It is therefore important to support subcontractors whose goods and systems cause a minimum of emissions and waste.

The Faroese health and pharmaceutical sectors are developing. Targeted continued development of existing pharmaceutical production will benefit commercial activities in the Faroe Islands and the health service in general. The Government will work to encourage further advancement in pharmaceutical production in the Faroe Islands.

The Coalition has determined that the education system will play an important part in fostering an enterprising spirit in Faroese society.

Graduates with higher degrees will be encouraged to create their own work or to seek work in industry to a greater extent.

An industry and research foundation will be established to boost Faroese entrepreneurship and Faroese industry.

The statutes of the Business Development Fund of the Faroe Islands

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(Framtaksgrunnurin) will be amended to allow it to finance more new initiatives.

An online hub for entrepreneurs will be set up.

When deemed feasible and prudent, private industry will be offered the opportunity to submit bids to provide public services where there may be financial and service-level benefits to the consumer. Core services will not be included in such a scheme.

Public ownership in business will be reviewed.

When there is a shortage of labour it should be easier and faster to recruit migrant workers on a temporary basis.

All employers who pay workers by the hour shall be placed on equal footing in relation to sick day schemes.

The Coalition will examine the potential for setting up a registry akin to FAS, Faroe Islands National and International Ship Register, for aviation.

The law on compulsory pilotage will be reviewed.

### **TRANSPORT**

The Coalition will seek to guarantee adequate transport links throughout the Faroe Islands. Highly developed and well-functioning transport infrastructure is crucial to industry and a thriving society across the country.

A robust transport infrastructure interconnecting the entire archipelago is a determining factor in fostering a thriving society. This is why the Government will produce a transport strategy where investment in tunnels, sub-sea tunnels, roads and ferries is prioritised in the long-term financial framework.

The Government will work to design a funding model for the whole transport infrastructure that is advantageous for permanent residents. Ticket prices, tolls and other levies paid by international tourists travelling within the Faroe Islands will be reviewed.

Access to outlying islands will be improved and travel conditions for persons with reduced mobility will be prioritised.

## **HOUSING**

### **Diverse housing opportunities for everyone in the Faroe Islands**

Having a place to live is a basic need and a modern society should guarantee that all its members can find one.

The aim is to increase the supply of private market rental flats and public housing for people with special needs. The Government wishes to accelerate the construction of sheltered housing, house shares residential homes and other accommodation for people with special needs.

Public and private housing construction will be placed on equal footing.

The housing market should be diverse with opportunities for houses and flats to buy, housing cooperatives and rental flats.

The lack of financing for housing construction around the country must be addressed.

Alternative financing opportunities for housing construction will be investigated, including potential cooperation between pension funds, banks, private companies, the Faroese Housing Association (Bústaðir) and other actors.

Registration fees for real estate will be lowered again.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The Government will enter negotiations with the Danish Government with a view to revising the act governing its foreign policy mandate.

The goal is to have full influence on foreign policy matters that only concern the Faroe Islands. The Faroese authorities will secure insight and influence/decision-making power in all areas of foreign policy and defence policy that are of importance to the Faroe Islands. Negotiations will be initiated with the Danish Government to enshrine these powers in law.

Faroese representation in multilateral and international organisations will be reinforced. The Government will work to achieve observer status at the UN and independent membership of the Nordic Council, WTO and other international organisations.

Negotiations will be initiated with the Icelandic Government with a view to signing a new trade agreement between the countries.

West-Nordic regional cooperation will be bolstered.

The Coalition will seek to further cooperation with neighbouring nations and territories throughout the North Atlantic.

The Government will work to strengthen and develop Faroese representation around the world, including establishing representations in Israel, Japan and other countries where we should strengthen cooperation. A new system for the appointment of representatives will be prepared.

The Coalition will accelerate efforts to negotiate true free-trade agreements with the EU, UK and other countries.

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As a country in the Arctic region we will seek to strengthen our position as a maritime hub, an actor in emergency preparedness and with a view to future resources.

The Coalition will draw up clear objectives for development aid and emergency aid.

Signed:

Tórshavn, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Jørgen Niclasen

Bárður á Steig Nielsen

Jenis av Rana

Fólkaflokkurin

Sambandsflokkurin

Miðflokkurin