



***Røða hildin í samband við, at íslenski forsetin
vitjaði í Løgtinginum***

Løgtingið

22. juni 2026

Your Excellency, Mr. Prime-minister, dear guests,

It is a great honor and pleasure to welcome you to Løgtingið. Iceland and Faroe Islands share a special historical and cultural bond. And one does not have to look too far to see an example of that. When entering Løgtingið you can see a very special painting – a gift from the Icelandic parliament to the Faroese parliament, on its 100th anniversary of the restoration of Løgtingið in 1952. A magnificent gift, painted by one of Iceland's most distinguished artists, Kjarval, here in our parliament.

History also tells us that our parliament was originally established as an Althing by the Norse settlers who populated the Faroe Islands around the year 800 - 900. And in that connection, I cannot resist – as any proper little brother would – raising the question of whether the Faroese Althing may, in fact, be the older of the two.

Now that we are gathered in the chamber of our parliament, allow me briefly to highlight some important events in our history.

As a part of a restructuring of the Faroese administration, the Danish government abolished Løgtingið in 1816, transferring all governing authority to the Danish Prefect, Amtmaðurin. Following strong political pressure from the Faroese people, Løgtingið was restored in 1852 as an advisory provincial council. With the Home Rule Act of 1948, Løgtingið regained genuine legislative authority over a wide range of domestic affairs. Today, it serves as the democratically elected parliament of the Faroe Islands, consisting of 33 members who enact Faroese legislation. Over the years, the Faroe Islands have assumed responsibility for an increasing number of areas of governance, with the result that today we make decisions on most matters ourselves.

In 2005, the Fámjin Treaty marked a milestone through a joint declaration between the Government of Denmark and the Government of the Faroe Islands concerning foreign and security policy. The declaration formally grants the Faroe Islands a co-determining voice and a prominent role in foreign and security matters that directly affect Faroese interests. It ensures that whenever international treaties or foreign-policy issues involve the Faroe Islands, the Faroese Government (Landsstýrið) is actively included in negotiations alongside Danish diplomats, rather than merely being informed after the fact.

The treaty represents an important milestone in the modern constitutional history of the Faroe Islands. It helped bridge the gap between Denmark's traditional responsibility for foreign affairs and the Faroe Islands' practical need to act as an independent player in the geopolitical landscape of the North Atlantic and the Arctic.

With strong support from Iceland, the Faroe Islands have also now become a permanent member of the Presidency of the Nordic Council. Our goal is to reach full membership of the Nordic Council by changing the Helsinki treaty. The update is expected to be ready by autumn.

The respect and support we receive from Iceland and the Icelandic people are deeply appreciated. And that sentiment is very much mutual – we hold the Icelandic people and Iceland in the highest regard. The historical and cultural ties between our two countries are truly unique. Let us continue to nurture the strong bonds between us and continue to write the shared story of two countries and two nations, founded on mutual respect and a unique sense of kinship.

Finally, as Speaker of Løgtingið, I would like to invite you back to the entrance hall. There, we will be pleased to offer a glass, and you will also meet other members of the Presidium of Løgtingið.

As you may have noticed, Løgtingið is currently being renovated. This is why it looks as it does on the outside now and therefore no parliament members are present.

We look forward to continuing our close cooperation and wish you God's richest blessings.

Johan Dahl,
løgtingsformaður