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## **DENMARK PICKS EUROSCEPTIC AS FOREIGN MINISTER**

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EurActiv

Denmarks new coalition government on Monday (28 November) picked an outspoken eurosceptic as its new foreign minister, marking a potential political shift in a country where opposition against the European Union is growing.

Anders Samuelsen, 49, has maintained a sceptical attitude towards Denmarks participation in the European Union since his Liberal Alliance party was founded in 2007 and campaigned against further cooperation with the bloc.

I have not changed my attitude overnight towards the EU, Samuelsen told reporters on Monday after his party on Sunday became part of a new broader coalition deal.

### **DANISH PREMIER TO DEFY EU WITH TOUGH ASYLUM LAW**

Denmarks prime minister on Wednesday (7 September) said his minority government would push ahead with a bill to reject asylum seekers at the borders in times of crisis even though such a move might breach the EUs Dublin System.

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Unlike previous liberal governments that have clearly stated they wanted to keep Denmark close to the core of the European Union, the new 86-page government platform presented on Sunday only describes policy towards EU in vague terms.

The governments line is that we are at the core of the EU cooperation, but at the same time we have a critical attitude in the way the EU works. We want to reform the EU, United Nations and NATO from within, he said. We have a task of cleansing to do.

We may be inspired by what happens in the rest of the world, he said without elaborating and without specifically mentioning Britains vote to exit the EU.

Opposition against European cooperation is growing in Denmark, with anti-EU or eurosceptic parties getting more mandates in parliament, including the Danish Peoples Party, the Red-Green Alliance and the Liberal Alliance.

Denmark currently holds opt-outs from EU policies on security, police and the euro. At the most recent EU referendum in December last year, Liberal Alliance campaigned against cooperation with cross-border police agency Europol, a deal that was eventually rejected by Danish voters.

#### TIMMERMANS DASHES DANISH HOPES FOR PARALLEL DEAL ON EUROPOL

European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told Denmark's leaders yesterday (27 September) that they would not get the cross-border policing deal they have been seeking since Danes voted in a referendum to quit Europol.

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The two other government parties, the Liberals led by Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and the Conservative Party, are pro-EU and want to revoke exceptions the Nordic country currently holds on EU matters.

Liberal Alliance holds 13 seats in the 179-member parliament.

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Kaynak/Source: