



Annual report | The Royal House of Denmark 2008
Summary

The 2008 annual report for the Royal House of Denmark is the fifth since 2004. Reflecting the Court's desire to keep the public informed, the report describes the duties and functions of the Danish Monarchy, key events during the year, and selected themes relating to The Royal Family. The themes in this year's report spotlight The Royal Family's work to promote Danish industry and culture internationally, the New Year levees, and the tradition of inscribing signatures on the windows of Fredensborg Palace.

During 2008 members of The Royal Family undertook numerous official visits abroad, spearheading industrial and cultural campaigns focused on Denmark, or helping to raise awareness of humanitarian organisations for which they are patrons. The Queen and The Prince Consort performed two state visits, one early in 2008 to Mexico, and one late in the year to Tanzania. At home in Denmark, The Royal Family made three summer cruises by the Royal Yacht Dannebrog, two with The Queen and The Prince Consort on board, the third with The Crown Prince and The Crown Princess accompanied by their children Prince Christian and Princess Isabella.

The major family event in 2008 was the occasion of the wedding of Prince Joachim and Princess Marie on 24th May. The ceremony, which took place in Møgeltønder Church, was followed at close hand by several thousand people, including some 500 representatives of the Danish and international press. A private celebration was held afterwards in Schackenborg Castle.

In spring 2008 a new three-year agreement was established between the Court and the Association of Court Employees. The negotiations focused strongly on flexible work practices as the key to realising future change and service requirements in the Royal Household. Other priorities were enhancement of staff skills and provision of training, including individual courses.

Environmental initiatives in the Royal Household were continued and extended.

The annual report includes statements of the royal finances. The accounting period covered is the calendar year 1st January - 31st December 2008.



Ove Ullerup

Lord Chamberlain

Amalienborg, 23rd March 2009

The Danish Monarchy

The Danish Monarchy functions within the provisions of The Constitutional Act whereby The Queen exercises authority through the Government. Therefore any decisions by The Queen require endorsement by a cabinet minister. The Queen remains politically impartial in all respects.

Legislative power is exercised jointly by The Queen and the Danish Parliament. A bill must therefore be passed by Parliament and assented to by The Queen before becoming law. That assent is obtained at meetings of the Council of State which are presided over by The Queen. Government bills must be laid before such meetings before being submitted to Parliament but, in urgent cases, bills may be submitted and assented to outside the Council, subject to confirmation at the following meeting.

By tradition, The Royal Family are present at the opening of Parliament which takes place on the first Tuesday in October.

As part of the exercise of power, a number of recommendations are routinely submitted to The Queen for consideration. These include the appointment or dismissal of Government ministers and senior civil servants. From time to time, royal decrees are promulgated, such as the implementation of legislation relating to Greenland and the Faroe Islands, or the issue of new coinage.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister meet regularly with The Queen to provide personal briefings on domestic and international affairs.

Judicial authority rests with the courts of law. The Queen may grant a pardon to convicted persons on the advice of the Minister of Justice, but there are relatively few instances where such a recommendation is made.

If The Queen is prevented from discharging her duties as Head of State due to absence or incapacity, The Crown Prince is appointed as regent. If The Crown Prince is similarly prevented, Prince Joachim or Princess Benedikte act in this capacity.

Activities and Events

During the course of the year, members of The Royal Family undertake numerous official duties, including royal visits, inaugurations and ceremonial openings, anniversary events, and presentation of awards and honours. They also receive ambassadors, hold audiences and attend meetings of the Council of State. In addition to these official duties, Their Royal Highnesses undertake a host of other tasks not listed on the official calendar, such as meetings with organisations, Government ministers and individuals. They are also involved in the planning of events. An updated list of official engagements for the next two weeks is published on the royal website every Thursday.

Some of the activities and events which took place in 2008 are described below.

State Visits to Mexico and Tanzania

State visits are The Royal Family's most important activity outside Denmark. In 2008 The Queen and The Prince Consort carried out two state visits with extensive participation from Danish industry and cultural circles. In February, at the invitation of President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, The Royal Couple travelled to Mexico accompanied by a 32-strong industry delegation and representatives from Danish art and culture. While the industry delegation was primarily intended to foster collaboration in the areas of energy, environment and health, the purpose of the cultural programme was to build new contacts between artists and cultural institutions in both countries.

The Queen and The Prince Consort visited two Danish-owned companies, Grundfos and Palsgaard, in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí. At the Museo Franz Mayer museum, The Queen opened 'The Jewellery Box', an exhibition of modern Danish jewellery being displayed abroad for the first time. Her Majesty also opened an exhibition of Danish contemporary art at Mexico's national museum, Museo Nacional de San Carlos, while The Prince Consort attended a business seminar and visited the headquarters of the Mexican Navy. Accompanied by the Mexican President, The Royal Couple then travelled to the state of Michoacán to view the Santa Ana monastery in Tzintzuntzan, before concluding their tour with a visit to the state of Chiapas to inspect the ancient Mayan cities of Yaxchilán and Palenque.

On their state visit from 3rd to 6th November Their Royal Highnesses The Queen and The Prince Consort enjoyed a happy reunion with Tanzania, which they had last visited in 1970. Tanzania has been the largest recipient of Danish development

assistance for a number of years, and the current visit was intended to strengthen Danish-Tanzanian development cooperation, which commenced back in the 1960s shortly after the birth of Tanzania as a sovereign state. As head of the African Union in 2008, President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete plays a key role in African politics, and he is also a member of the Danish Government's Africa Commission. Danish development cooperation with Tanzania amounts to DKK 490 million annually.

A delegation of 44 Danish companies and organisations accompanied the state visit to Tanzania. In what was an intensive programme, numerous activities were oriented towards development cooperation, business and culture. The Queen had the opportunity to visit the Kibotrade Textiles company, which partners a Danish company in the production of quality T-shirts. As part of the cultural roster The Queen opened a new cultural centre and workshops and The Prince Consort attended a theatre project for street children. Under a three-year cultural programme supported by the Danish Centre for Culture and Development (CKU), the cultural centre will give young Tanzanians the chance to exchange experience with and gain inspiration from visiting Danish artists.

The visit further afforded an opportunity for Tanzania to showcase some of the results of Danish development support; in the village of Dakawa The Queen witnessed efficiencies in rice cultivation and gained an insight into the living conditions of the rice farmers; and in Zanzibar, where The Royal Couple were received by President Amani Abeid Karume, tours of several health clinics showed how Danish cooperation is contributing to improved public health. The royal stay in Tanzania culminated in a visit to Arusa in the north of the country to see the training centre run by the Danish Association for International Cooperation.

Schools and Education

Vesterbro Ungdomsgård is a youth activity centre that has been a social, cultural and learning hub for the children and young people of this district of Copenhagen for 50 years. Patron of the centre since 1977, The Prince Consort visited the centre on its 50th anniversary on 2nd February, the occasion being marked by music, song and other entertainment. Originally best known for theatre and music, the centre today offers much more, including sport, help with homework and social events.

In June the focus was on the education of young people when The Crown Prince attended the 'Youth Education for All' conference in Odense. Sponsored by Local Government Denmark (KL) and the

Danish Ministry of Education, the conference discussed ways in which local authorities and educational institutions could encourage more young people to continue in education. Underlying their concern is the high drop-out rate of young people from youth education programmes. The hope is that local authorities will now take concrete action to provide vocational training, apprenticeships and high school places to equip young people for the job market and higher education.

The Royal Family have strong ties with the 50,000 Danes living in South Slesvig, Germany. At the start of the school year on 1st September The Queen inaugurated Slesvig's first Danish high school, the A.P. Møller School. In the current school year, 2008-2009, the school has some 340 pupils in 7th to 11th grade education. In the next few years this number is expected to increase to 600 pupils covering grades 7 to 13.

The training ship DANMARK is a 'floating school' providing instruction in seamanship and accommodating 80 trainees and 15 crew. Prince Joachim, patron of the ship since 1991, and Princess Marie were on board when the vessel made its presentation appearance in the Sound on 9th September prior to departing for an autumn cruise to the Azores and Grand Canary.

Visits by The Prince Consort to Nicaragua and China

In continuation of the state visit in Mexico The Prince Consort travelled to Central America to inspect the development work being carried out by the Danish aid organisation Danida in the Nicaraguan regional capital, Bluefields, and to view the activities of Danish companies elsewhere in the country. His Royal Highness visited the children's project 'Carita Feliz' (happy face) and a local housing project for 100 families which included communal sports facilities and a community centre. He also visited the Mærsk shipping company and the local port authority in the town of Corinto, where container freight has increased ten-fold over the past seven years, Richwood, makers of wood products based on sustainable forestry development, and Press2, an IT company that has created jobs which teach young people new skills.

In the period 31st March - 13th April The Prince Consort travelled to China to take part in activities arranged by the Danish-Chinese Business Forum and The Shanghai Conservatory of Music, both organisations under his patronage. While in Beijing, The Prince Consort presented a special gift to The Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. Sponsored by Danish cultural institutions and businesses, the gift comprised 16 plaster casts from The Royal Cast Collection, which is part of Statens Museum for Kunst (Denmark's national art museum). The

royal programme also included visiting the company Novozymes and attending a dinner with Danish business figures in Beijing. At The Shanghai Conservatory of Music, His Royal Highness attended a concert arranged by The Royal Danish Conservatory of Music, afterwards joining in conversation with the players.

Opening of Regional Mental Health Centre

In 2008 The Crown Princess undertook a number of official duties in her capacity as patron of The Danish Mental Health Fund. These duties included opening a new regional mental health centre for children and young people in Viborg. The centre treats children with a variety of mental health disabilities such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anorexia, depression, Tourette syndrome and relationship disorders. Treatment of young people aged 15 to 21 was later transferred to Risskov Psychiatric Hospital.

In October The Crown Princess attended a ceremony to mark World Mental Health Day, and at the end of the year Her Royal Highness participated in the Danish Psychiatric Society's centenary celebrations.

Humanitarian Trips to Mozambique and Uganda

In the period 26th April - 5th May Prince Joachim travelled to Mozambique together with CARE Danmark, the development organisation of which His Royal Highness is patron. The purpose of the visit was to generate awareness of some of the projects supported by the organisation in this impoverished region. Project targets include improving child health, helping children suffering from HIV, helping orphans, improving farming methods and providing clean water.

As patron of the Danish Refugee Council, The Crown Princess travelled to Uganda in September to raise public awareness and increase her own understanding of the organisation's work. While her visit to a refugee camp in the country's unstable northern region was a meeting with poverty and human loss on a vast scale, the activities of the Danish Refugee Council in this area were a source of both pleasure and pride. The Crown Princess' own foundation, the Mary Foundation, subsequently donated DKK 250,000 to support the Council's work in Uganda. The donation will be used as a helping hand to women, singles and large families wishing to start a small workshop or business that will make them financially independent.

Integration

The Crown Princess presented several awards during the year in recognition of successful integration initiatives.

In May The Crown Princess paid her third visit to Vollsrose, Odense, which has a large immigrant population. Her mission on this occasion was to present 'The Golden Frog', a newly instituted national award recognising efforts to promote integration. Founded by Vollsrose residents in cooperation with local housing associations and Odense City Council, the award, a statuette, was received by three dedicated local people. In turn the recipients immediately presented it to The Crown Princess 'to mark her own efforts to promote integration in Denmark'.

Later in the year, in November, The Crown Princess bestowed five integration awards on behalf of The Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs at a gala ceremony in Copenhagen. For the seventh consecutive year the awards went to organisations and individuals involved with schools, education and employment.

The Wedding of Prince Joachim and Princess Marie

'Møgeltønder with Schackenborg Castle in the borderland between north and south is a beautiful place for a meeting between a French-Danish couple, and a fine starting point for a journey that will take you far and wide, not only in the Kingdom of Denmark, but throughout the world. Your roots are here, it is here your world begins. It is therefore particularly appropriate that Møgeltønder Church should be the place of your wedding!' These were the words of the Royal Chaplain, bishop Erik Norman Svendsen, on the occasion of the wedding of Prince Joachim and Princess Marie on 24th May. In the days up to the event, several thousand well-wishers gathered in Møgeltønder to catch a glimpse of the bridal couple, other members of The Royal Family and the wedding guests as they passed through the streets to the castle. The ceremony was followed by a reception, and later in the evening a wedding banquet at Schackenborg Castle.

Promoting Business and Culture Abroad

The Royal Family's younger generation made numerous official overseas visits in 2008.

Early in May The Crown Prince and Princess made their first official visit to Iceland. As well as visiting the university, a school, a company and a museum, The Royal Couple attended a conference on volcanoes and toured the Nesjavellir geothermal power plant and the genetic research centre, deCODE genetics.

In June The Crown Princess travelled to London as the guest of honour at an industrial and cultural promotion. In the presence of Princess Benedikte and after visiting 'sust-DANE-able', the largest ever Danish architectural exhibition in London, The Crown Princess opened an exhibition of the works of Danish artist

Vilhelm Hammershøj at The Royal Academy of Art, an event which proved very successful.

With 2008 marking 40 years of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Denmark, the Crown Prince travelled to Mongolia to take part in an industrial promotion on behalf of Danish energy companies. Denmark has provided transitional development assistance to Mongolia for a number of years, and support continues through a number of NGO projects. The Crown Prince opened a Danish-Mongolian energy conference, visited President Nambaryn Enkhbayar, met a local shepherd, and attended a mini-version of the annual 'Naadaam' festival. It was the third visit to Mongolia by His Royal Highness.

In September, at the invitation of President Georgi Parvanov, The Crown Prince and Princess paid an official visit to Bulgaria to widen the friendship ties between Denmark and Bulgaria. As part of the visit The Royal Couple visited the St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral in Sofia, the ancient trading city of Plovdiv, and the mountain village of Oreshak.

From 10th - 13th November, as part of efforts to strengthen relations between Denmark and Morocco, Princess Marie travelled to Morocco as an official guest of the Moroccan royal family. The visit was Princess Marie's first official duty abroad. At a ceremony held at the Akkari children's home in Rabat, the Princess presented a gift from the LEGO Charity Foundation to Morocco's children's homes, which look after 65,000 children aged 5 to 18 years. King Mohammed IV's sister, Princess Lalla Meryem, received the gift on behalf of the homes.

Later that month Prince Joachim and Princess Marie visited Yekaterinburg, Moscow and St. Petersburg for an official event primarily intended to promote Danish industrial and cultural interests. The Prince and Princess inaugurated the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' new trade mission in Yekaterinburg, opened Danish exhibitions and attended seminars in support of Danish-Russian environmental cooperation.

Thailand is one of Denmark's key partners in Southeast Asia. In November, on the occasion of celebrations marking 150 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, The Crown Prince and Princess spearheaded one of the largest ever Danish trade promotions in Thailand, with 33 companies represented. The purpose of the visit was also to widen awareness of Danish companies' responsible stance on environmental, social and healthcare issues. Homage was also paid during the visit to the anniversary of the UN's World Diabetes Day.

Summer Cruises and Ports of Call

The summer cruises undertaken by The Royal Family provide an opportunity to visit many parts of the country and meet a broad segment of the Danish population. Visits are coordinated with local festivities at ports of call. As a rule visits include a reception on board the Royal Yacht Dannebrog.

The first cruise of 2008 was to Jutland, which The Queen and The Prince Consort visited for five days at the start of June. Stopping first in Esbjerg and making a brief visit to Mandø, the Royal Yacht then sailed through the Kiel Canal to Fredericia and Juelsminde. Key issues discussed at the various ports of call included alternative energy, the Wadden Sea, brewing, furniture production and organic farming.

In mid-June The Crown Prince and Princess embarked on their third summer cruise on board the Dannebrog, this time together with their children Prince Christian and Princess Isabella. The first ports of call on the three-day cruise of southern Denmark were Haderslev and Vojens. Svendborg and Rudkøbing were on the next day's itinerary, and the cruise culminated in Nykøbing Falster and Maribo. En route The Royal Couple visited Haderslev sports centre, the Naturama natural history museum in Svendborg, and Maribo Cathedral.

The final summer cruise on board the Dannebrog took place in mid-September when The Queen and The Prince Consort visited southeast Denmark, more specifically Nakskov, Ærø, Skarø and Lohals. After their official reception in the port of Nakskov on 15th September and a carriage ride through the town, The Royal Couple received a guided tour of Vestenskov, which is destined to be the world's first town heated by hydrogen, visited Vindeholme Castle and wind-turbine manufacturer Vestas Wind Systems, attended concerts in St. Nikolai Church, and visited Nakskov sports centre and Nakskov Mill Foods before rounding off the day with an evening reception on board the Dannebrog.

Inauguration of New Elephant House at Copenhagen Zoo

When The Prince Consort inaugurated the new elephant house at Copenhagen Zoo on 10th June 2008, he was accompanied by Prince Christian on his first official visit. The Prince Consort assumed the patronage of Copenhagen Zoo from King Frederik IX in 1972, and his keen interest in animals and wildlife has made him a frequent visitor. In his inauguration speech The Prince Consort said: 'I have enjoyed visiting Copenhagen Zoo and following its development ever since I became patron 36 years ago. Being able to share the experience with my grandchildren in

more recent years has in no way lessened my interest. The changes we have witnessed have been to the benefit of animals and visitors alike, and today's inauguration of Foster + Partners' new elephant house may well represent the ultimate in what is practical with regard to providing optimum living conditions for the zoo's residents.'

Research Trip to Svalbard

Climate change was on the agenda in June when the heirs to the three Scandinavian thrones, Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark, Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and Crown Prince Haakon of Norway journeyed to the Svalbard islands 500 km north of the Norwegian mainland. In their capacity as patrons of International Polar Year, the three royal representatives joined the Swedish research vessel Oden on a week-long tour of the Svalbard region to observe climate and environmental research in the Arctic. Equipment intended for a long polar summer expedition was tested on board and talks were given by Nordic polar scientists.

350th Anniversary of the Royal Life Guards

Denmark's Royal Life Guards celebrated their 350th anniversary from 26th to 30th June with festive events attended by The Queen and The Prince Consort, The Crown Prince and Crown Princess, Prince Joachim and Princess Marie, Princess Benedikte and Prince Richard. The events included an international tattoo at Rosenborg Castle parade ground, an impressive march through Copenhagen by upwards of 10,000 present and former guards, and a gala dinner at Bella Center for more than 8,000 guests.

Olympic Games in Beijing

There is a tradition for members of The Royal Family to attend the Olympic Games, and the 2008 games in Beijing were no exception. The Crown Prince, who is standing for election to the International Olympic Committee, was among the enthusiastic spectators applauding the victories of the Danish sailing team. The Crown Prince and Princess visited the Olympic village, giving their encouragement to the Danish athletes, who The Crown Prince sees as important role models for the younger generation. 'Sport is a vital weapon in the battle against obesity in children and young people,' stressed The Crown Prince at a press conference in the Olympic village.

As patron of the Danish Rowing Federation and the Danish Equestrian Federation, Princess Benedikte also attended the Olympic Games in Beijing and Hong Kong. She was among the spectators at the Olympic rowing competitions, and also looked on as the women's dressage team, which included her daughter Princess Nathalie among the competitors, won a bronze medal for Denmark.

Concert at Fredensborg Palace for Danish Olympic team

The Queen and The Prince Consort hold an annual concert in the chapel at Fredensborg Palace to which they invite various groups of representatives. In 2007 the representatives invited were from the new administrative regions created by the Danish local government reform. In 2008 invitations went to representatives from the world of sport. On Tuesday 21st October the Danish participants in the 2008 Olympic Games, and the representatives of Team Denmark and The National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark, were all invited to a concert starring singer Anne Linnet. The concert, which was held in Fredensborg Palace Chapel and attended by the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, Princess Benedikte and Princess Nathalie, was followed by a reception in the Palace's Dome Hall.

Reception for Medal Winners at the Paralympic Games

As patron of the Danish Federation of Sports for the Disabled, Princess Benedikte held a reception at Amalienborg Palace on 18th November for medallists at the 2008 Paralympic Games. The games were staged in Beijing and Hong Kong and a total of 4,000 athletes from 148 different countries participated. The Danish team, which won nine medals, consisted of 39 athletes competing in ten disciplines. In 2004 the medallists from the Paralympic Games in Athens were also received by Princess Benedikte at Amalienborg Palace.

'The Danish Soldier in Afghanistan'

Denmark's participation in the war in Afghanistan touched The Royal Family in several ways in 2008. On 21st November The Queen presented the Ebbe Munck Award to 'the Danish soldier in Afghanistan' at Christianborg Palace. 'I know you make a difference, and I have the greatest admiration for your efforts,' The Queen said to First Lieutenant Anton Dinsen-Andersen and Sergeant Bjørn Elkrog, who accepted the award on behalf of all Danish soldiers in Afghanistan. The DKK 50,000 award was donated to the Fund for the Support of Danish Soldiers and their Families. Some 690 Danish soldiers saw service in Afghanistan in 2008.

The Crown Prince, together with Danish Minister of Defence Søren Gade, visited Danish troops in southern Afghanistan in December. During a three-day stay in Helmand Province, The Crown Prince camped out and experienced the soldiers' working and living conditions first hand. The Crown Prince also had an opportunity to talk to - and thank - many of the Danish soldiers serving in the area.

Theme: Promoting Business and Culture Internationally

Whenever members of the Royal Family undertake state or official visits abroad the Royal Household devises a targeted programme of visits, predominantly of a commercial and cultural nature, in support of Danish activities in the countries concerned. The programme is planned in close consultation with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture. Visits are based around themes relating to activities which Danish institutions, businesses or organisations wish to strengthen or establish in the host country, and The Royal Family play an active role in generating interest in Denmark with a view to promoting investment, exports and cultural exchange. The social aspects of the royal visit are a central element in this role.

State visits and cultural and industrial promotions can open doors to new markets and mediate influential new contacts. Through their work The Royal Family are instrumental in creating access to both new and existing target groups in the host country: politicians, government officials, leading financial and business representatives, prominent cultural figures and the public at large.

The companies included in the business delegation have varying aspirations, depending on whether they already have an established market presence in the host country and wish to strengthen their strategic contacts, or whether they are looking to expand into new areas. The incentive for all participants is the prospect of increased market sales and a more prominent international profile. As a cultural vehicle, state visits can help strengthen existing contacts and create new bridges between Danish artists and cultural institutions and their counterparts abroad.

Prior to state visits and important official visits the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs invites a press delegation from the host country to Denmark for an introductory briefing on Denmark's social and cultural standing. The journalists are also invited to a press conference attended by members of The Royal Family at Fredensborg or Amalienborg Palace. During the visit by The Royal Family the media in the host country will therefore have a detailed picture of conditions in Denmark when writing about the activities and initiatives of the Danish delegation. In 2008, ahead of their state visits, The Queen and The Prince Consort and The Crown Prince and Princess received press delegations from Mexico, Tanzania and Thailand.

The Effect of State Visits

In recent years, increasing priority has been given to achieving more enduring results from state visits. In the preparatory process ahead of the visit, strategic focus is therefore given to creating lasting ties between Danish and foreign companies, cultural institutions and artists. Surveys conducted by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately after the state visits to Korea and Mexico revealed that more than 95% of the companies involved in the programme were pleased with the outcome.

As a direct result of state visits to Greece (2006), Korea (2007) and Mexico (2008), new partnerships have been forged in the world of art and culture. In Greece, the state visit has given rise to symposia on Danish literature, exhibitions and concerts featuring Danish artists, translations of novels by Danish authors Lene Kaaberbøl and Jens Christian Grøndal, and national TV broadcasts featuring Hans Christian Andersen and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art. Several shops selling Danish design, arts and crafts, jewellery and fashions have opened in Athens' exclusive Kolonaki and Glyfada districts.

In 2008 a Danish artists group, AVPD (Aslak Vibæk & Peter Døssing), staged 'Transmission', their third exhibition in Seoul. The event was a direct offshoot of the network established as part of the cultural promotion for the Danish state visit to The Republic of Korea in October 2007. The intense interest aroused by 'Transmission' has resulted in invitations for two further exhibitions from leading galleries and museums in and around the Seoul.

Following the state visit to Mexico the Danish Arts Council, in association with its Mexican sister organisation, 'El Patronato de Arte Contemporaneo', developed a programme whereby selected Danish artists will be offered a two-month stay in Mexico City and free use of work facilities at the local artists' centre, Casa Vecina. The visitors will be introduced to the contemporary Mexican art scene and, along with other international artists, enrolled in an artist-run project centre. The first programme beneficiary will arrive in Mexico City in autumn 2009.

Theme: New Year Levees

The Royal Family and the Danish people have been wishing each other a happy New Year, and thus joy and prosperity for the Kingdom of Denmark, for centuries. The origins of today's New Year levee and banquet are lost in the mists of time, but as long ago as the 17th century the events taking place around New Year were described as being traditional, and the celebrations are essentially unchanged today.

The New Year levees now held by The Queen and The Prince Consort extend over three days:

Day 1: New Year banquet on 1st January at Christian VII's Palace, Amalienborg, for the Government, top civil servants and the Court management.

Day 2: New Year levee at Christian VII's Palace, Amalienborg, for the Supreme Court, officers of the Royal Life Guard and the Guard Hussar Regiment.

New Year levee at Christiansborg Palace for the diplomatic corps.

Day 3: New Year levee at Christiansborg Palace for officers of the Danish armed forces and the Danish Emergency Management Agency, for 'ranks I, II and III', and for invited representatives of important national organisations and associations under royal patronage.

To commemorate 1st January a book is placed in the Lord Chamberlain's office at Det Gule Palæ in which New Year's greetings to The Queen and The Prince Consort may be inscribed.

The tradition of a New Year levee extending over several days was introduced after the First World War. By this time, due to developments in society, the levee could no longer be held on just a single day, 1st January. During the 20th century the number of Government institutions increased, new ministries were established, and the emergence of many new nations brought an increase in the number of diplomatic missions.

From the reign of King Frederik III - and possibly long before - the royal banquet on New Year's Eve was a public occasion. The palace was open to all, people lining the walls to see The Royal Family and the Court at table. The custom ceased when King Christian IV and Queen Sophie Magdalene had Copenhagen Castle demolished and took up residence in Christiansborg Palace to which the public were denied admission. At midnight, 50 court trumpeters would usher in the New Year with a fanfare in the palace courtyard. Inside Christiansborg Palace, New Year's music would be played at midnight by the Band of the Royal Life Guard,

which still performs at today's New Year banquets. Once the New Year had been trumpeted in, the members of The Royal Family and the Court would exchange New Year's felicitations and gifts. In time, the royal courtiers were also granted official appointments, and to this day The Queen still appoints chamberlains and masters of the royal hunt on 1st January.

While, at Copenhagen Castle, all persons could enter the royal chambers to congratulate the sovereign and present New Year's gifts and verses, at Christiansborg Palace a system governed by statute was introduced that restricted access to specific persons and groups. Now, rank determined who was admitted and when - a custom that continues to this day. However, both the hierarchy and the numbers of individuals at all levels of the hierarchy have expanded considerably over the years.

After fire destroyed Christiansborg Palace in 1794 the members of The Royal Family no longer all resided in the same building, but would visit one another in the Amalienborg palaces and in the Frederiksstad district of Copenhagen to offer their congratulations on New Year's morning.

Guests were summoned to the levee by runner - if they lived in Copenhagen - otherwise by letter. Around 1900 the Lord Chamberlain's Office began publishing lists in the press announcing which groups were to attend the various New Year levees. From 1920 this practice was widened to include national organisations. Today guests are received at the New Year levee by invitation, except for persons belonging to 'ranks I, II and III' who register their attendance by signing their names on arrival at Christiansborg Palace.

New Year Banquet

When King Christian V instituted the Order of the Elephant and the Order of the Dannebrog in 1693, 1st January was among the designated dates for conferral. The King would hold a banquet for the knights of the order, and the occasion retained its prestige even when, with time, the number of attendees increased. The first knights of the order principally comprised the king's courtiers and closest advisors - the Government and senior officials of the day. With the abolition of absolutism they were replaced by Government ministers and Parliamentary chairman, also at the New Year levees.

As the New Year banquet was no longer exclusively reserved for knights, attendance was widened to include female members of The Royal Family, the Court management and selected institutions with close ties to the Monarchy - the Royal Life Guard

Regiment (which protected the King's person); the army and navy (which provided state security), and the police (which provided civil security) – as well as the Church, the Supreme Court and the University of Copenhagen. The heads of these institutions also appear on the guest list for today's New Year banquets.

Theme: The Writing on the Windows

Very few houses have windows that also serve as a guest book. Fredensborg Palace, however, is one that does. In a custom dating back more than 140 years, royal guests and heads of state have immortalised their visit by etching their signatures into the palace window glass. Over the years, the number of signatures has grown, and now runs to many hundreds, maybe even a thousand. The preserved 'Ledger of Window Panes at Fredensborg Palace Inscribed by Royalty' (started in 1916 and revised many times since) lists 239 inscribed panes, which gives an indication of the number of signatures. However, the precise number of names is significantly higher as many panes bear more than one signature. The signatures are to be found all over the palace, but mainly in the Garden Hall, the Prince's Apartment, the Entrance Hall and bedrooms. The palace windows thus represent a complete gallery of signatures of former and present members of the Danish Royal Family, other royalty and senior dignitaries covering the past 150 years. A unique register of prominent and often historically important names from both Denmark and other countries.

The custom can be traced back to 1841 when Louise von Hessen etched the very first signature on 17th August that year. A year later she married Prince Christian of Glücksborg, who in 1863 became King Christian IX of Denmark and whose numerous family members account for most of the earliest signatures. The custom became firmly established in the 1860s and has been maintained, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, to the present day.

The inscriptions are usually fairly simple in themselves, often just a name and perhaps a date. However, dated signatures not only testify to the one-time presence of the individual concerned, in many cases they also hint at a much wider story. Among the earliest signatures, for example, are those of Tsarevich Nicholas and Princess Dagmar, whose inscriptions on 9th, 11th and 29th October 1864 bear witness to a relationship that indirectly had dramatic consequences. Tsarevich Nicholas, the eldest son of Tsar Alexander II, had become engaged to Princess Dagmar of

Denmark the previous month. He would have married her but died the following year. Instead, in 1866, Princess Dagmar married his younger brother, Alexander, who became Tsar Alexander III in 1881. Their eldest son, also named Nicholas, succeeded his father as the last tsar of Russia, and he too left his mark on the window panes. Between 2nd and 10th September 1901 'Nicky' and his wife 'Alix' etched their own names along with the names and ages of their four children at the time: 'Olga 5½, Tatiana 4, Marie 2, Anastasia 4 m.' Seventeen years later the whole family was swallowed up in the maelstrom of the Russian Revolution.

Not all the inscriptions are mere signatures and dates. Some include scribbled messages like those found in more conventional guest books: doodles, squiggles, figures, verses. Many of them testify to the writer's enjoyment at his stay. Princess Ingeborg, for example, wrote: 'Visited this heavenly place again 3rd - 30th June 1911 / Farewell, dear Fredensborg. God knows when I will next return.' She did not have long to wait; her next inscription is just a year later, '25th May - June 1912', but this time the occasion was a sad one: the funeral of her brother, King Frederik VIII. Hence her inscription at the bottom of the same pane: 'How everything has changed since last year Ingeborg'.

As stated, the custom is still maintained, but unlike previously when guests would scratch their signatures directly onto the window, they inscribe their names today on an unmounted pane using a diamond stylus. After their departure The Queen and The Prince Consort decide where the new pane should be positioned. With so many window panes at Fredensborg Palace still blank, this fascinating custom can continue for many years to come.

The Duties of the Monarchy

As head of state, The Queen provides a focus for national identity, unity and pride at home and abroad. The Queen is supported in her many representative duties by the other members of The Royal Family either individually or collectively. Every year, a great number of engagements are carried out in this way, including the reception of state and official visitors to Denmark and royal visits abroad. During state and other official visits abroad The Royal Family seek to advance Denmark's commercial, cultural and social interests. Each year, members of The Royal Family undertake tours of the Danish realm, opening exhibitions, and taking part in anniversary celebrations and inauguration ceremonies.

Patronage

Members of The Royal Family maintain contact with many aspects of Danish life through their patronage of societies, institutions and organisations, many of which have a charitable, humanitarian or cultural purpose. Through this association The Royal Family are instrumental in supporting and raising awareness of the objectives and work of these bodies. At the present time some 300 organisations list a member of The Royal Family as patron or president, The Queen and The Prince Consort each representing about one third of this number. In addition, members of the Royal Family act as patrons for single events such as conferences, exhibitions and sporting occasions.

Audiences with The Queen

The Queen holds public audiences at Christiansborg Palace on selected Mondays each month. These occasions afford members of the public an opportunity to express their thanks for The Queen's involvement in some field in which they have a particular interest, for conferring a medal or some other recognition, or in connection with an official appointment.

In 2008 there were 20 public audiences, three of which were held by The Crown Prince in The Queen's absence. A total of around 1,470 men and women were received in this way by The Queen or The Crown Prince.

In special circumstances The Queen grants a private audience. In general, this is the practice in the case of heads of state, heads of government, foreign ministers and parliamentary delegations. In 2008 The Queen received the Presidents of Liberia and the European Parliament, the Vice-President of Vietnam, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs and a delegation from Bulgaria. New ambassadors to Denmark are received by The Queen when they present their credentials, the authority vested in them by their country's head of state. Outgoing ambassadors are similarly received in audience.

Royal Foundations

With the members of The Royal Family as active and committed chairpersons, the Royal Household administers a large number of foundations established in connection with various royal events and special occasions. A wide spectrum of objectives is supported, principally relating to humanitarian, cultural, scientific and educational causes.

The Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik Foundation, which is chaired by The Queen, supported a series of cultural and scientific

projects in 2008, including refurbishment of the Scandinavian Society's artist-in-residence accommodation in Rome and establishment of a database of costume and textile art. Financial assistance was also rendered for many humanitarian and social projects, including rehousing and education of 200 refugee families in Burundi and the Copenhagen-based 'Jobs for Youth' project, a local cooperation between schools, social services and the police.

With Prince Joachim as chairman, The Prince Joachim and Princess Alexandra Foundation aids the education of talented young people, and in 2008 funded study opportunities in countries such as France, Italy and the USA. In the humanitarian field, support was granted for the building of playgrounds in Armenia, water wells in Niger, and a Danish summer camp for Russian children. Cultural projects included support for the publication, in several volumes, of an illustrated global anthology of children's literature.

In 2008 the board of the Royal Greenland Foundation, also chaired by Prince Joachim, determined that 'the foundation would in future give special focus to projects for children and young people'. This objective was reflected by the donations made during the year, which included grants for school study trips, a summer camp for disadvantaged children and young people in Ilulissat, the building of a new children's club in Uummanaq, and support for 'Mælkebøtten', an existing children's club in Nuuk. Other projects to benefit included a get-together for hearing-impaired youngsters, the unofficial North Greenland football championships, and the Greenland dog sled championships.

The Royal Exhibition Foundation was wound up in 2008, future exhibition activities being jointly managed by the administration offices of Christiansborg Palace and Rosenborg Castle.

New Year

Almost 2.2 million viewers watched The Queen's New Year's Eve speech in 2008, which yet again gave the nation a rallying point on the last evening of the year. It has become a tradition in many homes to begin New Year's Eve by listening to The Queen's television address to the people of Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

The Court

The Court supports and assists members of The Royal Family in the planning and discharge of their duties. In 2008 a new agreement was established that continues the work of recent years to modernise organisation and work practices. The overall aim is to increase efficiency through improvement in interdepartmental teamwork and development of job content. Management structure has been further strengthened by delegation of responsibility and introduction of new procedures that actively involve staff in work planning.

The IT-based administration system was expanded in 2008 and now also embraces the honours system, the planning of Councils of State, major events and official visits, and administration of trust funds.

The term 'court' originally denoted the establishment concerned with the administration and management of a royal household. The Danish Court, which today numbers some 135 permanently employed staff, has a very long history and is steeped in tradition.

The Lord Chamberlain's Office, under the direct control of the Lord Chamberlain, has the overall responsibility for administration and organisation of matters relating to The Queen and The Prince Consort, and for coordinating the work of the various departments within the Royal Household.

The direct responsibilities of the Lord Chamberlain's Office include the planning of state visits and other major events involving The Royal Family, together with public relations, financial control, staff matters, IT, the library and property. In addition, the Office deals with a number of service tasks, such as transport, housekeeping, catering and workshops.

Headed by the Queen's Private Secretary, the Private Secretary's Office is responsible for advising The Queen on matters of state, administering The Queen's diary, handling patronage enquiries, and all matters related to honours and decorations. However, the everyday administration of royal orders is dealt with by the Chapter of the Royal Orders of Chivalry.

Members of The Royal Family have traditionally been supported not only by the Lord Chamberlain's Office, but also by their own households. Nowadays, The Prince Consort, The Crown Prince and Princess, Prince Joachim, Princess Marie and Princess Benedikte all maintain a small household.

The Military Household and the Captain of The Naval Household are seconded from the armed services by the Ministry of Defence. In addition, the Royal Household includes a number of special appointments such as the Palace Manager, the State Surveyor to the Royal Household, the Master of the Royal Hunt and the Royal Chaplain.

Personnel Matters

In 2008, the Lord Chamberlain's Office, the Royal Households of The Crown Prince and Princess and the Association of Court Employees established a new collective agreement covering the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011. Central elements in the new agreement are flexible work practices, and focus on ongoing skills development across departmental and occupational boundaries.

The management development programme continued in 2008 with completion of an integrated training course for Court staff. The Lord Chamberlain's Office continued previous years' spotlight on health and safety by conducting a workplace study in the course of the summer. The main focus of the study was on building infrastructure, management and teamwork. In cooperation with the Palaces and Properties Agency the kitchen facilities at Amalienborg Palace have been refurbished. Dialogue between top management and the various staff groups, and between supervisory staff and their subordinates, has been strengthened. Added to which health insurance has been established for all employees and an internal welfare consultant has been trained. These initiatives have been carried out as part of heightened focus on staff and teamwork throughout the organisation.

Environmental Initiatives

Having formalised their environmental policy in 2007, the Royal Households in 2008 gave further priority to environmental initiatives. The purpose is to address environmental issues, internally and externally, within the economic and technical constraints imposed by the need to preserve the special character of the buildings. The policy is directed at all employees – those concerned with procurement as well as those who use the buildings, vehicles, plant and machinery on a daily basis.

Four areas of focus have been designated: Buildings, motor vehicles, waste management and procurement.

Together with the Palaces and Properties Agency and two external energy companies, the Lord Chamberlain's Office has conducted an extensive environmental review of the royal buildings, which essentially are state-owned properties. The

challenge in 2009 is to prioritise the numerous areas for action, the chief of which is the heating system. At the end of 2008 Copenhagen Energy began the district heating conversion for Frederik VIII's Palace, which is currently under restoration. It is anticipated that the other palaces in the Amalienborg complex will all receive new district heating systems, the existing centralised steam-based system being replaced by a new decentralised hotwater-based system. The change should generate significant savings. Additional initiatives relating to both Amalienborg and the other palace buildings are also to be considered.

The vehicle fleet has to meet a wide variety of needs, and the purchase of individual vehicles is assessed against that background. By way of example, a number of ageing limousines were replaced in 2008 by a smaller fleet of more practical mini-buses able to transport more people at a time.

Sorting of office waste has been intensified, and planning is in progress to introduce formal 'eco-stations' at the local work-points.

Procurement and utilisation practices are of particular importance, and daily routines will be subjected to environmental scrutiny. Accordingly, it is intended that staff involved in procurement will monitor product developments within their sphere and that staff with departmental responsibility will regularly check the property and equipment under their control. There is a general responsibility for reducing heat at night time, where this is not effected automatically, and also for reducing the consumption of energy and resources. Conventional incandescent light bulbs were replaced with energy-saving bulbs wherever possible during the year.

The Royal Website

The Danish Monarchy's website provides a detailed description of the Royal House of Denmark and its members. It is regularly updated with particulars regarding the official engagements of The Royal Family, and with news and information concerning audiences, the conferring of awards and medals, and official appointments. There is also a picture gallery. Immediately after The Queen's speech on New Year's Eve, a transcript of the speech is published on the website.

The website also provides information about the palaces, the royal yacht, and the royal collections, including the crown jewels, The Royal Stables and Carriages Museum, the gobelin tapestries at Christiansborg Palace, H.M. The Queen's Library, and also a history of the Danish Royal House. The address is www.kongehuset.dk.

Extracts from the Annual Report

The royal finances are presented here in summary form. The full text is contained in the Danish version of the annual report which has been audited by the independent accountants KPMG.

General

The financial statements of the Civil List and the Parliamentary Annuity paid to The Crown Prince are presented in accordance with the provisions regarding class A enterprises under the Danish Financial Statements Act.

In accordance with the Danish Personal Tax Act and the Danish Act on the Registration of Motor Vehicles, The Queen and the Prince Consort, The Crown Prince and Princess, Prince Joachim, Princess Marie and Princess Benedikte are not subject to income tax or registration tax in relation to motor vehicles etc., but they are subject to the normal tax rules governing inheritances, gifts and property. Value added tax is reimbursed in accordance with the rules that also apply for state institutions, and the annual reimbursement is limited to a percentage of the parliamentary allowance corresponding to the current rate of value added tax.

The Civil List

The annual Parliamentary allowance to The Queen is laid down in The Civil List Act, as last amended in 2001.

That allowance is adjusted in accordance with movements in the pay index for employees in the state sector. The state has pension liabilities in respect of Court officials employed under the terms of the Civil List (employed by The Queen), and pension contributions to the Ministry of Finance, equivalent to the pension contributions paid by government ministries and state agencies, are paid from the Civil List.

The Parliamentary allowance is provided to meet the expenses of The Queen and The Prince Consort and the expenses of Princess Benedikte incurred in carrying out official engagements.

Total VAT rebate for 2008: 5,294,964 DKK.

The Civil List

Extract from financial statements

	2008 DKK	2007 DKK'000
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Income		
Parliamentary allowance	66,857,890	64,433
Other income	1,479,646	1,603
	68,337,536	66,036
Expenditure		
Staff costs	41,565,136	40,331
Court expenses	8,598,411	8,618
Administrative expenses	4,017,921	3,695
Property expenses	3,972,484	3,758
Depreciations	1,432,154	957
The Queen and The Prince Consort expenditure cap	8,708,240	8,392
	68,294,346	65,751
Net income before financial income and expenditure	43,190	285
Financial income	647,320	659
Financial expenses	0	284
Net income for the year	690,510	660

BALANCE SHEET

Assets		
Fixed assets	9,009,241	8,805
Current assets	23,279,533	18,284
Total assets	32,288,774	27,089
Reserve and liabilities		
Reserve at 31 December	14,936,123	14,246
Current liabilities	17,352,651	12,843
Total reserve and liabilities	32,288,774	27,089

The Crown Prince

The Parliamentary annuity paid to The Crown Prince and The Crown Princess is laid down in the Act on the Annual Allowance to Crown Prince Frederik of 2004. The adjustment of that allowance and the reimbursement of value added tax follow the same principles which are applied to the Civil List.

Total VAT rebate for 2008: 1,453,953 DKK.

The Parliamentary Annuity

Extract from financial statements

	2008 DKK	2007 DKK'000
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Income		
Parliamentary allowance	16,456,831	15,860
	16,456,831	15,860
Expenditure		
Staff costs	10,766,095	9,671
Court expenses	2,233,542	1,681
Administrative expenses	688,997	547
Property expenses	977,500	863
Depreciations	665,665	99
The Crown Prince and The Crown Princess expenditure cap	3,291,366	3,172
	18,623,165	16,033
Net income before financial income and expenditure	- 2,166,334	- 173
Financial income	34,960	43
Net income for the year	- 2,131,374	- 130

BALANCE SHEET

Assets		
Fixed assets	2,369,806	2,787
Current assets	1,116,819	2,012
Total assets	3,486,625	4,799
Reserve and liabilities		
Reserve at 31 December	0	1,837
Current liabilities	3,486,625	2,962
Total reserve and liabilities	3,486,625	4,799

Prince Joachim

The Parliamentary annuity paid to Prince Joachim and Princess Marie is laid down in the Act on the Annual Allowance to Prince Joachim, as last amended in 2008. The adjustment of that allowance and the reimbursement of value added tax follow the same principles which are applied to the Civil List.

Prince Joachim received an annual annuity of 2,567,079 DKK and reimbursement of 641,770 DKK value added tax.

