

Avoidance of responsibility

The supply of Greenland takes place via Denmark. The bulk of the freight of materials for construction, for retail and for private persons is taking place by ship. The supply is organised as a public activity. The Government of Greenland has formed a publicly-owned company, Royal Arctic Line, which has established a fleet of Atlantic ships and smaller ships that supply all settlements along the thousands of kilometres long coastline.

The supply of goods over the Atlantic Ocean from the Danish harbour, Aalborg, has been going on for decades. There may be delays, but there has been a mutual understanding, that this was an acceptable approach.

The past year the supply has not met the expectations of the people and the business community. A new computer system has sent containers to wrong reception ports and the problems have been increased by accidents involving the ships.

In the recent months it has been worse in South Greenland. The shoppers in the South Greenlandic settlements have experienced

empty shelves: Potatoes and vegetables, eggs and cheese, and a lot of other products are missing caused by the failures of the sea carriage. There are reports from all over the country that the business sector has lost a lot of export revenues due to the collapse of the maritime transport.

Greenlanders are usually a patient population, but many have been astonished by the attitude of the responsible political and administrative units. Why do they not tackle the problems?

Particularly the elected politicians have not been much active in demanding changes and improvements. Apparently, the members of the Greenlandic parliament have prioritised journeys abroad to distant exotic destinations with restaurants filled with potatoes and vegetables, eggs and cheese.

But perhaps the situation is going to be changed in the coming weeks. The Premier of Greenland has just called an early election for the Inatsisartut, the Greenlandic parliament, to be held next month.



The harbour of Qaqortoq, South Greenland, February 2018