



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Press release

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Foreign ministers meeting in Kiruna

On 11–12 October, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (Barents Council) will convene at LKAB's mine in Kiruna for its foreign minister meeting. The meeting marks the end of Sweden's two-year chairmanship. Joining Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt will be Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, Norway's foreign minister Jonas Gahr Støre, Finland's foreign minister Erkki Tuomioja and state secretaries from Denmark and Iceland and an EU Commissioner will also take part. A press conference will be held in connection with the meeting (for more information, see below).

During the meeting, an account of the Swedish chairmanship will be delivered and a communiqué on the future of Barents cooperation will be adopted. The chairmanship will be passed on to Norway. At the same time, the Norwegian county of Troms will hand over the chairmanship of the Barents Regional Council to Norrbotten county.

During its chairmanship, Sweden has prioritised environmentally sustainable economic development in the Barents region; this subject will also be the focus of the ministerial meeting in Kiruna. The region is already world-leading when it comes to making use of its extensive forest, mineral and energy resources in an efficient and environmentally sustainable way. Alongside this key environmental work, the Swedish chairmanship has also highlighted the issue of how we can best promote growth in the region, through cooperation on sustainable extraction, processing and marketing in the raw materials sector.

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) was established in 1993 in Kirkenes, Norway. The chairmanship rotates between Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The aim of Barents cooperation is to *strengthen peace, stability and progress by improving the opportunities for cross-border cooperation*. For more information on the BEAC, go to www.beac.st.

A press conference will be held directly after the meeting.

Time and place

Time: 11.30 on 12 October 2011

Place: LKAB's visitors' mine (InfoMine), Kiruna

Advance registration is obligatory, please contact LKAB directly via email ulrika.westerberg@lkab.com or on +46 70 342 13 59.

Meeting venue: Reception in Förmanskontoret, Kiruna

Transport down into the mine leaves at approximately 11.00. Please arrive in good time.