



**BARENTS
REGIONAL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

September 19, 2012

Video conference

DRAFT AGENDA

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Barents Regional Committee meeting

Date: September 19, 2012

Venue: Video conference

Program

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

08:30 – 09:00 (Swedish time) **Check the status of the video conference**

09.30 – 10.00 (Finnish time)

10.30 – 11.00 (Russian time)

09:00 – 11:00 (Swedish time) **Barents Regional Committee meeting**

10.00 – 12.00 (Finnish time)

11.00 – 13.00 (Russian time)

Participated

Regional Committee

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Brynolf Tjärner, chairman | <i>Norrbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 2. Mikael Bergström | <i>Västerbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 3. Bente Knudsen Helland | <i>Troms, Norway</i> |
| 4. Markus Karlsen | <i>Finnmark, Norway</i> |
| 5. Ole Kolstad | <i>Nordland, Norway</i> |
| 6. Roman Gokkoev | <i>Oulu, for all regions of Finland</i> |
| 7. Alexey Kalinin | <i>Arkhangelsk, Russia</i> |
| 8. Larissa Glasko | <i>Arkhangelsk, Russia</i> |
| 9. Dmitry Romanenko | <i>Komi, Russia</i> |
| 10. Yevgeny G Galkin | <i>Murmansk, Russia</i> |

Others:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 11. Sverre Stub | <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway</i> |
| 12. Alf-Åge Hansen | <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway</i> |
| 13. Ari Sirén | <i>International Barents Secretariat</i> |
| 14. Yury Nikiforov | <i>International Barents Secretariat</i> |
| 15. Yulia Bobina | <i>International Barents Secretariat</i> |
| 16. Anja Salo | <i>Norwegian Barents Secretariat</i> |

Secretariat:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 17. Sari Roininen | <i>Norrbotten, Sweden</i> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|

Not participated

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Dmitry Kislov | <i>Karelia, Russia</i> |
| 2. Lyudmila Kabantseva | <i>Komi, Russia</i> |
| 3. Hannu Heikkinen | <i>Kainuu, Finland</i> |
| 4. Maiju Hyry | <i>Lapland, Finland</i> |
| 5. Sergey Kokarev | <i>Nenets, Russia</i> |
| 6. Sisko Kaarto | <i>North Karelia, Finland, observer</i> |

Item RC 26/2012 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda has been unanimously adopted without amendments.

Item RC 27/2012 Adoption of the Protocol

The protocol of the Barents Regional Committee meeting held on June 13, 2012 in Haparanda, Sweden has been adopted without discussion (appendix 1).

Item RC 28/2012 Information from the Chairman

Chairman of the Barents Regional Committee (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) noted that since the meeting in Haparanda in June 13 we had rather busy period after summer holiday. On June 28-29.2012 we held Regional Council meeting in Luleå. It was the last meeting for our regional Government. From the 1-st of October we will have a new Governor representing the Social Democratic party. He will also take part in Council's meeting in Oslo in November. The Council will have on agenda the same basic issues as we discussed at the Committee meeting in the 13-th of June including the work on the new Action Plan for Regional Cooperation. The Council will be also informed about funding possibilities for innovation and research projects. We had a connection to that Committee meeting with the "Forty Youths" that started in the evening and continued at lunch time on the 13-th of June. We were very impressed with the activities of the "Forty Youths" which were very productive as for results and ideas they were looking for.

Secretary (**Ms.Sari Roininen**) added that the "Forty Youths" found five different areas that were in their view the most important for the future in the Barents Region and Barents cooperation. Those five areas were: visa - to have a visa precedent; education - preferably in English; about youth - so they could incorporate; media and communication - it's important; identity - what they want to have in common. The general idea was in short that there was nothing impossible in cooperation.

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) - unfortunately we had to cancel our environmental seminar in the beginning of September because there were not enough participants. In some way we are going to compensate it later at the conference planned for the next year.

Answering a question Chairman revealed that in the beginning of November they received a letter from London with a proposal to have a meeting of all universities in the Barents Region. They also wanted to discuss the possibility to have a source of funding.

Item RC 29/2012 Information from the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

CSO Chair (**Mr.Sverre Stub**) focused on some recent events including the seminar in Tromsø on Extractive Industries and Indigenous Peoples and the CSO meeting in Svolvær. He also briefly informed about the work on the Action Plan on Climate Change and preparations for the 20-th Anniversary next year.

Chair stressed that the seminar was a background for promotion of economic developments in the Barents, that indigenous peoples play important role in the Region and have certain rights which must be taken into account. The idea with the seminar was to create a forum for a dialogue on such sensitive issues as mineral extraction. There were about 130 participants including the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples Mr. James Anaya and a member of the UN Working Group on human rights Ms. Guaqueta. Norway was represented by the MFA State Secretary Mr. Torgeir Larsen and Russia by the Governor of the Nenets Autonomous District Mr. Igor Fedorov. There was good media coverage, a big group of indigenous peoples helped in organizing the seminar. The main goal to provide a platform for a dialogue and open discussion has been achieved.

The CSO meeting revealed some new aspects in the work of the Committee – representatives of indigenous peoples, not only Saami, were invited (one from Nenets and one from Veps). There were also two new advisers on the IP issues from the two Barents secretariats in Kirkenes. For the first time in the Norwegian Chair a representative of EEAS Ms. Zuzanna Bieniuk from Brussels took part in the meeting. So far the EU had been represented from its Oslo office. She presented the EU Arctic policy. Russia was asked to provide information about the EU ideology stands to be discussed at the next CSO meeting.

The work on the Action Plan on Climate Change is progressing. The WGE had received a number of inputs. The Draft would be ready in October-November and then all the regions will have another chance for comments.

Preparations for the 20-th Anniversary events in June 3-4.2013 are under way. All five prime-ministers are expected to attend.

Chairman (**Mr. Brynolf Tjärner**) asked if it is too late to discuss draft Kirkenes Declaration at the next CSO meeting.

CSO Chair (**Mr. Sverre Stub**) explained that we have time before June, but the sooner it would be ready the better.

Item RC 30/2012 Information from the International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

Head of the International Barents Secretariat (**Mr. Ari Sirén**) draw the attention to the meeting of the Regional WG on Investment and Economic Cooperation (RWGIEG) held on September 3.2012 in Luleå. This WG is working on border barriers' issues which are essential for cross-border cooperation. Now the RWGIEG applied to the Nordic Council of Ministers for funding the Nordic Manual Border Barriers.

He also mentioned a conference on economic cooperation with emphasis on cross-border cooperation in mineral sector which is planned for the spring 2013 and the seminar on "Indigenous Peoples, Business and Human Rights" to be held in Kautokeino. He expressed regrets that representatives of Russian regions have failed second time in a row to attend the RWGIEG meeting and called for finding solutions to improve the attendance.

Mr.Sirén reminded major forthcoming events listed on the BEAC site in Calendar of Events.

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) asked about the IBS work on the updating the list of all representatives in Working Groups and the whole BEAC Internet site.

IBS (**Mr.Ari Sirén**) noted that the work on that was going on but needed additional efforts and more time.

IBS (**Mr.Yury Nikiforov**) informed about some positive signs which make hopes for getting practical results on both directions even in the near future.

Oulu, Finland (**Mr.Roman Gokkoev**) added to the information by Mr.Sirén with some more details including the meeting of RWG on Transport and Communications and reported about recent Kolarctic – Barents Free Way Project – BYCO meeting in Rovaniemi on September 12-13.2012. All Barents countries were participated. He also informed about latest developments in cross-border cooperation between Finland and Russia.

Item RC 31/2012 Agenda for the next Barents Regional Council meeting

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) reported that at the next meeting in Oslo at least three major items would be in agenda: ToR, work on the new Action Plan for Reindeer Population, information about research and innovation cooperation in Barents.

CSO Chair (**Mr.Sverre Stub**) informed at the Finnish Chair of the WG on Environment request about the seminar on the Best Environmental Practices in the Mining Sector in the Barents Region on April 23-25.2013 in Rovaniemi.

Item RC 32/2012 Terms of Reference of the BRC and RC

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) informed that in May the BRC said that they would like to have more concrete discussions on the ToR. The Committee was given a mandate to prepare an analysis of the ToR to be handled in Oslo meeting in November. The Committee prepared an analysis based on discussions in Haparanda. We made evaluation of membership, observers and cooperation partners. He noted that he saw no reason to have more detailed discussion without all the regions represented. The RC will continue the work and need written comments from all the regions as soon as possible. Without that it is impossible to produce the whole document. The deadline is October 04.2012.

Item RC 33/2012 Upcoming Chairmanship in BRC and RC

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) noted that not every region took part in the video conference and there was no prepared document on this issue. He invited regional representatives to comment the situation. He stressed that the discussion may be continued in Oslo at the next BRC and RC meetings.

Arkhangelsk (**Mr.Alexey Kalinin**) proposed to refrain from discussion of the issue now because most of Russian regions were not presented at the meeting.

Item RC 34/2012 Barents Program 2014-2019

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) informed that at the BRC meeting in June a proposal was made for the RC to develop a new Program for the forthcoming five years. The Committee is prepared to start work but needed for at least one representative more from each country to the ad hoc group which now consists of E.Galkin (Russia), O.Kolstad (Norway), R.Gokkoev (Finland), S.Roininen and himself (Sweden).

Item RC 35/2012 Information High North Conference

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) informed about the conference “The High North – Top Mining region of the World” in Oslo on November 14-15.2012 and stressed that the next BRC and RC meetings were connected to this event. In order to provide good attendance the Chair had contacted to WGs and Embassies in Oslo and with Murmansk to ensure participation of the new Governor.

Item RC 36/2012 Other issues

There were no additional issues to discuss.

Item RC 37/2012 Next meeting

Chairman (**Mr.Brynolf Tjärner**) suggested holding the next BRC-RC meetings on November 13-14.2012 at Voksenåsen in Oslo, Norway. It was unanimously endorsed.