



Näringsdepartementet

Regional tillväxt

Sebastian Stålfors

Telefon +46 (0)8 405 7024

Mobil +46 (0)70231 7048

E-post

sebastian.stalfors@enterprise.ministry.se

WGEC Minutes, March 23 2010, Stockholm

Location:

The Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, Stockholm.

Participants:

Mrs. Anniken Mordal, Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, NO

Mrs. Anna-Maria Liukko, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FI

Mr. Sergey N. Goncharenko, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RU

Mr. Sebastian Stålfors, Chair, Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, SE

Mrs. Anna Carlsson, Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, SE

1. Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. The Swedish chairmanship of BEAC

The chair (Mr. Stålfors) made a short presentation of the priorities of the Swedish chairmanship of BEAC and the up-coming BEAC Meeting of the Ministers for Competitiveness in Umeå, 18-19 May.

4. The future work of BEAC WGEC

The members were invited to discuss the past development and express their expectations for the future development of the working group. Russia (Mr. Goncharenko) gave a short report on the work done during the Russian chairmanship.

The chair (Mr. Stålfors) presented the following Swedish ideas for working areas in the future:

- Promote entrepreneurship and small and medium sized enterprises
- Cross-border co-operation between business organisations
- Minimizing administrative impediments for enterprises, especially in relation to customs and border crossing
- Establishing platforms for exchanges between young entrepreneurs, in the Barents Region
- Close cooperation with the Regional Working Group on Investments and Economic Cooperation

The working group concluded that these areas are important. However, a program framework for the BEAC WGEC is to be produced after the Ministerial in Umeå, 18- 19 May.

The program for the Ministerial in Umeå was discussed. A joint suggestion from all countries is that all ministers from the BEAC countries should be invited to make official statements at the beginning of the Ministerial. This suggestion was welcomed by Sweden.

A closer cooperation with other relevant BEAC working groups was discussed. It was agreed that this issue is important, especially in regards to the Regional Working Group on Investments and Economic Cooperation, Forest Sector Task Force, Working Group on Customs Cooperation, Steering Committee for the Barents Euro-Arctic Pan-European Transport Area (BEATA), and the Joint Working Group on Energy.

5. The draft ministerial declaration text

The members of BEAC WGEC discussed the draft declaration for the Ministerial in Umeå 18-19 May. A few changes was agreed upon and a new version is to be circulated among the BEAC WGEC members. Any new changes must be suggested no later than 9 April.

6. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Closing of the meeting

The chair thanked the members of BEAC WGEC and closed the meeting.