

Barents Euro-Arctic Council

14th meeting of Environment Ministers

4-5 February 2020

Kulturens Hus, Luleå, Sweden



Photo: Mostphotos



BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL
WORKING GROUP ON
ENVIRONMENT
Swedish Chairmanship 2017-2020



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of the Environment

Welcome to the 14th Meeting of Barents Environment Ministers

The Barents region has unique and fragile nature ecosystems, high biodiversity and cultural values. The region, with its vast natural resources and a long tradition of cross-border cooperation has the potential to contribute to the green transition and a more sustainable future.

But the region also faces major challenges. The region is warming at more than twice the rate of the global average and recent science is showing that the changes are faster and deeper than anticipated. Loss of biodiversity is a serious and urgent challenge in the region. These changes will have profound impacts on ecosystems, societies and communities.

The results of the Swedish chairmanship of the Barents Working Group on Environment will be presented and discussed in the meeting. Efforts have been made to promote environmental progress in and further exclusion of Barents environmental hot spots, to increase cooperation on climate change and to further cooperation on biodiversity and conservation of ecosystems, protection of waters and wetlands.

Cooperation in the Barents region is more important than ever, and I look forward to discussing current work and future activities under the incoming Finnish Chairmanship of the Working Group on Environment.

Your sincerely,



Isabella Lövin
Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister



Programme

Tuesday 4 February

Arrival of participants to Luleå.

- 13.30 -14.30 Light lunch and presentations of Green projects in Norrbotten
(Lilla salen, Kulturens hus, Skeppsbronsgatan 17)
- 14.30-15.00 Transport to SSAB
- 15.00-16.15 Site-visit to SSAB Hybrit
- 16.15-16.45 Transport to Clarion hotel Sense (Skeppsbronsgatan 34)
- 17.30-18.00 Transport to World Heritage Site Gammelstad Church Town.
The visit will be partly outdoors so proper winter clothing is needed.
- 18.00-18.45 Visit to Gammelstad Church town
- 18.45-19.00 Walk to Restaurant Kaptensgården (200 m)
- 19.00-21.00 Dinner at Restaurant Kaptensgården
- 21.00-21.30 Transport to Clarion hotel Sense

Wednesday 5 February

- 08:30-13.00 Environment Ministers' meeting (Lilla salen, Kulturens hus)
- 13.00-13.15 Family photo
- 13.15- 14.15 Lunch

About the site visit to SSAB Hybrit on 4 February

SSAB is a Nordic and US based steel company, formed in 1978 and a leading producer of advanced high-strength steels. In 2016, SSAB, LKAB (Swedish iron ore mining company) and Vattenfall (energy company) joined forces to create HYBRIT – an initiative that endeavors to revolutionize steel-making. HYBRIT aims to replace coking coal, traditionally needed for ore-based steel making, with fossil free hydrogen. The result will be the world's first fossil-free steel-making technology, with virtually no carbon footprint.

During 2018, work started on the construction of a pilot plant for testing fossil-free steel production in Luleå, Sweden. The plan is to have a demonstration plant in place 2025, three years ahead of the previous plan. SSAB's aim is to offer the first fossil-free steel to the market already in 2026, and to be selling fossil-free produced steel on a broad scale by 2035. If successful, HYBRIT technology could reduce Sweden's CO₂ emissions by 10% and Finland's by 7%.

Part of the visit will be outdoors so proper winter clothing is needed. Boots and helmet will be provided by SSAB.



Practical information

Travelling to and from Luleå

Night train

The night train Stockholm Central – Luleå leaves on Monday 3 February at 21.08 and arrives Luleå on 4 February at 11.00. The returning night train leave Luleå on Wednesday 5 February at 16.59 and arrives in Stockholm 06.45 on 6 February.

By air

On Tuesday 4 February there are several connecting flights in the morning from Arlanda to Luleå, if travelling on morning flights from all capitals. There are several return flights to Stockholm during Wednesday afternoon that allows connections with flights to Oslo and Helsinki and to Moscow (via Riga).

Transfer

Bus service to and from Luleå Airport

Luleå Airport is served by Luleå Local Traffic's route 4 and 104. Prepaid travel tickets may be purchased at the Mat & Fika café at Luleå Airport and in the Quickomat machine located at the bus shelter outside the airport terminal. Passengers may also pay by credit card on the bus. Please note that cash is not accepted on the buses.

Taxis outside the terminal

Taxi drivers are free to set their own fares for rides since taxi fares are deregulated in Sweden. When choosing a taxi ask for a fixed price, the recommended price would be between 300-400 SEK. A fixed price should be entered and shown on the meter.

Pre-book a taxi

When you book a Sveataxi for your arrival, the driver will wait outside the arrivals hall with a nameplate. Book your flight taxi [online](#) or by phone +46 (0)920-666 66.

Further information

Please contact the following persons if you need further information:

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Accommodation & Location

Clarion Hotel Sense at Skeppsbron 34 is the hotel that we recommended in the invitation.

The hotel is opposite the conference facility Kulturen Hus at Skeppsbron 17.

If you have not yet booked a hotel room, please check availability by phone +46 920 450 450 or via email cl.sense@choice.se. All bookings can be canceled free of charge up to one week before scheduled arrival.

Weather and clothing recommendations

Please be prepared for winter weather.

The site-visit to SSAB will include a short walk out-side. Before the dinner there will be a shorter walk in Gammelstad Church Town.

Registration

If you have not yet registered for the meeting, please do so at the website for [Barents Euro-Arctic Council](#).