



**BARENTS
REGIONAL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

February 22, 2006

Petrozavodsk

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PROTOCOL

Barents Regional Committee meeting

Date: 22 February 2006

Place: Ministry of Economic Development, Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Russia

Programme of the Meeting

Monday, 20 February 2006

Arrival day

Tuesday, 21 February 2006

09:00-16:30	Barents 2010 Final Conference
12:00	Lunch
16:45	Working meeting of the Barents Regional Working Group on Investments and Economic Co-operation
19:00	Buffet reception for the Barents Regional Committee and participants of Barents 2010

Wednesday, 22 February 2006

08:30-11:30	Barents Regional Committee meeting
12:00	Coffee-break (for participants departing by charter plane)
13:10	Departure to Helsinki / Severstal company flight
14:00	Charter flight

Participants

Regional Committee

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Dmitry Kislov, Chairman | <i>Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia, Russia</i> |
| 2. Yevgeny Galkin | <i>Government of Murmansk Region, Russia</i> |
| 3. Natalia Charkova | <i>Administration of the Republic of Komi, Russia</i> |
| 4. Vladimir Kirillov | <i>Administration of Arkhangelsk Region, Russia</i> |
| 5. Jana Kislyakova | <i>Administration of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia</i> |
| 6. Eilert Carlson | <i>County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 7. Brynolf Tjärner | <i>County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 8. Roald Røkeberg | <i>Troms County Council, Norway</i> |
| 9. Sigbjørn Eriksen | <i>Nordland County Council, Norway</i> |
| 10. Tore Gundersen | <i>Finnmark County Council, Norway</i> |
| 11. Kari Aalto | <i>Council of Oulu Region, Finland</i> |
| 12. Esko Lotvonen | <i>Regional Council of Lapland, Finland</i> |
| 13. Jyri Kokkonen | <i>Joint Authority of Kainuu Region, Finland</i> |

Others:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Rune Rafaelsen | <i>The Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway</i> |
| 2. Rune Rautio | <i>The Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway</i> |
| 3. Alf Edvard Nystad | <i>The Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway</i> |
| 4. Margrethe Alnes | <i>The Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway</i> |
| 5. Jan Eirik Johnsen | <i>Troms County Council, Norway</i> |
| 6. Alexey Tsvetkov | <i>Karelian Barents Information office, Petrozavodsk, Russia</i> |
| 7. Larisa Glazko | <i>Administration of Arkhangelsk Region, Russia</i> |
| 8. Sergey Ershov | <i>Working Group on Culture, Murmansk Region, Russia</i> |
| 9. Svetlana Belayeva | <i>Working Group on Culture, Republic of Komi, Russia</i> |
| 10. Natalya Rekunova | <i>Ministry of Culture, Republic of Karelia, Russia</i> |
| 11. Petter Mahrs | <i>Barents Regional Youth Council</i> |
| 12. Sergey Akimov | <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Petrozavodsk, Russia</i> |
| 13. Rolf Wännström | <i>County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 14. Anders Jonsson | <i>County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 15. Elena Aylott | <i>County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, Sweden</i> |
| 16. Mikko Ilkko | <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland</i> |
| 17. Jouko Jama | <i>Regional Council of Lapland, Finland</i> |
| 18. Päivi Kuvaja | <i>Regional Council of Lapland, Finland</i> |

Secretariat:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Vladimir Spiridonov | <i>Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia, Russia</i> |
| 2. Igor Titov | <i>Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia, Russia</i> |

Item RC 01/2006 Adopting the agenda.

Discussion of the agenda.

Alf Nystad, Secretary of WG on Indigenous Peoples proposed to include the information on indigenous peoples in the agenda.

Resolution:

To include the information on indigenous peoples into agenda.

Item RC 02/2006 Adopting the Protocol

Discussion of the protocol of the Barents Regional Committee meeting held on 8 November 2005 in Harstad, Norway.

Resolution:

To adopt the protocol of the Barents Regional Committee meeting held on 8 November 2005 in Harstad, Norway.

Item RC 03/2006 Information from the Chairman

Dmitry Kislov, Chairman of the Barents Regional Committee, reported about the following issues:

1. Welcoming the Barents Regional Committee meeting participants

The chairman welcomed the Barents Regional Committee meeting participants on behalf of the new Barents Regional Chair representative and wished everyone in attendance productive and fruitful work for the two next years and in the future.

2. Introduction of the new Secretariat of the Barents Regional Council & Committee.

The chairman presented members of the new Secretariat staff: Vladimir Spiridonov and Igor Titov who will be in charge of all respective Secretariat work for the next two years.

3. Information about the Conference on Cross Border Cooperation within ENPI 2007-2013 held in Helsinki on 9-10 February.

The chairman informed the meeting on the major aspects discussed at the conference:

- 1) The commission is carrying out the work on implementing regulations provision. All respective documents are expected to be finalized and the budget to be adopted in 12-15 months;
- 2) The Republic of Komi is now also being mentioned in the EU-financing area which however does not lead to any increase in the volume of total funding;
- 3) A great disadvantage is the fact that funding is expected to be distributed according to population which means that the Barents region is not in a favorable position;
- 4) The commission has serious plans to fulfill all the respective work as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the status of negotiating with the Russian side on the question of the financial agreement signing is still unclear.

Resolution:

To include information in the protocol.

**Item RC 04/2006 Information from the Finnish Chairmanship Secretariat of the
Barents Euro-Arctic Council**

Mikko Ilkko from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland presented the following information on behalf of the Finnish Chairmanship Secretariat of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council:

- Mr. Ilkko congratulated the Republic of Karelia with the Regional Council chairmanship and stated that further inter-level co-operation is a common task for Karelia and Finland;
- thanked the final "Barents 2010" conference organizers for good and efficient work;
- informed on the upcoming CSO meeting due to be held in Helsinki on 1-2 of March;
- informed the Committee on the 5th Barents Industrial Partnership meeting scheduled to be held in Rovaniemi on 26-29 of March and distributed the program.

Resolution:

To include information in the protocol.

Item RC 05/2006 Barents 2010

Rolf Wännström, County Administration of Västerbotten, reported the Committee on the main "Barents 2010" project outcomes upon the results of the final project conference held in Petrozavodsk on the day prior to the Committee meeting.

1. Mr. Wännström informed the meeting on the conclusive "Barents 2010" project activities. The final Steering Committee meeting shall be held in Rovaniemi on 21 of March. All invoices are due to be paid by the end of March and the final report to the EU commission is to be completed by the end of June.
2. The main project outcomes are the five major sector programmes: on tourism, oil and gas, forestry, mining and minerals. Each sector programme is now responsible for its financing.

Discussion:

As far as the funding is concerned – the Russian side is still in the same position, without the financial agreement signed between Russia and EU. In this respect we support you but will not participate (Yevgeny Galkin)

The challenge is there. We need a better solution to bring in the Russian side. (Sigbjørn Eriksen)

Resolution:

- 1) To include information in the protocol.
- 2) Each side presents to the secretariat short project evaluation and visions of possible ways to continue co-operation.
- 3) County Administration of Västerbotten shall be in contact with Secretariat to have the first material prepared by June.

Elena Aylott from the County Administration of Västerbotten reported about the new initiative within "Barents 2010" outcome discussion.

The new Västerbotten suggestion deals with the proposal from the "Inpress" company to publish 6 SAS Scanorama magazine supplements focusing on the Barents Region SME advertise. All publication costs are to be covered by respective companies. It was decided to publish a trial free-of-charge supplement dedicated to one of the Barents industries. In case this new initiative proves to be worthwhile - future work can be coordinated in order to make these publications a standard practice.

Discussion:

It is a very good idea – an offer you can't say "no" to. (Sigbjørn Eriksen)

Västerbotten will contact "Inpress" company. They will make a trial version. Afterwards future work can be arranged. (Elena Aylott)

Resolution:

To include information in the protocol.

**Item RC 06/2006 Information from the Working Group on Investments and
Economic Cooperation**

Anders Jonsson, Chairman of the WG on Investments and Economic Cooperation, reported on the following issues:

- Working Group on Investments and Economic Cooperation had a meeting on 21 of February.
- The work carried out within the group is of great significance especially that "Barents 2010" project is ending. However change in WG composition is needed to optimize the working effect
- WG on Investments and Economic Cooperation addresses the Regional Committee and ad-hoc group on organizational changes with the request of considering the possible changes in the WG composition, mainly:
 - 1) Appoint Mr. Timo Rautajoki as the chair of the group
 - 2) Appoint the Russian region representative as the vice-chair

Resolution:

- 1) To include information in the protocol.
- 2) Regional Committee and the ad-hoc group on organizational changes consider the possible changes in the WG composition
- 3) Russian regions present the Secretariat with their suggestions on the vice-chair candidature.

Item RC 07/2006 Suggestion from the Working Group on Culture on raising of the WG status and changing the mandate.

Svetlana Belayeva, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Komi on behalf of Sergey Ershov, Chairman of the Working Group on Culture, reported on the following:

1. The regional Working Group on Culture came up with the suggestion to change the WG mandate and raise its status. In order to further develop the Barents cultural co-operation the regional WG on culture must be transformed to a joined-type WG with officially appointed members from the national ministries. Thus the WG will report to the Regional Council and CSO as well.
2. The respective letter from the WG on Culture has been presented to the Regional Committee (*Appendix 1*).

Discussion:

This is a good suggestion. We have already discussed that for a while. Forming the group in that way will give us a better way to co-operate on both levels. We agree and support the idea (Mikko Ilkko, Tore Gundersen).

Yes, we started this discussion already during Västerbotten chairmanship. We are not against the idea but there are also other working groups that come up with new suggestions. The matter should be passed over to the ad-hoc group (Eilert Carlson).

I don't see why we can not discuss the matter now. I support the idea (Yevgeny Galkin)

I think that in general all parties are positive to this initiative. However the principle of the joint working group is new. We need to hear the national level remarks (Roald Røkeberg).

We have already got the positive backing from Russian and Finnish national Ministries of Culture (Sergey Ershov).

The Working Group on Culture has been very active and productive but we should be in straight line with all other working group issues (Eilert Carlson, Esko Lotvonen).

In this case it would be appropriate to make a joint proposal from the Working Group on Culture and the Regional Committee to the CSO and discuss this issue at one of the CSO meetings (Mikko Ilkko).

Resolution:

- 1) To support the letter from the Working Group on Culture.
- 2) Prepare a joint letter from the Working Group on Culture and the Regional Committee to the CSO.
- 3) To support the idea of discussing with CSO all working groups matters in general.

Item RC 08/2006 Other issues

1. Opening of Karelian Regional Barents Center in Petrozavodsk.

Rune Rafaelsen, General Secretary, the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, reported the meeting about the re-opening of the Karelian Barents Information Center in Petrozavodsk:

- official opening was held the day prior to the Regional Committee meeting;
- the main work guidelines for the office have been determined and it has already started functioning.

Resolution:

To include information in the protocol.

2. Information from the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples

Alf Nystad, Secretary of WG on Indigenous Peoples presented the letter to the Regional Committee (*Appendix 2*) and addressed the Committee with the following information:

- 1) WGIP appoints the Indigenous Peoples secretaries as the members of the Regional Committee and Indigenous Peoples representatives to the Barents Regional Council among its members.
- 2) The WGIP welcomes the Norwegian initiative about establishing a Joint International Secretariat for the Barents Co-operation.

Resolution:

To include information in the protocol.

3. Information from the Barents Regional Youth Council

Petter Mahrs, Chairman of the Barents Regional Youth Council addressed the committee with the official letter (*Appendix 3*).

Resolution:

To include information in the protocol.

4. Meetings of the Regional Committee in 2006.

The chairman proposed and the Committee members confirmed the possibility of holding the Regional Committee meetings in Kirkenes and Oulu.

Resolution:

- 1) To hold the Regional Committee meeting in Kirkenes late September, 2006.
- 2) To hold the Regional Committee meeting in Oulu in the beginning of December, 2006.
- 3) The Secretariat shall be in contact with respective bodies in Norway and Finland as well as Committee members in connection to the exact meeting dates.

Item RC 09/2006 Next Barents Regional Committee Meeting

The chairman proposed and the Committee members confirmed the possibility of holding the next Regional Committee meeting in Petrozavodsk on June 7, 2006 – the day prior to the Regional Council meeting.

Resolution:

To hold the next Regional Committee meeting in Petrozavodsk on June 7, 2006