



**BARENTS  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**June 7, 2006**

**Petrozavodsk**

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## **AGENDA**

### **Barents Regional Committee meeting**

Date: June 7<sup>th</sup> 2006

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

### **Programme of the Meeting**

#### **Wednesday, June 7, 2006**

Arrival of participants

- |               |                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18:00 – 20:00 | Barents Regional Committee meeting<br>Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia                                     |
| 21:00         | Reception for the Regional Committee & Council participants<br>hosted by the Head of the Republic of Karelia<br>Hotel “Karelia” |

#### **Tuesday, June 8, 2006**

- |       |                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00 | Barents Regional Council meeting<br>Hotel “Karelia”                                                                             |
| 14:00 | Lunch, hotel “Karelia”                                                                                                          |
| 16:00 | Concert on the occasion of the Day of the Republic of Karelia<br>Music & Drama Theatre of the Republic of Karelia               |
| 18:00 | Reception hosted by the Head of the Republic of Karelia on the<br>occasion of the Day of the Republic of Karelia<br>Expo-Center |

## Participants

### Regional Committee

1. Dmitry Kislov, Chairman *Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia, Russia*
2. Alf Edvard Nystad *Working Group Of Indigenous Peoples In BEAR*
3. Brynolf Tjärner *County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden*
4. Eilert Carlson *County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, Sweden*
5. Esko Lotvonen *Regional Council of Lapland, Finland*
6. Larisa Glazko *Administration of Arkhangelsk Region, Russia*
7. Pentti Lampinen *Council of Oulu Region, Finland*
8. Roald Røkeberg *Troms County Council, Norway*
9. Sigbjørn Eriksen *Nordland County Council, Norway*
10. Tore Gundersen *Finnmark County Council, Norway*
11. Yevgeny Galkin *Government of Murmansk Region, Russia*

### Others:

1. Mikhail Sitkin *Administration of Arkhangelsk Region, Russia*
2. Alexey Tsvetkov *Karelian Barents Information office, Petrozavodsk, Russia*
3. Anna Prakhova *Working Group Of Indigenous Peoples In BEAR*
4. Bjarne Store-Jacobsen *Working Group Of Indigenous Peoples In BEAR*
5. Jouko Jama *Regional Council of Lapland, Finland*
6. Kari Aalto *Council of Oulu Region, Finland*
7. Laila Dalhaug *The Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway*
8. Mikko Ilkko *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland*
9. Päivi Kuvaja *Regional Council of Lapland, Finland*
10. Rune Rafaelsen *The Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway*
11. Sindre Rene Wolf *Barents Regional Youth Council, Norway*

### Secretariat:

1. Vladimir Spiridonov *Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia, Russia*
2. Igor Titov *Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Karelia, Russia*

**Item RC 10/2006      Adopting the agenda.**

Discussion of the agenda.

The Chairman proposed to include the Item "Indigenous Peoples Action Plan 2005-2008" into the Agenda.

**Resolution:**

1. To include the Item "Indigenous Peoples Action Plan 2005-2008" into the Agenda.
2. To adopt the agenda.

**Item RC 11/2006          Adopting the Protocol**

Discussion of the protocol of the Barents Regional Committee meeting held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 in Petrozavodsk, Russia (*Appendix 1*).

**Resolution:**

To adopt the protocol of the Barents Regional Committee meeting held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 in Petrozavodsk, Russia.

**Item RC 12/2006            Information from the Chairman**

Dmitry Kislov, Chairman of the Barents Regional Committee.

In order to save time for the subsequent agenda items discussion and thorough workup of the Regional Council agenda the Chairman proposed that the Committee proceeded to the following item on the agenda.

**Resolution:**

- 1) To include information into protocol.
- 2) To proceed to item RC 13/2006.

**Item RC 13/2006            Information from the Committee of Senior Officials**

Mikko Ilkko from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland presented the following information on behalf of the Committee of Senior Officials:

- CSO had two meetings during the Finnish Chairmanship (Helsinki 1-2 March 2006, with representatives of all subsidiary working bodies present and Kajaani and Helsinki on 2-3 June 2006);
- CSO together with the representatives of the Regional Committee have discussed the work of the Ad Hoc Group on organisational issues. The CSO welcomes the report of the Ad Hoc Group as a well-done and valuable contribution reflecting the important work that is done to develop the structures of cooperation;
- CSO concentrated on the revised Norwegian proposal on the Joint International Secretariat including data and information co-operation. The Finnish Chair of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council emphasizes that there is a need to find consensus on the organisational issues, including the proposal on the Joint International Secretariat and the data and information issue, before taking the issue to the level of BEAC Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
- On the whole the CSO would like to hear a clear signal from the regional side whether we can work forward together on the basis of the work already done;
- CSO discussed the proposal from the regional Working Group on Culture for a new mandate. The CSO recommends that the Working Group goes forward and prepares a new mandate for a joint Working Group on Culture. The CSO will then discuss the proposal in its next meeting in the beginning of October;

In addition Mr. Ilkko informed the Committee on the following matters: the Agreement on Cooperation within the Field of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response in the Barents Region, the work on the climate policy measures relevant to the Barents Region.

**Resolution:**

To include information in the protocol.



**Item RC 14/2006**

**Ad-hoc group report: organizational changes in Barents cooperation.**

Esko Lotvonen, Regional Council of Lapland, ad-hoc group chair:

1. Provided information on the work of the ad-hoc group;
2. Made presentation of the report named "Towards more effective regional Barents cooperation".

Discussion and comments:

Roald Røkeberg also made some comments on the renewed Norwegian proposal concerning the Joint International Secretariat and accentuated its orientation at multilateral cooperation in the region.

Dmitry Kislov: We have heard the detailed report on the ad-hoc group work. Tomorrow this issue will be also discussed at the Barents Regional Council. Therefore our task now is to agree on some draft resolution for the Council members.

Tore Gundersen: The report is called "Towards more effective regional Barents cooperation" and it is full of details. However, it contains too little information and opinions on the main issue as far as the organizational structure is concerned – the Joint International Secretariat. The Regional Council is most concerned about our recommendation on this matter. I think it should be stressed that the establishment of the Joint International Secretariat will serve in favour of the whole Barents Region providing more multilateral cooperation. Moreover – it is not clear why the question of North Karelia membership is brought up in the report at all. It is stated in the report that the regional cooperation in the Barents Region has been partly ineffective –in this case the matter of further broadening looks inappropriate.

Yevgeny Galkin: The idea of establishing of the Joint International Secretariat is strongly connected with existence of the national secretariats in each country-member. Both structures do not exist in Russia at the moment and it is not likely that they will appear in the nearest future.

Sigbjørn Eriksen: But we have to come up with draft resolution for the Regional Council now.

Dmitry Kislov: Maybe the Committee can express its general support to some of the ad-hoc group conclusions – mainly to those that do not cause much dispute. As far as the disputed matters are concerned – it seems appropriate for the ad-hoc group to continue its work on these items. I think the Committee can recommend the Council to address the CSO on that matter.

Kari Aalto: I must point out that if the Committee expresses its general support to the idea of establishing of the Joint International Secretariat we need more reasons for that. As a whole the ad-hoc group report is good but it does not provide enough convincing arguments for this kind of establishment. Another thing that is unclear is dividing the responsibilities of the regions. We can not disregard the outcomes of the Barents-2010 project because it is a serious mistake not to follow our own decisions.

Sigbjørn Eriksen: It seems quite obvious that the principal reason for Joint International Secretariat is the necessity of strengthening the multilateral cooperation in the Barents Region. It is obscure – what other reasons are needed?

Dmitry Kislov: I think we should head towards some consensus. It can be agreed that at the present time the Barents regional cooperation is a door which has a lot of locks. Of course the Joint International Secretariat will not open all of them – yet it could open most of them. Thus having the Joint International Secretariat it will be easier for us to find the keys to the remaining locks.

**Resolution:**

- 1) To take the information from the ad-hoc group into consideration and include it in the protocol.
- 2) To prolong the mandate of the ad-hoc group on organisational changes.
- 3) The Regional Committee supports the proposal to establish the Joint International Secretariat in general but notes that this initiative should be considered in the context of such issues as: establishment of national secretariats, dividing responsibilities of

the regions, activities of the working groups, financing and also in the context of interaction in the sphere of information and data cooperation.

- 4) The Regional Committee recommends that the Regional Council officially addresses the CSO on the matter of organisational changes.

**Item RC 15/2006      Indigenous Peoples action plan**

Anna Prakhova, representative for the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples made short presentation of the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Region.

**Resolution:**

To include information in the protocol.

**Item RC 16/2006      Adopting the agenda for the Barents Regional Council  
meeting**

Discussion of the agenda.

**Resolution:**

To adopt the agenda.

**Item RC 17/2006      Ad-hoc group report: mandate for Working Group on  
Investments and Economic Co-operation.**

Esko Lotvonen, Regional Council of Lapland, ad-hoc group chair provided information on the state of affairs in the WG on Investment and Economic Cooperation:

The group has to take note of the work in different sector programmes of industries within Barents cooperation through coordination activities. Members of the group should represent organisations in practice responsible to enhance the business environment of SME`s in their regions. Regions interested to participate to work should nominate their members to group before 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2006.

Main secretarial support to working group will be offered by partners from Finland. Other partners are also invited to give their input to work. The main principle is that the country hosting the meeting covers direct costs of holding the meeting. The members of working group will cover their expenses for travel and stay.

**Resolution:**

To include information in the protocol.

**Item RC 18/2006      Future transnational programme in the Baltic Sea area.**

Eilert Carlson, County Administration of Västerbotten, reported on the future transnational programme in the Baltic Sea region starting in 2007 and raised the question of a study of a new transnational project BARENTS 2010+.

**Resolution:**

- 1) To include information in the protocol.
- 2) The Committee asked Eilert Carlson to prepare a more detailed presentation of the program for the next meeting.

**Item RC 19/2006            Information from the Working Group on Youth Issues**

Laila Dalhaug, Norwegian Barents Secretariat, and Sindre Rene Wolf, Barents Regional Youth Council, reported on the work of the WG.

**Resolution:**

To include information in the protocol.



**Item RC 20/2006**

**Other issues**

**Item RC 21/2006****Next Barents Regional Committee Meeting**

The chairman proposed and the Committee members confirmed the possibility of holding the next Regional Committee meeting in Kirkenes (Norway) on September 27, 2006.

**Resolution:**

To hold the next Regional Committee meeting in Kirkenes (Norway) on September 27, 2006.