

## Preliminary

### Protocol from the meeting in The Administrative Regional Committee of the Barents Region in Tromsø september 28 th 1993.

The meeting took place at the County building in Tromsø.

The following persons attended the meeting:

#### The Administrative Regional Committee:

Aleksej Kremljev,	Arkhangelsk oblast
Thor Robertsen,	Finnmark fylke
Andrej Spiridonov,	Karelija
Esko Lotvonen,	Lappland län
Viggo Eide,	Nordland fylke
Bruno Larsson,	Norrbotten län
Heidi Salmi,	Samediggi
Roald Røkeberg,	Troms fylke

#### Others:

Knut Erik Olsen, Information leader in The Barents Secretariat  
Steffen Søndergård, Secretariat at The Nordic Council of  
Ministers

Valerij Malchikhin, Head of city administration, Koryazhma  
(Arkhangelsk oblast).

Anastasia Gorter-Grønvik, interpreter  
Kristin Høiby, secretary

#### 1. Reference

a) Protocol from the meeting in Saariselkä, Finland was approved.

b) The boklet from The Royal Norwegian Foreign Department on the  
Barents Region will be distributed to those who have not received  
it.

c) Thor Robertsen orientated on the following:

- The statements from the ministerial meetings of culture and  
infrastructure were distributed. The statement from the Ministers  
of Culture is not very concrete, but the participants at the  
meeting were wholeheartedly supporting the cultural work in the  
Barents Region.

- The statement of the Ministers of transportation was more  
concrete. This shows that the regional administrative Committee  
and the Regional Council have to work closer with those organs  
which is responsible for advising the Ministers on their

statements. The regional working groups are most important in this respect.

- Esko Lotvonen wished to emphasise the importance to work closely with the institutions/organs that prepares the ministerial meetings and their statements.

- The leaders of the working groups will meet in Kirkenes the 11.-12. of October. There they will be given an introduction to the work of the Barents Region, and how their work will influence the development of the Barents cooperation. They will also get some information on general lines for their work.

The heads of education have finished their work, and reached a statement for their further cooperation.

The "culture-group" has had their initial meeting, and will hold their next meeting in October. The "agricultur-group" has also decided to hold their initial meeting in the near future.

It is most important that these groups decide on concrete projects. In that manner the Barents Region cooperation can start working with financing these projects in the beginning of 1994.

- The "Lapland Green Movement" has written a letter concerning alternative energy sources. The letter will be sent to the environmental-group.

- Representative of the Norwegian Parliament, Karl Eirik Schjøtt-Pedersen has written a letter where he proposes to establish a parliamentary assembly for the Barents Region. The initiative for answering this request is at the national level. But signals so far indicate that an assembly will be formed at the beginning of 1994, but this depends on the political situation in Russia. The letter will be sent to the Regional Council.

- An presentation of the priorities of Finnmark fylke within the Barents Region was distributed.

- The 2nd Arctic Leaders Summit has invited representatives of the Barents Region to participate in their conference in Kiruna, Sweden the 2.-5. th of November. The Administrative Regional Committee ask Esko Lotvonen to represent the administration of the Barents Region.

- At the next meeting in The Regional Council an presentation on the ongoing projects in the Barentsregion will be held. The representatives are asked to gather information on their side about "Barents-projects" and send this to Kristin Høiby.

## 2. Presentation of the "Baltic-program" at The Nordic Council of Ministers

Steffen Søndergaard from the Secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers held a presentation of the Baltic-program of the

Nordic Council. He also explained how the Nordic Council of Ministers are organized and what kind of projects are supported by them.

After the discussion following the presentation, it was decided that each representative should make a list of projects that could be included in a future "Barents-program" at the Nordic Council of Ministers. These suggestions will function as a basis for a proposal and presentation to the secretariat at the Nordic Council of Ministers.

### 3. Criteria for membership in the Barents Region

Viggo Eide from Nordland suggested the following addition to the proposal and recommendation for the Regional Council.

Additional 5th paragraph: Fylker, län and oblasti that is not accepted according to the definition in paragraph 1 may be accepted as members in the Barents Region if the Regional Council decides it.

The proposal was not approved by the other representatives, and the original proposal will be presented to the Regional Council as it is.

### 4. Application for membership from Nenets okrug and Leningrad oblast

The regional administration of Arkhangelsk oblast confirms that Nenets okrug has the necessary rights to enter into juridical binding foreign-economical agreements.

After a short discussion the representatives expressed their needs for more information about the formal position of Nenets okrug in The Russian Federation, the administrative structure of Nenets okrug and a short geographical and demographical presentation.

This issue is postponed until further information is achieved.

Viggo Eide from Nordland expressed his support to the application from Leningrad oblast, and proposed to accept their application. The notion was not supported by the other representatives, and the application will not be recommended.

### 5. Health-cooperation in the Barents Region

There will be a ministerial meeting about health cooperation in the Barents Region. None of the representatives in the Administrative nor the Regional Council were informed about this.

There will be established contact with the appropriate authorities with proposal to cooperate in these matters.

The description of today's cooperation with recommendations is approved with the following changes.

- There should be only 5 members in the working group. They will be appointed by the leaders of the regional health care system, who will meet once to establish contact and decide on the priorities of the health-cooperation.

#### 6. Financing and economic management in the Barents Region

The representatives from Norway, Sweden and Finland did not agree on the proposed criterias and general lines. Esko Lotvonen and Bruno Larsson will present a new suggestion at the next meeting.

The Russian side informed that there were no problems in agreeing on the splitting of costs between the Russian parts. It is however necessary with a timeschedule and list of meetings in Russia to prepare a budget.

#### 7. Plan and strategy for information in the Barents Region

Knut Erik Olsen presented his plan and strategy for information in the Barents Region. The information-work will be concentrated this autumn on internal information among the members of the Regional Council, the Administrative Regional Committee and the working groups. External information will be directed towards the press and other interested parties through the "Newsletter".

The internal information is important in creating a feeling of identity towards the Barents Region for those working in the organization, both on national and regional level.

The different kind of measures are:

- Establishing a network of information-correspondents in each fylke, län and oblast (republic).
- Distribution of internal newsletters
- Distribution of clips from the press
- Establishing a system for distribution of information to the mass-media.

The establishment of a network of information-correspondents was discussed by the representatives and the views presented will be considered by Mr. Olsen when he continues his work.

The information plan was approved.

#### 8. Other issues

Those who do not have a multi-visa, and want this, should fill out the request form distributed, and send it back to Kristin

Høiby. Andrej Spiridonov will be the coordinator on russian side, and send the applications to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bruno Larsson distributed the necessary invitations to the meeting in Luleå for the Regional Council. He will also inform the general conculate in St. Petersburg.

The next meeting of the Administrative Regional Committee will be held in Kostamuksha, Karelija the 14.-15. of desember. However the date may change if the Regional Council decides to postspone their meeting until the middel of January next year.