

Committee of Senior Officials  
Meeting document  
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## **New mandate for the Energy Working Group**

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council at its 5<sup>th</sup> session in Luleå on 19 – 20 January 1998 adopted an Energy Action Plan and established an ad hoc Energy Working Group with a three year mandate (cf. attachment). At its 8<sup>th</sup> session in Murmansk on 14 – 15 March 2001 the Council prolonged the mandate for another three years and dropped the "ad hoc" from the title of the working group. Thus, the mandate of the Energy Working Group (EWG) expires in March 2004.

However, the EWG chair has requested a prolongation of the mandate until the future content and form of the energy cooperation in the Barents Region can be decided. They request a prolongation until the end of 2004 at the latest, in order to give time to elaborate the necessary recommendations in a dialogue with the CSO and the regional level of cooperation. The matter will be discussed at the next EWG meeting scheduled for 29 - 30 March 2004.

The CSO chair proposes that this request be approved.



Fifth Barents Euro-Arctic Council  
Luleå m19-20 January 1998

## **Mandate for the ad hoc Working Group on Energy of the Barents Euro Arctic Council BEAC**

The ad hoc Working Group on Energy (WGE) shall work as a catalyst and bridgebuilder in implementing the Energy Action Plan for the Improvement of the Energy Situation in the Barents Region and serve as a platform for co-ordination and co-operation on the regional and national level. The Group shall not deal with matters related to nuclear safety or nuclear waste.

The Mandate is given for a period of three years.

### **The Ad Hoc Working group on Energy shall**

1. Promote regional co-operation in the energy system between authorities, energy entities, private sector companies and other actors;
2. In co-operation with the Working Group on Economic Co-operation, when required by project promoters, contribute to engaging the interest of potential investors in energy projects in the Region;
3. Give priority to small and medium sized projects on increased use of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency in energy production, distribution and consumption;
4. Establish and follow-up an information network and evaluate the need for a data base on energy matters in the Region;
5. In its work take into account relevant national and international energy policies and recommendations, as well as already existing studies, work and structures;
6. Follow the development of selected energy programmes and projects of relevance to the Region. The WGE shall not assume responsibility for any project;
7. Present to the Committee of Senior Officials of the BEAC (CSO) its plans for Agenda and working methods and regularly report on its work to the CSO and BEAC;

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Participation in the work of WGE is open to BEAC members, observers and regional representatives, who wish to be involved in the work of the WGE.

Members of the WGE may be nominated by national and regional governments and the European Commission.