



BARENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2002 AND 2003

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1. INTRODUCTION

The annual report shall describe what have been done according to the annual plan. It describes meetings and initiatives within the frame of the regional Barents co-operation.

2. BARENTS CO-OPERATION – THE SHORT HISTORY

The idea of the Barents co-operation was launched by Thorvald Stoltenberg, Norwegian Minister of foreign affairs, in 1992, the same year as the Baltic co-operation was established. Also in the north the unstable and complicated situation in Russia represented a great challenge for security and environmental policy for both the neighbouring countries and the rest of Europe. Therefore it was desired to create a forum for dialog and co-operation in order to create processes to counteract these and other looming threats. The central key words for co-operation were democracy, environmental protection, economic growth and sustainable development. Otherwise removing the potential threats the co-operation with Russia in the northern areas had a great potential for international economic co-operation because here are some of the worlds largest resources of fish, undeveloped forests, oil, gas and minerals.

The Barents co-operation has been officially arranged as a common multilateral co-operation through the formation of the Barents Euro Arctic Region, establishment of the Barents Council and the Regional Council, as well as the signing of the Kirkenes Declaration on 11. January 1993 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Russia, Norway, Finland and Sweden jointly with representatives from Denmark, Iceland and the EU.

At the same time a regional co-operation agreement was signed between the counties or corresponding administrative structures included in the Barents region, and one representative for the indigenous peoples; these together represent the Regional Council. This agreement determines targets, structure and form for the regional co-operation.

Behind the idea of a regional forum for the Barents co-operation was the acknowledgement of the fact that an administration located in the member regions would, in many aspects, be much better qualified to identify topical projects and co-operation partners, as well as follow up practical arrangements than an administration structure established far away with the staff without local knowledge. Furthermore there were already well-established co-operation structures in the North between Norway, Sweden and Finland within the North Calotte co-operation; in addition these regions had already established bi-lateral networks and agreements with Northwest Russia through for instance the friendship program between counties established before the Soviet Unions disintegration. The profusion of co-operation forms throughout the region is a sign for the region. Special emphasis is made on the indigenous peoples' collaboration across the national frontiers, accomplished by the Saami Council, which enjoys an international non-governmental status and represents the Saami organizations in Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, as well as the Saami Parliamentary Council, a parliamentary collaboration between the Saami Parliaments in Finland, Norway and Sweden, the Saami organizations in Russia are permanent participants in this Council.

In the beginning the Barents region consisted of the Norwegian counties Nordland, Troms and Finnmark; Norrbotten county in Sweden; Lapland county in Finland and the Russian regions Murmansk and Arkhangelsk. Already in April the same year the Russian Republic of Karelia joined the co-operation, so the Barents co-operation included eight member regions at the end of 1993.

Since then the co-operation's geographical borders have been gradually extended through the acceptance of new members so that at the end of 2003 the Barents co-operation included 13 members. The indigenous peoples are also the members of the Barents co-operation.

The participation in the Barents co-operation became more attractive together with the growing national and international focus on the challenges and possibilities in the northern regions. The regional co-operation has been prevailing in the field of environmental protection, energy, health, education and indigenous peoples. The Russian side has emphasized the Barents co-operation as successful and as a model for regional co-operation covering Russia.

The regional co-operation occurs within the Barents program which is a framework including goals and strategies for the development of the regional co-operation over several years. Furthermore the program is governed by the annual plan that, based on the program, determines targets, strategy, time schedule and responsibility within the single calendar year. The Regional Council approves both of these documents.

The present Barents Programme is intended from 2000 to 2003 and is the fourth one.

Some member countries have also developed their own, national priorities for the bilateral co-operation and Barents co-operation.

3. OVERVIEW OF MEMBER REGIONS

The Barents region includes, with its 13 regions, a population of 5.941.000 and an area of 1.755.800 square kilometres.

The Nenets, Vepsians and Saami are the indigenous peoples inhabiting the region, which in addition to long inhabitation and use of local resources, also have their own language, culture, economic activities and traditional way of living. The approximate total number of indigenous peoples in the Barents Region is 100.000.

The following member regions at the end of 2003:

Region	Land	Adm.center	Area	Population *)	Main branches	Member since
Finmark	NO	Vadsø	48637	74.061	Fishery, reindeer husbandry	01.1993
Troms	NO	Tromsø	25984	150.200	Service, fishery, reindeer husbandry	01.1993
Nordland	NO	Bodø	38327	238.547	Industry, fishery, fish farming	01.1993
Norrbottn	SE	Luleå	98911	260.473	Mining and processing industry, services	01.1993
Västerbotten	SE	Umeå	55401	257.803	Forest industry, minerals and workshops	01.1998**)
Lappland	FIN	Rovaniemi	93003	194.352	Forest industry, service	01.1993 **)
Oulu Region	FIN	Oulu	35291	371.931	IT, metallurgy and forest industry	12.1998 **)
Kainuu	FIN	Kajaani	21567	91.081		12.1998 **)
Murmansk	RU	Murmansk	144900	1.018.000	Metallurgy, el-production and fishery/fish processing, reindeer husbandry,	01.1993

					mining/minerals	
Arkhangelsk	RU	Arkhangelsk	410700	1.478.000	Forest industry, el-prod., machine industry/metallurgy, fishery/fish processing	01.1993
Nenets	RU	Naryan-Mar	176700	46.600	Reindeer husbandry, oil/gas	05.1996
Republic of Karelia	RU	Petrozavodsk	180500	716.000	Forest industry, el production, metallurgy and food industry.	04.1993
Republic of Komi	RU	Syktyvkar	416.800	1.115.000	Oil/gas, minerals, forest industry, coal	01.2002

Indigenous Peoples***)						
The Saami People	NO, SE, FIN, RU			85.000	Traditional economic activities	01.1993
The Nenets People	RU			7.000	Traditional economic activities	01.1993
The Vepsian People	RU			6.000	Traditional economic activities	11.1996

*) Population as per 01.01.99 – for Finland as per 01.01.2004 Oulu Region: according to the data from the Council of Oulu Region. For Västerbotten and the republic of Karelia data as per 31.12.03.

**) Lapland county has been the member of the region since January 1993. In January 1998 the Finnish participation expanded to include Oulu county. During the same year Finland moved the responsibility for county development from county governments to the Counties Associations. In this way the Associations became the new geographical units and the Counties Associations became the representatives in the Region Council. Therefore the Oulu county has been replaced by the Regional Council of Northern Ostrobothnia (and from year 2002 the Council of Oulu Region) and the Regional Council of Kainuu. Lapland county was at the same time changed to the Regional Council of Lapland. All three “new” Finnish regions became the officially a part of the Barents co-operation from December 1998.

***) During the period 2002 – 2003 the Sámediggi (Saami Parliament) in Norway represents indigenous peoples in the Regional Council and the Regional Committee. Since October 2003 the Saami Parliamentary Council, a parliamentary collaboration between the elected Saami Parliaments in Finland, Norway and Sweden, appoints the indigenous peoples’ representatives to both the Regional Council and the Regional Committee when the chairmanship is on the Nordic side of the Barents Region and the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR on behalf of the Russian side of the Barents Region. The status and mandate of the representation of the indigenous peoples in the organs of the Barents co-operation is under discussion.

4. ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

The Barents co-operation is organized nationally and regionally as follows:

On the regional level, the Regional Committee meets regularly to discuss matters of multilateral character. The Regional Council meets two-three times a year.

Procedures and preparations for meetings of the Regional Committee and the Regional Council meetings are performed by a secretariat established and operated by that country or region which holds the chairmanship in the Regional Council at the time in question.

In 2001-2003 it was Nordland County, Norway, who hold these duties, and the applications were dealt with through co-operation between a secretariat in Bodø and the Barents Secretariat, which also has the responsibility for the bilateral regional co-operation between Norway and Russia in the frame of the Barents co-operation.

In autumn 2003 County Administrative Board of Västerbotten took the chairmanship and will keep it until the end of year 2005.

The procedure for preparing applications and meetings for the Regional Committee and Regional Council differs slightly in different member countries. In Sweden, Finland and Russia, the applications are dealt with mainly by and via the International Affairs Departments under the corresponding regional administrations (county governments, regions, etc.). In Norway the work is organized primarily in the same way, but there the member regions, also Sámediggi (Sametinget) in Karasjok, use the Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes, which is owned by the counties and which, through grants from Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, administers considerable resources and has developed a thorough competence in various areas of work as a tool in both dealing with applications and identifying and developing new projects.

The Regional Council's composition in 2002 and 2003:

Name	Position	Institution	Location
Geir Knutson (I)	County Council leader	Nordland county council	Bodö (N)
Ronald Rindestu	County Council leader	Troms county council	Tromsö (N)
Evy-Ann Midttun	County Council leader	Finnmark county council	Vadsö (N)
Jury Yevdokimov	Governor	Murmansk oblast	Murmansk (RU)
Anatoli Yefremov	Governor	Arkhangelsk oblast	Arkhangelsk (RU)
Vladimir Butov	Governor	Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Naryan-Mar (RU)
Viktor Davydov	Chief	Administration of the Head of the Republic of Karelia	Petrozavodsk (RU)
Vladimir Torlopov	Head of the republic	Republic of Komi	Syktvykar
Timo E. Korva	Chairman	Regional Council of Lapland	Rovaniemi (FI)
Olavi Pyykkönen	Chairman	Regional Council of Kainuu	Kajaani (FI)
Alpo Löytynoja	Chairman	Council of Oulu Region	Oulu (FI)
Kari Marklund	County governor	Norbotten County Administration	Luleå (S)
Lorentz Anderson	County governor	Västerbotten County Administration	Umeå (S)
Ragnhild Nystad	Representative of the indigenous peoples, Vice President	Saami Parliament in Norway	Karasjok (N)
Bengt Sevä ¹	Representative of the indigenous peoples, Member of Parliament	Saami Parliament in Sweden	Kiruna (S)

The Regional Committee's composition in 2002 and 2003:

Name	Position	Institution	Location
Sigbjørn Eriksen (I)	Special adviser	Nordland county council	Bodö (N)
Roald Røkeberg	County ass. chief officer	Troms county council	Tromsö (N)
Thor Robertsen	Special adviser	Finnmark county council	Vadsö (N)
Evgenij Galkin	Head of department	Murmansk oblast	Murmansk (RU)
Svetlana Gorlanova	Vice-governor	Arkhangelsk oblast	Arkhangelsk (RU)
Jana Kisliakova	Head of committee	Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Naryan-Mar (RU)

¹ Bengt Sevä is the indigenous peoples' representative since 12 October 2003.

Dmitry Bazegsky	Vice minister	Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Karelia	Petrozavodsk (RU)
Ludmila Kabantseva	Head of department	Republic of Komi	Syktyvkar (RU)
Esko Lotvonen	Executive Director	Regional Council of Lapland	Rovaniemi (FI)
Hannes Kemppainen	Executive Director	Regional Council of Kainuu	Kajaani (FI)
Pentti Lampinen Kari Aalto	Executive Director Manager of International Affairs	Council of Oulu Region	Oulu (FI)
Bruno Larsson Brynolf Tjärner ²	Chief for planning Special adviser	Norrbottn County Administration.	Luleå (S)
Eilert Carlson	Director international relations	Västerbotten County Administration	Umeå (S)
Kirsten Anne Guttorm	Senior Executive Officer	Saami Parliament in Norway	Karasjok (N)

² Brynolf Tjärner is the representative from the County Administration of Norrbotten since January 2003.

Regional Working groups

The number of working groups appointed by the Regional Council has varied from year to year, and the work of each group has correspondingly varied considerably.

The working group for indigenous people makes an exception. The group has been founded on a permanent base by the Region Council in 1995 and has advisory status for both the Barents Council and the Region Council.

At the meeting in Kainuu 15 December 1999, the Council concluded therefore to abolish the working groups with exception of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR, and instead to appoint ad-hoc groups within various priority areas of the Barents Program. At the same time the Regional Committee was given responsibility for appointing these groups and for linking up the necessary competence to them.

For practical reasons, this arrangement did not work as planned, and the Regional Council in its meeting in Murmansk 14 March 2001 decided under issue 08/2001 to re-establish working groups for culture, education, environment, communication and information technologies. The groups were at the same time given a new and clearly defined mandate for their activities, apart from the Working group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR, which mandate is still under discussion.

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR was established on a permanent base by the Region Council in 1993 as the Regional Committee for the Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR (since 1995 – the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR) and has advisory status for both the Barents Council and the Region Council and was the first Regional Working Group which submitted its annual activities' report to the CSO in the year 2002, and has been doing so ever since. Member of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples Ms. Zinaida I. Strogalschikova is a member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since in 2002.

During the year 2002 efforts was made to promote and strengthen the youth co-operation in the region. A committee was established to make a Youth Programme for the years 2003-2006. At the Regional Committee meeting in Rovaniemi 5 of December 2002 it was decided to establish a regional working group on youth issues to follow up the programme. The group should consist of one member from each country and one member from the indigenous peoples.

An ad hoc group was established at the Regional Committee meeting in Rovaniemi 5 of December 2002 to see what could be done with the financial matters concerning the Barents Press network. Their report should be made the first quarter of the year 2003.

An ad hoc group was established, Joint Investment Window, at the Regional Committee video conference meeting 11 February 2003. The group should consist of five members and their task was to see how to improve SMEs development in the Barents region with special focus on the Russian side.

Each working group had the following participants in December 2003 (contact information is available on www.beac.st)

Culture			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Ulla Lassila ³ (I)	Director for culture	Council of Oulu Region	Oulu
Tuure Holopainen	Director for culture	Council of Oulu Region	Oulu
Nikolaj Sjum	Culture Comm.	Murmansk oblast admin	Murmansk
Maj-Lis Granström	Culture sector leader	Norrbottn county admin.	Luleå
Kari Laine	General secretary	Art Council of Lapland	Rovaniemi
Virve Vimpari-Savvides	Secretary - int.affairs	Regional Council of Kainuu	Kajaani
Ellen Østgård	County's culture vice-chief	Troms county admin.	Tromsø
Stig Olsen ⁴	Dep.County's culture chief	Nordland county admin.	Bodø
Irina Lubina	Culture Dept. head	Arkhangelsk oblast admin.	Arkhangelsk
Elsa Jonassen	County's culture chief	Finnmark county admin.	Vadsø
Anna Lassinantti	Culture chief	Västerbotten County Council	Umeå
Galina Brun	Minister	Ministry of culture of the Republic of Karelia	Petrozavodsk
Marina Smarovoz	Culture Dept. head	Nenets Okrug admin.	Naryan-Mar

Higher education and research			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Ingvild Broch (I)	Director for research	University of Tromsø	Tromsø
Frode Mellempvik	Director	University of Bodø	Bodø
Jarl Store	County education chief	Regi. Council of Finnmark	Vadsø
Tuure Holopainen	Director for culture	Council of Oulu Region.	Oulu
Harry Malinen	Director for foreign affairs	University of Lapland	Rovaniemi
Peter Sköld	PhD, Research Fellow	University of Umeå	Umeå
Walter Ruth	University adj.	Luleå technical university	Luleå
(To be appointed)			Kajaani
Valeria Shergalina	Principal	Murmansk humanitarian institute	Murmansk
Natalia Stoudigrad		Regional adm. of Komi	Syktvykar
Tamara Rumjantseva	Head, Dept. for research/ higher education	Arkhangelsk oblast admin.	Arkhangelsk
Aleksander Titov	President	Karelian Research Center, Russian Academy of Science	Petrozavodsk
Aleksander Kolovangin	Head of Education Dept.	Nenets Okrug admin.	Naryan-Mar

Indigenous Peoples				
Name	Position		Institution	Location
Anna Prakhova (I)	Chairman	Saami	Chairman, Committee for Indigenous Peoples, Murmansk region Adm.	Murmansk
Egil Olli	Member	Saami	Member, Saami Parliament in Norway	Karasjok
Helvi Nuorgam-Poutasuo	Member	Saami	Member, Saami Parliament in Finland	Utsjoki
Per Labba	Member	Saami	Member, Saami Parliament in Sweden	Kiruna
Ludmilla Laptander	Member	Nenets	Vice-Governor, Nenets Okrug Adm.	Naryan-Mar
Zinaida Strogaltchikova	Member	Vepsians	Scientist, Institute of Language, Literature and History of the KarSC RAS/ Chairman, Vepsian Culture Society	Petrozavodsk
Alf Nystad	Secretary		Barents Secretariat	Kirkenes
Roman Mikhalyuk	Secretary		Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office	Murmansk

³ Ulla Lassila was given the chairmanship after Aaslaug Vaa who was chair in 2002.

⁴ Aaslaug Vaa was the county's culture chief until April 2003.

Communication			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Aleksander Maksimov (I)	Head of Transport & Communication Dept.	Arkhangelsk oblast admin.	Arkhangelsk
Voitto Tiensuu Tuomo Palokangas	Chief for Planning Dept. Director for regional planning	Reg. Council of Lapland Council of Oulu Region	Rovaniemi Oulu
Bo-Erik Ekblom Martti Juntunen Ingeborg Solberg Petr Prints Per Munkerud Tom Mikalsen Mårten Edberg Lev Shustov	Director for communication Planner Depute chief Develop. Dept. Head transp./communic.dpt. Transport, chief Expert head for transport Director on communication Vice Minister	Norrbottn county admin. Reg. Council of Kainuu Troms county admin. Murmansk oblast admin. Nordland county admin. Finnmark county admin. Västerbotten county admin. Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Karelia Nenets Okrug admin.	Luleå Kajaani Tromsö Murmansk Bodö Vadsö Umeå Petrozavodsk
Viktor Burlaka	Chairman of Transport & Communication Committee		Naryan-Mar
Alexander Djadik	Deputy Minister of Industry	The Administration of the Republic of Komi	Syktvykar

Information Technologies			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Liisa Kurppa (I) Mikko Väisänen Katarina Gustavsson Eero Vilhu Sigurd Sjursen Olga Buch Per Eidsvik Lars Krogh Vladimir A. Kolomentsev Roland Lundqvist Natalia Ruzanova Andrej Panov	Information chief Program manager Executive officer for IT Project manager for IT Information chief Deputy principal for IT Spec.consult. plan/business Researcher - Director Deputy principal Head of IT-dept.	Arctic Centre Council of Oulu Region Norrbottn county admin. Reg. Council of Kainuu Norut Informasjonsteknologi AS Murmansk State Technical Univ. Nordland county admin. Maximite Alta AS Arkhangelsk oblast admin. IT Västerbotten Petrozavodsk State University Nenets Okrug admin.	Rovaniemi Oulu Luleå Kajaani Tromsö Murmansk Bodö Alta Arkhangelsk Skellefteå Petrozavodsk Naryan-Mar

Environment			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Mats-Rune Bergström (I) Kari Kinnunen Eija Salmi Heikki Aronpää Gunnar Nilsson Torill Skoglund Aleksander Ruzankin Roar Høgsæt Bente Christiansen Viktor S. Kouznetsov Valentina Kolesova Andrei Getman Tatiana Tiupenko	Dept. director Director Area planning manager Director County environment expert Executive officer Reg. Dev. Chairm. Nuclear Safety com. County env. protection chief County env. protection chief DC Natural Resources com. Counsellor Dep. Head Env.& Resources -	Västerbotten county admin. Environment Centre Council of Oulu Region Kainuu Reg. Environ. Centre Norrbottn county admin. Troms county admin. Murmansk oblast admin. Nordland county admin. Finnmark County Gov. Arkhangelsk oblast admin. Administration of the Head of the Republic of Karelia Karelia Nenets Okrug admin. Komi regional adm.	Umeå Rovaniemi Oulu Kajaani Luleå Tromsö Murmansk Bodö Vadsö Arkhangelsk Petrozavodsk Naryan-Mar Syktvykar

Youth			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Sergei Yerchov	Chairman of the committee of youth affairs	Committee of youth affairs in Murmansk region	Murmansk
Dmitry Nizovtsev		Arkhangelsk region	Arkhangelsk
Virve Vimpari	Secr. of international affairs	Reg. Council of Kainuu	Kajaani
Susanne Ljungström	Project leader	County Council of Västerbotten	Umeå
Siri Wernberg	Coordinator	Samediggi	Norway
Thorstein Einarsson	OT-leader	Troms region	Tromsø
Jurij Smirnov (observer)	Coordinator Barents youth co-operation office	Murmansk region	Murmansk
Laila Dalhaug	Adviser	Barents secretariat	Kirkenes

Barents Press ad hoc group			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Roald Rökeberg (I)	County ass. chief officer	Troms county council	Tromsø
Jan Henriksson	Adviser	Norrbotten county admin.	Norrbotten
Evgenij Galkin	Head of department	Murmansk regional adm.	Murmansk
Kari Aalto	Manager of International Affairs	Council of Oulu Region	Oulu
Barentssecretariat			Kirkenes

Joint Investment Window			
Name	Position	Institution	Location
Thor Robertsen (I)	Dept. director	Finnmark county council	Vadsö
Jouko Jama	Project manager	Lapland regional council	Rovaniemi
Anders Jonsson	Adviser	Västerbotten county adm.	Västerbotten
Alexandr Kamenetskij	-	Murmansk regional adm	Murmansk
Svetlana Gorlanova	Vice Governor	Arkhangelsk regional adm.	Arkhangelsk

5. MEETINGS IN 2002 AND 2003

The Regional Council had two meetings in 2002:

1. Syktyvkar, 19 February 2002 (issue 1-20)
2. Arkhangelsk, 3 October 2002 (issue 21-35)

The following issues were submitted to Regional Council for consideration in 2002⁷⁾:

1. Establishing of a the Saami Cultural Centre in Lovozero (06/2002)
2. Application for the Saami radio on the Kola peninsula (07/2002)
3. Indigenous people's projects in the Barents region (08/2002)
4. Cultural co-operation in the Barents region (09/2002)

⁷⁾ Technical issues of the meetings, such as confirmation of agenda and minutes, as well as next meeting, are excluded from the review. As to Regional Committee, issue concerning Regional Council's next meeting (agenda) are also excluded.

5. Regional working groups (10/2002)
6. Ad hoc committee for youth issues (11/2002)
7. Barents Health programme 1999-2002 (12/2002)
8. Multilateral Barents project within Interreg III B (13/2002)
9. Information project for the Barents region (14/2002)
10. Implementation of the report New Barents Policy (15/2002)
11. Information on the 10 years anniversary (16/2002)
12. Briefing of the Partnership meeting within the Interreg III Baltic Sea (17/2002)
13. Annual report 2002 (18/2002)
14. Youth Programme in the Barents region (26/2002)
15. 10 years anniversary for the Barents co-operation (27/2002)
16. Annual plan 2003 (28/2002)
17. Barents 2010 (29/2002)
18. Barents information 2003-2006 (30/2002)
19. Action plan for the cultural co-operation in the Barents region 2003-2006 (31/2002)
20. Nordic Council of Ministers neighbourhood programme (32/2001)
21. Barents Church Council (33/2002)
22. Barents Virtual University (34/2002)
23. Indigenous peoples' co-operation (35/2002)

In addition, the Regional Council has under each meeting been briefed by the Swedish chairmanship in the Barents Council on the activities performed by Regional Committee and CSO.

The Regional Council had three meetings in 2003:

1. Kirkenes, 10 January 2003 (issue 1-4)
2. Karasjok, 3 June 2003 (issue 5-17) with a Seminar "The Indigenous Peoples and the Barents Co-operation"
3. Umeå, 2 October 2003 (issue 18-28)

The following issues were submitted to Regional Council for consideration in 2003⁷⁾:

1. Memorandum from the Regional Council to the Barents Council (04/2003)
3. Indigenous people's co-operation (08/2003)
4. Northern Dimension (09/2003)
5. Joint Investment Window (10/2003)
6. Barents 2010 (11/2003)
7. Joint meeting with the Regional Committee and the national working group on economic issues (12/2003)
8. North Karelia's application for membership in the Barents region (13/2003)
9. Establishing of a regional working group on youth issues (14/2003)
10. Preparations for the Barents Council meeting in Umeå (15/2003)
11. Other issues; Briefing about the regional working group on IT (16/2003)
12. Statement to the Barents Council (22/2003)
13. Statement about the mining industry in the Barents region (23/2003)
14. Rotation of the regional chairmanship (24/2003)
15. Briefing of the Barents Council meeting programme (25/2003)
16. Transfer of the regional chairmanship (26/2003)

In addition, the Regional Council has under each meeting been briefed by the Swedish chairmanship in the Barents Council on the activities performed by Regional Committee and CSO.

⁷⁾ Technical issues of the meetings, such as confirmation of agenda and minutes, as well as next meeting, are excluded from the review. As to Regional Committee, issue concerning Regional Council's next meeting (agenda) are also excluded.

The Regional Committee had four meetings during 2002:

1. Murmansk, 5 February 2002 (issues 1-18)
2. Oulu, 18 June 2002 (issues 19-37)
3. Vadsö, 4 September 2002 (issues 38-51)
4. Rovaniemi, 5 December 2002 (issues 52-64)

The following issues were submitted to the Regional Committee for consideration in 2002¹⁾:

1. Multilateral Barents project within Interreg III B (04/2002)
2. Project on developing air transport in the Barentsregion (05/2002)
3. Establishing of a the Saami Cultural Centre in Lovozero (06/2002)
4. Application for the Saami radio on the Kola peninsula (07/2002)
5. Regional working groups (08/2002)
6. Barents Health programme 1999-2002 (09/2002)
7. Implementation of New Barents Regional Policy (10/2002)
8. Information about Barents website (11/2002)
9. Ad hoc committee for the Youth Programme (12/2002)
10. 10 years anniversary of the Barents co-operation 2003 (13/2002)
11. Annual plan 2002 (14/2002)
12. Annual report 2001 (15/2002)
13. The Regional Council meeting 19-20 March, 2002 (16/2002)
14. Joint meeting with the secretariat for the Barents Church Council (22/2002)
15. Nordic Council of Ministers neighbourhood programme (23/2002)
16. Ad hoc committee for youth issues (24/2002)
17. Information from the regional working groups (25/2002)
18. Joint meeting with the regional working group on IT (26/2002)
19. Barents Virtual University (27/2002)
20. Barents Information 2003-2006 (28/2002)
21. Barents 2010 (29/2002)
22. Barents Press (30/2002)
23. 10 years anniversary (31/2002)
24. Study trip for the Regional Committee (32/2002)
25. Regional Committee's working plan (33/2002)
26. Implementation of the New Barents Policy, stage II (34/2002)
27. The Barents Regional Council meeting 2-4 October 2002 (35/2002)
28. North Karelia's application for membership in the Barents region (41/2002)
29. The regional committee's action plan (42/2002)
30. Barents regional youth programme (43/2002)
31. The Barents Programme (44/2002)
32. Annual plan 2003 (45/2002)
33. Barents Press (46/2002)
34. Barents 2010 (47/2002)
35. Barents Information 2003-2006 (48/2002)
36. Barents regional council's meeting 2-4 October (49/2002)
37. Memorandum from the Regional Council to the Barents Council (55/2002)
38. Follow up of the Youth programme (56/2002)
39. The regional committee's action plan (57/2002)
40. Barents Press (58/2002)
41. Action plan for the culture co-operation (59/2002)
42. Project Northern Maritime Corridor (60/2002)
43. Project Sustainable Transport in the Barents region (61/2002)
44. Indigenous people's co-operation (62/2002)

In addition, the Regional Committee has been kept informed of activities in CSO.

The Regional Committee had five meetings during 2003:

1. Kirkenes, 10 January 2003 (issues 1-4)
2. Video conference, 11 February 2003 (issues 5-12)
3. Rovaniemi, 10 April 2003 (issues 13-25)
5. Bodö, 21 August 2003 (issues 26-35)
6. Umeå, 1 October 2003 (issues 36-43)

The following issues were submitted to the Regional Committee for consideration in 2003¹⁾:

1. Memorandum from the Regional Council to the Barents Council (03/2003)
2. Northern Dimension (08/2003)
3. Follow up of the Youth programme (09/2003)
4. Follow up of the Cultural programme (10/2003)
5. Annual plan 2003 (11/2003)
6. Northern Dimension (16/2003)
7. Follow up of the Youth programme (17/2003)
8. Follow up of the Cultural programme (18/2003)
9. North Karelia's application for membership in the Barents region (19/2003)
10. Barents 2010 (20/2003)
11. Joint Investment Window (21/2003)
12. Indigenous people (22/2003)
13. Preparation for the Regional Council meeting in Karasjok (23/2003)
14. Indigenous people's year in the Barents region (29/2003)
15. Barents 2010 (30/2003)
16. Mining industry in the Barents region (31/2003)
17. North Karelia's application for membership in the Barents region (32/2003)
18. Preparations for the Barents Council meeting in Umeå (33/2003)
19. Statement to the Barents Council (38/2003)
20. Statement for the mining industry in the Barents region (39/2003)
21. Rotation of the regional chairmanship (40/2003)
22. Transfer of the regional chairmanship (41/2003)

The Regional Council and the Regional Committee considered several important issues during the reporting period:

- Welcoming a new member in the region - the republic of Komi
- Established a regional working group on Youth issues
- Established an ad hoc group with the aim to promote the development of SME in the region; 'Joint Investment Window'
- Multilateral project aimed at making a long term strategy for the Barents co-operation; 'Barents 2010'
- Common information material; folder and exhibition materials as well as website together with the national level; www.beac.st
- Adopted a Youth programme
- Adopted an action plan for the cultural co-operation

The Regional Working groups had meetings as follows during 2002-2003:

Culture:

- 9-10 September 2002 the 3rd Cultural Minister's meeting in Oulu
- 26-27 June 2002 in Kostamuksha
- 21-23 May 2003 in Umeå

The following activities have been initiated:

- the regional action plan on cultural co-operation 2000-2006 which includes a number of different projects as for example the Barents Chamber Orchestra

Higher education and research:

- 28 May 2002 in Tromsø
- 21 November 2002 in Arkhangelsk
- 15 May 2003 in Löfvånger (Västerbotten)

The following activities have been initiated:

- writing networking proposal as a part in the Interreg III B project 'Barents 2010'
- survey on ongoing co-operation within higher education and research
- a homepage has been created <http://uit.no/bear>

Indigenous Peoples:

- 25-26 February 2002 in Lovozero
- 24-26 October 2002 in Kiruna
- 4-5 June 2003 in Karasjok
- 6-8 October 2003 in Murmansk

The following activities have been initiated:

- Working out of the WGIP (Working Group of Indigenous Peoples) Regulations
- Establishing and opening of the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office in Murmansk (BIPO)
- Working conditions for the representatives of the indigenous peoples in the Barents co-operation
- Indigenous Year proposal in the Barents co-operation
- Encouraging and contribution to the development of the bilateral and multilateral co-operation (NDAP, etc.)
- the promotion of the Chum project (the Saami Cultural Centre/now the National Cultural Centre) in Lovozero
- Opening of the reconstructed building of the National Cultural Centre in Lovozero
- twin-cities co-operation
- state of health in the indigenous communities of the Russian Barents Region
- mass media issue in the Russian Barents Region
- other activities linked to the Barents Indigenous Peoples Programme and Barents Programme 2000-2003

Communication

- 26 June 2002, Syktyvkar
- 11 November 2003, Arkhangelsk
- 13 March 2003, Petrozavodsk

The following activities have been initiated:

- Interreg III B Baltic Sea project 'Sustainable Transport in the Barents region' (STBR)
- Close co-operation with the BEATA

Information technology

- May 2002 in Kirkenes
- January 2003 in Tornio, Finland
- May 2003 in Murmansk

The following activities have been initiated:

- Barents Information Service (BIS) <http://www.barentsinfo.org>
- eBARENTS; the project aims to map the basic IT infrastructure in the main cities in the Barents region
- co-operation with other regional working groups

Environment

- November 2002 in St Petersburg together with the working group on national level
- September 2003 in Syktyvkar

The following activities have been initiated:

- Updating of action programme
- Ecotourism
- Local Agenda 21
- Cleaner production

Youth

- April 2003 in Rovaniemi
- August 2003 in Bodö
- October 2003 in Umeå
- November 2003 in Oslo

The following activities has been initiated:

- youth perspective on the Barents Council's meeting in Umeå, 2-3 October 2003 – the performance 'Clean Up'
- support of the Barents regional youth council
- follow up of the Barents Youth programme
- back to back meetings with the national group on youth issues

Barents Press

- the group had no meetings during the period

Joint Investment Window

- 12-13 November 2003 in Rovaniemi
- 19 November 2003 in Umeå

The following activities has been initiated

- report on how to improve the conditions for developing SME in the Barents region with special focus on northwest Russia

6. OTHER MEETINGS

- Head of the Regional Council participates permanently in the Barents Council meetings.
- Head of the Regional Committee participates regularly in CSO meetings and by doing so, is kept currently informed of the regional co-operation, while the Regional Committee is briefed on CSO activities. This arrangement contributes to adding dynamism to the co-operation between the central and regional levels in the Barents Co-operation.
- The Regional Committee and the Regional Council took part in the meeting of the Barents Council and the prime ministers of the member countries met in Kirkenes 10 January 2003 when the 10 years anniversary was held.
- The Regional Committee and the Regional Council took part in the meeting of the Barents Council in Umeå 3 October 2003.
- The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR had a meeting with the State Secretary of the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry and the meetings within the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being in 2003, took part in the CSO and ministerial meetings in 2002 and 2003.

7. ACTIVITIES AS COMPARED WITH THE ANNUAL PLAN

The Regional Council should get acquainted with the place of the meeting. The following arrangements were included into the meeting program:

1. Syktvykar 19 mars 2002: Information about the republic of Komi as a new member, visit to the local museum and visit to the industrial exhibition.
2. Arkhangelsk 3. October 2002: special programme related to the upcoming 10 years anniversary of the Barents co-operation as well as celebration of the 65 years anniversary of the Arkhangelsk region. Visit to the open air museum.
3. Kirkenes 10. January 2003: Special programme related to the 10 years anniversary of the Barents co-operation; concert with the Barents chamber orchestra etc.
4. Karasjok 3 June 2003. Visit to the thematic part 'Sapmi'. Seminar 'Seminar "The Indigenous Peoples and the Barents Co-operation"
5. Umeå 2 October 2003. Meeting together with the Barents Council. Visit to the dairy 'Norrmejerier'.

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