



Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

Chair: Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen, Norway

Annual report 2007

1. *The period* of this annual report is from 01.01-31.12.2007. This annual report concerns status and activity for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in BEAR.
2. *WGIP* held two (2) *meetings* during 2007.
 - April 17th – 18th, Oslo
 - October 31st – November 1st, Kirkenes
3. *WGIP* consisted in 2007 of five (5) members until September 15th.

Members:

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is appointed of the Saami Parliament of Norway and Ms. Kirsti Guvsám is the substitute member.

Mr. Per Labba is appointed of the Saami Parliament of Sweden.

Mrs. Irja Seurujärvi-Kari is appointed of the Saami Parliament of Finland and Maria Sofia Aikio is the substitute member.

Mrs. Zinaida Strogalschikova is appointed of the Vepsian Cultural Organisation and Mrs. Marina Zarubalova is the substitute member.

Mr. Alexander E. Belugin is appointed by the Nenets organisation “Yasavey” and Mrs. Galina Arteeva is the substitute member.

Mrs. Valentina Sovkina was appointed by the Regional Sámi Consultative Council of Murmansk Oblast on September 15th 2007 and Mr. Andrey Ageev is the substitute member.

4. The Indigenous Peoples' representation in the Barents cooperation

Barents Euro-Arctic Council: Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen represented the indigenous peoples in the BEAR at the BEAC meeting in Rovaniemi, November 15th 2007. The Head of the WGIP made a statement at the BEAC meeting.

Committee of Senior Officials: Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen has represented the indigenous peoples in the BEAR at the CSO meeting during 2007.

Regional Council: Mrs Zinaida Strogalschikova is appointed representative for the indigenous peoples of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region for a two (2) year period in the Regional Council, according to WGIP decision 35/2005

Regional Committee: Ms Christina Henriksen (secretary of the WGIP) represented the indigenous peoples of the BEAR during 2007.

Barents Regional Working Group for Youth Issues: Ms Siri Wernberg and Ms Vivian Aira from the Saami Parliament of Norway have been the indigenous youth representatives in 2007.

5. Secretariat

Two (2) secretaries, Ms Christina Henriksen, the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes and Mrs. Anna Prakhova, Head of Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Murmansk until October 1st, serve WGIP. Mr Jevgenij Jushkov entered upon the position on October 8th and is situated at the BIPO in Lovozero.

6. Representation of leader, members and secretaries of WGIP

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:

- Barents Euro-Arctic Council
 - November 15th 2007, Rovaniemi
- Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in Helsinki
 - February 8th-9th 2007
 - September 4th-5th 2007
 - October 8th 2007
- Regional Council
 - November 14th 2007 (substitute for Mrs Zinaida Strogalschikova)
- Meeting with Mr. Yamshikov A.A., the 1st deputy administrator of the Department of Legislation Drafting and Local Government Reforming in Murmansk Oblast
 - January 2007, Murmansk
- Meeting with Mr Andrey Ageev, Head of the Centre of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Murmansk Oblast
 - January 2007, Murmansk
- Meeting with the Association of Kola Saami
 - January 2007, Murmansk
- Two (2) meetings with OOSMO (Public Organisation of Saami in Murmansk Oblast)
 - January 2007, Murmansk
 - February 2007, Lovozero
- Joint meeting with representatives from all registered obshinas in Murmansk Oblast
 - February 2007, Lovozero
- Meeting with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs
 - June 2007, Oslo
- Joint meeting between the Sámi Parliament in Norway and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat
 - May 23rd 2007, Karasjok
- The Nordic Sámi Conference on Gender Equality
 - April 19th - 20th 2007, Oslo

Mrs. Irja Seurujärvi-Kari:

- Joint meeting concerning the Joint Pilot Projects between BEAC and NCM, Helsinki, November 2nd 2007
- The Nordic Sámi Conference on Gender Equality, Oslo, April 19th-20th 2007

Ms. Christina Henriksen:

- Regional Committee
 - March 20th 2007, Naryan-Mar
 - September 5th 2007, Tromsø
 - November 13th 2007, Rovaniemi

- Regional Council
 - September 6th 2007, Tromsø (substitute for Mrs Zinaida Strogalschikova)
 - November 14th 2007, Rovaniemi (secretary)
- Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
 - February 8th-9th 2007, Helsinki (secretary)
- Barents Council
 - November 15th 2007 (secretary)

Mr. Jevgenij Jushkov

- Visit to the Vepsian institutions in Petrozavodsk and Sholtozero, November 6th-8th 2007
- Meeting concerning employment of a second person to the International Barents Secretariat, Helsinki, November 1st 2007
- Meeting on joint projects between BEAC and NCM in Helsinki, November 2nd 2007

7. Activities

The WGIP has focused on the following issues during the period:

The project “Obshina Kildin – Re-establishing family reindeer husbandry” is a joint pilot project between BEAC and NCM. The WGIP is the project owner, and the project is led by Sámi Trade-and Development Centre in Norway and Jelena Jakovleva in Russia. Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is a member of the steering group of the project and has had several meetings with different actors concerning this matter.

Appointment of the Sámi member of WGIP from the Russian side

The Sámi people of the Russian Federation have not been represented in the WGIP since 2005 due to several reasons. This issue was however solved on September 15th 2007, at the meeting of the Sámi Consultative Council (SCC) in Lovozero, Murmansk Oblast.

Revitalisation of the WGIP – focus on activities and division of tasks

The WGIP is aiming at increasing the activity of the Working Group between the official meetings. Certain measures will be taken in 2008 in order to include each member in the work for indigenous peoples of the Barents Region.

Establishment of the BIPO in Lovozero

Mr Jevgenij Jushkov was employed as the new Head of the Barents Indigenous Peoples’ Office (BIPO) on October 8th 2007. BIPO is now located in Lovozero, at the Koavas hotel and will serve the indigenous peoples within the Russian part of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region as a service- and information office. BIPO is also one half of the secretariat of the WGIP.

International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

The WGIP has followed the process of the Norwegian initiative on the establishment of a Joint International Secretariat for the Barents Cooperation. The International Barents Secretariat will be established in Kirkenes on January 1st 2008. Ms Christina Henriksen represented WGIP in the staff selection to the IBS.

Sámi Consultative Council (SCC)

Anna Prakhova has been involved in the establishment of Sámi Consultative Council (SCC), initiated by Murmansk Regional Indigenous Peoples Centre (MRIPC). SCC consists of five (5) ancestral communities (Obsjinas) and the two (2) Sámi Organisations on the Kola Peninsula.