

ARKHANGELSK COMMUNIQUÉ

1998

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN ARKHANGELSK
on September 10, 1998,

DEVELOPING the basic ideas for cultural cooperation in the Barents Region stated in the Kirkenes Declaration of January 1993 and the Declaration of Ministers of Culture of September 1993,

TAKING INTO account other generally recognised statements in the field of cultural cooperation adopted by international organisations, in particular, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation,

TAKING NOTE of the increasing importance of cultural cooperation as one of the means to promote a cultural identity in the Barents Region based on historical tradition,

CONSIDERING the role of culture as a stimulating factor for the development of the Barents Region at large,

HAVING DISCUSSED questions related to results and priorities of the Barents cooperation in the field of culture and specifically the common cultural heritage and identity as well as obstacles to the cultural cooperation,

STATES,

THAT THE FORMING of a new cultural policy, "Northern Renaissance", is the principal goal for common activities on the threshold to the XXI Century.

THIS NEW CULTURAL POLICY requires a willingness from all parties to work actively for increased cooperation under the guidance of two main principles:

- from culture towards economic development
- from economic development towards culture.

THE NEW CULTURAL POLICY SHOULD:

- give priority to cross-border and regional contacts
- support cultural activity aiming at joint long term programmes and projects
- introduce the Barents culture in different contexts and strengthen international cultural relations

- develop the Barents Region as a dynamic and open cultural area.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE was aware of the need for different kinds of support at the national and regional level for cultural initiatives in the Barents Region.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE stressed that regular meetings between regional and national authorities are desirable in order to facilitate cultural cooperation in the region.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE emphasized in particular the need for support for development of the regional cultural identity and for the culture and cultural heritage of the Sami, Nenets and other indigenous people in the Barents Region.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE acknowledged the work of local and nongovernmental organizations and the cooperation between individuals, regional institutions and NGOs.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE decided to chart the results and experience from cultural cooperation in the region, existing financial resources as well as obstacles in order to facilitate cultural contacts and exchanges and render the performances more effective.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE underlined that priority should be given to future projects aiming at:

- the exchange of experts, art students and teachers on long-term basis,
- the building of computer networks and a common information environment.

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE acknowledged