

**Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation,
27 -28 November 2014
Bodø, Norway**

Participants

Sveinung Torgesen (chair), Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
Mette Seyersted, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
Kjell A. Johansen, JRCC North Norway
Anders Gundersen, DSB, Norway
Sergey Okorokov, DIC EMERCOM of Russia, Moskow, Russia
Vladimir Guzev, EMERCOM of Russia, Head of Murmansk Branch, Russia
Vladimir Kazakov, EMERCOM of Russia, Head of the unit Murmansk Branch, Russia
Tiina Peltola-Lampi, Ministry of the Interior, Finland
Veera Parko, Ministry of the Interior, Finland
Hannu Rantanen, Emergency Services College, Finland
Pia Ovelius, Ministry of Defence, Sweden
Peter Swartling, MSB, Sweden

Igor Lapitskiy, Russian Consulate in Kirkenes, participated in the meeting as an observer.

1. Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 1400. The participants presented themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting in May 2014

No comments were presented on the report of the last meeting (22 May 2014, Kirkenes).

4. Information and reports of the Contracting Parties

Finland:

- The number of Emergency Response Centres has been reduced from 9 to 6. The reform went well.
- The national Host Nation Support-Guidelines (re. the Civil Protection Mechanism of the EU) will be finalized early next year.
- There are a lot of activities going on due to the Ebola outbreak.

- No major accidents since the last meeting.
- Finland is chairing a technical working group established under the Haga (Nordic) cooperation on the upgrade of SAR capacities.

Russia:

- No major changes, the governor of the region of Murmansk was re-elected in September this year.
- There is on-going work to establish a single emergency number (112). Today there is a parallel system consisting of both the old and new numbers. This transitional period will last until 2018.
- As a consequence of the severe flooding in the far east of Russia, an aero-mobile resource center is being prepared in order to transport necessary rescue-resources in ia. remote areas. Goal: Response within approx. 3 hours.

Sweden:

- Public Security matters are still part of the Ministry of Defense. However, with a new government in place, these matters may be transferred to the Ministry of Justice.
- The extensive forest fire in Västmanland this summer resulted to be a big test of the rescue-system. There were lots of lessons learned.
- There are a lot of activities going on due to the Ebola outbreak.
- Due to a budget-cut of 15 million SEK, there is a risk that the number of training centers could be reduced from two to one.

Norway:

- Referring to the Joint Committee-meeting in November 2013, Norway informed about the Government Decision to merge Bodø and Stavanger Joint Rescue Centers (JRCC). This decision has however not entered into force due to the fact that there were different opinions among the stakeholders. Consequently, The Ministry of Justice and Public Security is developing an alternative proposal. The final decision will be made by the government, most probably during the first part of 2015.
- A large reorganization of the police will affect the number of police district in the north of Norway. The new organization will probably be decided in the spring 2015.
- The new digital multi agency public safety network (“Nødnett”) will become nationwide by 2015, and the last districts in the North of Norway will have this network in place by the end of 2015. The network will be able to communicate with Sweden’s RAKEL.
- Guidelines – A national exercise manual has been developed, inspired by the Swedish guidelines as well as relevant NATO-standards.
- No major accidents since the last meeting but there have been 14 rescue operations involving people from Finland, Russia and Sweden.
- There are a lot of activities going on du to the outbreak of Ebola, i.e. Norway has established a specific “help the helpers camp” in Sierra Leone.

5. Exercise Working Group presents report. Discussion

Sweden (Peter Swartling) presented the report on behalf of the Exercise Working Group (EWG). The overall feed-back at the meeting was that the EWG has done a very good job and that the document outlines the broader picture of possible activities well based on the *“Agreement between the governments in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region on cooperation within the field of emergency prevention, preparedness and response”*. Some general comments were made and the EWG is updating the document according to the comments in the meeting. It was agreed that the current Chair (Sveinung Torgersen) sends out the updated version in December 2014. If no amendments are proposed to this version (if no one 'breaks the silence') before **1 February 2015**, the text is considered adopted by all participants.

Furthermore it was agreed to include the proposed text on “Risk and types operations” and “Emergency preparedness activities” into the Joint Manual with some adjustments agreed at the meeting.

6. Joint Committee Manual

Norway (Kjell Johansen) informed that he had not received any comments on the last version of the Joint Manual (version of 3 August 2014). It was agreed, according to point 5 above, to incorporate the agreed text and to improve the layout and to publish it on the BEAC-website. It was also agreed that the Joint Manual will continue to be a “living” document in order to be as updated as possible.

The appendix to the EWG report “Joint Committee Strategic Planning & BR Event cycle”, see point 5, could be attached to the Joint Manual and serve as an example.

9. Forthcoming activities

Finland (Veera Parko) gave a presentation on the planned Barents Rescue 2015 that will take place in Kittilä, Finland from 28 September to 2 October. The main scenario will be flooding followed by an explosion and fire in a nearby gold-mine. Sub-scenarios can still be developed. The Main Planning Conference (MPC) will be held 10 to 12 February 2015 and the Final Planning Conference (FPC) will take place from 9 to 11 of June. The ALARMEX will be on 23 September. It was proposed:

- that the Barents Secretariat should give a presentation of the BEAC Agreement at the MPC,
- that the date for any VIP-day at the Barents rescue 2015 ought to be communicated as early as possible.

Ahead of the meeting, Russia (Sergey Okorokov) had sent a proposal on various cross-border training activities. It was explained that these were ongoing activities and that the

proposal implies to systematize these and to include all Euro-Arctic states. Russia would like response from Norway, Finland and Sweden within 12 December as to whether or not these proposals are of interest.

10. Next meeting and events

Russia will take over the chairmanship of the Joint Committee for 2015. The chair is not yet appointed. The next meeting will most probably be held in St. Petersburg in November or December 2015.