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## **Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation, 8-9 April in Helsinki, Finland**

**Time** 8-9 April 2013  
**Place** Säätytalo, Helsinki, Finland

### **Participants**

Aalto Jari, Laplands Regional Administrative Agency, Finland  
Börjesson Karin, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden  
Drtna Tore, DSB, Norway  
Fredriksson Julia, MSB, Sweden  
Gundersen Anders, DSB, Norway  
Gusev Vladimir, Emercom of Murmansk Region, Russia  
Hojem Roy, International Barents Secretariat  
Johansen Kjell, JRCC, Norway  
Kazakov Vladimir, Emercom of Murmansk Region, Russia  
Metso Jukka, Ministry of the Interior, Finland  
Paldanius Harri, Emergency Services of Lapland, Finland  
Peltola-Lampi Tiina, Ministry of the Interior, Finland  
Sund Frode, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The chair opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to Helsinki and to this annual meeting of the Joint Committee. The agenda was accepted without changes.

### **2. Minutes of the last year meeting**

No comments were presented to the report of the last meeting, which was held in Kiruna, Sweden 23-25 April 2012.

### **3. Update of the information for the implementation of the Agreement (articles 3, 4 and 6)**

Under this point there was a discussion about national points of contact for early warning and alarming as well as communication tests carried out recently. The concluding remarks are presented under the point 5 of the report concerning Joint Manual. The agreement has been ratified by all the countries.

### **4. Information and reports of the Contracting Parties (Norway, Sweden, Russia and Finland)**

Norway informed that Bente Michaelsen has changed her job. The follow up of the agreement and setting up the Joint Manual are carried out by her successors Mr Frode Sund and Mr Kjell Johansen. Mr Anders Gundersen is is



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responsible for the Norwegian exercise Barents Rescue 2013. The Committee welcomed Mr. Frode Sund, the new Norwegian representative in the Committee. Not a major accident has taken place in Norway after the last meeting of the Joint Committee. However avalanches, explosions and daily accidents have occurred. In some daily accident situations a request for medical aid has been used.

In Russian territory there has been no major accidents. Russia confirmed having renewed their information center in order to facilitate and progress the information to the public and to the other stake holders.

Sweden informed that they are planning to renew their alarm and warning services and network.

Finland informed that the process of decreasing the number of emergency and alarming centers to six until 2015 is going well. There has also been some exchange of rescue expertise between neighboring countries. Finland also informed about an environmental incident at the Talvivaara mine. Fortunately the quite difficult situation had no effect on the neighboring countries.

Barents Council Secretariat reminded about the Prime Ministers Meeting, at which the Kirkenes declaration will be adopted. Altogether 15 working groups are active in the framework of Barents region.

## **5. Barents Joint Committee Manual**

Norway as the leading country requested the parties to update the information included in the manual. The most urgent task is to update the information on points of contact in emergencies. Norway emphasized that it would be desirable to designate only one national point of contact for alarming and warning.

Sweden told that their point of contact will be MSB. Finland agreed that it is desirable to have only one point of contact but for the purposes of decision making and of informing the horizontal administration a need to nominate also a point of contact at the central government level could exist.

Russia needs to have at least two or three points of contact for practical reasons: Murmansk and Pedrozavodsk and then the central government in Moscow.

The objective is to nominate only one national point of contact. However, if several points of contact are needed they should be included in the Joint Manual with an explanation which role each of the points of contact has.



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The deadline of this information is 15 May because the next planning meeting is scheduled already on 22-23 May. Other update information on Joint Manual (Annex I) should be provided in due course.

## **6. Barents Rescue Exercise in Norway**

Norway presented the current planning situation as well as the alarming exercise (Annexes II and III). A working group for planning the exercise has been appointed.

## **7. Forthcoming activities**

There was a general discussion about a need to have some sub-working groups like the exercise group, which has met last time in Bodö. Similar groups could be set up to consider for example the question of having a work program for the Joint Committee. Now the Joint Committee deals with the actions presented in the articles 4 to 6 of the Agreement.

Not much attention has been paid on preventive actions and on preparedness. The focus has been mainly on the context of Barents exercises. This meeting was not ready to decide on the issue and the idea to focus more on prevention and preparedness was postponed to the next Joint Committee meeting in December 2013.

Another topic which should be on agenda is to do with the cross border medical services and first aid.

## **8. Financial aspects**

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## **9. Next meetings and events**

Next meeting will take place back to back the evaluation meeting of BR2013 exercise in December. The venue will be confirmed later.

## **10. Any other business**

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