

**Meeting in the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation,
22 May 2014
Kirkenes, Norway**

Participants

Sveinung Torgersen (chair), Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
Elisabeth Hammer Sæten, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
Kjell A. Johansen, Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Northern Norway, Norway
Bent-Ove Jamtli, Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Northern Norway, Norway
Anders Gundersen, Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB), Norway
Roy Hojem, International Barents Secretariat, Norway
Sergey Okorokov, EMERCOM of Russia, Moscow, Russia
Vladimir Kazakov, EMERCOM of Russia, Head of the Unit Murmansk branch, Russia
Vladimir Gusev, EMERCOM of Russia, Head of Murmansk branch, Russia
Tiina Peltola-Lampi, Ministry of the Interior, Finland
Veera Parko, Ministry of the Interior, Finland
Harri Paldanius, Lapland Rescue Department, Finland
Jari Aalto, Lapland Regional Administrative Agency
Hannu Rantanen, Emergency Services College, Finland
Pia Ovelius, Ministry of Defense, Sweden
Julia Fredriksson, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden
Peter Swartling, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden

Mr. Naskov, the Russian consul in Kirkenes, participated in the meeting as an observer.

1. Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 0900. All the participants presented themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

There were no comments to the minutes from the last meeting in Levi, Finland, 2 – 3 December 2013.

4. Secretariat report on general development

Roy Hojem informed about the International Barents Secretariat and reported on activities.

5. Information and reports from contracting parties

Norway: Kjell Johansen informed about more extreme skiing (off-piste) in Norway which has resulted in several accidents, some serious. Kjell also informed about a complicated and long term operation with Finnish cave divers involved in a diving accident. Two died in the cave, three survived. It took several weeks to get the victims out of the cave. Finally a Finnish team went down in the cave and got their friends out.

Sweden: Two new publications from MSB: a report "Strategic challenges for societal security" and first responder's handbook "Hazardous Materials – CBRNE" developed in cooperation with Norwegian DSB in the framework of the Nordic cooperation. You can find both at www.msb.se

Finland: Finland holds the chairmanship of the Barents Euro Arctic Council 2013 – 2015. Finland will cut costs, which probably means structural reforms in all departments, also in the emergency services. Finland is underway with the reform to cut the numbers of 112 emergency response centers, will have 6 centers when the reform ends in 2016 (have 9 today, down from 15 a few years ago). A presentation of the rescue service in Lapland was held.

Russia: emphasized the need to exercise together.

6. Final evaluation of the Barents Rescue 2013

Anders Gundersen presented the final evaluation of the Barents Rescue 2013. You will find the presentation attached, and the evaluation report at <http://www.dsb.no/no/Ansvarsomrader/Nasional-beredskap/Aktuelt-Nasional-beredskap/Evaluation-Report--Exercise-Barents-Rescue-2013/>

7. Future exercise format

The exercise working group (Anders Gundersen, Vladimir Kazakov, Hannu Rantanen, Peter Swartling) had a meeting on the 21 of May. They had some suggestions on the way forward with future exercises:

- a. "status quo", continue with full scale exercises as we do today, every second year.
- b. Lighter version of full scale exercises. We could, for example, have less planning conferences.
- c. Policy, training & learning event on disaster management. This means less "ordinary" exercises, but more focus on learning. This is also part of the Agreement (Article 2, 3, 4...), but has not had so much attention in the follow up.
- d. Any other options? Linking up with other fora in the Arctic cooperation?

In the discussion afterwards many agreed that the large exercises could be downscaled. However, Russia emphasized that we need to have exercises that is large enough to create political support. Exercises are always expensive and without strong political

support it will be difficult to raise money. Large full scale exercises will get more attention, and it could be easier to get support for this. Nevertheless, the Joint Committee unanimously concluded that the exercise working group should focus on option b and c, while still acknowledging the need to ensure political support and also to create arenas where exchange between decision makers at high level could be an opportunity. The exercise working group will develop a short paper and also a suggested text in chapter 4 in the Joint Manual that reflects this direction. A proposal will be presented at next Joint Committee meeting in Bodø.

8. Joint Manual

Kjell Johansen presented a revisited Joint Manual. Inputs and changes were suggested during the meeting. Kjell will update, and send the final version to International Barents Secretariat (Roy), so it can be published on BEAC web page.

9. Barents Rescue 2015

Finland gave an orientation of the planning of Barents Rescue 2015 in Finland. It will be a full scale exercise, but smaller than the one which was held in Norway 2013. The scenario will be flooding and a mine accident in North of Finland. The exercise will be held in week 40, 2015, probably in the Kittila area.

The Initial Planning Conference (IPC) will be held in Rovaniemi, the 16 – 18 September 2014.

It was suggested that members of the Joint Committee should try to meet in Rovaniemi for the IPC meeting. The chairman will participate.

10. Next meeting

Next meeting in the Joint Committee will be in the end of November 2014, in Bodø, Norway.