



Report from the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation in the Barents Region meeting held in Kiruna, April 23-25 2012

Participants:

Ms Pia Övelius (chair), Ministry of Defence, Sweden

Ms Julia Fredriksson, MSB, Sweden

Mr Lars Hillerström, MSB, Sweden

Ms Gabriela Gabrielyan, MSB, Sweden

Ms Katarina Hildingsdotter, MSB, Sweden

Ms Karin Börjesson, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden

Ms Ulrika Fjällman, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden

Ms Bente Michaelsen, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway

Mr Tore Drtina, DSB, Norway

Mr Anders Gundersen, DSB, Norway

Mr Jukka Metso, Ministry of Interior, Finland

Mr Harri Paldanius, Regional Rescue Department of Lapland, Finland

Mr Victor Minailov, EMERCOM of Russia, Murmansk Region, The Russian Federation

Mr Vladimir Kazakov, EMERCOM of Russia, Murmansk Region, The Russian Federation

Mr Roy Hojem, International Barents Secretariat

The meeting of the Joint Committee was held in Hotel Scandic Ferrum in Kiruna on April 23-25 under the chairmanship of Ms Pia Övelius.

1 Opening of the meeting

Ms Pia Övelius started the meeting and all the participants gave a brief presentation of themselves.

2 The Barents Agreement

Finland has ratified the agreement and it will entry into force in May 2012.

3 Administrative matters

a/ Update of the members of the Joint Committee

The list of the members of the Joint Committee was updated. The list was posted on www.beac.st

b/ Information from the CSO-meeting

No information

c/ Information from the International Barents Secretariat

Mr Roy Hojem made a presentation of the IBS in Kirkenes. Information about the new head of the IBS, Mr Ari Sirén. See presentation on www.beac.st

4 Border Crossing

a/ Cross Border Procedure for response teams

Ms Bente Michaelsen referred to the meeting in Bodø and the importance of evaluating article 8 in the agreement. It is also important to exercise Border Crossing. A presentation was given from an exercise on the Norwegian-Russian border. The exercise was a successful attempt to make border crossing more easy (See presentation on www.beac.st). Mr Minailov gave a comment concerning the importance to exercise not just the actual border crossing but also involve the whole chain, from the request, to the border crossing and to receiving of assets.

There was also a discussion on the problem receiving ambulances because of the extensive regulations on medications. Mostly problems seem to be solved on the border but it would be good to have more general "rules".

The Russian representatives made a proposal to hold a border crossing exercise during the next year.

b/ Suspension and exemption of customs duties, other duties and taxes for rescue resources.

c/ Procedures for notification and request

5 Exchange of information based on article 6 of the Agreement

Discussion on article 6 in the Agreement. The interpretation of this article is not clear. This was also obvious during the discussion. E.g. what is meant by “wide public concern”. Another question is if all emergencies should be included or if some are exempt from the agreement. Also how to interpret the agreement if there are bilateral agreements in specific areas.

Conclusion: Sweden will put forward an explanatory note and a proposal for a common interpretation of the Article.

6 Discussion on facilitation of the exchange of experts (article 4 in the Agreement)

When planning a Barents Rescue exercise one idea can be to include the exchange of experts in the planning process. During the last exercise a training day for rescue and health personnel and the police were held the day before the main exercise.

Mr Minailov informed that Russia now is going to build up a voluntary rescue service. As a part of this process visits will be made to countries that already have this system. This can also be seen as an exchange of experts.

It is important to share experiences from for example bilateral projects, exercises.

7 The Barents Rescue Exercise 2011 in Sweden

a/ Information about the evaluation report

Ms Hildingsdotter presented the lessons learned and the recommendations from the evaluation report. The report can be found on www.beac.st.

b/ Comments on the conclusions including the role of the JC and the Barents Joint Manual

The following recommendations involve the JC and the Barents Joint Committee directly:

General:

- The Joint Committee, JC, recommends initiating a joint effort to develop a specific Barents Rescue guideline based on the NATO/EAPC Guideline
- The Barents Joint Manual needs updating more frequently and, not least, to be better communicated and known by involved/presumed actors

Evaluation/Overall aim and objectives:

- Incorporating findings in evaluations and lessons learned from earlier Barents Rescue exercises could be a more structured process. For

example, as part of a CDC where preferably also the JC should be represented

- In order to prepare for more efficient assistance it could be of interest to more deeply define the region's risk pattern and then concentrate on the preparation and training for and of specially appointed assets. It is recommended that the JC arranges a series of joint workshops in order to better define the region's risk pattern
- The JC could ease the joint planning process by agreeing on some common aims and overall objectives that can be used for all Barents rescue exercises

The Planning Process:

- It is recommended that the JC takes a more active role in the planning process. One suggestion is that the JC participates in the planning conferences

Alarm Exercise:

- Conducting a "small-scale" Alarming Exercise each year under the supervision of JC, combined with a yearly revision of the Joint Manual should be recommended.

Border Crossing and Reception:

- It is recommended that the JC takes the initiative to arrange a special workshop concerning Border Crossing Procedures. Such an event could be a part of the work to update the Joint Manual.
- It is recommended the Joint Manual is supplemented with a discussion about the use of an OSOCC

After the presentation the following recommendations linked to Joint Committees work were discussed:

Planning guide: as it was during last year's exercise the NATO planning guide was used. It can be a good idea to create a planning guide just for Barents Rescue exercises but most important is that we just chose one planning guide. A proposal on a planning guide will be presented during the planning process for the next exercise (exercise expert group).

Evaluation report: it is important to have a model for the evaluation reports. To be able to compare the results and lessons learned from the different exercises it will be of great help if there is a standard. Sweden will make a draft on how this standard report can look like.

Overall objectives for the exercises that can be used for every Barents Rescue exercise. This could be a good idea but no decision was made. If there will be objectives that can be "re-used" it is important to have them mentioned in the planning guide.

A good idea can be to create some kind of standard for the different planning conferences (content, what to achieve and so on).

c/ Information from Norway about the planning of the next Barents Rescue Exercise.

Mr Gundersen informed about the planning process so far after the CDC in Gardermoen on April 19-20. (See presentation on www.beac.st)

d/ Report from the expert group on proposals for procedures for future exercises based on recommendations from Petrozavodsk

Mr Drtina informed about the proposals and work of the expert group. (See presentation on www.beac.st)

8 Report from rescue operation after the Hercules crash

Mr Thomas Winnberg from Kiruna Rescue Service informed about the rescue operation in Kebnekaise. (See presentation on www.beac.st)

9 The role of the Joint Committee

According to the evaluation report from the Barents Rescue Exercise in Sweden it is important that the Joint Committee takes a more active role in the planning and execution of the exercises. One way to do this is to include (parts) of the Joint Committee in a reference group.

Joint Committee meetings could also be planned in conjunction with planning meetings of the exercise. It was proposed to arrange a meeting of the JC back-to-back to the Main Planning Conference in December 2012.

10 Barents Joint Manual

Discussion on the Joint Manual: Sweden proposed that it would be good if OSOCC (or OSOCC-like function) is mentioned in the Joint Manual. Norway will be responsible for the updating of the manual and deadline for suggestions/text is **November 1** ([Comments and input to: bente.michaelsen@jd.dep.no](mailto:bente.michaelsen@jd.dep.no)).

11 Next meeting in Finland

Finland will take over the chairmanship of the Committee in 2013. They will come back with details for the meeting(s) of the Joint Committee to be held in Finland in 2013.

12 Other business

No other business