



Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation, 19 April 2016, Luleå, Sweden

1. Welcome from the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten

Johan Antti, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten welcomed the meeting participants.

2. Opening of the meeting

Chair Cecilia Looström, MSB Sweden, opened the meeting. The participants presented themselves (list of participants is attached).

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Adoption of minutes from the last meeting in Russia, December, 2015

No comments were presented on the minutes of the last meeting (9 December 2015, St Petersburg), the minutes were adopted.

5. Information from the International Barents Secretariat

Rebecka Snefugli Sondell from International Barents Secretariat (IBS) presented the Secretariat and its role. Working groups and the Joint Committee can get support from IBS in, for example, publishing documents on BEAC website, assist with administrative issues during the meetings etc.

IBS started the communication project which aims to enhance and strengthen the communication and cooperation between Barents countries and working groups. Project lasts for six months and includes three parts: study of BEAC working groups, information platform and communication strategy (the presentation is attached). JC propose that IBS support to open a common sharing platform both

for open and, if appropriate even close documents. IBS will discuss the possibilities and give feedback to the JC on this issue.

6. Format for future cooperation in the Barents Region

Tord Wahlbeck, Sweden presented the proposal for future cooperation format on behalf of the Exercise Working Group (EWG). The overall feedback at the meeting was that the EWG has done a very good job.

After the discussion and some general comments the JC took two decisions:

- A three years cycle for the main event, starting from 2019. A main event should at least include practical training and/or an exercise for First Responders. A main event will also include other activities such as conferences, table-top exercise as appropriate.
- To extend the scope for the Exercise Working Group and rename it to Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) with the aim to assist the JC in its work. PEWG should represent the JC in a planning process for main events and report to the JC. JC tasks PEWG to present a detailed list of responsibilities for PEWG to be approved during the JC meeting in autumn 2016

Furthermore it was stressed the importance to make JC work visible and clear communicate its decisions.

7. Action Plan on Climate Change for Barents cooperation – discussion on contribution from the Joint Committee

The Action Plan on Climate Change for Barents cooperation and possible contribution from the JC to its implementation was discussed. The Action Plan was adopted in 2013 before the Sendai framework but is in line with the framework. The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten presented its ongoing work with climate change adaptation issues: the report on climate change adaptation and how it will affect the Northern part of Sweden is published as well as the regional vulnerability analysis and other studies.

JC has actually already contributed to the implementation of the Action Plan - the training in common tactics on how to work with landslides in Barents region have been organized as a part of Barents Rescue exercises.

JC gave a task to PEWG to ensure that the Action Plan is taken into account during the planning of Barents events. It was decided to have this issue as a standing point on JC meeting agenda for updates from PEWG.

8. Barents Joint Manual

Kjell Johansen, Norway presented the proposal for changes in the Manual. JC approved the proposed version of the Manual in general. Furthermore it was agreed that the SITREP form (attachment 3) will be distributed for comments after the meeting. Finally the Manual with attachments will be sent to the JC for final approval through silent procedure.

As the Manual is a living document, the JC gave a task to PEWG to revise the Manual, if needed, and present the revised version for the decision during the next JC meeting.

9. The Barents Rescue Exercise 2017 in Russia

Vladimir Kazakov, Russia informed that IPC for Barents 2017 take place the 15-16 June 2016 in Petrozavodsk, 14 and 17 June are the travel days. Trip to Kizhi island is planned during the second day of IPC (16 June).

Russia gave suggestions on the exercise scenario – oil spills, activities on water (divers etc), collapsed building, car accident, forest fire. Russia proposed that the combined teams work during the exercise in order to avoid countries bring heavy equipment.

Russia welcomed suggestions on the scenario and exercise format. Sweden and Norway requested, if possible, a table-top exercise on a higher level.

Russia will present the updates on planning process during the next JC meeting.

Preliminary timetable:

- IPC – 15-16 June 2015, Petrozavodsk
- MPC – 7-8 December 2016, St Petersburg

- FPC – May or June 2017, Petrozavodsk
- Exercise - September 2017.

Vladimir Kazakov also reminded about the proposal from National Crisis Management Center of EMERCOM of Russia to conduct regular VTC training sessions between the crisis management structures of the Barents countries.

10. Next meeting of the Joint Committee

The next JC meeting will be organized the 8 December 2016 in St. Petersburg, back-to-back to MPC.