



19.4.2017

Minutes

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation 4 -5 April 2017, Oulu, Finland

- 1 Welcome from the Regional State Administration of Northern Finland

Director of Rescue Services and Preparedness Pasi Rynänen welcomed the meeting participants to Oulu and introduced the organization of the Regional State Administration of Northern Finland.
- 2 Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Chair Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund, Mol Finland, opened the meeting. The participants presented themselves briefly. The agenda was adopted.
- 3 Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

No comments were presented on the minutes of the last meeting (8 December 2016, St Petersburg) and the minutes were adopted.
- 4 Finnish Chairmanship 2017

Finland shortly presented the Chairmanship in the Barents Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation and noted that the next Chair will be Norway.
- 5 The work of the PEWG - Current situation and the work ahead

Hannu Rantanen, Finland, presented the matter on behalf of the Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) Chair Vladimir Kazakov. Regarding the role of the PEWG in relation to the Barents Rescue Exercise, Kazakov has suggested to act as advisors for the actual planning team. A "checklist of milestones" -type of a tool for guiding the planning of the exercise has also been suggested.

Norway brought up a guidelines manual made by Sweden that has been useful in planning the exercises and urged Russia to look into it as well. After the discussion it was agreed that funding the translation of the Swedish manual or parts of it will be looked into.

6 Information sharing on recent activities/changes in law/practices

Norway: the Directorate for Emergency Communication, which was formerly independent, is now part of the DSB.

Sweden: Director General Helena Lindberg has been selected as an Auditor General. A new Director General is to be selected.

MSB will organize a Crisis Preparation Week 8 - 14 May 2017, which aims to have well informed and engaged citizens in Sweden. The plan is to have the event yearly. The week is a part of the work with civil defence.

Finland: A rescue services reform ongoing in Finland the number of rescue departments will decrease from 22 to 18. The reform of rescue services is linked to the big reform of health and social services and regional government reform. The reforms will not affect emergency response centers. There is also several strategical works ongoing in the Ministry.

The Regional Rescue Department of North Karelia is now a part of BEAC.

Finland will take the chairmanship in the Arctic Council in May 2017.

Russia: There have been some changes in the Emergencies Ministry as the number of regional rescue centers has changed from 8 to 5 regional centers.

7 Update on current issues - BEAC

The BEAC Secretariat representative Roy Hojem presented the cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The cooperation exists on two levels, both intergovernmental and regional.

Currently the secretariat has been taking part in preparation meetings with the upcoming chairs of the cooperation between Sweden and Finnmark, participating in the coordinating meetings between four sister councils (AC, CBSS, BEAC and NCM), transport conference, Murmansk Business Week, Barents Cooperation Forum, Arctic Frontiers, Kirkenes Conference and information event for WG Chairs.

The Secretariat has done follow up of the BEAC communication development project that includes a platform for information sharing, Barents rescue evaluation reports and common meetings for working groups.

The secretariat has also reviewed the Action Plan on Climate Change.

After the discussion the feedback was that it is a very good initiative to have the working groups meet with each other. It was agreed to have a separate page on the BEAC website for PEWG contact information.

8 Aspects on Climate Change for Barents Rescue preparedness

Hannu Rantanen presented the issue. The combination of climate change and increased human business activity will increase the hazards and vulnerabilities that can contribute to emergency events in the Barents region. The overall opinion was that the topic is important and it was agreed that the Joint Committee will look at ways of enhancing the preparedness to climate change risks in the region. Especially the matter should be incorporated into exercise planning and conduct.

It was agreed to have the issue on the agenda of every Joint Committee meeting from now on as already decided in previous meetings. It was also agreed to think of ways to contact the other working groups in this matter.

9 Arctic Council-Barents cooperation - Synergies etc.?

In addition to the working groups the BEAC Secretariat has a significant role in the Arctic Council - Barents cooperation

After the discussion it was agreed to look into ways of being involved in the work of the EPPR and to see if their representative could introduce the work in a JC meeting.

10 Barents Joint Manual - Any updates?

The joint Manual was updated after last JC meeting in St Petersburg in December 2016. There were no new updates to the Joint Manual. The committee went through the annexes to the Joint Manual..

The Telefax request for assistance notification was discussed based on the comments from the Emergency Response Center Administration of Finland. Emergency Response Center Administration of Finland suggested that in the form a new column will be added to the type of message to divide for information only/early warning into two separate columns, because the reaction required to these messages is different. It was agreed to make the suggested changes. Norway will make the decided changes to the form and distribute the updated notification form to the committee. It was also decided, as done in previous meetings, to remove the waterstamp from the same Telefax annex. Norway will also make this change and distribute it to the participating Member States.

11 Communication test

There were no news on the former tests. Russia informed, that the next test will take place July 1st in EMERCOM of Russia and the one after that in October in Murmansk.

12 Situation of BR 17 -Exercise

Barents Rescue Exercise 2017 will take place on 4 - 8 September 2017 in the Republic of Karelia, Russia. The Final Planning Conference of the exercise will be held in Petrozavodsk 13 - 14 June. Russia welcomed all countries to both events.

The scenarios and schedule of the exercise were discussed.

Norway, Sweden and Finland requested a written invitation to the exercise in addition to a detailed exercise plan and stressed their importance in order to be able to advance with the preparations. Russia asked all countries to prepare a list of participating members to overcome visa problems.

Norway stressed the importance of a good Alarmex the week before the exercise.

13 Working platform for information sharing

Finland presented the issue. A convenient way of sharing information was discussed and it was agreed that at this point there is no feasible legal and technical solution and no resources to proceed with the matter at the moment.

14 Next meeting

Finland welcomed all countries to Helsinki for the next Joint Committee meeting on November 30th 2017.

15 AOB

No other business.