

# **Report from the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation in the Barents Region meeting held in Saint Petersburg, 08 December 2015**

## **Participants:**

1. Mr. Andrei Legoshin, Fire and Rescue Forces Department of EMERCOM of Russia, Russian Federation
2. Ms. Sergei Okorokov, Department of International Cooperation of EMERCOM of Russia, Russian Federation
3. Mr. Vladimir Kazakov, Main office for the Murmansk region of EMERCOM of Russia, Russian Federation
4. Mr. Aleksandr Guyfullin, National Crisis Management Center of EMERCOM of Russia, Russian Federation
5. Mr. Dmitry Umanets, National Crisis Management Center of EMERCOM of Russia, Russian Federation
6. Ms. Tiina Peltola-Lampi, Ministry of the Interior, Finland
7. Mr. Jari Aalto, Regional State Administrative Agency of Lapland, Finland
8. Mr. Harri Paldanius, Regional Rescue Department of Lapland, Finland
9. Mr. Hannu Rantanen, Finland
10. Ms. Mette Sylvelin Seyersted, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
11. Mr. Anders Gundersen, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), Norway
12. Mr. Kjell Johansen, Joint Rescue Coordination Centre North Norway, Norway
13. Ms. Cecilia Looström, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden
14. Ms. Julia Fredriksson, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden
15. Mr. Peter Swartling, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden
16. Ms. Ulrica Fjällman, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden

The meeting of the Joint Committee was held in the meeting room of the University of State Fire Service of EMERCOM of Russia, Saint-Petersburg on 08 December 2015.

## **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes. The copy of the agenda is attached to the report.

## **2. Presentation of new members of the Joint Committee**

Ms. Cecilia Looström from Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency as a new member of the Joint Committee gave a brief presentation of herself.

### **3. Implementation of the Barents Agreement in 2015**

Mr. Kazakov informed the Committee about activities conducted under the guidance of the Barents Agreement during the year 2015. Most important event was “Barents Rescue 2015 exercise” but several smaller bi-lateral exercises and trainings also took place. Communication exercises between the points of contact in the Barents Region were also conducted during the year but with some minor irregularities.

### **4. Discussion concerning exercises and trainings in the Barents region**

#### *a. Main conclusions from the “Barents Rescue 2015” exercise in Lapland*

It was decided by all Committee members that this topic had been discussed enough during the Barents Rescue 2015 Post-Exercise Discussions conference.

#### *b. Preliminary information about the “Barents Rescue 2017” exercise in Karelia*

The Joint Committee was informed that exercise will take place in Karelia republic in September, 2017. The initial planning conference will be held in Petrozavodsk in June, 2016. It was decided by all Committee members that this topic will be discussed in more details during the Barents Rescue 2015 PXD conference.

#### *c. Strengthening of Joint Committee role in exercises planning and follow-up of exercises*

After extensive discussions it was decided that during the year 2016 new format of Barents Rescue Exercise should be developed and implemented. The task to prepare draft proposals of the new formats were given to the Exercise Working Group.

#### *d. Possible information exchange exercises between the crisis management structures of the Barents countries. Testing of VTC-communication channels*

Mr. Guyfullin and Mr. Umanets from National Crisis Management Center of EMERCOM of Russia presented the proposals to conduct regular VTC training sessions between the crisis management structures of the Barents countries. Such training sessions could be used as reliable and not expensive tool to

improve and facilitate crisis communication in real emergency situations. It was agreed that this proposal could be actually implemented and should be kept in mind as one of the possible ways for cooperation and training.

Actual testing of VTC-communication channels were successfully conducted during the second day of the Barents Rescue 2015 PXD conference.

#### **5. Information from the international conference in Salekhard**

Mr. Kazakov briefly informed the Committee about the main conclusions and findings made by the conference participants.

#### **6. Cooperation with the International Barents Secretariat**

Mr. Kazakov noted the increased activity of the International Barents Secretariat during the year 2015 and informed the Committee that cooperation with the IBS have certainly intensified recently. But it was agreed by all of the Committee members that there is still room for improvement in this matter.

#### **7. Updating of the Barents Joint Manual**

Mr. Johansen presented the latest version of the Joint Manual along with some proposed changes to the document. After a brief discussion it was decided to implement the proposed amendments.

Also it was agreed that the contact information in the Joint Manual needs to be constantly updated to be on par with recent changes.

#### **8. The Swedish chairmanship in the Joint Committee under 2016**

Ms. Looström informed the Committee that next meeting of the Joint Committee will take place in April, 2016.

#### **9. Any other matters**

Nothing was discussed under this agenda item.

**AGENDA**  
**for the meeting of the Joint Committee**  
**on Rescue Cooperation in the Barents Region**

08 of December 2015, Saint Petersburg

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Presentation of new members of the Joint Committee
3. Implementation of the Barents Agreement in 2015
4. Discussion concerning exercises and trainings in the Barents region
  - a. Main conclusions from the “Barents Rescue 2015” exercise in Lapland
  - b. Preliminary information about the “Barents Rescue 2017” exercise in Karelia
  - c. Strengthening of Joint Committee role in exercises planning and follow-up of exercises
  - d. Possible information exchange exercises between the crisis management structures of the Barents countries. Testing of VTC-communication channels.
5. Information from the international conference in Salekhard.
6. Cooperation with the International Barents Secretariat.
7. Updating of the Barents Manual
8. The Swedish chairmanship in the Joint Committee under 2016.
9. Any other matters