



Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation, 8 December 2016, St Petersburg, Russia

1. Welcome from the EMERCOM of Russia

Sergej Okorokov, International Cooperation Department of EMERCOM of Russia welcomed the meeting participants on behalf of the Hosts.

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

It was proposed to change wording in the agenda item 5: originally proposed "Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) mandate" to be changed to "Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) tasks". The adjusted 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 (19 April 2016, Luleå), the minutes were adopted.

5. Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) tasks

Hannu Rantanen, Finland presented the proposal for the Terms of Reference (ToR) on behalf of the Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG). The overall feedback at the meeting was that the PEWG has done a very good job.

Finland proposed to nominate a permanent representative/country acting as a PEWG Secretary in order to have continuity in PEWG work. After the discussion it was agreed that the country responsible

for the organisation of the Barents event/exercise will take responsibility for the PEWG group work. During 2017 Russia will be responsible for the PEWG work and during 2017-2019 Sweden will be responsible. Thereafter there will be a three year cycle following the responsibility for the Barents event/exercise.

Norway proposed to re-organise the tasks listed in points 2, 3 and 4 of the ToR into administrative and operational tasks, respectively.

It was agreed that the adjusted ToR will be send out to the JC for the decision through the silent procedure.

6. Action Plan on Climate Change for Barents cooperation – updates on contribution from PEWG and Barents countries

The Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Co-operation was endorsed in October 2013 and adopted by the Barents Environment Ministers in December 2013. The Action Plan on Climate Change for Barents Cooperation is under the revision. The BEAC Working Group on Environment and the International Barents Secretariat is responsible to lead the process of updating the Action Plan. Other BEAC working groups invited to provide with relevant information concerning ongoing activities connected to climate change and to propose new initiatives.

JC give its positive feedback on already proposed initiatives and had no any specific proposals to the Action Plan. PEWG is tasked by the JC to ensure that the Action Plan is taken into account during the planning of Barents events. This issue will be a standing point on JC meeting agenda for updates from PEWG.

7. Barents Joint Manual

- Adoption of the revised version of the Manual (PEWG task from the Luleå-meeting). Proposals on further needs for review of the Manual

No proposals for changes in the Manual were presented. However there is a need for updates concerning point of contacts. It was agreed that the latest version of the Manual, dated the 20 May 2016, will be send out for the decision through the silent procedure and necessary updates on point of contacts.

- Discussion on communication tests (Attachment 4 to the Barents Joint Manual)

The schedule for the communication tests is presented at the Attachment 4 to the Manual. Russia reported good results from the tests arranged in July and October 2016. Sweden reported good results from the test arranged the 1 December 2016.

The importance to follow the schedule and organise the tests during the year was stressed by all countries.

8. Working platform for information sharing

Russia stressed the importance of a joint digital platform for sharing of information during the planning of events, for example the exercise maps etc. PEWG explored the existing possibilities: proposal from the Barents Secretariat and others options. This is a complicated issue as it can require a financial contribution from all countries.

JC gave PEWG task to prepare a proposal with different options for possible JC decision to the next meeting. PEWG was advised to contact Barents Secretariat on this issue.

9. The Barents Rescue Exercise 2017 in Russia

Barents Reacue 2017 exercise will take place the 4-8 September 2017 in Republic Karelia, Russia. This is the first international exercise of this scope organised in Karelia. Russia welcomed all countries active participate at the planning process and open to proposals for improvement.

PEWG was tasked to prepare the proposals for improvement for presentation to JC during the next meeting.

10. The Finnish Chairmanship in the Joint Committee under 2017

Finland informed that they will continue the work started during the Swedish chairmanship:

- provide the continuity in the JC work and keep its work active during the Finnish chairmanship
- continue to work with the Action Plan on Climate Change for Barents cooperation
- continue the work to find synergies with other regional cooperation with focus on the Arctic cooperation that Finland will chair starting from 2017.

Finland plans to organise two meetings of the JC during 2017

- 4-5 April in Oulu (from lunch-to-lunch)
- The second meeting at the end of 2017. The place and dates of the second meeting will be distributed later on.

The meeting ended with a small ceremony where Sweden handed over the Chair gavel to Finland.