



23.01.18

Minutes

**Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation 30 November - 1 December 2017
in Gimo, Sweden**

1 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.

2 Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Finland commented that on point 6 the North Karelian Rescue Department should be changed to North Karelia. Norway commented on point 5 if there was any conclusion on the matter and it was agreed to continue discussion of the work of the PEWG in this meeting.

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

Russian Federation is improving the work of the supervision bodies which causes changes in the national legislation. New civil defence program due to the growing risk of terrorist attacks among other things is under preparation. The principal goal of the concept is to focus all available resources on large scale terrorist attacks. Developing a modern high technological tools for the Emercom of Russia is also a priority at the moment.

Norway is preparing a program for developing communication systems. This is a topic for the Joint Committee to follow up on especially concerning the next exercise in 2019.

Sweden has organized the first national emergency preparedness week. The exercise planning guide has been translated into English and is available at the MSB website. The new Director General will be nominated in the near future. Sweden is also planning a civil defence exercise in cooperation with the military forces.

Finland has finished the Internal security program and strategy and is preparing an update to the national risk analysis. The provincial reform is underway and 26 employees of the regional state administrative agencies sector of rescue services and preparedness will transfer to work at the Ministry of the Interior. The reform of rescue services is linked to the big reform of health and social services and regional government reform.

4 Update on current issues - BEAC

Roy Hojem from the BEAC Secretariat gave an update on current issues. The change in chairmanships has been made and Sweden will be the chair for the next two years and there have been meetings in several working groups. The number of environmental hotspots has been reduced. The Secretariat is preparing its 10 jubilee year in January and will organize a seminar on how to make the Barents cooperation even more visible. In 2018 will also be 25 years from signing the Kirkenes Declaration.

Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund referred briefly to the Barents Euro Arctic Council meeting in Arkhangelsk, which she attended in October. The purpose of the meeting was to get the actual "players" closer to the political part.

The cooperation between the working groups and how to make the work of the Joint Committee more visible was discussed.

It was decided, that the Joint Committee will try to come up with more ways to keep in touch with the other working groups in close cooperation with the secretariat. Roy Hojem will also take the matter under discussion in the secretariat.

5 Evaluation of the Barents Rescue Exercise 2017

Russia has handed over the responsibility of the upcoming work to Sweden and the final report with proposals for the next event has been handed to Sweden. Russia and the international evaluation group have made a list of ten proposals to improve the work in the future.

Some of the proposals from the Russian side (such as cards to help with the decision making in the respective language of the hosting country and color-coded armbands and helmets) were discussed.

It was decided, that the PEWG will follow up on the matter and Sweden will take notice of the list of ten proposals in the preparations of the next event.

6 The future of the Barents Rescue Cooperation

The work of the PEWG was discussed. At the moment it has 4 members and the chairmanship is connected to the country which is in charge for the rescue exercise. Sweden has therefore taken over the chairmanship from the Russian Federation.

It was discussed and concluded that PEWG need to meet and prepare a concrete plan for their work. Joint Committee need PEWG to give input in the meetings and prepare them together with the Chairmanship. The role of the PEWG should be broader than only preparing the event, as also decided earlier. Sweden will arrange a kick off -meeting in Stockholm 20 - 21 February 2018 and proposed that the matter could be discussed further there. It was decided that that the PEWG will meet in Stockholm to separately discuss how the role of the PEWG can be developed.

It was decided that the Russian Federation will prepare a paper for the meeting in Sweden in February with their thoughts on developing the work of the PEWG. (A proposal was sent after the JC meeting and it will be discussed in the next meeting of JC in Bodö). The results of the meeting in Stockholm will be added on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

7 Joint Manual - any updates

Both proposed updates for the Joint Manual were accepted:

1. Adoption of the revised version of the telefax and deletion of para 3.6.
2. New attachment no 2

Finland will make the decided changes in the manual (and also update the map), after which Norway will be responsible for any decided changes.

8 Communication tests

Russia has had two episodes since the last meeting. The first one was the Alarmex of the Barents Rescue Exercise on 30 September 2017. The second one was an actual situation of exchange of information between Norway and Russia concerning the crash of a Russian helicopter on Norwegian territory.

Sweden had a communication test on the 1st of December.

The Alarmex in September during the Barents Rescue exercise, brought up the matter of answering the request of assistance, when Sweden and Norway answered but Finland did not. Russian Federation proposed that each country would come back with its own proposals of assistance within 24 hours since it would be important for the requesting country to know that the request of assistance has been received. The need of having a separate form for answering the request of assistance was discussed.

It was decided, that Norway as the next chair will come up with a proposal on the matter for the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

9 Aspects on climate change

The Arctic Safety Bridge project is a three year research project lead by the University of Arkhangelsk. The project has a link to the work of the Joint Committee and it was agreed that the outcomes of the project will be interested to see.

The Joint Committee has noted the Arctic Safety Bridge project and taken note that it has synergies with its work.

10 Arctic Council (EPPR) - Barents cooperation

The next meeting of the EPPR will be held in Malmö 5 - 7 December and the one after that in Helsinki in June 2018.

Norway will look into the matter of the SAR register concerning what will be discussed in the EPPR meeting and consider if it would be something of interest in the future. It was decided to get back to the matter on an appropriate moment in 2018.

11 Next meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Bodø, Norway, in 25 - 26 April 2018.

12 AOB

The matter of the practices in the participation of the social and health / medical sector to the exercises and cooperation was discussed briefly

13 End of meeting

Chair Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund expressed her gratitude for all countries for the work of the past year and handed over the chairmanship of the Joint Committee to Norway.