

Draft Minutes (18.12.2008)

MEETING IN OSLO 24.11. FOR CO-CHAIRS BEAC (BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC ENERGY WORKING GROUP)

Present:

Co - chair Anatoly N. Lykin (Archangelsk Region)
Co- chair Johan Vetlesen (Ministry of Petroleum and Energy)
Roman O. Saitov (Russian embassy to Norway)
Tor-Morten Bakken (Barents secretariat)
Tom Wiersdalen Karlsen (Ministry of Petroleum and Energy)
Ole Jacob Edna (Ministry of Petroleum and Energy)
Morten Sand Andersen (interpreter)

1) Welcome

Mr. Vetlesen welcomed Mr. Lukin and the other participants to the meeting for Co-chairs Barents Euro Arctic Energy working Group (BEAC). The intention of the meeting was to start an informal discussion on future activities within the energy cooperation in BEAC in the new format of co-chairmanship for the energy working group between Archangelsk region and the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy.

2) Past experiences with BEAC cooperation

The co-chairs of the past experiences and noted that until 2004 there had been more frequent meetings and activities in progress mainly in connection with the energy efficiency centers located in the North West Russia. The level of activities initiated within the formal cooperation fell after 2004. The co-chairs agreed on making efforts in order to revitalize the cooperation on issues drawn up in the terms of reference.

3) The priorities of renewable energy and energy efficiency

There was an exchange of information on the main tools in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the NW Russia and Norway and in the Nordic energy cooperation. The co-chairs took note of the situation and underlined the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency. In the Nordic cooperation it is a joint understanding that cooperation on implementation of EU/EEA-directives is important priorities as well as information on best practice. In the North West of Russia a lot of attention is drawn to the building sector both in terms of energy efficiency, environment and security of supply. Mapping of good locations for wind energy production is under consideration as a priority.

4) Main orientation of future work

The co-chairs agreed to focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the future work. To do this it is important to identify the important stakeholders in terms of competence, and financial resources. In the discussions common themes were mentioned like: wind energy locations, capacity building in public and private sector, training, energy efficiency in the public sector, models for policy making and implementation (best practice), regional planning and the role of financing mechanisms (NEFCO etc)

5) Terms of reference (TOR) for BEAC energy working group.

The co-chairs agreed that only small adjustments to the terms of reference from 2005 were needed. Co-chairs could agree on how to proceed on this matter in written procedure towards the next co-chair meeting.

6) Format of meeting and participation.

The co-chairs agreed to present lists of specified organisations or key personnel which can give positive contribution to future work. A tentative list will be completed in January 2009. In the second quarter of 2009 the entire group of involved will meet.

7) Relations to other multilateral cooperation and processes

The co-chairs underlined the need for coordination with other international activities and processes. Coordination and exchange of information with Baltic Sea Energy Cooperation (BASREC) and Northern Dimension was underlined as important.

8) Planning of future meetings and next steps.

The next co-chair meeting will take place in Archangelsk in February 2009. The co-chairs will also discuss the appropriate role of the Barents-secretariat.