

OULU COMMUNIQUÉ

2002

THE MINISTERS OF CULTURE in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, convening in Oulu from 9 to 10 September 2002 to discuss cultural co-operation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region,

Having regard to

- the Kirkenes Declaration of 11 January 1993 on the basis of which the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council were established,
- the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in Kirkenes from 31 August to 1 September 1993,
- preparatory work for and the Communiqué of the Ministerial Conference on Cultural Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in Arkhangelsk from 9 to 10 September 1998, especially as concerns the aim to develop the Barents Euro-Arctic Region as a dynamic and open cultural area, and the decision to review cultural cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, its economic resources and obstacles to cooperation,

EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT and acknowledgement of 10 years' cultural cooperation, and appreciating its positive effects within all the artistic and cultural fields.

CONSIDERING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CULTURE in the development of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and, correspondingly, the role of the culture in economic development.

HAVING RECEIVED *the Report on Barents Cultural Co-operation* (September 2001) compiled by the Barents Regional Cultural Committee at the request of the Ministerial Conference on Cultural Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in Arkhangelsk on 9 - 10 September 1998.

THANKING the Barents Regional Cultural Committee for drafting the first *Action Programme for Cultural Co-operation in the Barents Region 2003-2006*.

BEING AWARE of the need for support at national and regional levels for cultural initiatives in the Region, and at the same time EMPHASISING two important aspects: cooperation between equal

partners and co-financing of activities.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK carried out by the Barents Regional Cultural Committee and the importance of structured organisation of cultural cooperation in the Region.

Agree

1. TO PROMOTE local and regional cultural identity and inter-regional cultural production based on historical tradition in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

2. TO SUPPORT the strengthening of cultural identity and the preservation of cultural heritage of indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

3. TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT the work of individuals, local and regional institutions and nongovernmental organisations and the cooperation among them

4. TO FURTHER DEVELOP cultural cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region as part of the implementation of Northern Dimension policies, with the aim of;

- ensuring that the needs of cultural development in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region be taken into account in the European Union policies and Community programmes, especially in the next Action Programme for the Northern Dimension for years 2004 - 2006, as well as in the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the EU and the Russian Federation,

- strengthening multilateral cultural and artistic cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in interaction with other international structures, in particular the Arctic Council,