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Cover photo: Lena Nilsson

# Fifth Parliamentary Barents Conference

18–20 May, 2011, Luleå, Sweden

## Opening of the Conference

**Mr. Per Westerberg**, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, opened the conference by describing the demographic and geographic history of the county of Norrbotten.

Mr. Westerberg gave a short overview of the earlier Barents parliamentary conferences and said that it is now time to move on and discuss new important areas. The fifth conference is arranged in cooperation with the Swedish Presidency of the Barents Euro Arctic Council, which runs until October this year. In the same month, the Swedish county of Norrbotten will take over the Presidency in the Barents Regional Council. The themes of the Conference are closely linked together, and correspond to those of the Swedish Presidency: Green Growth, Industry and Commerce and Infrastructural Development.

Mr. Westerberg emphasized the importance of developing transport in an east-west direction as well as acting responsibly when dealing with extraction of oil in the Barents Sea.

He encouraged the participants of the Conference to facilitate indigenous peoples' participation in the development of society and in political processes. He also wanted the countries to share experiences and best practices concerning ways of supporting indigenous peoples' traditional trades, which is an important part of supporting development in the region.

Mr. Westerberg pointed out that if we want to succeed, we need to cooperate on all levels and synchronize the competences of the many different organizations for cooperation there are in northern Europe. He noted that the European and global interest in the region is constantly growing.

In conclusion, Mr. Westerberg stressed the importance of making sure that the Conference discussion and resolution are taken back to the national parliaments to be implemented in their everyday work.

**Ms. Ewa Björling**, Swedish Minister for Trade and Nordic Co-operation, stated in her address that the growing interest in the Barents Region from countries within the region as well as from other parts of the world is hardly surprising. Ms. Björling continued by declaring that this unique region has a large potential for economic growth and that the future of the region is bright due to the growing global demand of raw materials.

Ms. Björling informed that the meeting between the Barents competitive ministers in May 2010 resulted in a joint declaration pointing out cooperation on sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency as priorities for future cooperation.



The Conference was opened by the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Mr. Per Westerberg (left)

The basis of continued growth in the region is the unique assets of strategically important raw materials. Ms. Björling mentioned that the Swedish Chairmanship has taken several initiatives to develop transport solutions which unite the region with world markets. While economic growth and development is important, sustainability will continue to be a crucial element of the Barents region. To retain the region's unique attraction it is essential to protect fragile eco-systems, learn how to deal with the climate change and use energy efficiently.

Ms. Björling presented the priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship of the Barents Euro Arctic Council; environmental protection and economic growth. Some efforts that Sweden has taken as Chair of the Barents Council was also mentioned; e.g. projects to improve the quality of drinking water, reduce chemical emissions and clean up the worst environmental hot spots in the region. A special fund, the Barents Window, has been established which among other things will contribute to increased energy efficiency in Russia. The Swedish Chairmanship is also promoting sustainable trade and industry in the Barents Region.

As a closing remark Ms. Björling stressed that in the light of growing international interest and increasing levels of human activity in the region, it is important to carefully consider and discuss what kind of development we want to see in the Barents region as we move forward.

In her address, **Ms. Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, State Duma of Russian Federation, Vice Chair of the BSCP, pointed out that cooperation on all levels is a must to find solutions to the challenges the Baltic region faces today.

Ms. Pivnenko mentioned, in line with the speakers before her, that the increasing interest in the Barents region is understandable bearing in mind the region's natural resources, but also in view of the new transport routes by sea.

Ms. Pivnenko brought up the ratification in March of a treaty between Norway and Russia which solved a 40-year old controversy concerning boundaries in the Barents Sea. Now it can pave the way to protect the Barents Sea and to develop the whole region. Ms. Pivnenko added that this is also a contribution in order to develop good neighbourly relations.

Ms. Pivnenko mentioned targeted efforts made by Russia concerning e.g. taxation, labour rights, pension rights and protection of indigenous peoples, which have contributed to the development in the region. In addition, Ms. Pivnenko mentioned a special parliamentary committee set up in the Russian Duma which has prepared 40 acts concerning the northern part of Russia.

Ms. Pivnenko pointed out that the efficiency of the cooperation can be strengthened further. Instead of the different organizations concentrating on their specific interests, they could cooperate in a better way by strengthening the parliamentary cooperation, increase coordination and stop doing double work. In the future, Ms. Pivnenko wanted to see an increased support for communication, judicial cooperation, trade and commerce, efforts against organized crime, health care, better education, a broader cultural exchange and stronger protection of indigenous peoples.



Ms. Valentina Pivnenko, (MP, State Duma of Russian Federation and Vice Chair of BSCP) right, addressing the conference.

Ms. Pivnenko pointed out that a more equitable distribution of the fruits of the cooperation between the regions is needed. The Russian part of the region can benefit further from the cooperation by developing east-west transport routes, including sea-routes and railway lines. All parliaments participating in the cooperation have a responsibility to set up a favorable framework for the cooperation, Ms. Pivnenko said.

Ms. Pivnenko stressed the importance of finding new sources of funding. Ms. Pivnenko pointed out that we cannot always count on external funding from e.g. the EU for regional projects. One possible way of solving the issue could be partnerships between public and private actors based in the region.

Ms. Pivnenko stated that she would like to see an increase in the contacts between all actors in the Barents cooperation.

## Theme 1: Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth/Green Growth

Chair **Ms. Karin Åström** introduced the first theme of the Conference by stating that this highly topical question will decide how our societies will develop in the future.

Key-note speaker **Mr. Martin Hedberg**, meteorologist, Swedish Weather and Climate Centre (SWC), gave a speech under the heading “Climate Change – Why Bother?”.



Ms. Karin Åström (MP, Chair of the Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council).

Mr. Hedberg started out by putting recent climate statistics in perspective. It is getting warmer very fast and it is happening right now. The speed of change is 100 times faster than the last transition from ice age to interglacial period. Nature can in itself cause major climate shifts, but Mr. Hedberg pointed out that humans are manipulating the system.

Mr. Hedberg mentioned key findings in the Arctic region; the climate is warming rapidly and much larger changes are projected. What happens in the Arctic has impacts all over the world. The Arctic vegetation zones will shift, thawing ground will disrupt infrastructure and there will be an increase in coastal erosion and coastal storms. Mr. Hedberg mentioned indigenous communities, which are facing a major economic and cultural impact. Some changes are good and some bad, but irrespective of what they impact the environment.

The environment is a complex system which has the ability to learn, select, adapt and reorganize. Mr. Hedberg pointed out that the complex environmental systems are irreversible; there is a regime shift, a “tipping point”, which implies that we can’t go back after having crossed certain thresholds. Mr. Hedberg also talked about resilience; the ability of the system to absorb disturbances. There will be changes, there have always been changes but now we see them greater. Mr. Hedberg stressed the importance of staying within the boundaries in terms of climate change, ocean acidification, global freshwater use, land system change etc. to avoid these regime shifts. Mr. Hedberg mentioned some tipping elements affecting our region, like the Greenland Ice Sheet, the Arctic summer sea-ice and the Gulf Stream. Mr. Hedberg finished by saying that we hopefully have sufficient capabilities to learn and to adapt in order to avoid climate shifts and tipping points.

Mr. Hedberg pointed out that it’s not a question of either economic growth or environmental sustainability. Sustainability is a defining and enabling condition for economic growth. We cannot have growth, food and infrastructure unless we have sustainability and stability concerning energy, ecosystem services, natural resources and climate change. Economic growth is threatened by environmental changes.

In the panel discussion, **Ms. Ann-Kristine Johansson**, MP, Chair of the Nordic Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, stated that a broad range of different solutions must be considered. Politicians must have the courage to take tough decisions and make agreements on all levels, from global to national. Ms. Johansson talked about reducing emissions, waste and social cleavages. She also talked about green growth as a matter of food safety and safety in a global perspective.

The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources wants the Barents countries to be in the forefront in working towards a global agreement and make sure we reach the 2020 goal set by the EU. We need increased energy efficiency and in a longer time perspective we need 100 percent renewable energy. What energy types the renewable energy will consist of is a question



that must be discussed more in a Nordic and Barents context, Ms. Johansson said. She didn't believe nuclear power was the solution and pointed out that we don't know what energy solutions research will come up with within 20 to 50 years.

Ms. Johansson talked about the importance of research to be able to take long-term decisions and stressed the importance of the Nordic Council's Top-level Research Initiative to understand what measures have to be taken. She also thought it was important to consider how we can make people feel that they can be involved and make a change.

**Ms. Aili Keskitalo**, Member om Sami Parliamentary Council, welcomed that the Conference acknowledged the Barents region as a home for indigenous peoples as well. Ms. Keskitalo talked about their problems with being the first ones affected by the climate change and the injustice of it since the climate change has very little to do with their way of living.



Ms. Ann-Kristine Johansson (MP, Chair of the Nordic Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources), Ms. Aili Keskitalo (Member of Sami Parliamentary Council) and Ms. Anna Kireeva (Journalist and Press Officer, Bellona Murmansk).

Ms. Keskitalo couldn't fully embrace the concept of green growth, and noted that it is an area of both cooperation and collision. She mentioned some of her objections. One is that it is seldom indigenous people who have the power to define sustainability. Ms. Keskitalo stressed that it is not only a question about environmental, but also social and cultural sustainability since people live in these environments. Ms. Keskitalo also questioned the sustainability in traditional industry. There is a high pressure for industrialization where



indigenous people live. Green growth also intervenes in areas where indigenous people live, and Ms. Keskitalo mentioned wind power plants and power lines which highly affects the grazing patterns of reindeers.

Green growth can be green colonization unless people consider how it affects indigenous people's life. Indigenous people must be informed and asked for their support before interventions in nature, Ms. Keskitalo stated. Today it is not working well, she said, but added that the Nordic Sami Convention being worked on would improve the situation. Ms. Keskitalo hoped for this Convention to be supported.

In her address, **Ms. Anna Kireeva**, Journalist and Press Officer, Bellona Murmansk, described Murmansk as an environmentally problematic region in terms of nuclear safety, outdated ways of producing nickel and pollution from coal and oil transports, even if some steps have been taken towards sustainable growth. Promises from the Russian government must be followed by action, Ms. Kireeva said, and added that the Russian government still considers sustainable growth to counter economic growth.

Ms. Kireeva talked about oil and gas extraction projects in the Arctic being risky, expensive and that no country has the knowledge necessary to implement the projects. Ms. Kireeva criticized the Shtokman project in particular and also stressed the importance of taking necessary safety precautions to avoid making the projects even more expensive.

Ms. Kireeva also stressed how important it is that Russia starts developing green technology now to be able to compete with other European countries in the future, and mentioned a report saying that the Murmansk region is promising for renewable energy like wind power. Green technology costs more but people are willing to pay for it, Ms. Kireeva concluded.

In his address, **Mr. Magnus Rystedt**, Managing Director, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), presented his organization, as well as its priorities, programs and projects in the Barents region.

NEFCO expects an increase in extractions of natural resources and increased transports in the Arctic and Barents region. This will further jeopardize nature in the region, Mr. Rystedt pointed out.

One of NEFCO:s main priorities is climate change. NEFCO works with projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. The programs and projects are examples of the sustainable economic growth other speakers have talked about, Mr. Rystedt said. He mentioned projects in the Baltic countries and pointed out that reducing emissions there is seven times more cost-efficient than doing the same efforts in the Nordic countries, and it benefits us all.

Mr. Rystedt mentioned NEFCO:s presence in Russia, where 150 projects are underway and 71 projects have been implemented. NEFCO works in many different areas; from wastewater to renewable energy. It gives soft loans to municipalities to implement energy efficiency measures and work with the private sector in e.g. modernization of industrial production processes.

Mr. Rystedt said this is a win-win situation; the companies' competitiveness increases and the environment improves. The companies become more sustainable, which enables higher growth.

Mr. Rystedt also talked about project plans to be designed and implemented at hot spots defined in the NEFCO/AMAP report (2003). Many projects have a financing plan, but Mr. Rystedt mentioned that the funds available are minor in comparison to what is needed.

**Mr. Hedberg** reflected on what had been said by stating that environmental problems cannot be fixed through technology, and that neither nuclear power nor wind power is a solution to climate change but a solution to a lack of energy. Again Mr. Hedberg stressed that the nature reacts to what humans do, and whatever we do it will have consequences. In conclusion, he mentioned that the two-degree goal will lead to a sea level rise of more than five metres, which will be a major change. Mr. Hedberg found it peculiar that there's a huge gap between what is known by the scientific community and what is understood by politicians and the public.

Chair **Ms. Karin Åström** ended the panel discussion by underlining that the debate had proven that it is now time for politicians to open their eyes and take action on the climate issue.

## Theme 2: Industry and Commerce including Indigenous Entrepreneurship

**Mr. Johan Antti**, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten County, started his speech by saying that they look forward to holding the Presidency in the Barents Regional Council during the next two years. As Chair of the Barents Regional Council, Norrbotten County will strengthen the cooperation, especially regarding the development of east-west communication, sustainable environment and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Antti stressed the important role parliamentarians have to strengthen the Barents region and the multilateral cooperation. By using their legislative power, parliamentarians can facilitate cross-border cooperation and thus make the region more attractive for businesses, Mr. Antti said.

Mr. Antti talked about the role of industry and commerce in the Barents region, and emphasized the importance of entrepreneurs and innovation in creating jobs and increase competitiveness. People in the region must be encouraged to think in new ways and see possibilities. Mr. Antti addressed the labour shortage which poses a challenge to the whole region. The labour market must be expanded by working with both regional and local infrastructure, Mr. Antti said. For the future of the Barents cooperation, the Barents projects, the development of the industries and the labour market, it is of great importance according to Mr. Antti that all four countries cooperate on all levels, especially with infrastructure and long-distance communications.

In his address, **Mr. Ivar Kristiansen**, MP Norway, talked about the development of human and industrial resources in the Barents region. Mr. Kristiansen initially addressed the importance of human capital in the vast area of the Barents region and also mentioned the importance of empowering people in their own development. In his view, the governments have set up obstacles for indigenous people in relation to business opportunities and export of their goods and services. Meanwhile he said that a forum like this could contribute to solving those problems.

The region needs more open boundaries and simpler rules, and things must start happening faster than today, Mr. Kristiansen said, and especially mentioned that a lot needs to be done in the border area between Norway, Finland and Sweden. He said that something has to be done now about countries having different sizes in railway gauges. Transport corridors are one of the most important issues in the Barents region. Initiatives must be taken in the capital cities, according to Mr. Kristiansen. He added that a lot of things have to be done in the east-west direction in terms of development of infrastructure for energy.

Mr. Kristiansen addressed the anticipated increase in demand for energy and emphasized the potential of oil and gas resources in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Area. He stressed that we must cooperate to commercially develop shipping through the Northeast Passage and to build a solution with a robust and environmentally sound system.

Mr. Kristiansen thanked the Russian regional authorities for being so receptive for contact. He also addressed Norwegian companies' problems with setting up in the Murmansk region, and mentioned that working with creating a greater reciprocity is important for the future. He also mentioned two agreements between Russia and Norway, one which has resulted in a pilot project on a visa-free zone at the border between Norway and Russia. Mr. Kristiansen mentioned the positive developments in the border region due to this, and said that it should be possible to involve Russia more in regional cooperation if this kind.

In his speech, **Mr. Lars Miguel Utsi**, Indigenous Peoples' Adviser, International Barents Secretariat, talked about Indigee, a project focusing on development of indigenous entrepreneurship and strengthening indigenous peoples' economy. This in turn strengthens regional development. He focused on describing the possibilities and synergies of the project. They offer indigenous entrepreneur business counseling. The businesses represent a lot of different branches and not just traditional indigenous branches.

This cross-border project is special and needed because indigenous entrepreneurs do not always fit into national business development programs, Mr. Utsi said. He added that since the advisers at Indigee understand their history, society, mindset and interests, entrepreneurs can focus on business development. It is also important to gather a critical mass of indigenous entrepreneurs with a common cultural reference to get a creative and innovative environment. Mr. Utsi said that results so far have been good.



Mr. Lars Miguel Utsi, (Indigenous Peoples' Adviser, International Barents Secretariat), talked during his speech about the development of indigenous entrepreneurship.

**Ms. Aili Keskitalo** said that it is important that projects like Indigee become visible so indigenous people can show they are part of the solution and not the problem in terms of development. She added that indigenous people have an important role to play in developing the northern communities. **Ms. Karin Åström** mentioned in the debate that followed that it is problematic that women in Sweden have a harder time raising sufficient capital to start businesses. Mr. Utsi replied that Indigee doesn't fund projects but is working with other institutions that do. He added that the majority of the participants are women. A relevant question is how, as a mother, to manage both work and family, Mr. Utsi added. In the discussion, Mr. Utsi explained how they use IT and social media to communicate between the four countries involved. Mr. Utsi emphasized what Ms. Keskitalo said earlier about green investments being a problem for indigenous people, and said that a conference like this where both sides participate and exchange information contributes to a greater understanding.

**Ms. Rigmor Andersen Eide**, MP, Norwegian Parliament, mentioned the importance of competitive businesses in the Barents region, sustainable development, and cooperation between Norway and Russia to make use of the maritime resources. A prerequisite for developing the region is development of infrastructure, especially logistics and transport. A step in the right di-

rection is the initiative the Barents Council has taken for a strategy for the Barents region. Ms. Andersen Eide mentioned the recent agreement between Norway and Russia as a good example of cross-border cooperation.

**Mr. Ivar Kristiansen** brought up the issue of air travel and mentioned a discussion between Norwegian colleagues about having legislation applying to the Barents region enabling cross-border routes between the northern parts of the four countries. Mr. Kristiansen mentioned that the air route hasn't been seen as economically viable, and encouraged his colleagues at the Conference to do something about it. **Mr. Geir-Ketil Hansen**, MP, Norwegian Parliament, mentioned that air routes to and from the north doesn't sustain themselves without public financing. Mr. Hansen also stressed that all nations must have an active regional and trans-regional strategy for the northern area. Another participant from the Norwegian parliament said that there was a problem with public financing of international routes. A viable cross-border route would have to have state subsidies for several years, and to get a long term solution cooperation between countries is needed. **Mr. Leif Pettersson**, MP, Swedish Parliament, said that as long as we don't have a better commercial base for the air routes, they won't be viable. He added that it will take time.

**Mr. Leif Hjalmarsson**, Secretary General, Swedish North Calotte Committee, emphasized that all countries need to lower the cost of visas and develop a visa-free solution for people living in the region and asked if it is possible to copy the good example of Norway and Russia having a visa-free region in the north. **Ms. Valentina Pivnenko**, speaking for Russia, expressed that they are doing everything possible to ease the visa rules and are prepared to work further on these issues. She mentioned that in the discussion about the draft resolution there was a discussion on how the issues of speeding up visa procedures and introducing free regimes can be reflected.

Ms. Pivnenko mentioned that recent decisions in Russia will extend the infrastructure and in turn make them able to cooperate in a more fruitful fashion with their neighbours. She also pointed out how prioritized the northern sea route is in Russia.

Ms. Pivnenko also brought up national programs in place supporting indigenous peoples in Russia. She emphasized the need, and moral duty, to think about common methods and ways to support indigenous peoples.

### Theme 3: Infrastructural Development

**Mr. Pavel Zyryanov**, MP, Committee on Youth Policy, State Duma of the Russian Federation, talked about key priority areas and challenges in the north of Russia in his speech. The key national task is to pass over to an innovative path and use the areas where Russia has competitive advantages, Mr. Zyryanov said.

In northern Russia, the future lies in investing in infrastructure and modernizing the economy. The key priority areas in this regard are shipbuilding, development of the fishing industry, the forest industry, the northern sea route and development of transport in general, which includes building new railway lines and motorways. The forest industry should be developed by introducing higher technology in order to produce more sophisticated products with a higher value. The outlined policy is a comprehensive program, with projects being designed for an all-sided development of the Russian north, Mr. Zyryanov said. The infrastructural development will facilitate contact between young people from all four countries.

Human capital is also a key area of concern, and a number of legal measures have to be introduced to support the existing population and attract new people to the area. Mr. Zyryanov mentioned a more developed social sphere as one measure.

**Mr. Oddgeir Danielsen**, Chair of the BEAC Regional Committee, gave a speech on the theme “Transport and logistics infrastructure in the Barents region – bridging Europe and the Arctic”. The presentation brought up a number of challenges and opportunities in terms of transport and logistics. Mr. Danielsen focused on energy and gas and gave some concrete examples which demonstrated how important accessible infrastructure is for developing an area. Many projects have been made possible because of a well-functioning infrastructure system in and between nations. Mr. Danielsen mentioned the Norwegian gas project Snow White, which has activated the whole local business community, as an example of how such projects have synergy effects and big consequences for the region.

By becoming more confident with each other we can do more, Mr. Danielsen said and added that we have to be prepared to take the opportunities offered by having the necessary infrastructure. He gave examples of cooperation between Norway and Russia and concluded that it is by working together we can reach good solutions.

Mr. Danielsen spoke about the challenges in the area and mentioned e.g. the Shtokman field and Yamal where ice, storms, a vulnerable nature and shallow water require advanced solutions and a lot of reloading. Mr. Danielsen stressed that it is important to know that things are already happening, and gave examples of existing harbours, reloading solutions and ways to deal with the ice. He also talked about the regional advantages the northern sea route can bring and mentioned the possibility of transporting gas to the enormous Asian market through the northern sea route.

Mr. Danielsen stressed the importance of making sure that our transport systems are interconnected so the cooperation can develop further. He mentioned the Russian transport infrastructure plan from now to 2030 which entails fantastic new transport solutions making it possible to really develop the area. Mr. Danielsen pointed out that the Russians are acting now – something other nations should do too since they’re lagging behind.



**Ms. Valentina Pivnenko** added to what Mr. Danielsen said about Russia, by stating that they have a comprehensive project of economic development encompassing logistics and infrastructure. She added that their door is open for more partnerships. Irrespective of Russia being a member of the WTO or not, they will proceed with their basic strategy, Ms. Pivnenko stated.

**Ms. Gudrun Hjalmarrsson**, Deputy Chair, Swedish North Calotte Committee, commented that the Russian ratification of the IMO-agreement is very important and hoped that Russia will take steps forward since it opens up many opportunities. She also added that it is important that there is a well-functioning railway network between the Nordic countries.

Concerning railway lines, **Ms. Pivnenko** described the well-functioning connection between St. Petersburg and Helsinki, but mentioned that further specific proposals for linking Russia to the Nordic countries are issues for government bodies. She added that the parliament is prepared to support with anything they can do in such initiatives though.

A representative from Russia reminded the Conference participants of the important aspect of Arctic safety. He mentioned that a far reaching agreement on safety in sea routes has been signed in Greenland and that the Russian government will set up some safety centers which will cover the entire northern sea route. Mr. Danielsen agreed with him, adding that it is important to have a good fleet of ice breakers that can work with safety along the route.



Ms. Ewa Björling (Swedish Minister for Trade and Nordic Co-operation) interviewed by local and national media.



**Mr. Lars-Erik Aaro**, President and CEO, LKAB Group, gave a speech about sustainable mining in the Baltic region – a foundation for growth and development. He also talked about the challenges for the region in this respect.

LKAB demonstrates that modern mining in the Barents region is compatible with high environmental standards and social responsibility, Mr. Aaro said. They are striving to become even safer, leaner and greener in the future. By 2030, they aim at cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and increase energy efficiency by more than 30 per cent in the mining and mineral processing. LKAB participates in a project aiming at cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from steel plants by more than 50 per cent. Development of sustainable mining in the Barents region will offer opportunities for growth, Mr. Aaro said. LKAB commended the initiatives being taken by the different Barents fora to develop the economy and general conditions in the region.

Mr. Aaro talked about the good prospects for future mining in the Barents region in terms of exploration potential, knowledge, skills, technology and a beneficial legal system. They now have a window of opportunity, but they need an improved infrastructure, an improved permitting process for environmental permits and efficient programs in research, education and innovation to maintain their technological leadership. Mr. Aaro especially mentioned sufficient maintenance and investments in railway traffic as important for their development.

**Mr. Janne Sjelmo Nordås**, MP, Norwegian Parliament, mentioned a number of sub-problems that need to be solved concerning the northern sea route. He stressed the importance of thinking about a cooperation regarding setting up a safety net along the whole route, and mentioned that it requires infrastructure with e.g. harbors and oil rescue services.

**Mr. Ivar Kristiansen**, MP, Norwegian Parliament, emphasized that the countries need to find a technological solution to the differences regarding railway gauge size, in order to have a railway freight system in an east-west direction. We have to move from national transport plans to some kind of joint overarching plan which obligates the countries to realize them, Mr. Kristiansen added.

## Conclusion

**Mr. Bendiks Arnesen**, Chair of the Norwegian delegation to the Nordic Council, underlined that the discussions at this conference had demonstrated the value of an inter-parliamentary discussion in the Barents area, and for that reason he invited the participants to a Sixth Barents Conference, to be held in Norway in 2013.

In her closing remarks, **Ms. Karin Åström** concluded that the themes of the Conference were rather concentrated on a sustainable economic development, but pointed out that economic and environmental aspects must be complemented with social and economical consequences.

Ms. Åström summarized the discussions held at the Conference by pointing out that there were a number of policy areas where she could identify common understandings among the participants. There had also been some different point of views at the Conference. Differences shouldn't be denied, she said, but emphasized that there is a constant search for common solutions and ideas beneficial for all parties concerned. It is important that we have been able to have an open discussion also about things where our opinions may differ, Ms. Åström stated.

We all want our natural resources to be used in an environmentally responsible way, and we must focus on environmentally sustainable long-term solutions and investing in the best technology available. Another thing in common is the desire to have the people in the Barents region involved in the development. Ms. Åström noted that it had been said many times during the Conference that the economic development must respect indigenous peoples' rights. Their traditional lifestyles, livelihoods and cultures must be respected, preserved and able to further develop. It is also a common view that better physical means of communication in an east-west direction are needed for development and for increased cooperation in the Barents region. Ms. Åström also mentioned that the region has to make use of the opportunities new communication technology offers. She declared that the most obvious common understanding is how crucial it will be to increase the cross-border cooperation in the Barents region.

In conclusion, Ms. Åström thanked all participants for their contributions and said that it is now important that the participants follow up what has been said at the Conference in their respective local parliaments or organizations.

Chair **Ms. Rigmor Andersen Eide** gave the floor to **Mr. Leif Pettersson**, MP, Swedish Parliament, who had been chairing the Drafting Committee in order for him to present the work done by the Committee. Mr. Pettersson said that the Drafting Committee had had constructive discussions, and thanked all its members for their contributions. He informed the Conference that the Drafting Committee had reached a consensus, and was therefore unanimous in proposing the draft resolution text that had been distributed to the participants. The resolution was adopted by the Conference.



An optional excursion to SSAB was arranged. SSAB works with high strength steel and employs 8 700 people in over 45 countries. The participants visited the blast furnace and steel plant.



The Conference participants visited Gammelstad Old Church Town. UNESCO added Gammelstad Church Town to its world heritage list in 1996.

## Resolution of the Fifth Parliamentary Barents Conference

18–20 May, 2011, Luleå, Sweden

On the invitation of the Swedish Parliament representatives of the national parliaments of Norway, Russia and Sweden, representatives of eight regional parliamentary bodies from the Northern regions of those States, the Nordic Council, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians, the Parliamentary Association of the North-West of Russia, the Sami Parliamentary Council, as well as invited guests and experts from relevant governmental and non-governmental authorities, met on 19–20 May 2011 in Luleå, County of Norrbotten, Sweden.

Main themes of the discussions were Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth, Industry and Commerce including Indigenous Entrepreneurship, and Infrastructural Development. The Conference was opened by the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Mr. Per Westerberg.

The participants of the Conference

- taking into account the principles and provisions of the Declaration on cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic region (Kirkenes, Norway) as of 1993, which is the basis for multilateral co-operation in the Barents region;
- having regard to the Resolution of the Fourth Parliamentary Barents Conference (Syktyvkar, Russia, 26–27 May 2009), again demonstrating the importance of the parliamentary dimension for introducing and promoting various forms of co-operation in the Northern part of Europe;
- having regard to the Programme of the Swedish Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council 2009–2011, which is focusing on transition to an eco-efficient economy and intensified cooperation regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency
- having regard to the Resolution of the First Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress (Kirkenes, Norway, 4–5 February 2010), underlining that enhanced
- participation by the indigenous peoples in the Barents cooperation would greatly contribute to this cooperation
- having regard to the Joint Statement of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the renewed Northern Dimension (Oslo, Norway, 2 November 2010), underlining i.a. the need for close cooperation between the Northern

Dimension Structures and the four Regional Councils in the North, as well as the valuable input that parliaments can bring in the functioning of the northern Dimension policy

- having regard to the Conference Statement of the Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum (Tromsø, Norway, 22–23 February 2011), which contains a number of significant proposals and requests to the governments of the Northern Dimension cooperation, and confirms the commitment of the parliamentarians to promoting it;
- having regard also to the results and the views expressed by representatives of national and regional parliamentarians, state and local authorities, political organizations, indigenous peoples, youth, business, art and education circles, and social and non-profit organizations concerning how continued and further improved cooperation can contribute to a positive development of the Barents region;
- conscious of the common geographical and environmental situation, the cultural similarities, the economic interrelationship and shared possibilities and challenges of the Barents region and the countries and nations to which it belongs;

**Reaffirm** their support for effective use of existing structures provided by the Barents Cooperation on national and regional levels in order to develop common assets and resources and to address common challenges in the region.

**Recognize** the need for additional measures in order to further improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural situation of the peoples inhabiting the region, including in particular support to the efforts of the indigenous peoples of the region to enhanced participation in the Barents cooperation, to strengthen social and economic foundations of their life, and to protect their national traditions, cultures and mother tongues,

**Appreciate** that additional possibilities to achieve these goals are provided by updated policies of the Northern Dimension of the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation, of the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Council of Baltic Sea States, and by coordination and cooperation between those structures and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

Recommend national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies, as well as national, regional and local authorities

- to support measures for environmentally sustainable economic growth in the Barents Euro-Arctic region

- to promote new technologies in order to preserve and protect the environment, including better methods of waste management
- to promote innovation in the production of renewable as well as non-renewable forms of energy, continuously improving safety standards, to support projects to increase the use of renewable energy and to improve energy efficiency,
- to cooperate in order to facilitate exploitation of natural resources while paying particular attention to the rights of the indigenous peoples and to the special climate and environmental conditions of the region,
- to recognize that substantial cuts in the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses are the backbone of meaningful global climate change mitigation efforts, and therefore to initiate and support development of new technologies, projects and international cooperation designed to reduce such emissions
- to recognize that while climate change is a global threat, it will have particularly devastating consequences in the Northern regions and for the traditional livelihood of the indigenous peoples,
- to recognize that cross-border cooperation is crucial to the development of industry and commerce in the Barents region,
- to continue efforts, therefore, to facilitate cross-border movement of persons, goods and services, i.a. by simplifying visa regimes and customs procedures
- to provide additional support for efforts to cross-border cooperation in sustainable economic development, between regional and local authorities, between industries, enterprises or entrepreneurs, and between the public and private sectors
- to recognize the important role that the EU Structural Funds have played in promoting development and cross-border cooperation in the region, and to work to ensure that the region can benefit from similar programs during the post-2013 planning period
- to facilitate extraction and refinement of natural resources, entrepreneurship, and development of tourism, with a special focus on the social and environmental aspects of economic development
- to support the development of entrepreneurship among the indigenous peoples, paying particular attention to the opportunities to develop their traditional livelihoods into commercially viable enterprises that may improve the living conditions and social situation of indigenous peoples, while preserving and developing their cultural heritage and their right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation with their own members as well as other peoples across international borders



- to continue to support indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making processes that have a direct impact on the indigenous people
- to support the development of effective youth policies in all areas of Barents cooperation, in particular as regards access to modern education promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship as well as access to the labour market, including in advanced industrial and service sectors
- to welcome the agreement between Russia and Norway on a visa free regime for residents living in the border area, i.a. as a first, but important step towards a common labour market in the region
- to support academic and scientific institutions with the highest international standard in the region, and to promote contacts, cooperation and mobility between them, as well as promoting the acknowledgment and protection of traditional knowledge in innovation
- to recognize the need for high-quality transport systems, energy transmission lines and other infrastructure within the Barents area, as well as improvement of transnational and intercontinental transport connections, as a prerequisite for improvement of living conditions, extraction and refinement of natural resources, and for the development of industry and commerce
- to promote multimodal transport strategies and policies that take into account environmental concerns, conducting environmental impact assessments and promoting energy-efficient solutions and high safety standards
- to give high priority to creating east-west transport corridors, connecting the Barents region with Asia, thereby improving its competitiveness on the global level
- to develop seaports and the corresponding inland transport systems, at the same time promoting measures to improve safety and to reduce harmful emissions from shipping
- to welcome the Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic, signed at the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council on 12 May 2011
- to take additional measures to ensure adequate resources and international cooperation to improve the safety of maritime navigation, and to ensure the capacity to respond to emergencies or accidents, including the rescue of passengers and response to oil spills or other potential environmental disasters



The participants of the Fifth Parliamentary Barents Conference

**reaffirm** their commitment to cooperation in order to consolidate and further develop the Barents region as a peaceful, stable, innovative and prosperous part of Europe,

**welcome** with gratitude the offer of the Norwegian Parliament to convene the 6th Parliamentary Barents Conference in 2013 in Norway.

## Programme

### Conference location

Kulturens hus

Address: Skeppsbrogatan 17, 971 79 Luleå, Sweden

Phone: +46 (0)920-45 59 00, Fax: +46 (0)920-45 59 10

### Wednesday 18 May 2011

Possible arrival in Luleå

Optional excursion to SSAB, Luleå

*Departure to SSAB by bus at 14.00 PM*

*(Meeting point: at the hotel front entrances of Elite Stadshotellet and Quality Hotel)*

20.00 Dinner hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament  
*Venue: Elite Stadshotellet, Luleå*

### Thursday 19 May 2011

0730– Conference Registration/Information Desk  
*Location: Kulturens hus, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

08.00–09.00 Drafting Committee  
*Venue: VIP room, Norra Hamn*

09.00– **Opening of the Conference**  
*Venue: Stora salen*  
Chair: Ms Karin Åström, MP, Sweden  
Vice chair: Bendiks H. Arnesen, MP, Norway

Opening address by **Mr Per Westerberg**,  
Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Address by **Ms Ewa Björling**, Minister for  
Trade and Nordic Co-operation

Address by **Ms Valentina Pivnenko**, MP,  
Russian State Duma, Vice chair of the BSPC

Theme 1: Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth/Green Growth

”Climate Change – Why Bother?”

Key-note speaker: **Mr Martin Hedberg**, Meteorologist, Swedish Weather and Climate Centre (SWC)

Panel discussion:

**Ms Ann-Kristine Johansson**, MP, Chair of the Nordic Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**Ms Aili Keskitalo**, Member of Sami Parliamentary Council

**Ms Anna Kireeva**, Journalist and Press Officer, Bellona Murmansk

**Mr Magnus Rystedt**, Managing Director, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

The debate is moderated by Ms Carolina Ehrnrooth, Head of the Swedish Norden i Fokus, Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Stockholm

12.00 Buffet lunch

*Venue: Restaurant Luleå (Kulturens hus)*

13.30–16.00 Theme 2: Industry and Commerce including Indigenous Entrepreneurship

Chair: Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice chair of the BSPC

Vice chair: Ms Åsa Torstensson, MP, Sweden

**Mr Johan Antti**, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten County

“The Development of Human and Industrial Resources in the Barents Region”

**Mr Ivar Kristiansen**, MP, Conservative Party, Norwegian Parliament

“Increasing Cross-Regional Synergies by Strengthening Indigenous Entrepreneurship”

**Mr Lars Miguel Utsi**, Indigenous Peoples’ Adviser, International Barents Secretariat

Debate

- 17:30 Departure by bus from Elite Stadshotellet and Quality hotel to Gammelstad Old Church Town (Gammelstads kyrkstad)
- 17.45– Guided tour of Gammelstad Old Church Town followed by a reception hosted by Mr Per-Ola Eriksson, County Governor of Norrbotten County at The Captain’s Manor (Kaptensgården)
- 19.45 Departure by bus from The Captain’s Manor to Norrbottensteatern
- 20:00 Buffet dinner, hosted by the Swedish Delegation of the Nordic Council  
*Venue: Norrbottensteatern*

### Friday 20 May 2011

- 08.00–09.00 Drafting Committee  
*Venue: VIP room, Norra Hamn*
- 09.30 Theme 3: Infrastructural Development  
Chair: Ms Rigmor Andersen Eide, MP, Norway  
Vice chair: Mr Nikolay Lvov, MP, Council of Federation, Russia
- Mr Pavel Zyryanov**, MP, Committee on Youth Policy, State Duma of the Russian Federation
- “Sustainable Mining in the Barents Region – A Foundation for Growth and Development”  
**Mr Lars-Erik Aaro**, President and CEO, LKAB Group
- “Transport and Logistics Infrastructure in the Barents Region – Bridging Europe and the Arctic”  
**Mr Oddgeir Danielsen**, Chair of the BEAC Regional Committee
- Debate
- 11.30 Closing Remarks  
**Ms Karin Åström**, MP, Chair of the Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council
- 11.45 Adoption of the final statement of the Conference

- 12.00 Buffet lunch  
*Venue: Restaurant Luleå (Kulturens hus)*
- 13.00 Optional excursion to Teknikens hus, Luleå  
Departure to Teknikens Hus by bus at 13.00 PM.  
(Meeting point: entrance of Kulturens Hus)  
Departure 15.10 PM by bus from Teknikens Hus to  
Elite Stadshotellet and Quality Hotel.

## List of Participants

### Speakers

Antti, Johan, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten County  
Aaro, Lars-Erik, President and CEO, LKAB Group  
Björling, Ewa, Minister for Trade and Nordic Co-operation, Sweden  
Danielsen, Oddgeir, Chair of the BEAC Regional Committee, BEAC  
Ehrnrooth, Carolina, Head of the Swedish Norden i Fokus, Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Stockholm  
Hedberg, Martin, Meteorologist, Swedish Weather and Climate Centre (SWC)  
Johansson, Ann-Kristine, MP, Chair of the Nordic Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Keskitalo, Aili, Member of Sami Parliamentary Council  
Kireeva, Anna, Journalist and Press Officer, Bellona Murmansk  
Kristiansen, Ivar, MP, Norwegian Parliament  
Pivnenko, Valentina, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice Chair of the BSPC  
Rystedt, Magnus, Managing Director, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)  
Utsi, Lars Miguel, Indigenous Peoples' Adviser, International Barents Secretariat  
Westerberg, Per, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament  
Zyryanov, Pavel, MP, Committee on Youth Policy, State Duma of the Russian Federation  
Åström, Karin, Chair of the Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council

### National Parliaments

Norwegian Parliament

Andersen Eide, Rigmor, MP  
Arnesen, Bendiks H, MP, Chair of the Norwegian Delegation to the Nordic Council  
Hansen, Geir-Ketil, MP  
Kristiansen, Ivar, MP  
Sjelmo Nordås, Janne, MP  
Andreassen, Bjørn, Delegation Secretary  
Brun, Sølvi, Senior Advisor  
Seip, Marianne, Political Advisor

State Duma of the Russian Federation

Pivnenko, Valentina, Chairman, Committee on the North and Far East issues  
Usoltsev, Vasily, First-Vice Chairman, Committee on the North and Far East Issues  
Zyryanov, Pavel, MP, Committee on Youth Policy

Yahmenev, Petr, Head of Secretariat, Committee on the North and Far East issues

Guskova, Yulia, Adviser, International Relation Department

Dashko, Vladimir, Interpreter, MFA

Council of Federation of the Russian Federation

Lvov, Nikolay, MP

Dakhova, Nadezda, Delegation Secretary

Shchegolikhin, Andrey, Assistant to Mr Lvov

Swedish Parliament

Björnsdotter Rahm, Elisabeth, MP

Bucht, Sven-Erik, MP

Finstorp, Lotta, MP, Committee on Transport and Communications

Gunther, Penilla, MP

Hultberg, Johan, MP

Johansson, Ann-Kristine, MP

Johansson, Johan, MP, Committee on Industry and Trade

Lindahl, Helena, MP, Committee on Industry and Trade

Pettersson, Leif, MP

Torstensson, Åsa, MP, Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council

Åström, Karin, MP, Chair of the Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council

Alvarsson, Dan, International Secretary

Atter, Camilla

Brandorf Helsing, Eva, Chief of Staff

Forssell, Malin, Swedish Parliament's Research Service

Hemlin, Lena, International Assistant

Hjelm, Eva, International Secretary

Håkansson, Björn

Lundstedt, Helena, International Secretary

Ohlsson, Bengt, Senior International Advisor

Onatli, Mehmet, International Assistant

## **Regional Parliamentary Assemblies**

Arkhangelsk Regional Assembly of Deputies, Russian Federation

Ukhin, Evgeny, Chair of Committee for Industry and Economic Development, Arkhangelsk Regional Assembly of Deputies

Tsurkan, Larisa, Senior Advisor, Arkhangelsk Regional Assembly of Deputies

Council of Oulu Region, Finland

Rajala, Lyly, Chairman of the Assembly of the Council of Oulu Region

Aalto, Kari, Manager of International Affairs, Council of Oulu Region



Murmansk Regional Duma, Russian Federation

Nikora, Evgeny, MP, Speaker of the Murmansk Regional Duma  
Dubrovskaya, Anastasia, Advisor of Organizational Department,  
Murmansk Regional Duma

Nenets Autonomous District, Russian Federation

Lutovinov, Alexandr, MP, Assembly of Deputies of the Nenets Autonomous  
District

Norrbotten County, Sweden

Eriksson, Per-Ola, Governor of Norrbotten County  
Antti, Johan, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten County  
Anttila, Lena, Head of Unit Cross Boarder Development, County Admin-  
istrative Board of Norrbotten County, BEAC  
Haapaniemi, Elena, Senior Advisor, County Administrative Board of Norr-  
botten County, BEAC  
Roininen, Sari, Senior Advisor, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten  
County, BEAC  
Tjärner, Brynolf, Senior Advisor, County Administrative Board of Norrbot-  
ten County, BEAC

Regional Council of Lapland, Finland

Hyry, Maiju, Director of External Relations, Regional Council of Lapland

Republic of Komi, Russian Federation

Gayzer, Vyacheslav, Head of the Republic of Komi  
Istikhovskaya, Marina, Chairwoman of the State Council of the Republic of  
Komi  
Fridman, Anton, Minister of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Komi  
Lisin, Yuri, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of  
the Republic of Komi  
Grigoriev, Evgeny, Chief, Department of Internal and Interregional  
Cooperation, Administration of the Head of the Republic of Komi, inter-  
preter  
Lakhtionov, Konstantin, Assistant of the Head of the Republic of Komi

Sami Parliament

Keskitalo, Aili, Member, Sami Parliamentary Council, Norway  
Per Mikael Utsi, Member of the Board, Sami Parliamentary Council, Sweden  
Inga, Ingrid, Member of the Board, Sami Parliamentary Council, Sweden  
Guttorm, Kirsten Anna, Advisor, Sami Parliamentary Council, Norway

Västerbotten County, Sweden

Heijer, Birgitta, Deputy Governor, County Administrative Board of Västerbotten

Östensson, Maria, International Coordinator Barents, County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, Västerbotten CAB, BEAC

Bergström, Mikael, Chief Transport Officer, County Administrative Board of Västerbotten

## **Organizations**

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

Pivnenko, Valentina, Vice-Chairman of the BSPC

Nordic Council

Arnesen, Bendiks H, MP, Chair of the Norwegian Delegation to the Nordic Council

Johansson, Ann-Kristine, MP, Chair of the Nordic Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

PANWR (Parliamentary Association of the North-West Russia)

Lutovinov, Alexander, MP, Representative of PANWR, Member of Nenets Autonomous Okrug Assembly of Deputies

Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)

Kristiansen, Ivar, Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)

## **Invited Guests**

Ahlqvist, Birgitta, Chair, Swedish North Calotte Committé

Banul, Karolina, Intern, International Barents Secretariat, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

Bäckblom, Göran, Vice President Public Affairs, LKAB Group

Eriksson, Ingrid, the Nordic Youth Council (UNR)

Gidlöf, Helena, Senior Advisor, International Coordination, Norrbotten County Council, Sweden

Halinen, Hannu, Amb. MFA Finland BEAC CSO, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

Hammarstedt, Kurt-Åke, Head of Office, Department of Regional Development, Norrbotten County Council, Sweden

Hansen, Klaus Georg, Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio (Nordic Center for Spatial Development)

Hjalmarsson, Gudrun, Deputy Chair, Swedish North Calotte Committé  
Hjalmarsson, Leif, Secretary General, Swedish North Calotte Committé  
Ignatiev, Alexander, Head of the International Barents Secretariat, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Koptelov, Vladimir, BEAC CSO, MFA Russia, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Lindberg, Elisabeth, Chair of Norrbotten County Council, Sweden  
Lindbäck, Margaretha, Chair of Luleå Municipal Council, Sweden  
Lund, Anna, Executive Officer, International Barents Secretariat, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Mörthlund, Sofia, the Nordic Youth Council (UNR)  
Rosenberg, Annette, MFA Sweden, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Rusetskij, Gleb, MFA Russia MID, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Shpikalov, Nikolay, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Russian Federation, Stockholm  
Skylv, Martin, EU-representative, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Tanum, Tore, MFA Norway, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Tanninen, Timo A., Embassy of Finland, Stockholm  
Thue, Olav-Nils, Amb. Norway BEAC CSO, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Tolvanen, Tapio, MFA Finland, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Wallén, Per, Chair BEAC CSO MFA Sweden, Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

## **Interpreters**

Schenk, Linda  
Tizard, Yvonne  
Turganova Lööv, Alexandra  
Techekov, Alexandre  
Hiltunen, Jaana  
Jussila, Ahti