



Minutes on the meeting of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Regional Working Group on Environment

Regional Working Group on Environment

Date: 24 September, 2012

Time: 14.15 - 16.00

Place: Kajaani, Hotel Scandic Kajanus

Participants: Mattias Lindgren (chairman), Tero Väisänen, Tatiana Tiupenko, Raija Urpelainen, Heikki Aronpää, Henna Haapala, Yan Tsygankov, Åke Mikaelsson, Ari Siren, Anna Osinina, Ilona Grekelä, Lotten Sjölander, Anna Prakhova and Jari Pasanen

1. Opening and welcome

Meeting was opened by the chairman Mattias Lindgren and participants were presented.

2. Adoption of the agenda and consensus of the notes from the last meetings

Agenda of the meeting and notes from the last meeting was adopted.

3. Information from the chairman

Mattias Lindgren informed participants about Swedish chairmanship in RWGE which was started 2012. He thanked participant for the interesting meetings and activity during the years. Challenge during the chairmanship, mentioned by Lindgren, was a difficult to organize participation of Russian regional representatives.

Mattias Lindgren demonstrated a LINK meeting system as an instrument for a web meeting. It works on Windows 7 or newer version of it. He stressed possibilities of the internet meeting systems. These systems are cheaper to use than video based equipments. LINK system will be tested in the near future among the participants. Also Barents secretary will renovate their meeting communication systems soon.

Anna Prakhova stressed a problem of participation of Russian regions in RWGE meetings. It is also important for indigenous people that regions are presented at the meetings as well as central administration in regional level.

It was mentioned by Lindgren, that there is no official appointed RWGE representatives in Karelia and Nenets area right now.

Åke Mikaelsson mentioned that it's important to send copies of meeting documents to the right persons in the regional authorities in Russia. He was concerned about the responsible persons in Russia in Hot spots –group work too.

Jari Pasanen reminded about a good cooperation in project implementation on regional level with Russian partners.

Henna Haapala agreed and many successful projects are going on in Russia and it is important for Barents cooperation.

Matias Lindgren said that It is important to listen what Barents Council will say about the regional cooperation.

Joint group, which have been used on other areas, can be a solution, but two levels is our added value mentioned Ari Siren. It would be a pity, if regional groups will disappear.

Anna Prakhova said that regional groups have to be visible. Links with regional authorities are important for prevention of the conflicts. Many authorities in Russia are working with the water issues and there must be better coordination among them.

Åke Mikaelson wanted to have an updated address book with names of right contact persons for sending emails and telephone calls to Russia.

Tero Väisänen mentioned importance of direct information from the regions. Cooperation would not be effective, if there is no representatives present from regional level at the meetings.

Anna Prakhova wanted to have a link list of ongoing project in BEAC webpage. Ari Siren supported the idea.

Mattias Lindgren presented Barents programme 2014-2018. Barents Regional Council asked RWGE to participate in drafting of the programme. Mattias will send the programme to the members of RWGE

4. Information from the members of the group

Tero Väisänen from Oulu region told about climate change strategy comparison project. Regional climate change strategies in Oulu, Lapland and Kainuu are compared and studied by Oulu University for Barents cooperation.

Tatiana Tyupenko from Komi told about cooperation project between teachers in Komi and Sweden (Komi teachers visit to Norrbotten). Also Finnish school children visited in Komi, in scientific camp, with a financial support of Ministry of Education of Finland. There has been collaboration with Sweden also in landscape territory planning. It is very important project in local level for planning of land use. New geological protect area is established in Komi. Wild reindeer protection work is carried out on the border area of Arkhangelsk and Komi

Jari Pasanen from Lapland told that rather active project work is going on between Lapland and other Barents regions. These projects will be presented more detailed in WGE meeting. Project financial questions are very topic issue right now, because of a future planning after 2014. ENPI – programme will be finished 2014 and a new Interreg instrument will be started after 2014. Now it is the time for listing of priorities for coming financial round.

Anna Prakhova raised up many conflicts in Barents area. Planning of a new mine for phosphor is under preparation in Murmansk area and building of a road across a national park. Mining development is in progress on the reindeers' area in Kautokeino. Fishing questions are a topic issue for indigenous people in Russia. It would be Interesting to know, how fishing licensing and regulations are arranged in Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Henna Haapala from WGE delivered invitation to participants to the Conference of Best Environmental Practices in the Mining Sector in the Barents Region. The conference will be arranged in Rovaniemi in April 2013.

Anna Prakhova mentioned that threats, like Shtockman project and other plans of exploitation of natural resources, must be reflected in the Barents programme.

Ari Siren from international Barents secretary informed about northern sea route seminar arranged by a group of economical growth.

Anna Osinina from Arkangel informed about 4th international EcoPechora conference in Narjanmar 10.10.-11.10.

Mattias Lindgren from Norrbotten gave a presentation on Illegal metal utilization and waste flows from Sweden to abroad.

5. Rotation of the chairmanship

Mattias Lindgren delivered the chairmanship of RWGE to Lapland and a new chairman will be Jari Pasanen. Jari Pasanen thanked and continued the meeting.

6. Other issues

Jari Pasanen mentioned that the meeting was very useful with interesting information from the regions. There is also a positive effect of participation from central level (Ministry of Environment of Finland and EPA). The RWGE is an open group for regional and national participation and new ideas are very much welcome.

7. Next meeting

On national level two meetings will be arranged in 2013, one in the spring time and one in the autumn. RWGE meeting will be back to back with national meeting in the autumn 2013. RWGE meeting in the spring 2013 will be in connection with the Mining Conference in Rovaniemi, if possible for participants.

8. Closure of the meeting

Meeting was closed by Jari Pasanen