

Priorities of the Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC in 2007 – 2009

Assuming global trends toward strengthening economic ties, further internationalizing business and substantially increasing investments we in the Barents region should learn latest knowledge bearing in mind specificity of our states. In the globalized world the importance of regional cooperation between the countries united within the common geographic space is rising.

Our 15-years-experience within the framework of the Council leads us to pushing the Barents cooperation up to the next, broader level of goals. The BEAC Member States should concert common actions to ensure sustainable development of the Region.

It would fit fully to the end marked by the Kirkenes Declaration of 1993 setting up the BEAC: to ameliorate the standards of living for the people in the Northern Europe. The multilateral dialogue is needed to strengthen trust and partnership of the entrepreneurs in the Region.

Thus we would contribute into the building new Europe as a space of common prosperity with no dividing lines.

Hence the Russian Federation during its Chairmanship considers it useful to aim the WGEC at wide discussion of changing situation, to fix common regional interests of business and to orient at the existing opportunities to achieve practical results.

Therefore we consider the following areas of cooperation as the most promising:

1. Assisting to the SMEs.
2. Praising and implementing 'society-of-knowledge' formation.
3. Encouraging mutual participation in innovative, technical or others special economic zones on the territories of different BEAC Member States.