



COMMON UNDERSTANDING BY MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING 21 – 22 AUGUST, 2001

The Fifth Environmental meeting of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council was held in Kirkenes and Murmansk 21-22 August, 2001. In relation to the meeting the Ministers visited the Atomflot and the Regional Committee on Natural Resources and they expressed the following views:

- We are determined to work together to decrease environmental degradation in the Barents Region
- We agree on the importance to co-operate on international projects and in regional organizations such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council
- We are prepared to work with environmental protection as a priority goal also in our co-operation within EU
- We will support increased financing of environmental projects in Russia.
- The Nordic countries will seek to increase the capital in the Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation (NEFCO)s fund in order to secure a high level of activity via NEFCO in the Barents region
- The Russian Federation will work to reduce financial and legal barriers for environmental projects
- Together we will continue project co-operation on different issues, one good example being nature protection and conservation of biodiversity
- We agree on the importance of reaching an agreement on the Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Programme for Russia (MNEPR)