

## ***Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi***

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



Meeting

Kirkenes, June 15 2010

Present:

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen

Galina A. Arteeva

Lars-Anders Baer

Valentina V. Sovkina

Tuomas Aslat Juuso

Aili Keskitalo (Representative to the Barents Regional Council)

Tor Mikalsen (Representative to the WG on Environment)

Lars Miguel Utsi (Adviser, International Barents Secretariat)

Evgeny Yushkov (Secretariat/Barents Indigenous Peoples Office)

Christina Henriksen (Secretariat/Norwegian Barents Secretariat)

Absent:

Elizaveta Kharitonova

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01/10 Approval of call-up

Decision: The call-up is approved

02/10 Approval of agenda

Decision: Approval of the protocol from the meeting in Copenhagen is the new item 03/10. The declaration of the meeting of ministers of competitiveness is to be discussed under item 16/10., as well as the issue of a substitute representative to the WG on Environment. The agenda is approved with the changes.

03/10 Approval of protocol from last meeting in Copenhagen in October 2009.

Decision: The protocol is approved.

04/10 New members

The Saami Parliament in Norway has appointed Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen as representative for the Saami in Norway.

The Saami Parliament in Sweden has appointed Mr Lars Anders Baer as representative for the Saami in Sweden.

Decision: The new members are welcomed as members of the WGIP.

05/10 Information

From the secretariat:

- Study tour to Canada with delegation from Yasavey; the Nenets radio project
- The International Barents Secretariat (represented by Lars Miguel Utsi) is responsible for the coordination of WGIP representation in other Working groups within the Barents Cooperation
- Application for 2<sup>nd</sup> year of BIPO 2 is sent to the Saami Parliaments in Norway, Sweden and Finland, as well as to the Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- Barents politicians to Murmansk on September 29/30 (Ahead of Murmansk International Economic Forum)
- Seminar in Kirkenes – Where gas meets ore on June 22-23

Aili Keskitalo: Participated in the Regional Council meeting in Tromsø on June 11, and I presented the annual report of the WGIP. Mostly informational items and the RC also adopted a statement on transport within the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

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Tor Mikalsen has decided (as representative to the WG on Environment) to take part in one of three sub-groups (the one on nature protection), and has participated in all three sub-groups depending on the agenda. Mr Mikalsen reported from his work in the WGE. (Report attached)

Lars Miguel Utsi informed about the preliminary program for the Murmansk meeting of regional politicians (September 29), and he reported from the Regional WG on Youth Issues.

Tuomas Aslat Juuso informed of the recent elected Prime Minister in Finland and the construction of the Saami Parliament building. Juuso also mentioned the work on the Convention on Biological diversity, in which the Saami Parliament in Finland has participated.

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen informed about the recent development concerning the work on the Nordic Saami Convention, as well as the experiences from the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Store-Jakobsen underlined the importance of WGIP's presence in the above mentioned arena (the UNPFII) and stressed the fact that the secretariat, represented by the adviser on indigenous peoples at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, should be present at every session of the UNPFII in the future. The Saami Parliament's representative in the board of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat will raise the question within the board.

Lars Anders Baer informed about the coming report on extractive industries and reindeer husbandry, which will be presented in December. Baer also mentioned that the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the UNPFII will be held in late May 2011. ECOSOC has appointed new members to the UNPFII. The European Commission will host an Arctic Parliamentarian conference/seminar in Brussels in the fall, and it will be open for observers.

Galina Arteeva reported from the work of Yasavey:

- Yasavey participated in the BIPC in Kirkenes and Co-Existence in the Arctic and has sent comments on the resolution to the WGIP secretariat.
- Yasavey arranged 4<sup>th</sup> congress of reindeer herders in NAO held on April 2 2010. Yasavey held their annual congress on April 3 2010. Changes was made to the Yasavey charter, and we have a new position in Yasavey; a vice-president on youth issues. Aleksandr Egorovich Belugin was elected new President of Yasavey, and new members of the board were elected. The new board has prepared a new action plan.
- March 30 – April 5, Yasavey hosted a delegation from SOGSAKK in Inari and agreed on further project cooperation, a follow-up on the previous joint project.
- Yasavey participated in the Crow Day festival in Nelmin-Nos, as well as in the Arctic Leaders' Summit in Moscow, where the study trip to Canada was planned.
- Aleksandr Belugin visited Nelmin-Nos to meet the obshinas. Vyuchesky collective farm has 717 animals left, and the NAO allocated RR 3 0490 000 for reindeer husbandry purposes, and they are discussing the distribution of the money among the obshinas. Yasavey has discussed the matter with NAO department of indigenous peoples' issues (aid and snowmobiles).
- Viktoria Vylka is nominated to the Barents Reunion competition for entrepreneurs.
- Ealát Information arranges a workshop in Naryan-Mar in August.
- A pan-Russian conference on implementation of state policy on culture and attractive tourism in Russia was held in May.

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- Yasavey has attended a meeting with the Governor, Igor Fyodorov) and NGOs on raising bronze sculptures of two artists, which might represent indigenous peoples of the Arctic.  
- In late May, Galina Arteeva participated in a conference on access to health service for people living in remote places (Arkhangelsk), arranged by Médecins du Monde. A trip to Kanin is planned in August, to find candidates for training courses, which will take place in November/December. The project is implemented slowly, with challenges.

- Declaration from Yasavey congress is being finalized.

In May, there was a meeting with LUKoil in our office. Assessment of environmental risks when extracting oil and gas in the Barents Sea is to be discussed at a meeting with NAO administration, to which Aleksandr Belugin is invited.

- Yuri Kanev has published the book *Oleynaya Armiya*; about reindeer herders' participation in the Great Patriotic War and the Liberation of Norway.

The report will be translated and distributed to the member of the WGIP.

Valentina Sovkina suggested that the WGIP implement more projects within the field of children and youth. The Saami Festival of Children and Youth (Boazovárri/Olenegorsk) has been arranged for the fifth time, and this has now the status of an international festival. Esther Fjellheim, through a foundation in Tromsø, has decided to contribute with funding to this festival. The Saami Women's forum is also a contributor to this festival.

The meeting between SUPS MO (Council of Authorized Representatives of the Saami of Murmansk Oblast, appointed by 74 delegates representing the Saami communities in Murmansk Oblast) and the Murmansk Regional Administration's Saami Council (appointed by the Governor) was held, and the representatives decided to arrange the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saami Congress in Murmansk on December 4-5. An action plan was also made.

There are some difficulties attached to the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saami Congress. The main task is to establish a common Saami political body, but this idea is not welcomed by the regional authorities. Sovkina encourages the WGIP members to mention this issue in relations with Russian authorities.

The authorities seem to ignore our organization and activities; the regional government presented the above mentioned meeting as a meeting of "government's council's meeting", in which they discussed "minor" issues. RR 70 000 is allocated for conferences, but the administration argues that this amount is too minor for arranging a Saami congress. The action plan states that the municipalities will be contacted, and negotiated with, and the delegates will probably be able to receive municipal support in form of transportation etc. The congress will be implemented, regardless of the difficulties mentioned. The regional government suggests allocating funding for social purposes for certain people, to prevent political involvement. SNF has informed about a conference in Karasjok, focusing on women in reindeer husbandry, and the joint project "Let's learn to live without alcohol" is progressing. In Shongui, there will be a celebration of the Indigenous Peoples' Day (August 9<sup>th</sup>), as a result of the joint councils' meeting. Environment will be the topic of this year's seminar.

Decision: The information is included in the protocol. For the future, the members (and others) are encouraged to send written reports to the secretariat, prior to the meetings, for distribution to the members and observers, and an effective implementation of the meeting

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agenda. The WGIP will start preparations for participation in the UNPFII 2011, possibly a side event in cooperation with Gáldu.

06/10 Draft resolution from Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010

- Comments received only from Yasavey

Discussion

Decision: The resolution is adopted by the WGIP with the comments made by Yasavey, and will be distributed to the CSO and the Barents Regional Council. The word BAEC is changed to BEAC in the last sentence of the last paragraph. The last part of §5 (... which will contribute..) is deleted, as well as the word "new" from the second last paragraph. The references will be filled in where they are missed before, by the secretariat. The letter following the resolution (to the CSO, the BRC and the bodies appointing members to the WGIP) will stress the expectation from the WGIP for including the issue at the upcoming meetings of the respective bodies.

07/10 The Second Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress/follow-up on the BIPC 2010

The first Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress was arranged in Kirkenes on February 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by an international conference on industrial development in indigenous peoples' areas. The planning of a potential 2<sup>nd</sup> Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress should at least be discussed by the WGIP at an early stage.

The feedback from participants and guests was in general positive, and the venue worked out very good. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat carried out the practicalities and the experiences were positive.

There is a proposal from Lars-Anders Baer to arrange the BIPC every second year, between the Ministerial sessions.

Yasavey supports the proposal.

Decision: The Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress will be arranged every second year, that is the year between the Ministerial Sessions of the BEAC. It will be held in connection to the festival Barents Spektakel in Kirkenes, and it will be implemented in close cooperation with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat. The adviser on indigenous peoples at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat is responsible for implementation and contact with organizers and other cooperation partners.

08/10 WGIP representation in other working groups and the Barents Regional Council

- Representatives
- Language issues/secretariat at meetings
- Covering of expenses

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- a) The Saami Parliament decided that Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is to be their representative in the WGIP, whereas Aili Keskitalo will be the WGIP representative in the Barents Regional Council.  
Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen will elaborate on this decision.

Regional Working Group on Youth Issues: Mr Lars Miguel Utsi

Joint WG on Culture: Valentina S. Zganych

Working Group on Environment: Mr Tor Mikalsen

Working Group on Health: Ms Galina A. Arteeva

Steering Committee *Children and Youth at Risk* program: Ms Aleksandra Artieva

Steering Group *Obshina Kildin* project: Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen

- b) As most WG meetings seem to be carried out in English, the secretariat has discussed the possibilities of participating with a Russian/English-speaking assistant from either the BIPO or the IBS. Both for language purpose, as well as for a secretarial function.  
Discussion
- c) Travel expenses are covered for WGIP representatives participating in meeting of the WGIP, or other WGs, to which the person concerned is appointed.

The WGIP budget for 2010 is higher than ever before (NOK 300 000), and this budget will cover 3 WGIP meetings through 2010, as well as representation in other Barents WGs. The budget is also supposed to cover travel expenses related to events to which the WGIP is invited.

As for the rest of the Barents Working Groups, most member are officials in regional or state agencies/institutions/administrations, and the participation is included in their original salary. This is, however, not the situation for the WGIP, to which all members are politically appointed.

Aili Keskitalo: As I am a member of the Board of the Saami Parliamentary Council (SPC), I expect to contribute to improvement of the communication and cooperation between the SPC and the WGIP. As for now, the bills for the participation in the WGIP meetings will be sent to the Saami Parliament in Norway, and the bills for the participation in the Barents Regional Council will be sent to the WGIP secretariat in Kirkenes.

### Decision:

- a) A substitute member to the WG on Environment is appointed at the next WGIP meeting. All involved organizations are responsible for considering candidates.
- b) The extended WGIP secretariat (including the IBS) will coordinate the participation in the other WGs, and will escort the representatives when translation is needed.
- c) The WGIP will discuss the budget and the costs of the representation of the appointed representative to the Barents Regional Council with the Saami Parliament in Norway, who has appointed the representative. The costs should be divided between the Saami Parliament in Norway and the WGIP budget.
- d) The WGIP chair will address the CSO (Finnish and Russian representatives) regarding the applications for funding, sent by the WGIP in 2009.

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09/10 Projects

- Kola Saami Radio

Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen elaborated on the current situation.

All audits are done and the development is continuing. The foundation is working together with the Saami Council on transferring the ownership.

- Obshina Kildin

Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen elaborated on the current situation.

The activity of the project was stopped approximately two (2) years ago, due to a lack of progress in the project. New partners (Russian side) must be located. Approximately 1 000 000 NOK has been used for investments (fences, vehicles etc); however, most of the money was spent on the project manager and the audit (Russian side). There is some interest from two (2) young reindeer herders to go into the project.

- Indigenous Entrepreneurship

Mr Lars Miguel Utsi elaborated on the current situation.

The Indigenous Entrepreneurship aims at gathering 75 indigenous youth entrepreneurs. NOK 6 500 000 is allocated for the project, which will end in December 2011.

Decision: The information is taken into consideration.

10/10 Evaluation of BIPO

- Coverage of the Russian side of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

Yasavey has expressed a want for improved contact between BIPO and Yasavey, and an improved coverage of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Better routines for exchange of information between BIPO, the regional indigenous peoples' organizations and the Barents Secretariat must be established. A monthly update from BIPO might be a solution. The news from the regions will be published on [www.barentsindigenous.org](http://www.barentsindigenous.org)

Decision: The BIPO shall send a monthly report to the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, for distribution to the WGIP members and their organizations, implying close contact with the regional indigenous peoples' organizations. The BIPO will also contribute with news and translation of articles on the website [www.barentsindigenous.org](http://www.barentsindigenous.org) The BIPO will take part in relevant events involving indigenous peoples in Murmansk Oblast, the Republic of Karelia and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, and the BIPO will report (in writing and through photos) from these events. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat will provide the BIPO with information on corresponding activities on the Nordic side.

11/10 WGIP report 2009

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The report is attached.

Decision: The annual report is approved.

12/10 WGIP budget 2010 and activity plan

The WGIP will have two (2) meetings in the fall. The secretariat has suggested an activity plan, and the members and observers are free to contribute. Co-conferencing is considered a constructive way of working.

The activity plan is attached.

Decision: The budget and activity plan is taken into consideration.

13/10 BIPO report 2009

Brief presentation of the BIPO report.

Decision: The report is taken into consideration.

14/10 BIPO budget 2010

Brief presentation of the budget

Decision: The budget and the activity plan are taken into consideration.

15/10 New chair of WGIP

This item will be prepared for the next WGIP meeting. The member parties are encouraged to discuss the matter and propose candidates among the WGIP members.

Decision: The information is taken into consideration. The election of a Head of the WGIP will be presented as a separate item at the next WGIP meeting.

16/10 Other issues

The declaration from the meeting of the Ministers of Competitiveness.

Decision: Comments should be sent to the Head and the secretariat within the upcoming Monday (June 21 2010), and the declaration will be supported as it is, supported with amendments or ignored.

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17/10 Next meeting

The secretariat has suggested holding the next WGIP meeting in Finland. Helsinki is suggested for practical reasons.

Another option is to have the meeting coordinated with the BEAC seminar in Brussels.

Decision: The secretariat will investigate the possibilities of coordinating the next meeting with a relevant event in September.

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