

BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL

13th Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment
29.-30. November 2017
Vadsø, Norway



Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment



Invitation to the 13. Meeting of the Barents environmental ministers

I have the pleasure of inviting you to the 13th meeting of the Barents environmental ministers, which will be held in Vadsø, Finnmark County in Norway 29.-30. November 2017. The results of the two-year Norwegian chairmanship in the Barents Working Group on Environment will be presented and discussed in the meeting.

The Barents region has unique natural qualities and unbroken wilderness areas. However, the region is faced with the challenges of climate change, pressure on biological diversity and pollution from both present and past industrial activities.

The Barents Working Group on Environment has in the past two-year period worked actively to meet these challenges, with the involvement of both central and regional authorities and experts.

Efforts have been made to promote the further exclusion of Barents environmental “hot spots”, transboundary cooperation on nature conservation and protection of waters and river basin systems. Action on climate change has been an overarching priority, with the aim to integrate mitigation and adaptation to climate change into the work of all the working groups of the Barents Council.

I look forward to discussing these issues, as well as future tasks for our cooperation during the upcoming Swedish chairmanship period in the Working Group on Environment.

Yours sincerely



Vidar Helgesen

Barents Euro-Arctic Council

13th Meeting of the Environmental Ministers

29.-30. November 2017

Vadsø, Norway

28 November

Arrival of participants from Stockholm/Helsinki/Moscow in Oslo.
Some Russian participants will arrive via Murmansk

29 November

08.00-09.55	Flight Oslo-Tromsø (SK 4406)
10.15-11.22	Flight Tromsø-Vadsø (WF 932)
12.00-12.30	Check in at the Scandic Hotel in Vadsø (check in guaranteed at 4PM, some rooms may not be ready upon arrival)
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.30	Meeting of the ministers in "Varangerfjord" meeting room
15.30-16.30	Free time with possibility for afternoon buffet in the hotel
16.30-17.30	Bus to Vardø - with guiding about the Varanger area on the bus
17.30-21.30	Program in Vardø:
17.30-19.30	• Visit to the Pomor museum and Vardø Vessel Traffic service
19.30-21.30	• Dinner at Vardø Hotel
21.30-22.30	Bus to Vadsø

It will be possible for press to join the excursion to Vardø.

30 November

07.00-09.00	Breakfast
09.00-11.00	Meeting of the Ministers continue in "Varangerfjord" meeting room
11.00-11.30	Photos, press options
11.30-12.30	Lunch and check out of the hotel
12.45-13.00	Transport to the airport
13.50-15.05	Flight Vadsø-Tromsø (WF 935)
16.10-18.05	Flight Tromsø-Oslo (SK 4423)

13th meeting of the BEAC Environmental ministers, 29.-30. November. Vadsø, Norway

Agenda:

29. November

13.30

Opening of the meeting:

Opening statement by the Minister of Climate and Environment, *Vidar Helgesen*

Statement by the Deputy Chair of the County Council of Finnmark, *Tarjei Jensen Bech*

Statement by Member of the Governing Council of the Sámi Parliament of Norway, *Silje Karine Moutka*.

13.50

1. Report of the Work in 2016-2017

- Working Group on Environment, by the chair of the Working Group, *Ingrid Lillehagen*
- Statement by the representative of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples, *Anna Prakhova*

Statement by the heads of delegations, including regional Russian ministers

14.40

2. Nature protection and water issues

- Nature Values in the Barents Region, by Bente Christiansen, Chair of the Subgroups on Nature and Water.
- Pasvik-Inari trilateral Park, by Tiia Kalske, Secretary of the Subgroups on Nature and Water, and Vladimir Chizov, Pasvik Zapovednik.
- Barents Protected Areas Network, by Bo Storrønk, Project Manager, Finnish Environment Institute

Statement by Heads of Delegations.

15.30

Closing of the meeting

30. November

09.00

5. Barents Environmental Hot Spots

- Progress in Hot Spot Work, including new excluded hot spots, by *Hanne Aronsen*, Co-chair of the Subgroup on Hot Spots Exclusion
- Presentation of progress in the Hot Spot "Wood waste in the Komi republic", by *Alexander Gibezh*, Senior Deputy Minister from the Republic of Komi and Hans Borchsenius from Norsk Energi
- Projects of Nordic Environment Finance Cooperation (NEFCO) in the Barents Region. Managing Director *Magnus Rystedt*, NEFCO

Statements by Heads of Delegations

10.00

6. Climate Change

- Adoption of the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Cooperation
- Presentation of the study, "Barents 2050", by *Tomi Lindroos*, Finnish Research Center VTT

Statements by Heads of Delegations

10.45

7. Adoption of the Declaration

8. Norway hands over the chairmanship to Sweden

- Presentation for the Swedish chairmanship of the Working Group on Environment, by Minister for the Environment, *Karolina Skog*

11.00

Closing of the meeting

11.00-11.30

Photos, press options

About Vadsø and Vardø

Vadsø (Northern Sami: Čáhcesuolu; Kven: Vesisaari) is the administrative center in Finnmark County, Norway. In the municipality of Vadsø the number of inhabitants is ca. 6000. The town of Vadsø is the administrative center of Finnmark County and many state offices and regional offices are situated here. Also new small and medium size businesses, especially in the fields of culture and knowledge, have been established. A big employer in Vadsø town is the national office for hospital procurements.

Vardø: (Kven: Vuorea; Northern Sami: Várggát) is a town and the administrative center of Vardø Municipality in Finnmark county, Norway. The town is located on the island of Vardøya in the Barents Sea, just off the coast of the large Varanger Peninsula. The town has a population of ca. 2000. Vardø is the easternmost town in Norway (and in all the Nordic Countries), located at 31°E, which is east of Istanbul.

Vardø is the oldest fishing village in Finnmark and one of the oldest towns in Finnmark (1789). It is famous as the "Pomor capital", when the city in the 19th century was a center for trade with Russia. Fishing is still important way of self-employment in Vardø. Other employers are the Vardø municipality, State office for criminal injuries compensation and the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

Information about the Varanger and Pomor museum:

<http://www.varangermuseum.no/en/english-welcome-page/>

Information about the Vardø Vessel Traffic Service:

http://www.kystverket.no/en/EN_Maritime-Services/Vessel-Traffic-Service/

http://www.kystverket.no/en/EN_Maritime-Services/Vessel-Traffic-Service/VTs-Centres/

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