



**THE 9TH CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

CONFERENCE REPORT

ΕΥΡΩΠΕΪΚΟ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKY PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN PARLAMENT NA HODRPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EUROPAI PARLAMENT PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLAMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EVROPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROOPAPARLAMENTET

CONFERENCE

**THE 9TH CONFERENCE
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
OF THE ARCTIC REGION**

Opened by
Ms Diana WALLIS
Vice-President of the European Parliament

Monday, 13 September from 09.30 to 18.30
Tuesday, 14 September from 09.30 to 17.30
Wednesday, 15 September from 09.30 to 13.30

**Room Anna Lindh PHS1A002
Paul Henri Spaak Building
European Parliament - Brussels**

097021810 54 097021810 54

Table of Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Monday, 13 September 2010	5
International cooperation in the Arctic	8
Sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic	9
Tuesday 14 September 2010	12
Cooperation in education and research	12
Wednesday 15 September 2010	16
The melting ice - consequences	16
CONFERENCE STATEMENT	19
Programme	23
List of Participants	26

Conference Report written by

EFTHYMIOU Maria Elena, Official, European Parliament, General Secretariat, DG
External Policies, Policy Department

Finalised on 15 November 2010, Brussels, in English language.

The 9th Conference of
Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Brussels, Belgium, 13-15 September 2010

Foreword

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region opened by the following message of the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great privilege to welcome you today in the European Parliament at the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.

Unfortunately I am not able to greet you in person, but this is for a good reason - I am on a visit to Canada, which in fact is a member of the Arctic Council and I would like to salute Canadian colleagues, who are among you today.

This conference is of particular importance for us, since the European Union has an important stake in the Arctic and the European Parliament has been very active in formulating its Arctic policy in recent years. In this respect, I would like to pay a special tribute to Vice President Diana Wallis, my colleague and friend who is at the forefront of this battle.

Twenty years ago, the end of the Cold War gave us a chance to start a new era of cooperation in the Arctic. We should thus make use of this opportunity to increase cooperation across the whole spectrum of common challenges that we face in the region.

We should look for solutions to the threats posed by climate change for the sustainability of the lives of the indigenous peoples and the natural habitat.

We should be responsible and keep in mind societal and environmental consequences, as we explore new opportunities in the field of natural resources, maritime transport and fisheries.

And we should always advocate a spirit of cooperation and good neighbourly relations in any possible border and territorial dispute.

Dear friends,

We are all aware of the fact that our economies and societies contribute largely to the environmental challenges encountered in the region today. We should not therefore forget that it is our responsibility to leave behind for next generations the Arctic that is still such a beautiful place to live in.

I wish you all a successful conference".

Introduction

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR) is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Arctic States (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and USA) and the European Parliament. The Conference also includes representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and observers. It is organised every two years and this is the first organised in Brussels by the European Parliament.

The main topics on the agenda were:

- the sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic,
- the cooperation in education and research, and
- the consequences of the melting of the arctic ice.

It is now scientifically proven that climate change is a fact to which is confronted all Earth, although currently some regions are more concerned than others; its impact on ice in the Arctic is dramatic, with annual ice melting at an unprecedentedly rapid rate. This has created not only problems for the living resources in this region, but also a great variety of opportunities for the adjacent countries and populations.

In this respect, the 9th CPAR was a timely and topical opportunity for the parliamentarians of all the concerned regions and countries to coordinate their efforts in order to achieve a better, more sustainable and more efficient way of facing these challenges.

The ninth conference meeting in Brussels, where the majority of the main European Union institutions and bodies are located, gave the opportunity for a rich and in-depth exchange of views with the EU policy-makers beyond the strict parliamentary circles which greatly contributed to a wider spreading of the arctic issues also in the European public and press.

Approximately 150 politicians, experts and officials took part in the Conference. All parliamentary delegations were present, except for US Congress which was absent due to their running electoral period. In addition, representatives of the Canadian Inuit indigenous peoples cancelled their attendance on the day the EU Court of Justice suspended application to the complaining party (indigenous peoples) of EU Regulation banning imports of seal products into EU.

The large participation both from the Members of the European Parliament and the parliamentarians of the Arctic countries was a clear indication to the increasing importance and urgency of the issues under consideration.



Monday, 13 September 2010

In her welcoming speech to the delegates and participants of this conference, the Vice-President of the European Parliament *Diana Wallis* stressed, the certain lack of a clear governance system for the Arctic. This is even more serious as the arctic region is increasingly in the eye of the storm of global climate change and public awareness is therefore rising. The conference's agenda focusing on education of the younger people and information of the general public is thus of primary importance. She encouraged the parliamentarians is to be provocative provide the impetus for a new policy and she urged the Arctic Council to pursue in establishing a clear governance system and build up the resources and actions; for this, the parliamentary dimension of the Arctic needs to be strengthened. She also reiterated the European Parliament's call, in an October 2008 resolution for an international treaty to protect the Arctic.

Pat the Cope Gallagher, Chair of Delegation of the European Parliament, underlined his pleasure to be the host of this important event and stressed the close interest the European Parliament has always shown toward the arctic region, not only from the point of view of the three EU Member States who have territories in this region but also for climate change considerations as well as the forthcoming exploitation of the natural resources which are now more within commercial reach. New shipping routes are opening up as a result of the ice-melt and new fishing grounds, oil and gas drilling are expected to start as this region alone contains 30% of the world's undiscovered resources. However, commercial considerations are not and should not be the main concern: societal and in particular environmental consequences in this region should be of utmost importance.

In her keynote speech the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, *Maria Damanaki*, expressed her pleasure to address this conference of parliamentarians, as a former parliamentarian herself. The fact that this arctic debate is taking place outside the Arctic itself demonstrates clearly the global importance of these issues in which the EU is an active player in collaboration with its strategic partners, the USA, Canada and the Russian Federation, as well as with Iceland with which the EU shares close ties.

Furthermore, she stressed that European policies in the fields of environment, climate change, energy, fisheries and transport have a direct bearing on the Arctic regions. As Commissioner responsible for Maritime Transport, she stressed the need for specific measures to meet the specific needs of each maritime basin and this is especially true for the Arctic. For these reasons, the EU Commission is endeavouring to:

- protect and preserve the Arctic not only for the local populations but for all humanity,
- enhance governance in the Arctic by helping enforce and build the relevant agreements
- promote the sustainable use of resources as an absolute priority. This latter should also include fisheries and the protection of the arctic ecosystems.

To achieve these ends, the Commissioner stressed the role of research and expertise, as any improvement in understanding better the Arctic can only be translated into better exploitation of the opportunities offered. The European Commission is the largest contributor to the Arctic research and is looking forward to promoting the recommendations of this conference.

The Danish Foreign Minister, Chair of the Arctic Council, *Lena Espersen*, also underlined that organising this conference outside the Arctic region for the first time sends a key signal for the growing importance of the Arctic. She then reported on the coordinated programmes that were approved last April in Denmark and the Faeroe Island to which Norway and Sweden are expected to soon participate. The main issues are climate change implications, biodiversity, resource management and human dimension, including the living conditions of the indigenous peoples. "Shared knowledge amongst countries concerned remains the best way" she added and then continued on reporting the major changes due to climate change in the Arctic and the consequences that these changes are expected to have. Furthermore, a vicious circle is being created by the melting of the permafrost, which releases even more CO₂ in the atmosphere, aggravating thus the climate change phenomenon. It is therefore imperative to conduct the necessary studies in order to understand the connexion between Arctic climate change and the global one and the consequences on the basis of solid scientific recommendations.

On the issue of the Arctic Council, the Foreign Minister stressed its growing importance, as evidenced by the increasing number of requests for the status of observer. This means that this body must now work more efficiently despite the paucity of the material and financial means at its disposal. The answer would be a new comprehensive approach.

Hannes Manninen, Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, stressed the crucial role of the European Parliament in the Arctic issues from the beginning and reminded the Members and participants on the activities of the Standing Committee:

"The two main tasks for the Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians are to implement the conference statement from the previous conference in Fairbanks in August 2008 and to prepare the next. To be able to promote the implementation of the

Fairbanks Statement, a close dialogue with the Arctic Council and especially the chairmanship has been essential. After the conference in Fairbanks, the conference statement was forwarded to the Arctic Council, the governments of the Arctic states, the EU Commission and other relevant actors. We have had an ongoing dialogue with the Arctic Council chairmanship and other government representatives at all meetings of the Committee.

The former chair of the Committee, Mrs. Hill-Marta Solberg, presented the main conclusions from Fairbanks at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Tromsø in April 2009. At its following meeting in May the Committee was introduced to the chairmanship program of Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands. We were satisfied to note that human health and the living conditions for people living in the Arctic have top priority in the program. This was one of the main items in the Fairbanks Statement.

The Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Arctic Council, Lene Espersen, participated in our meeting in Oslo in June and we are happy to have her here today reporting on the activities of the Arctic Council. Thank you for contributing to the good cooperation that has been built up between the Arctic Council and the Arctic parliamentarians. I also want to thank Norway, the previous chair, and especially Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, whom our Committee had the pleasure to meet in Oslo last June.

It is important to note the high level meetings we had last spring in Washington DC, hosted by our American member, Senator Lisa Murkowski. We met several influential senators and House members, high ranking State Department officials and the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Ken Salazar. Unfortunately, due to the political situation, we don't have representation from the US Congress here today, but we know from our visit and contacts with our US member that the commitment to Arctic parliamentary cooperation remains strong.

Interaction between parliaments and the Arctic Council provides for a good political dialogue, strengthens the legitimacy of the work of the Council and secures exchange of information. We look forward to working with the incoming Swedish chairmanship.

Outreach is important. We also seek to have a dialogue with other Arctic players. We continue to have frequent contacts with the University of the Arctic and researchers who update us on the latest developments, for example the Arctic Governance Project. We have also been present with information material at different events, such as "The Arctic Venue" during COP 15 in Copenhagen last year, and "Arctic Frontiers" in Tromsø in January this year.

The development of the Northern Dimension of the European Union has been high on the agenda of the Standing Committee. Our main objective is to ensure that the policy has a strong Arctic element. We participated in the first Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum here in the European Parliament in February 2009, and we plan to participate in the second forum in Tromsø in February next year. We have also had

an update on the development of the partnership on transport and logistics at one of our meetings.

The Committee will engage in the discussion on how we can develop the partnerships in the Northern Dimension by promoting the conclusions of this conference. The new partnership in transport and logistics is of particular interest to us as Arctic parliamentarians, as the transport activities in the Arctic are developing rapidly.

The issues chosen for this conference are indeed very timely. The sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic is an important issue as climate change makes vast natural resources more accessible. Cooperation in education and research is important. We need to make use of the momentum created by the International Polar Year. The melting ice opens up the Arctic Ocean but makes travelling on land more difficult. How can we manage to predict the consequences and how do we best prepare for the Arctic of tomorrow?

In the exchange of views the following took the floor:

Sinikka Bohlin, Member of the Swedish Parliament and the Arctic Council pointed out that the climate change issue is of great political importance. She expressed her belief that close and good cooperation with the research community is now needed and this is the first time that such a dialogue is being initiated here. The Arctic Council will need, in her estimation, "a better set of tools to use for tackling the management of the region's resources". She then asked the question of how will the Arctic regions be in the years 2030 and beyond, which militates for the need of a strong leadership.

Per Dalgaard, Member of the Parliament of Denmark and the CoE, spoke on behalf of the Council of Europe reminding that the CoE Assembly has always considered the Arctic Conferences as highly important, as evidenced by constant participation. It has underlined the need for international cooperation to tackle this issue and mainly for preserving the ecosystems in the Arctic. New cooperation programmes for the rising sea levels as well as ensuring the security of navigation in this region are also of urgently needed. These concerns should be presented in the next climate change Conference and be taken into account for any decisions to be taken.

In their replies to the comments, the Danish Foreign Minister, *Lena Espersen* agreed to all issues raised and stressed the need to include the whole of the world in these projects and to make legally binding and give the discussions concerning the Arctic more pronounced political connotations. To this *Hannes Manninen* also subscribed.

International cooperation in the Arctic

Artur Chilingarov, Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Duma, added the description of the Arctic as a special region, a small ocean but one which unites huge continents and which can boast major roads, major resources and opportunities of major confrontation as well as for excellent cooperation. He went on to reiterate the need to avoid tensions in this area and state that he was personally involved in the planting of the Russian flag in the bed of the Arctic Ocean, which created a

considerable uproar in the western press, while the aim of the gesture was not political or territorial, but strictly scientific. He even put forward his willingness to plant the other Arctic countries flags as well. He also presented the facts that the arctic climate is now getting warmer and the ice is being reduced to now 60% of its previous surface. There is immediate need for support in international fora which need to be based on meteorological data.

Sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic

Erik Lahnstein, State Secretary to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented the maps representing the not settled border regions of the Arctic, the 2007 agreement with Russian and the 2010 final agreement. He then developed the progress being made, although the process is not yet concluded. Work has been pursued also in the ambit of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for safety requirements to be included in the Polar Code.

Collaboration in specific sectors such as research is indispensable as is the ample dialogue conducted in various Arctic fora and mainly in the Arctic Council which contributes significantly to this debate, despite its limited financial resources. As transport activities in the Arctic are developing rapidly, it is of great importance to examine fully the means available for facing any harmful consequences for the environment. Mr Lahnstein also underlined the importance of good cooperation with Russia, specifically in the fisheries sector, the largest in Europe, as seen from the slide he projected. There should be integrated management plans and a holistic approach both with Russia and the USA where the proportionality principle should apply.

He concluded by stressing that the Arctic is not to be preserved as a museum, but to be developed and managed in a sustainable and profitable way.

Erik Falkenberg, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission, started by presenting the way the EU considers this region which in many ways coincide with that of Norway, and thus there was a gradual development of EU policy toward the Arctic. The EU recognises that the use of the region's resources should be first and foremost decided by the nations and peoples living there. Notwithstanding these considerations, there is interlinking between what happens in the Arctic and what happens in the EU, as for example the consequences of a further ice-melt in the arctic ice-cap). Equally, what we do in the EU has major impact on the Arctic (the example of pollution).

In these circumstances, therefore, the interaction should be on the basis of

- better knowledge,
- decisions based on science (in this respect the EU allocates 200 million Euros in arctic research and the European Environmental Agency is active in this field)
- bi-lateral decisions with the active participation and cooperation in the various fora.

Indeed, many issues need to be faced at international level as for example the issue of over-exploitation of fisheries resources in the entire world necessitates a sustainable approach. The same applies to the non-renewable resources and there are clear responsibilities concerning our contribution to the cleaning-up. Exploitation of the environment can only be accepted when the capacity for dealing with the consequences is available.

Sofia Rossen, MP, Denmark, drew the participants' attention to the fact that the hunting of seals is integrated to the Arctic and prohibiting such is depriving the local populations from their sustenance, which contravenes the UN Covenant of Civil Rights. The interest in Arctic is mounting, as it is no longer an unknown territory and has become perhaps the centre of the world in the future, due to its marine routes and its resources. The emphasis should be placed not on prohibitions, but on cooperation aiming at promoting the sustainable use of these resources. For this, research and knowledge of local conditions are necessary and cannot be achieved without more substantial financing and without sharing of knowledge between the researchers and the local inhabitants. Thus, education and specialised schooling should be promoted, mainly for fisheries and hunting, where knowledge about quotas and other necessary restrictions can be disseminated to the people whose sustenance depends on these resources. While noting that the International Whaling Commission has not achieved the expected results due to conflicting interests in this field, the need for management and control of these resources at international level is now imperative.

Finally, Ms Rossen judged the European Parliament's ban on seal products and the relevant EU Communication as neglecting the interests of the local population because of strong pressures from various animal welfare organisations and emphasised once again that seal hunting is sustainable hunting. Sustainable hunting of seals and whales is "an essential part of Arctic society which attracts international attention", she noted and urged hunters and researchers to work together on this issue. She also presented the example of Greenland, where the testing for oil was conducted under the highest international standards.

These statements gave rise to a very exciting exchange of views.

Eirik Silversten, Member of the Norwegian Parliament questioned the exact meaning of what is sustainable. One interpretation would be according to international standards, but at international level the conflict of interests prevents a homogeneous view. Therefore, the Norwegian Ministry is more inclined to follow scientific criteria in its integrated management plan, without, however, neglecting the interests of the local populations.

For *Kari Pall Hojgaard*, Vice-Chair of the West-Nordic Council and Member of the Faroese Parliament, the use of resources in territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone is a sovereign right of each State, but this should be done in a sustainable way. From this respect, the obligation the EU imposed on Iceland concerning the banning of whaling as a prerequisite for this country's accession to the EU is not in accordance with international law. In addition, it does not take into consideration the local conditions in this country. He proposed an international conference with subject "The Sea's the Future" to ensure sustainable use of sea resources.

As his region has already seen, *Mr Evgeny Nikora*, Member of the Murmansk Regional Duma, the destruction of ecosystems is due to human activity (oil extraction for example) and the new shipping routes via the Arctic Sea will have even more influence on this environment. The Murmansk Region is already considering various scenarios for facing these challenges, as for example building a network for expanding knowledge, research and education in an Arctic Centre, promoting

innovation and technology and putting into place an integrated security scheme for the population for example in a Centre for Safety.

He also raised the issue of safety at sea in these new maritime roads and the role the Murmansk port could undertake in this respect, using the search and rescue mechanisms available through the 'GLONASS' (the Russian Satellite Navigation System).

He concluded by informing the participants on the Forum which is going to take place in Murmansk dealing with these issues the 1 to 3 October 2010 and stressing once again that the Arctic is an extremely sensitive region and our task is to save it for the future.

The Ambassador and former Legal Counsel of the United Nations, *Mr Hans Corell*, reminded that as Russia has applied to the United Nations for an extension of its continental shelf to the North Pole, the same was also done by Denmark, the USA and Canada.

He went on to point out that all activities in the Arctic have to be regulated quoting as an obvious example the search and rescue activity. Furthermore, as all countries of the world are implicated in some issues, such as maritime transport through this region, then all countries in the world should be able to have a say.

On the subject of illegal fishing, Mr Corell expressed his regret that this is major problem in the whole world and the EU is not an exceptional case. The solution could be found at the unloading of the catches end, as the fishing in the open seas cannot be either monitored or effectively prohibited.

Finally, it is essential that the Cancun forthcoming Conference on climate change reaches a good solution which will ensure peace and prosperity for the mankind. For this, science and politics should come together.

In his answer, *Erik Falkenberg* expressed some concern by the focus of the discussion, as it cannot be up to individual States to manage their own fish stocks. The ecosystems must be managed at a global level if we want to save them. He went on to give, as an example, the fact that if in Europe the birds are not protected, the rest of the world will also see the consequences in the future. There is interaction in nature which extends well beyond national borders; therefore the solutions cannot be but global.

In his view, the emphasis placed on communication of information and the sharing of knowledge, as presented by Ms Rossen, is an absolute must for achieving a collective good decision. However, the ban on sealing imposed on Iceland cannot be considered unfair, since it forms part of the EU legislation and as such must become also part of all EU Member States.

From his part, *Erik Lahnstein* also agreed on the need for more knowledge and for the need to achieve a Code on Arctic maritime transportation in the International Maritime Organisation.

He stressed that for his country, Norway, whaling is essential as much as a matter of principle, as a traditional way of living also for Greenland and Canada. To this last statement, the Member of the Parliament of Canada, *Steven Blaney*, also subscribed.

Tuesday 14 September 2010

Cooperation in education and research

Lars Kullerud, President of the University of the Arctic started his presentation by showing a broad overview of the evolution of this institution both from the point of view of the extrapolation of the numbers of offices, students, researchers as from the targets set and the work achieved. This all makes clear that the Arctic University is a success, as it brings together students and researchers from all surrounding countries, even from further away and the Arctic should be an area where nations come together. In this respect, the role of this Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region is vital.

"The Arctic changes, and we need to understand the why and what for our own future", he stated and he added ..."when business is moving to the Arctic, this is a wake-up call." To this end, the President of the Arctic University stressed the importance of the new information scientific findings presented in the International Polar Year. It is time to overcome the narrow national views on research and establish a circum-polar health and education research. In this respect, the Russian proposal for a Polar Decade is included in the declaration.

Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, DG Research, European Commission, presented the work of the Commission in the field of Polar research. "We know from past research results and detailed observations, he said, "that the Arctic region is extremely sensitive to climate change. Most striking, surface temperatures in the Arctic region are rising twice as fast compared to the global average and sea ice is receding and thinning with record low values in 2007. Thawing of permafrost, beside other effects, already causes huge infrastructure problems and we also expect severe impacts on the Arctic eco-systems. Finally, these processes are triggering a cascade of feedback mechanisms such as the changing albedo and increased greenhouse gas emissions. It will affect the Earth's climate system as a whole and might accelerate changes occurring in the Arctic itself.

This is why climate change in the Arctic is considered as one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century. The evolution of the vulnerable Arctic region in the immediate vicinity of Europe will have significant repercussions on the life of Europeans for generations to come. Therefore the state of the Arctic environment is of common concern, not only for the 4 million people living in the region but for the long-term security of all European citizens. This is a key message spelled out in the 2008 Arctic Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council.

The European Commission is taking the Arctic challenge seriously and, in the context of the Framework Programme has launched significant research actions. Indeed, over the last ten years, the European Commission has supported Arctic research projects with a total volume of 200 million euro. As such the EU is one of the biggest

contributors to Arctic research and will remain a frontrunner in the fight against climate change.

Arctic research activities supported by the Commission are focusing on a number of key problems, such as sea ice retreat and thinning, sea-level rise, the stability of the Atlantic thermohaline circulation and the identification of Arctic tipping points. In addition, the impact on Arctic eco-systems is dealt with, and pollution in the Arctic and its impacts on human health is also considered. A very sensitive issue is the socio-economic dimension of man's activities in the Arctic region, such as the expected increase of emissions from marine transport, and risks of off-shore activities especially in the light of the recent disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The impact of climate change on the socio-economic activities in the Arctic and its risks was addressed in the 'Ocean of Tomorrow' call for proposals 2010, for which 11 million euro were reserved. Finally, the 2011 call, open since July, includes a topic on permafrost thawing, which basically completes the picture.

The European Commission is also supporting observations and research infrastructure in the Arctic. The aim is to satisfy research's needs for high quality data and to establish long lasting foundations for successful Arctic research. The evolution of the Arctic environment should be carefully monitored and assessed to contribute to the formulation of sustainable Arctic policies. More specific, the Commission is supporting long-term measurements and reporting of marine data in the context of the European Marine Observation and Data Network and the establishment of the Arctic component of Global Earth Observing System of Systems. Last not the least, the support of the research ice-breaker Aurora Borealis is certainly one of the more ambitious and prestigious projects of the European Union.

International research coordination and collaboration plays a key role to achieve the research goals for the following simple reasons: a) Arctic research is expensive; b) the Arctic environment is one of the most vulnerable regions of our planet and c) key socio-economic sectors of Nordic countries are affected. For those reasons we must optimize our efforts and resources and therefore strengthen research collaboration and coordination. This should include joint programme development and implementation, open access to information and information exchange.

Education is considered as an important component of policy and development. For this reason education is also highlighted in the Arctic Communication, where a closer link between Arctic education networks is proposed and also the establishment of an Arctic Information Centre is explored. Certainly, it is essential that scientists, from all around the world, cooperate actively and successfully for a better understanding of the Arctic environment and its changes to the benefit of research, countries and indigenous people. However, we should not forget that it is the local population, especially the indigenous people, who will be mainly effected by climate change.

Protecting and preserving the Arctic involves also the understanding of the specific concerns and needs of indigenous communities by drawing on their specific knowledge of the region. Indigenous people's traditional knowledge, science and education should be highly interlinked: indigenous knowledge should be further integrated into science and knowledge obtained from research should be transferred and easily accessible for Indigenous people.

Finally, he referred to the International Polar year, which has been an enormous success for Arctic research and education and was one of the largest coordinated international scientific efforts ever. The International Polar Year has lifted Arctic research to a new level. Fifty thousands researchers and technicians from more than 60 nations have worked together with a common goal, demonstrating the value of international cooperation. It provided a unique opportunity to collect a large amount of key observations taken simultaneously from the atmosphere, the ice and the ocean.

The European Commission supported one of the largest projects endorsed by the International Polar Year, called DAMOCLES (Developing Arctic Modelling and Observing Capabilities for Long-term Environmental Studies). DAMOCLES has linked together 45 partners from 13 different countries. The project has developed an integrated ice-atmosphere-ocean monitoring and forecasting system, designed to understand and quantify climate change in the Arctic. One of the most striking results was the detection of the record minimum summer ice extent in 2007 and the ongoing ice thinning.

Sea ice retreatment is likely to open up to more shipping, oil and gas exploration and fisheries, making Arctic a new frontier for economic and political interests. Economic opportunities and environmental risks characterize the dichotomy that we are facing in the Arctic.

The International Polar Year has developed a more complete scientific understanding of the ongoing changes of the Arctic region. With the end of the International Polar Year, we are facing now an important challenge: we need to secure its legacy and we should keep alive the spirit of international cooperation for the good of research and the people. The Framework Programme represents a solid tool to guarantee its follow-up in the mid-term perspective.

He concluded his speech quoting the Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre at the International Polar Year Conference in Oslo last June: "While there is still much we don't fully understand our knowledge is increasing. We are also learning that we need to learn a lot more". This leaves me to my final statement: European Commission is committed to Arctic research and it will remain a priority of the current and future EC Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development."

In the question and answer session that followed, a common thread was how to disseminate education (*Thorunn Sveinbjarnadottir*, Member of the Parliament of Iceland) and facilitate access to data with special emphasis on better exploiting the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples (*Klementii Näkkäläjärvi*, President of Saami Parliamentary Council, Member of SCPAR), whose special links to nature must be taken into account both for combating the effects of climate change and promote research and education in this part of the world.

Mirja Vehkaperä, Member of the Parliament of Finland, pointed at a problem concerning education, how to use new technology and educational methods to attract young people to traditional professions such as fishing which are now shunned. She also asked the question how to use technology to promote cooperation between teachers and students. While for the Board Members of the University of the Arctic, *Andrew Greenshow*, *Irina Lugovskaya*, and *Tore Pedersen* the collaboration between

universities could provide the basis for scientifically sound decision-making to the parliamentarians and other decision-makers, to which *Robert Corell*, Chair of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, added the requirement to address the root causes of the changes in the Arctic. He went on to propose the establishment of an Arctic Power Sea Forum.

As to access to data, *Annette Unmack Larsen*, University of the Arctic, noted the need to find a mechanism which would facilitate their accessibility as well as a better method to describe them and to translate them. There are significant gaps in our knowledge for this part of the world, not only lack of knowledge on hard scientific data, but also on cultural, social well being, on population, both settlers and indigenous and the interaction between them and the cultural diversification. She also underlined the lack of financial means which prevents the participation and collaboration of the indigenous peoples to these research activities.

On the question of the participation of indigenous peoples, the University of the Arctic is endeavouring to promote their specific concerns although, as *Lars Kullerud* pointed out in his answers, attention must be drawn to the fact that research is not meant to tell people how to live, they must be part of the process. Knowledge is a partnership and education needs funding based on accessibility of the projects and not to be destined only to big research programmes.

In his conclusion, *Morten Hoglund*, Member of the Parliament of Norway, underlined that this conference's message be put to the competent Ministers:

- research should be more focused, which would concern also its funding;
- defining and overcoming the obstacles to student mobility, taking perhaps the EU model as an example as is proposed in the final statement; and
- enhance cooperation between Arctic parliamentarians.

Addressing the Conference, *Michael Gahler*, Member of the EP, rapporteur on "A Sustainable EU Policy for the High North" described the procedure for the adoption of his report by the European Parliament and appealed to all participants for their contributions which will be welcome even from outside the parliamentary circle. He then developed in essence his main ideas for the report while drawing attention to the differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic, as for example the absence of an international preservation Treaty for the Arctic and the fact that Europe is not a shareholder in the Arctic, but a stakeholder, which means that the circum-polar States share many common interests. And the main common interest is not only to preserve, but to develop but develop in a sustainable way for the interests of all the peoples, including the indigenous peoples who should not be expected to live in a kind of 'preservation park'. The challenge therefore is how to combine these different and sometimes conflicting interests.

As a final point, the rapporteur stressed the necessity for the Commission to participate in the Arctic Council, since many of these issues are no longer the exclusive competence of the Member States, but of the EU as well.

Wednesday 15 September 2010

The melting ice - consequences

After the introduction of the day's subject and presentation of the work of the European Parliament, *Paul Rübig*, MEP, summarised the essential requirements for an arctic policy:

- ecologically friendly and efficient transport
- sustainable use of resources,
- security of networks and information.

Igor Chernyshenko, Member of the Russian Duma presented the positive as well as the negative aspects of the melting of the arctic ice. The main points of his report were that both the decision-makers and the scientists must have a vision for the future challenges in view of the urgency of the global warming which becomes more irreversible with the passing of time and the inaction at world level. He gave a dire picture of the situation, as each summer a record raise in temperature is noted and the perennial ice is reduced by 60%. At this rate, it seems that the North Polar Sea will be free of ice at least some month per year.

The positive effects of the ice-melt are that:

- The extraction of oil and gas becomes less risky, which has a specific importance since 30% of gas and 15% of oil of the world's deposits are estimated to lie in this region;
- The maritime routes become more accessible, and sea shipping will be very profitable as well as safer, as no risk of piracy exists in these waters;
- The fishing yields better results and tourism and related activities can be developed;
- The transporting of provisions and other necessities to the northern populations will become easier.

On the negative side, the raise of the sea waters world-wide by at least 2 meters, as estimated, will result in flooding in large parts of the world affecting around 15% of the global population. It was assessed that even 1 meter raise of the seas will result in economic loss of approximately 950 billion US dollars.

Equally, changes in the ocean flows are to be expected and upheavals which will have disturbing consequences the seals and other sea mammals and thus to fishing. The most serious effect, however, seems to be the melting of the permafrost which will result in increasing the amount of methane emissions (one of the major Green House Gases) to the atmosphere, which will undermine the live hood of many people, causing an estimated 100 billion US dollars of costs.

There is indeed call for UN legislation but it should be born in mind that the law of the sea is also national law and it is therefore also the responsibility of the circum-

polar States to preserve the environment. Russia has undertaken a new research project in the Arctic and this very day a treaty between Russia and Norway is to be signed in Murmansk.

In conclusion, Mr Chernyshenko reiterated the proposal of the Russian Prime Minister Medvedev to create an international infrastructure for risk prevention and environmental protection of the Arctic. This region can play an important role; for this reason, EU and Russia must establish meaningful and productive cooperation for the benefit of the whole world.

From the European Environment Agency, its Executive Director, *Jacqueline McGlade*, presented its role and activities in this area. In the slides she showed, the reduction of the ice both in surface and in thickness is made evident as well as the speed by which these phenomena occur in the last decades.

Of course, exploitation of hard rock minerals, maritime routes, major fisheries, oil and gas exploitation or development, are in the exclusive competence of the states in whose territorial waters or EEZ they exist. However, Ms McGlade underlined that the consequences on the biodiversity, the raising sea-level are consequences which will be faced by the whole world, therefore the need to develop responsible means of exploitation of the Arctic. As an example, pollutants originating from the industry in the EU, despite good environmental legislation, are carried also to the Arctic. This footprint, as well as the one originating from the USA and Canada, must be understood and the Arctic Council is the more appropriate body for this dialogue and cooperation in establishing common rules for limiting pollution. An obvious case could be the opening up of more shipping routes, which should be accompanied by rules to limit the resulting emissions.

In this endeavour, the EU cannot be alone, the Agency can bring information to policy-makers and to the citizens but it will not be either effective or productive if the information is not shared by all parties and if it does not cover all subjects, while respecting of course the national sovereignty of all participants. The Arctic Council is the ideal forum for this.

Per Sonderstrup, Head of Centre for Maritime Regulation, Danish Maritime Authority, and *Henrik Falck*, from a Norwegian Shipping company, presented the actual possibilities opening up for shipping in the Arctic and a practical example of how this route is operating together with its future prospects.

Greenland is dealing mainly with the tourism industry: the number of passengers in the cruises is an annual number of 50,000 with a significant increase to be foreseen.

However, shipping is not easy, as a number of restrictions apply; the relatively shallowness of the waters prevents deep-hull vessels from sailing there, the lack or reliable maps of the area, the limited search and rescue capacity, due to the size of the area and the limited reliability of the satellites are good examples. The need for IMO international regulations is evident as the national legislation cannot cover all contingencies and cannot be sufficient. He proposed a Mandatory Polar Code to deal with these issues of safety in circum-polar navigation. This Code should also take into account environmental considerations, as already highlighted by all previous speakers.

The reasons for developing the Arctic route were, according to Mr Falck,

- The energy and mineral resource development in the High North is now accelerating!
- Russia is at the centre of this development.
- Cooperation with its neighbours is essential to realise the full potential
- This development is more realistic than ever before due to ice reduction, technological developments and higher commodity prices and, not least, an interest from Russia in making it possible.
- The ongoing regional developments in the eastern and western arctic might gradually open up for arctic transit routes.

In the question and answer session that followed, the main topic was safety in the sea, as provided by the need to provide for adequate search and rescue facilities and cooperation in the IMO; environmental protection was another central issue. *Inagalill Olsen, Henning Skumsvoll*, Members of the Norwegian Parliament, *Birgit Schnieber-Jastram*, Member of the EP and *Helgi Hjorvar*, Member of the Parliament of Iceland and President of the Nordic Council took the floor.

Hannes Manninen, Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, presented the Conference Statement, which emphasises the cooperation in research and education, but also the involvement of the indigenous peoples.

The statement was adopted unanimously.

The chairman announced that the 10th Conference will take place in Iceland, in 2012 and reminded that the 1st Conference also took place in Iceland.

After a short film on the next host, Iceland, the Conference was closed at 12.10 p.m.



Annex 1

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We, the elected representatives of Canada, Denmark/Greenland, the European Parliament, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden;

In collaboration with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Meeting to discuss the sustainable use of living resources in the Arctic, cooperation in education and research – the legacy of IPY, and the consequences of the melting ice;

Considering the transformative change now occurring in the Arctic driven by the forces of climate change and globalization resulting in tighter economic and geopolitical links;

Ask the governments in the Arctic Region, the Arctic Council and the institutions of the European Union:

Regarding the sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic, to

1. Create mechanisms that emphasize ecosystem-based management and extended environmental impact assessment procedures, as well as social impacts, on an Arctic-wide basis.
2. Establish Arctic cooperation on the management of living resources in the Arctic, and formulate a common set of goals and interests.
3. Examine what sort of practical hunting and fisheries education exists in the Arctic, and facilitate a closer cooperation between research institutions and hunting organizations in the Arctic region.
4. Commission the University of the Arctic to strengthen education, including traditional knowledge, related to the sustainable hunting of marine mammals and establish a network between educational institutions in this field, as well as increase the number of grants to PhD fellowships and research into marine mammals.
5. Collect and share data on new and emerging fisheries within their exclusive economic zones toward ensuring sustainable development of those fisheries and to work towards consistency of approaches and standards for managing transborder stocks.
6. Strengthen the cooperation of the circumpolar reindeer herders' network, including the IPY legacy, the University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry, as reindeer as a species and their

grazing lands have a special significance for human life and the economy in the Arctic.

Regarding cooperation in education and research, and the follow-up of the International Polar Year, to

7. Enhance Arctic research and education programs for circumpolar projects with the possibility for non-Arctic countries to participate.
8. Implement agreements and share information between the Arctic countries and other interested nations that secure access to research data and information about the Arctic.
9. Secure long-term monitoring of development in the Arctic and support the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process.
10. Arrange a meeting between the ministers responsible for research in Arctic countries and the ministers from countries participating in the International Polar Year, if possible in conjunction with the IPY Conference in Montreal 22-27 April 2012, in order to promote mutually beneficial interaction between the science and policy communities.
11. Assess the IPY results and, together with scientific organizations, develop a document for decision-makers of emerging key research findings, and promote consultations on the proposal for an International Polar Decade.
12. Provide easy access to the results of IPY for researchers, decision-makers and the general public.
13. Move forward on the plans by the European Commission to set up an EU Arctic Information Centre, taking note of the idea to set up such a centre as a network with a hub at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, Finland, and cooperating with relevant research institutions.
14. Strengthen existing mobility and exchange programs to increase circumpolar mobility as well as “Go North” mobility for students from southern locations as a focused means to secure international cooperation, integration, and the development of future polar scientists.
15. Connect the science community and the business sector in order to use the results from polar research to create new jobs in the Arctic region, particularly for those already living there.
16. Further develop and continue partnerships and general dialogue with local and indigenous communities in business development, knowledge development, IPY legacies and democracy building in the Arctic.
17. Continue to provide programs to encourage interdisciplinary research cooperation in the Arctic.

Regarding consequences of the melting ice in the Arctic, to

18. Conclude the agreement on search and rescue and increase capacity in the Arctic Region in order to ensure the appropriate response to possible accidents as the Arctic opens up to marine shipping.
19. Strengthen existing measures and develop new measures to improve the safety of maritime navigation, in particular through the International Maritime Organization and its ongoing work, notably in the development of a compulsory Polar Code.
20. Implement the recommendations of the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment.
21. Raise a strong Arctic message to combat climate change at the COP 16 negotiations in Mexico 2010.
22. Enhance efforts to prevent and mitigate climate change and its consequences for Arctic populations and wildlife habitats.
23. Continue to improve the assessment of the environmental, societal and economic consequences of natural resources' exploration and extraction.
24. Support the Icelandic initiative toward a second Arctic Human Development Report in 2014, bringing together state-of-the-art knowledge from the IPY that covers Arctic societies and their welfare in a global context.

Ask the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, to

25. Engage in the preparation of the next Conference of the International Polar Year in Canada in April 2012 and actively participate in the Conference.
26. In cooperation with University of the Arctic strengthen the open dialogue between the science community and political leadership in the circumpolar north.
27. Ask the University of the Arctic in cooperation with organisations like IASSA and IASC increasingly to publish Arctic relevant knowledge in reviewed academic journals, with a focus on marine mammals.
28. Promote the Statement from the Ninth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in the development of an Arctic policy in the European Union and the Arctic states, and involve all the member parliaments in this process.
29. Encourage member parliaments to organize conferences and public consultation exercises on the sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic that involve the participation and contributions of fishermen, hunters, reindeer herders, scientists, politicians and other interested parties.

Furthermore the Conference

30. Asks the Arctic Council and Arctic governments to establish a panel to provide an assessment on how the Arctic nations can prepare for new opportunities and challenges as a result of a changing Arctic, and on the basis of such a study, create a vision for the Arctic in 2030. The panel should include representatives of the science community, parliamentarians, business community and indigenous peoples' organizations.
31. Asks the Arctic states to arrange an Arctic Summit at the level of heads of state and government to show leadership and promote the Arctic region as an area of peaceful development and cooperation.
32. Supports the Arctic Council as the primary forum for Arctic cooperation, and encourages the Arctic Council to arrange annual ministerial meetings in to strengthen its legal and economic base, and to establish a permanent secretariat for the Council.
33. Calls on the partners of the Northern Dimension Policy and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, as well as the other structures of cooperation in the Northern Dimension region, to actively implement the policy in the Arctic, and especially to include the Arctic in the new efforts to develop logistics and transportation, environmental policies, as well as to promote cultural exchange.
34. Takes note of the EU's efforts to develop an Arctic Policy and encourages the Arctic Council to consider granting the EU Commission permanent observer status in the Council in order to strengthen cooperation between the Council and the European Union.
35. Supports an active dialogue between Arctic and non-Arctic states in order to increase awareness among the general public as well as governments of the Arctic and its importance, not only regionally but globally.
36. Encourage the European Commission and Arctic governments to have effective dialogue with Arctic indigenous peoples on matters concerning them.
37. Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-government agencies at this Conference, and recognizes their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed.
38. Welcomes the forthcoming Swedish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council.
39. Welcomes and accepts the kind invitation of the Parliament of Iceland to host the tenth Conference in 2012.

Annex 2

Programme

Monday 13 September 2010

10.30-11.30 Meeting of the Standing Committee (SCPAR)
Venue ASP A3H1 (Altiero Spinelli Building)

11.30-12.30 Meeting of Standing Committee and CPAR observers
Venue ASP A5G2 (Altiero Spinelli Building)

15.00 *Opening session*

Chair: Ms Diana Wallis, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Video-recorded greeting by **Jerzy Buzek**, President of the European Parliament

Opening of the Conference by **Ms Diana Wallis**, Vice-President of the European Parliament in charge of relations with the CPAR

Welcoming speech: **Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher**, Chair of Delegation, European Parliament

Keynote speech: **Ms Maria Damanaki**, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Reports on activities:

- **Ms Lene Espersen**, Chair of the Arctic Council, Danish Foreign Minister
- **Mr Hannes Manninen**, Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
 - followed by an **exchange of views**

Speech on International Cooperation in the Arctic:

- **Mr Artur Chilingarov**, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Special Presidential Representative for International Cooperation in the Arctic and Antarctic.

16.30 *1st session on "Sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic"*

Co-Chairs: **Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher**, Member of the EP
Ms Thorunn Sveinbjarnardottir, MP, Iceland

- **Mr Karl Falkenberg**, Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission

- **Mr Erik Lahnstein**, State Secretary to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Report on "Sustainable management of living resources in the Arctic" presented by:

- **Ms Sofia Rossen**, MP, Denmark/Greenland

- followed by an **exchange of views**

18.30 End of first session

18.30-19.30 Meeting of Drafting Committee
Venue ASP A3E3 (Altiero Spinelli Building)

20.00-22.00 Buffet dinner hosted by **Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher**; Chairman of the delegation for relations with Switzerland, Iceland and Norway and to the European Economic Area (EEA) joint parliamentary committee
Venue: Members' Restaurant - Altiero Spinelli Building - Ground

Floor

Tuesday 14 September 2010

08.30-09.30 Meeting Drafting Committee
Venue ASP A3E3 (Altiero Spinelli Building)

09.30-
of IPY" *2nd session* on **"Cooperation in education and research - the legacy**

Co-Chairs: **Mr Steven Blaney**, MP, House of Commons, Canada
Ms Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Sweden

- **Mr Lars Kullerud**, President of the University of the Arctic
- **Dr. Joan Nymand Larsen**, Senior Scientist, Stefansson Arctic Institute
- **Mr Robert-Jan Smits**, Director-General, DG Research, European Commission

Report on "Cooperation in education and research" presented by:

- **Mr Morten Høglund**, MP, Norway

- followed by an **exchange of views**

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 Continuation of 2nd session

12.30-14.30 Lunch offered by Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament and hosted by **Ms Diana Wallis**, Vice President of the European Parliament (**invitation only**)

Venue: Private Salon of Members' Restaurant - ASP Building - Ground Floor

14.30-16.00 Cocktail in espace Mezzanine Yehudi Menuhin PHS, 2nd floor

- Address by **Mr Michael Gahler**, MEP, rapporteur on "A Sustainable EU Policy for the High North"

Wednesday 15 September 2010

08.30-09.30 Meeting Drafting Committee
Venue ASP A3E3 (Altiero Spinelli Building)

09.30 3rd session on "The melting ice – consequences"
Co-Chairs: Mr Vasily Usoltsev, MP, State Duma, Russia
Mr Paul Rübig, Member of the EP

- **Ms Jacqueline McGlade**, Executive Director, European Environment Agency
- **Mr Per Sønnderstrup**, Head of Centre for Maritime Regulation, Danish Maritime Authority
- **Mr Henrik Falck**, Project Manager - Eastern Europe, Tschudi Shipping Company, Norway

Report on "The melting ice – consequences" presented by:

- **Mr Igor Chernyshenko**, MP, State Duma, Russia
- followed by an **exchange of views**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Continuation of 3rd session

12.00-12.30 Adoption of the Conference Statement
Announcement for the 10th conference in Iceland in 2012
Closing of the Conference

12.30-13.30 Meeting of the Standing Committee (SCPAR)
Venue ASP A1G-1 (Altiero Spinelli Building)

Annex 3

List of Participants

Mr	Luis Marco AGUIRIANO NALDA	EP, Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, Director-General
Mr	Anatoly ALEXEEV	University of the Arctic Board member representative from North-Eastern Federal university, President
Ms	Anu Aino-Sisko Maarit AVASKARI	Sami Parliament of Finland, Member of Sami delegation
Ms	Maria BADIA i CUTCHET	Member of the European Parliament, S&D
Mr	Andreas BAKKE	Confederation of Norwegian enterprises, Project manager
Ms	Arna BANG	Parliament of Iceland, Adviser
Ms	Zuzanna BIENIUK	EC, Maritime policy Atlantic, outermost regions and Arctic, Policy Officer
Mr	Steven BLANEY	Parliament of Canada, MP
Ms	Sinikka BOHLIN	Nordic Council / Swedish Parliament, MP
Mr	Thor M. BOSTAD	Norwegian Parliament, Political Advisor
Ms	Sølvi BRUN	Norwegian Parliament, Adviser
Ms	Anne Katrine BRUNK	Parliament of Denmark, Adviser
Mr	Jerzy BUZEK	President of the European Parliament
Mr	Igor CHERNYSHENKO	Russian State Duma, MP
Mr	Artur CHILINGAROV	Russian State Duma, MP
Mr	Kimmo COLLANDER	Nordic Council, Civil servant
Mr	Hans CORELL	Ambassador, Former Legal Counsel of the United Nations
Mr	Robert W. CORELL	Chair of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
Ms	Annie D'AGOSTO	EP, DG Expo, EEA/Enlargement
Mr	Per DALGAARD	Parliament of Denmark, MP
Ms	Cesarina DALL'OZZO	EP, DG Expo, EEA/Enlargement

Ms	Maria DAMANAKI	European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Mr	Damien DEGEORGES	Paris Descartes University, PhD-candidate in Political Science
Ms	Katéri DESROCHERS	Mission of Canada to the European Union
Mr	Cosse DIDIER	General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Ms	Anastasia DUBROVSKAYA	Murmansk Regional Duma, Advisor of organisation department
Ms	Maria Elena EFTHYMIU	EP, DG Expo, Policy Department
Ms	Lene ESPERSEN	Chair of the Arctic Council, Danish Foreign Minister
Mr	Karl FALKENBERG	European Commission, DG Environment, Director-General
Ms	Claudia FEDOROVA	University of the Arctic, Council member
Mr	Jardar E. FLAA	Political Advisor
Mr	Knut FLECKENSTEIN	Member of the European Parliament, S&D
Mr	Michael GAHLER	Member of the European Parliament, PPE
Mr	Pat the Cope GALLAGHER	Member of the European Parliament, Chair of Delegation
Ms	Milda GALUBICKAITE	EP, DG Expo, Policy Department
Mr	Erik GANT	Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat
Mr	Andrew GREENSHAW	University of the Arctic, Board Member
Mr	Thomas GRUNERT	EP, DG Expo, EEA/Enlargement, Head of Unit
Mr	Hannu HALINEN	Ambassador
Mr	Markku HEIKKILÄ	Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Observer
Mr	Lassi HEININEN	Chairman of Northern Research Forum; University Lecturer at University of Lapland
Mr	Stephen HENDRIE	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Director of Communications
Mr	David HIK	International Arctic Science Committee, President
Mr	Øyvind HILMARSEN	University of Tromsø, Managing Director
Ms	Eva HJELM	Nordic Council / Swedish Parliament, Civil servant
Mr	Helgi HJORVAR	Parliament of Iceland, MP, President of the Nordic Council

Mr	Morten HØGLUND	Norwegian Parliament, MP, Member of SCPAR
Mr	Kári Páll HØJGAARD	Vice-chair of the West-Nordic Council, Member of the Faroese Parliament
Ms	Margaret A. IMRIE	University of the Arctic, Vice President, Academic, Aurora College
Mr	Kristtan Thor JULIUSSON	Parliament of Iceland, MP
Ms	Suvi JUNTUNEN	Saami Parliamentary Council, Adviser
Ms	Paula KANKAANPÄÄ	Director, Arctic Center, University of Lapland
Ms	Ulla KARVO	Parliament of Finland, MP
Mr	William J. KAUFMANN	University of the Arctic Board Member
Mr	Jan Henry KESKITALO	University of the Arctic Board Member
Mr	Sławomir KŁOSOWSKI	SEJM of the Republic of Poland, MP
Ms	Eija-Riitta KORHOLA	Member of the European Parliament, PPE
Ms	Johanna KRUGER	Mission of Canada to the European Union, Second Secretary
Mr	Lars KULLERUD	President of the University of the Arctic
Ms	Irina KUZMINA	Russian State Duma, Civil servant
Ms	Christine KYST	EP, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr	Erik LAHNSTEIN	State Secretary to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr	Kari LAINE	University of Arctic, Board of Governors, Director
Mr	Lauri LAJUNEN	Rector, University of Oulu
Ms	Annette Unmack LARSEN	University of the Arctic
Mr	Peter Wilhelm LINDE	Danish Permanent Representation to the EU
Mr	Guy LINDSTRÖM	Parliament of Finland, Deputy Director
Mr	Lars LOSE	Head of the Foreign Ministers Office at Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms	Irina LUGOVSKAYA	University of the Arctic Board Member
Ms	Naja LUND	Greenland Representation in Brussels, Secretary of the Embassy
Mr	Lawrence MACAULAY	Parliament of Canada, MP
Mr	Michal MALOVEC	EP, DG Expo, EEA/Enlargement

Mr Hannes MANNINEN	Parliament of Finland, MP, Chair of the CPAR
Mr Michael MATTHIESSEN	Director, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Mr James McDONALD	University of the Arctic Board Member
Ms Jacqueline McGLADE	Executive Director of European Environment Agency
Mr Atle Konta MIDTTUN	Senior advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Lars MØLLER	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Arctic Council, Ambassador, Chair, Senior Arctic Official
Mr Jim MOORE	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Executive Director
Ms Phyllis MOORE	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Advisor
Mr Tor Arne Johansen MORSKOGEN	University of Tromsø, Adviser
Mr Josef MOTZFELDT	Vice-chair of the West-Nordic Council, President of Greenland's Parliament
Mr Kjell MYHRE-JENSEN	Norwegian Parliament, Head of Section
Ms Tina NAAMANSEN	Greenland Representation in Brussels, Stagiaire
Mr Klemetti NÄKKÄLÄJÄRVI	President of Saami Parliamentary Council, Member of SCPAR
Mr Paul NEMITZ	EC, Maritime policy Atlantic, outermost regions and Arctic, Head of Unit
Ms Antje NEUMANN	German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Researcher
Mr Evgeny NIKORA	Murmansk Regional Duma, MP
Ms Lotta NUMMINEN	Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Researcher
Ms Joan NYMAND LARSEN	Stefansson Arctic Institute, Senior Scientist
Ms Helena ODMARK	Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Sweden, Ambassador, Senior Arctic official
Ms Johanna OJALA-NIEMELÄ	Parliament of Finland, MP
Ms Ingalill OLSEN	Norwegian Parliament, MP
Mr Erling OLSEN	University of the Arctic Board Member
Mr Kent OLSSON	Nordic Council, Swedish Parliament, MP
Ms Inga Elisa PÅVE	University of the Arctic Board Member

Ms	Elly Hauge PEDERSEN	Secretary of Greenland's delegation to the West-Nordic Council
Mr	Peder Henrik PEDERSEN	Parliament of Denmark, Civil servant
Ms	Tove Søvndahl PEDERSEN	University of the Arctic Board Member
Mr	Tapio PEKKOLA	Nord Stream AG, Manager for Nordic and Baltic Organizations
Mr	Cristian Dan PREDA	Member of the European Parliament, PPE
Mr	Marius Thomas REIN	Secretary of the Faroese delegation to the West-Nordic Council
Mr	Benjamin REY	European Parliament, Committee on International Trade
Mr	Bjørn Willy ROBSTAD	SCPAR, Secretary General
Mr	Brian ROGERS	University of the Arctic, University Chancellor
Ms	Anna ROSBACH	Member of the European Parliament, EFD
Ms	Sofia ROSSEN	Parliament of Denmark, MP
Mr	Paul RÜBIG	Member of the European Parliament, PPE
Mr	Rune RYDÉN	University of the Arctic Board Member
Mr	Barry SCHERR	University of the Arctic, Educator
Ms	Birgit SCHNIEBER-JASTRAM	Member of the European Parliament, PPE
Mr	Stefan SCHULZ	EP, DG Expo, Policy Department
Mr	Eirik SIVERSTEN	Norwegian Parliament, MP
Ms	Lida SKIFTE LENNERT	Greenland Representation in Brussels, Minister Council
Mr	Henning SKUMSVOLL	Norwegian Parliament, MP
Ms	Eva SMEKAL	Nordic Council / Swedish Parliament, Civil servant
Mr	Robert-Jan SMITS	European Commission, DG Research, Director-General
Ms	Outi SNELLMAN	University of the Arctic Board Member
Mr	Søren Bo SØNDERGAARD	Member of the European Parliament, GUE/NGL
Mr	Per SØNDERSTRUP	Head of Centre for Maritime Regulation, Danish Maritime Authority
Mr	Torkil SØRENSEN	Nordic Council, International advisor
Ms	Catherine STIHLER	Member of the European Parliament, S&D

Mr	Ciril STOKELJ	EP, DG Expo, Directorate B - Regions, Director
Ms	Thorunn SVEINBJARNARDOTTIR	Parliament of Iceland, MP
Mr	Nilla Samuli TAPIOLA	Sami Parliament of Finland, Member of Sami delegation
Mr	Han TEN BROEKE	Dutch Parliament, MP
Mr	Thordur THORARINSSON	Secretary General of the West Nordic Council
Ms	Ólína THORVARDARDÓTTIR	President of the West-Nordic Council, Member of the Icelandic Parliament
Ms	Terhi TIKKALA	Nordic Council, Civil servant
Mr	Tapio TOLVANEN	First Secretary
Mr	Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN	Danish Ambassador to the EU
Mr	Thomas ULMER	Member of the European Parliament, PPE
Mr	Vasily USOLTSEV	Russian State Duma, MP
Mr	Larus VALGARDSSON	Parliament of Iceland, Civil servant
Mr	Raimo VÄYRYNEN	Chairman of the Board, University of Lapland
Ms	Mirja VEHKAPERÄ	Parliament of Finland, MP
Ms	Mette VESTERGAARD	Secretary of the Danish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Ms	Diana WALLIS	Vice-President of the European Parliament
Mr	Steffen WEBER	Consultant on arctic issues
Mr	Tim WILLIAMS	Parliament of Canada, Advisor
Ms	Irina YAROVAYA	Russian State Duma, MP

Contact information:

Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Secretary General Bjørn Willy Robstad

Stortinget, 0026 Oslo, Norway

Email: bwr@stortinget.no

Telephone: +47 2331 3603

Mobile: +47 951 54 825

