****

**Document 1.2**

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

**MEETING IN HELSINKI**

20 November 2014

Venue: Parliament Annex, Auditorium, Arkadiankatu 3

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE PROPOSED ORDER OF AGENDA**

**ITEMS**

Enclosed:

1.0 Draft program SCPAR meeting in Helsinki, 19-21 November 2014

1.1 Draft agenda, SCPAR meeting Helsinki, 20 November 2014

1.2 Draft annotated agenda, SCPAR meeting, Helsinki, 20 November 2014

1.3 Draft timed agenda, SCPAR meeting, Helsinki, 20 November 2014

1.4 Draft list of participants, SCPAR meeting, Helsinki, 19-21 November 2014

1.5 Practical information, Helsinki

Decision proposal:

The Committee adopts the agenda and the proposed order of agenda items for the SCPAR meeting.

1. **APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR-MEETING IN**

**WHITEHORSE 9 AND 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Enclosed:

2.1 Draft minutes and list of participants from the SCPAR-meeting in Whitehorse, 9 and 10 September 2014

Decision proposal:

The Committee approves the minutes from the SCPAR-meetings 9 and 10 September 2014.

1. **THE ARCTIC STRATEGY OF FINLAND**

Enclosed:

3.1 The Arctic strategy of Finland

3.2 Biography Mr. Erkki Tuomioja

3.3 Presentation of US on AC Chairmanship, SAO meeting Yellowknife

3.4 Conference Statement, Whitehorse

A revised Finnish Arctic strategy was presented in August 2013. The strategy addresses local residents, education, research, the economy, infrastructure, the environment, stability and international cooperation in the Arctic.

The strategy focus on the knowledge Finland has on matters related to Arctic, “snow- how”, and how Finland can contribute in the Arctic cooperation and development.

The members of the Committee may also use the opportunity to address Finland’s expectations for the upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Canada 23-25 April, and the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. Finland will follow the US as Chair of the Arctic Council in 2017.

In the dialogue with the Minister the Standing Committee could use the opportunity to point to how the Conference Statement from Whitehorse addresses many of the same topics as the Finnish Arctic Strategy – such as infrastructure development, capacity building and economic development.

Mr. Erkki Tuomioja Foreign Minister of Finland will introduce the Committee to the Finnish Arctic Strategy.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **CULTURAL COOPERATION IN THE BARENTS REGION AND NORTHERN DIMENSION POLICY**

Enclosed:

* 1. Cultural Cooperation in the Barents Region

In the Conference Statement from Whitehorse the Conference asks the Standing Committee to:

*42. Further explore and strengthen the possibilities for increased cooperation in the field of culture in the different parts of the Arctic region, and thereby build capacity in communities to deal with environmental, economic, cultural and social challenges for the benefit of sustainable development in the Arctic region.*

To follow up on this request the Committee has invited Mr. Sverre Miøen from the Norwegian Ministry of Culture who has a deep knowledge about and experience from the main regional organizations active in cultural cooperation in the North of Europe.

Two of the main actors are the Barents Cooperation and the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC).

The NDPC was established in 2010 as the fourth Partnership in the Northern Dimension Policy, a common policy for EU, Iceland, Norway and Russia.

The mission of the NDPC is contribute to the social and economic development in the ND area by focusing on the operating conditions for cultural and creative industries, by bridging the gap between public and private funding and strengthening cooperation between the cultural and creative industries and the business community throughout the entire Northern Dimension area.

* Function as a complement to already existing national and international organization institutions working with cultural cooperation and exchange
* Advocate for the potential of the cultural and creative industries to make a change
* Provide a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange of best practices
* Follow the policy development for cultural and creative industries and cultural based innovation in the Member countries and regional councils
* Highlight the cross- sector character of cultural and creative industries and organize meetings, seminars and workshops to connect various stakeholders as cultural and creative entrepreneurs, funding and financing institutions and agencies, civil servants with responsibility to develop policies for cultural and creative industries, media etc.
* Commission studies and research on relevant topics or/and sectors in the ND area
* Inform about cultural and creative industries development and networks in the ND area by the internet site

For more information about NDPC see: <http://www.ndpculture.org/home>

As for the Barents Region the cross-border regional cooperation in the field of culture is an integral part of the Barents cooperation. The cooperation was initiated in 1993, when the first meeting of cultural ministers was held in Kirkenes and the Barents Cultural Committee was set up.

The aim is to strengthen Barents cultural identities, multicultural dialogue and cultural ties between the countries and the regions. The development of cultural life serves the social and economic development in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. The means to this end include multilateral and bilateral projects. In order to develop better skills and knowledge, the JWGC encourage new networks, exchange of best practices and information on cultural cooperation.

For more information about the Barents Cooperation see: <http://www.barents.no/?sprak=3>

<http://www.barents.no/?sprak=6>

Ms. Maija Lummepuro, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs in the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture will inform about the cultural cooperation in the Barents region and the Northern Dimension.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **THE USE OF BIOENERGY IN FINLAND**

Enclosed:

5.1 Government Strategy to Promote Cleantech Business in Finland

The use and cost of energy has been on the agenda for the Arctic parliamentary cooperation for some years. At the conference in Whitehorse the SCPAR rapporteur Senator Torlopov addressed the importance of forests in the Arctic. The Arctic region is rich in energy resources, but the cost of energy has also put serious constraints on the development possibilities in small Arctic communities off the electric grid.

In the Whitehorse statement energy is addressed in regards to infrastructure development:

1. *Support the development of renewable energy suitable for the Arctic Region to drastically reduce black carbon emissions;*
2. *Promote new technological innovation and research that supports sustainable energy generation pilot projects in the Arctic for affordable electricity production and heating, and to create efficient waste disposal and reduce emissions in order to establish self-supporting energy production for Arctic communities;*

In the proposed program for the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council the US wants to:

* *Expand the U.S. Remote Communities Renewable Energy partnership across the Arctic to demonstrate the feasibility of village-level electrification through clean, renewable energy. The ideal technologies, such as hybrid wind-diesel modular systems, would be economically installed and maintained in Arctic communities.*
* *Seek assistance from other Arctic States to develop the technology, as well as look at ways to implement the technology once the proof of concept phase is complete, possibly through public-private partnerships. Seek synergies through each Arctic State’s unique expertise in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.*

Finland has ambitious plans with regards to bioenergy and cleantech. Bioenergy in Finland is mainly connected to the use of the forests.

Deputy Director General Timo Ritonummi, Energy Department, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, will inform the Committee on the policy and use of cleantech and bioenergy in Finland.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

Enclosed:

6.1 Founding document, Arctic Economic Council

The establishment of the AEC has been an important priority of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

In the Conference Statement from Whitehorse the following article was included:

“*29. Promote the role of a business-driven Arctic Economic Council as one of many partners in the development of a diverse, sustainable and prosperous economy for the Arctic Region;”*

Arctic states decided 27 March 2014 that the Arctic Economic Council should be established.

The inaugural meeting was held 2-3 September 2014 in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The AEC consists of 42 business representatives appointed by the Arctic states and indigenous organizations. The AEC has selected a small inaugural Executive Committee to guide its initial work to be led by the chair Tom Paddon from Canada, vice chairs Tero Vauraste from Finland, Tara Sweeney from the United States who represents the Inuit Circumpolar Council, and Evgeny Ambrosov from Russia. A secretariat for the AEC will be located in Tromsø, Norway.

Mr. René Söderman, Counsellor, Department for Europe, Unit for Northern Europe, Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland will inform about the Arctic Economic Council.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information

1. **EU ARCTIC INFORMATION CENTRE**

Enclosed:

* 1. Strategic Assessment of the Development of the Arctic, Chapter 10

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region has supported the establishment of an EU Arctic Information Centre. The Conference Statement from Whitehorse includes the following article:

*“Support initiatives such as the forthcoming EU Arctic Information Centre and the Canadian High Arctic Research Centre as vital tools to supplement existing structures for Arctic research, education and information collaboration;”*

Finland has for some years worked to have the EU Arctic Information Centre established with Rovaniemi in a leading position. An international network of 19 leading Arctic research and outreach institutions from the various European Union Members States, and the EEA countries, has been established. The network has produced the “Strategic Assessment of the Development in the Arctic” where Chapter 10 has been enclosed to the meeting documents.

For more information about the EU Arctic Information Centre initiative and the full report, please look at [www.arcticinfo.eu](http://www.arcticinfo.eu)

Professor Paula Kankaanpää, director of the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, will present to the Committee the status of the EU Arctic Information Centre and the report “Strategic Assessment of the Development of the Arctic” which is a project implemented by the EU Arctic Information Centre initiative.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information

1. **EVALUATION OF THE 11th CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION IN WHITEHORSE 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Enclosed:

8.1 Conference Report, Whitehorse

8.2 Report from the Whitehorse conference by the Secretary General

The Canadian Parliament has made a report from the CPAR 11 in Whitehorse 9-11 September 2014. This report will be circulated to all participants at the conference and all interested parties.

The Secretary General has produced a report as a basis for the internal evaluation of the Conference in Whitehorse

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the report and the evaluation.

1. **STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR**

Enclosed:

9.1 Report from the SAO meeting from Mr. Bevington

9.2 Mr. Bevingtons presentation at the SAO meeting

9.3 Letter from the Chair, Conference Statement

* Report from Mr. Dennis Bevington , SAO meeting in Yellowknife
* Report on Arctic activities by members
* General exchange of view

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information

1. **NEXT MEETINGS OF SCPAR**

The next meeting of SCPAR will be in Washington 10-11 March 2015. The dates will be confirmed in the beginning of January 2015

The venue and time for the two next meetings in 2015 is Reykjavik in June and the European Parliament in the early fall.

Decision proposal:

The Committee welcomes the invitation by the US delegation to meet in Washington 10-11 March 2015.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**