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CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

**MEETING IN COPENHAGEN**

10 JUNE 2014

Venue: Landstingssalen, Folketinget, (The Danish Parliament)

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

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

**ITEMS**

Enclosed:

1.0 Draft program SCPAR meeting in Copenhagen, 10-11 June 2014

1.1 Draft agenda, SCPAR meeting, Copenhagen, 10 June 2014

1.2 Draft annotated agenda, SCPAR meeting, Copenhagen, 10 June 2014

1.3 Draft timed agenda, SCPAR meeting, Copenhagen, 10 June 2014

1.4 Draft list of participants, SCPAR meeting, Copenhagen, 10-11 June 2014

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**

**OTTAWA 24 FEBRUARY 2014**

Enclosed:

2.1 Draft minutes and list of participants from the SCPAR-meeting in Ottawa 24 February 2014

Decision proposal:

The Committee approves the minutes from the SCPAR-meeting in Ottawa 24 February 2014

1. **PRESENTATION OF THE DANISH ARCTIC POLICY**

Enclosed:

3.1 The Kingdom of Denmark’s Strategy for the Arctic 2011-2020

3.2 Agreement on the establishment of the Arctic Economic Council

3.3 CV Minister Martin Lidegaard

The Kingdom of Denmark’s Strategy for the Arctic 2011–2020 was adopted by the Government of Denmark, the Government of the Faroe Islands and the Government of Greenland and launched in August 2011*.* The strategy has four headlines:

1. A peaceful, secure and safe Arctic

* Underlines the importance of international law, maritime safety, exercising of sovereignty and surveillance.

1. Self-sustaining growth and development

* Includes exploitations of mineral resources, renewable energy possibilities, living resources, international trade, knowledge-based growth and development, arctic cooperation on health and social coherence.

1. Development with respect for the Arctic’s vulnerable climate, environment and nature

* Improved understanding of the consequences of climate change in the Arctic, protecting environment and biodiversity.

1. Close cooperation with our international partners

* Global solutions to global challenges, enhanced regional cooperation, and bilateral cooperation.

The last part of the strategy includes an aim for a mid-term evaluation of the strategy in 2014 – 2015.

Much of the strategy concerns Greenland, the people and the resources. The strategy itself does not change the responsibilities of different policy areas between the two self-governed areas Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and Denmark.

Mr. Lidegaard started in his position as a Minister of Foreign Affairs 3 February 2014. In a speech 16 April 2014 the Minister made it clear that “a strong Kingdom of Denmark in a new Arctic” is one of four focus areas for the Danish foreign policy in the coming years. In the same speech the minister continues:

*“The Arctic is another one of our neighbouring regions which very much has my attention, and which will see major changes in the next two decades. The Arctic is increasingly a setting for global political and economic forces. And the economic development and climate change involve new opportunities – and new challenges for the Arctic people. It is in our interest to ensure that the development takes place peacefully, sustainably and in collaboration.*

*Denmark has played and should play a special role there – in close collaboration with Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The different parts of the Danish Commonwealth should support each other in their political and economic aims. We should focus on resources, the environment and climate. But also on economic development that benefits the Arctic people.*

*“I would like to contribute to the formulation of a positive political-economic agenda for Denmark and the Danish Commonwealth’s work in the Arctic in the coming years. I would also like to engage the EU more in the Arctic agenda. And I would like to intensify the collaboration in the Arctic Council on concrete areas within environmental and climate issues where we can promote the level of protection and the collaboration. The Arctic Council is also a forum where it is important to engage Russia regardless of the conflicts we have elsewhere.”*

In the dialogue with the Minister at the SCPAR meeting in Copenhagen it may be relevant to discuss the establishment of the “Arctic Economic Council” (AEC) agreed on by the Senior Arctic Officials at the meeting in Yellowknife 26 March 2014. The aim of the AEC is to foster sustainable development, including economic growth, environmental protection and social development in the Arctic Region. It will involve strong participation from indigenous businesses.

Mr. Martin Lidegaard, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will introduce the Committee to the Danish Arctic strategy.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **TO THE BENEFIT OF GREENLAND**

Enclosed:

* 1. To the Benefit of Greenland
  2. CV Mr. Minik Rosing

An interdisciplinary committee of 13 researchers from nine different research institutions in Scandinavia and Greenland made the report “To the Benefit of Greenland” released in January 2014. The Committee was tasked to investigate the potential of Greenland's natural resources, and present proposals for concrete steps that can strengthen the people of Greenland's opportunities to benefit directly from investments in the extraction of the country's geological resources.

The report concludes that, contrary to the hopes of many Greenlandic lawmakers, mineral and oil extraction is no shortcut for the country to obtain economic independence from the Kingdom of Denmark. In a statement released in connection with the report it reads:

*“Greenland faces some daunting economic challenges. And even though natural resource exploitation will become important for Greenland, it is not enough. Because of its economy and its demographics, Greenland will need to employ a range of different measures, and that includes a block grant for the foreseeable future,” says* [*Minik Rosing*](http://research.ku.dk/search/profil/?id=6643)*, Professor of Geology at the University of Copenhagen and the chairman of the University of Greenland.*

*The report praises Greenland for its efforts to regulate natural resource exploitation, and confirms that such activity could serve to help Greenland on its path to development.   
However, the report also finds that Greenland’s known mineral resource deposits are not large enough to serve as the country’s sole additional source of income in addition to fisheries.*”

Professor Minik Rosing, University of Copenhagen, will introduce the Committee to the report.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **ARCTIC COOPERATION ON MANAGEMENT OF LIVING RESOURCES**

Enclosed:

5.1 Press release from meeting in Nuuk 24-26 February 2014

5.2 Chairs conclusions from meeting in Nuuk 24-26 February 2014

5.3 Article from Barentsobserver by Mr. Alf Håkon Hoel

5.4 CV Mr. Njord Wegge

At a meeting in Nuuk 24 -26 February 2014 the five Arctic coastal states reached consensus to protect the central Arctic Ocean from unregulated fisheries.

There are currently no management regulations in place for fisheries in this high seas area of the Arctic Ocean. Based on available scientific information, commercial fishing is unlikely to occur in the high seas area of the central Arctic Ocean in the near future.

The participants at the meeting recognized the need for interim precautionary measures to prevent any future commercial fisheries without the prior establishment of appropriate regulatory mechanisms. The participants will work towards the establishment of such interim measures.

Recognizing the need for more scientific research, they agreed to continue to advance scientific understanding, including local and traditional knowledge, of issues relevant to future fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

According to the Chairs conclusions, the meeting expressed the desire to finalize a Ministerial Declaration on the matter for signature or adoption in June 2014.

Mr. Njord Wegge, Senior Research Fellow, PhD, at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute will introduce the Committee to the agreement reached in Nuuk.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **TOWARDS COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING IN ARCTIC PUBLIC SAFETY**

Enclosed:

6.1 CV Mr. Kristian Søby Kristensen

As a result of the opening of the Arctic and the increased activity, environmental and human security issues have become important areas of Arctic cooperation.

The Arctic Council has increased and broadened its cooperation on security related issues in the Arctic. So far two legally binding agreements have been signed under the auspices of the Arctic Council, one addressing human security (search and rescue) and the other addressing environmental security (oil spill prevention and response).

The coast guards in the Arctic countries have had several joint exercises which have been under the Arctic Council umbrella. This is an important follow up and implementation of the search and rescue agreement signed by the member states to disclose gaps and areas where the cooperation needs improvements.

We have seen coast joint exercises for the coast guard, military forces and civil authorities where all or many of the Arctic countries have participated.

Mr. Kristian Søby Kristensen, University of Copenhagen, will introduce the Committee to the topic ”Towards cooperation and capacity-building in Arctic public safety”.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **CONFERENCE IN WHITEHORSE 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Enclosed:

7.1 Draft program and agenda

7.2 Draft conference statement, 2nd draft

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region will be held in Whitehorse 9-11 September 2014.

Enclosed are updated program, agenda and statement for the meeting for the Committee to consider.

At the meeting in the rapporteurs will give an update on their work in advance of the conference in Whitehorse.

Decision proposal:

The Committee discusses the updated documents for the conference in Whitehorse and gives guidance to future work and process.

1. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE NORTH**

Enclosed:

8.1 “Capacity Building and Economic Development in the High North” 7th draft

“Economic Development and Capacity Building in the North” has been pointed to as one of the subjects for the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Whitehorse 9-11 September 2014. As a part of the preparations for the Conference the Committee has decided to make a report where the topic is addressed. Based on the input from the Committee at meetings in Svalbard and Murmansk an enclosed fifth draft is prepared for this meeting.

The enclosed report has a change in the heading and includes concrete proposals for the draft conference statement.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information and gives the Secretary guidance in the further work with the report.

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

Enclosed:

9.1 Letter from Ms. Olsvig to Minister Aglukkaq

9.2 Letter from Minister Aglukkaq to Ms. Olsvig

9.3 Letter from Chief Michael Stickman

9.4 Letter from Mr. Borbey, SAO Chair

9.5 Letter from Mr. Tumusov

* Communication with the Arctic chairmanship about observers in the Arctic Council.
* Report on Arctic activities by members
* Report by the secretariat
* General exchange of view

Since the last meeting of SCPAR the Chair of SCPAR has communicated with the Arctic Council Chairmanship about the cooperation and exchange of information between SCPAR and the Arctic Council. The background for the exchange of letters is the rejection of the request made by SCPAR to address the meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials in Yellowknife 26-27 March 2014.

Mr. Tumusov from the Russian delegation will inform about the project “The Family of the Arctic”.

Decision proposal:

The Committee takes note of the information.

1. **NEXT MEETINGS OF SCPAR**

* Whitehorse 9 September 2014 and 10 September 2014
* Helsinki 19-21 November 2014 - including seminar on increased cooperation on security in the Arctic.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**