** Document 2.1**

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

**MEETING IN OTTAWA**

24 February 2014

Venue: **Room 160-S, Centre Block**

**Draft minutes**

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

**ITEMS**

Decision:

The Committee adopted the agenda and the proposed order of agenda items.

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

**MURMANSK 18 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Decision:

The Committee approved the minutes from the SCPAR meeting in Murmansk 18 September 2013.

1. **PRESENTATION BY THE ARCTIC COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP**

The Honorable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister for the Arctic Council, presented the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and Canadas Northern Strategy.

The Minister underlined the high priority the North has for Canada’s Government, including the Prime Minister, and the North makes up 40 % of the landmass in Canada.

The Northern Strategy builds on four priority areas:

* promoting social and economic development;
* protecting our environmental heritage;
* improving and devolving Northern governance; and
* exercising our Arctic sovereignty

The Arctic Council is a leading forum for Arctic issues with the Permanent Participants as important contributors.

Canada’s Chairmanship overarching theme is “Development for the People of the North”. Three sub themes:

1. Responsible Arctic Resource Development which includes the establishment of an “Arctic Economic Council.”
2. Safe Arctic Shipping, including the prevention of marine oil pollution and encourage the IMO to agree on mandatory regulation for ships operating in ice-covered waters
3. Sustainable circumpolar communities including:

* promoting mental wellness,
* addressing black carbon and methane emissions,
* helping communities adapt to climate change,
* conserving migratory birds, and
* enhancing scientific cooperation.

Minister Aglukkaq finished her intervention by underlining that the ban on import of seal products is a sign of ignorance from non-arctic players.

On questions from the Committee Minister Aglukkaq underlined that the Arctic Council needs to come back to the people, also by incorporate traditional knowledge with science.

The Polar Bear Conservation Agreement is a good example which requires including traditional knowledge in its work.

The Minister underlined that people in the north want development balanced with strong environmental regimes. The Arctic Economic Council shall bring knowledge around the Arctic, not only north –south. We need better cooperation within the north and build partnerships in the North.

There is a need to cooperate on creating alternative energy resources in the North

The Minister emphasized the importance of the “Clean Air Coalition” for Canada and the need to more about how we can reduce emissions, not only set targets.

The Minister underlined that she was in general positive to binding agreements under the Arctic Council.

On a comment on the importance of linking traditional knowledge and science, the Minister agreed that the Arctic Council is a good arena for developing this further and wanted to look into how we inter alia can use financial mechanisms for wanted change.

Minister Aglukkaq ended with some comments on the Arctic Economic Council which needs to include the indigenous peoples and can function as a forum for dialogue with the industry on how the policy we put in place work.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

1. **THE ROLE OF THE NORTH WEST PASSAGE IN FUTURE ARCTIC SHIPPING**

The main message from the presenters included:

* Canada considers the Northwest Passage as internal waters, including all waters of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago linking the eastern Arctic to the western Arctic.
* The Passage has seen a significant increase in traffic over the past 30 years, however, the number of vessels transiting is quite small relative to other parts of the Arctic.
* The number voyages in 2013 were 308, most fishing vessels and mostly declinational. Number of trips increasing but the same number of boats.
* Changing ice conditions makes it demanding with big variations in ice and multiyear ice present all year.
* The 6 icebreakers
* The demand for services provided by the icebreakers includes clearing ice and escorting ships through ice-infested waters and ensuring northern communities have access to food and cargo, support a Canadian presence in the Arctic, scientific endeavors, provide response capability, joint exercises
* Under average ice conditions, an icebreaker will be on scene within 10 hours
* New icebreaking vessel will be operative in 2022
* Nordreg is a mandatory reporting requirement for ships transiting through Canada’s Arctic waters, which includes the Northwest Passage.
* Nordreg was implemented July 1 2010 with the objective to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution from vessels by screening vessels before they enter the Nordreg Zone.
* In September 2013 the Nordic Orion was the first bulk cargo ship to transit successfully through the Northwest Passage.
* 10 % of the NWP is adequately surveyed

There will be a meeting between the coast guards in the Arctic countries in March 2014.

Canada uses the opportunities when ships are travelling in the area to make them contribute to mapping of the area through data collection.

The Canadian Coast Guard does not view the NWP as an alternative to the Northern Sea Route as the ice conditions are tough and that it is too little charted.

The Canadian icebreaking fleet is aging but well maintained through a life extension program.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information

1. **MENTAL WELLNESS IN CANADA’S NORTH**

The Committee was informed about situation for the population living in the Canadian North, and the presentations included the following information:

* The problems in the North are substantially bigger than the rest of Canada with regards to mental wellness. Throughout the North the problems with suicide among the young generation, especially young men, are big.
* Suicide remains one of the leading causes of death for Canadians between the ages of 10 and 34. 45 people took their own lives in Nunavut in 2013. This represents the highest level of suicides ever recorded in the territory.
* Health Canada has through programs like the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy community-based and community-led suicide prevention projects which focus on bringing culture, youth leadership and life skills to First Nations and Inuit youth.
* The main focus is to come together and do something about the situation through partnerships, interagency approach, increased and easier accessible funding, youth programs with early intervention, and sensitive to the cultural differences in first-nations’ societies.
* There will be an increased focus in information sharing between Northern communities for sharing of good examples.
* There will be an increasing focus on getting health professionals out in the fields expand the use of telemental health.
* Young men don’t have the skills for the new reality/modern society which make them vulnerable to mental diseases.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

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

Mr. Ken Coates shared his views on innovation in the Arctic with the Committee, especially Arctic innovation beyond the development of natural resources.

Mr. Coates’ main message was that the technology will continue to dramatically change the world we live in and how we organize our societies and lives. The Arctic is not part of the technology development, and the Arctic region needs to take the responsibility. Nobody else will do the Arctic innovation; it must be done in the Arctic.

For this purpose we need an arctic innovation system which links up science, business and politics.

The members of the Committee pointed to the importance to use the human resources in the Arctic in a better way and bring ideas and get the young people together through the UArctic.

Young people in the north must come together. Finally we need to combine the traditional sectors and innovation.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

1. **PRESENTATION BY WORLD WILDLIFE FUND CANADA**

WWF has 5000 people employed in 100 countries and have 12 global priorities where Canada hosts the global Arctic program. WWF is not represented in Iceland and Greenland

* The Arctic is the home for more than 4 million people, warming twice as fast, and with 4 of 10 of the global fisheries in the Arctic.
* Melting permafrost will be a big global problem (methane).
* The highly specialized species makes them very fragile.
* There are no easy resources, no reliable technology for resource extraction and a lack of infrastructure. There is still no environmental protection strategy and no Arctic specified industrial standard.
* Parliamentarians should give input to the vision of the Arctic - how do we see the Arctic in 2020 or 2030.
* Why do the Arctic countries subsidize diesel as a fuel in the Arctic? Need a shift to renewable energy.
* The Arctic Council products must be implemented in the Arctic countries – f.i. the 17 recommendations in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment.
* Sustainable fisheries in the Arctic - needs to take precautionary measures in the central Arctic ocean.
* The IMO polar code is expected to be finished this year and needs to be implemented.
* Oil and gas – the past is not the future for the Arctic
* An Arctic Economic Council needs to engage business with regards to how operate responsible in the Arctic. Who sit there? Criteria? The AEC must be open.
* WWF involve local people in their work, like in polar bear patrol, training local people in oil spill preparedness and response, fencing to protect from polar bears,
* WWF work together with PPs on policy level by sharing of information with PPs. Wants to establish a PP capacity fund.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

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

Mr. Tilson introduced an updated program for the Conference in Whitehorse with the four main items:

1. Sustainable Infrastructure Development
2. Governance Models and Decision-Making Processes
3. Enhancing Northern Economies: Responsible Resource Development and Capacity Building
4. Environmental Challenges

The Committee agreed that Mr. Bevington should be that rapporteur on item 1, Mr. Sivertsen on item 2, senator Murkowski on item 3 and a representative of the Russian delegation on item 4.

The Committee agreed on the structure of the enclosed draft conference statement for Whitehorse.

Decision:

The Committee approved the draft program, the draft conference statement and the appointment of rapporteurs.

1. **ELECTION OF NEW VICE-CHAIR OF SCPAR**

Mr. Bevington and Mr. Leef were candidates for the Vice-Chair position of SCPAR. Before the vote in the Committee, Ms. Olsvig underlined that this was an exception in the work of the Committee and that decisions of the Committee should be unanimously.

Decision:

Mr. Bevington was elected new Vice-Chair of SCPAR.

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

The Russian delegation informed of the upcoming Arctic days in Moscow with an Arctic film festival in May 2014 where all delegations are welcome.

In advance of the SCPAR meeting the Russian delegation had problems getting visa to Canada and expressed hope this will be better before the conference in Whitehorse.

The Swedish delegation informed about a seminar last December on the future challenges in the Arctic. There will also be a debate in plenary about the report from the Swedish Auditor General on the Arctic Council.

The US delegation reported on the announcement from Secretary Kerry of a special representative for the Arctic. The delegation is seeking clarification on what that means, including level and responsibility. The administration is working on an “Arctic Implementation Plan” which is a start but needs the resources to follow up.

The US will take the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015 and will build on initiatives from the Canadian Chairmanship.

Sami Parliamentary Council reported from a meeting in Umeå which addressed the process with the Nordic Saami Convention and extractive industries.

The Nordic Council informed of an upcoming meeting in April in Akureyri, Iceland which will focus on the use of natural resources and is expected to include the rich resources in the Arctic. The Nordic countries have joint air surveillance in Icelandic airspace.

The West-Nordic Council informed about it proposal to establish a free trade economic zone – in areas such as trade and infrastructure.

The representative from the EU informed that there may be a new report on the Arctic in the EP before the election in May.

The Icelandic delegation informed the Committee about the progress on the Second Arctic Human Development Report which is expected to be finished this summer. There will be an Arctic gender equality conference in Akureyri in October.

The Finnish delegation informed about the new arctic strategy presented last August (2013) and that the Arctic delegation is a member of an advisory group to oversee its implementation. Finland is currently the Chair of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. There will be a meeting with the minister of transport to discuss transport in the Barents region.

Greenland will have a new strategy on natural resources in 2014. This also follows from the vote last fall to allow mining on uranium in Greenland.

Following from the last meeting in the International Whaling Commission Greenland is discussing if it should or not in the IWC.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information

1. **NEXT MEETING OF SCPAR**

Decision:

The next meeting of SCPAR will be in Copenhagen 10-11 June 2014.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**Participants**

Canada (10 confirmed)

* Mr. David Tilson, M.P.
  + Accompanied by Ms. Sandra Pinkney, constituency staff
* Hon. Ghislain Maltais, Senator (reception only)
* Mr. Bev Shipley, M.P. (luncheon and reception only)
* Hon. Percy Downe, Senator (afternoon & reception only)

Hon. Michel Rivard, Senator (reception only)

* Mr. Ryan Leef, M.P.
* Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P.
* M. Maxime Ricard, Secretary
* Mr. Tim Williams, Analyst

Denmark (2)

* Ms. Sara Olsvig, M.P. (Chair of the Standing Committee)
* Mr. Peder Henrik Pedersen (Special Adviser)

Finland (2)

* Mrs. Johanna Ojala-Niemelä, M.P.
* Mr. Guy Lindström (Deputy Director, International Department)

Iceland (2)

* Mr. Jón Gunnarsson M.P
* Mrs. Arna Bang (Secretary of Delegation)

Russia Council of Federation (4)

* Mr. Vladimir Torlopov, Senator (Head of Delegation)
* Mr. Igor Chernyshenko, Senator
* Mr. Kirill Mangush (Secretary / Senior Counselor)
* Mr. Nikolay Dankov (Counselor)

Russia Duma (5)

* Mr. Boris Kashin, M.P. (Head of Delegation)
* Mr. Fedot Tumusov, M.P. (translation required at lunch)
* Mrs. Irina Kuzmina (Secretary of Delegation)
  + Mr. Igor Girenko, Counselor, Russian Embassy Ottawa
  + Mr. Igor Novikov, Third Secretary, Russian Embassy Ottawa

Sweden (1)

* Mrs. Ann-Kristine Johansson, M.P.

USA

* Ms. Lisa Murkowski, Senator
* Mr. Isaac Edwards (Secretary)
  + Ms. Gretchen Tietje, Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy Ottawa
  + Mr. Lonzell “Bud” Locklear, Special Advisor, U.S. Embassy Ottawa

Delegation of the European Union to Canada (on behalf of MEP Pat the Cope Gallagher) (2)

* H.E. Mrs. Marie-Anne Coninsx, Ambassador
* Mr. Manfred Auster, Head of Political and Public Affairs Section

**International Secretariat (1)**

* Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad (Secretary)

**Permanent Participants (1)**

Saami Parliament (1)

* Mr. Håkan Jonsson, Saami Parliamentary Council

**Official Observers (12)**

Nordic Council (3)

* Mr. (Søren) Torkil Sørenson
* Mr. Helgi Hjörvar
  + Mr. Sighvatur Hilmar Arnmundsson (*will accompany Mr. Hjorvar due to blindness*)

West Nordic Council (2)

* Ms. Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir, M.P. (President)
* Mr. Þórður Þórarinsson (Secretary General)

GRID-Arendal Polar Centre (Ottawa) (2)

* Mr. John Crump, Senior Advisor/Climate Change
* Ms. Tiina Kurvits

University of the Arctic (2)

* Mr. Lars Kullerud, President, University of the Arctic \*
* Mr. Ken Coates, University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Northern Innovation \*

World Wildlife Fund (3)

* Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director, WWF Global Arctic Programme (presenter) \*
* Mr. Marc-Andre Dubois, Advisor Arctic Council, WWF Global Arctic Programme
* Mr. Martin von Mirbach, Director Arctic Program, WWF Canada

**Presenters**

Arctic Council Chairmanship

* Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, M.P. (Minister)
  + Andrew Moore (will accompany the Minister)

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

* Susan Harper, Director General, Multilateral Bureau responsible for circumpolar affairs
  + Marie Gagne, Senior Trade Policy Officer, Government Procurement, Trade and Environment Division
  + Torsten Strom, General Counsel, Market Access and Trade Remedies Law Division
  + Catherine Boucher, Director, Oceans and Environmental Law Division
  + Sébastien Bouchard, Legal Officer, Oceans and Environmental Law Division

North West Passage

Transport Canada

* Tim Meisner, Director General, for Marine Policy

Canadian Coast Guard

* Jody Thomas, Deputy Commissioner Operations

Canadian Hydrographic Services

* Kian Fadaie, Director

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

* + Emily Drouin, Senior Advisor, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs
  + Jacqueline Gonçalves, Director General of National Strategies

Mental Wellness

Health Canada

* Valerie Gideon, Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

Public Health Agency of Canada

* Kimberly Elmslie,  A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

* Dr. Malcolm King, Scientific Director, Institute of Aboriginal Peoples’ Health,

Economic Development and Capacity Building

* Lars Kullerud, President, University of the Arctic
* Ken Coates, University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Northern Innovation

Presentation by World Wildlife Fund Canada

* Mr. Martin von Mirbach, Director Arctic Program, WWF Canada
* Alexander Shestakov, Director, WWF Global Arctic Programme