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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation at the meeting of the
Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region**

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

**Helsinki, Finland
November 19 to 21, 2014**

Report

INTRODUCTION

A Canadian delegation of two Members of Parliament, Mr. Larry Miller and Mr. Dennis Bevington, attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) held in Helsinki, Finland from 19 to 21 November 2014. Accompanying the delegation was Mr. Thai Nguyen from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament as advisor to the delegation.

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, the United States of America) and the European Parliament. CPAR also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers. CPAR meets every two years. The 10th CPAR was held in Akureyri, Iceland from 5 to 7 September 2012.¹ The 11th CPAR took place in Whitehorse, Yukon from 9 to 11 September 2014.²

At the conclusion of each biennial conference, CPAR adopts a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council (AC) and to the governments of the eight Arctic states and the European Commission. Between conferences, Arctic parliamentary cooperation is facilitated by the Standing Committee, which began its activities in 1994. The Standing Committee monitors how the governments implement the Conference Statement, and takes initiatives to further Arctic cooperation. CPAR and the Standing Committee act as a parliamentary forum for issues relevant to the work of the AC. The Standing Committee takes part in the work of the AC as an observer.³

MEETING SUMMARY⁴

A. ARCTIC STRATEGY OF FINLAND

On 20 November 2014, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, presented the Arctic Strategy of Finland⁵ and noted that Finland will assume the Chairmanship of the AC in 2017 for a two-year period following the United States' (U.S.) Chairmanship from 2015 to 2017. He stated that Finland welcomes the addition of observers, including China and Singapore, to the AC. For Finland, the AC is THE forum for international cooperation on Arctic issues and observers can contribute valuable expertise to discussions and scientific studies. The Minister declared that the European Union (EU) is a vital player in Arctic cooperation and is encouraged by the recent Canada-EU

¹ The Akureyri Conference report is available at: <http://www.arcticparl.org/files/conference-report%2C-akureyri.pdf>

² The Whitehorse Conference report is available at: <http://www.arcticparl.org/files/cparconference2014-e.pdf>

³ Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, <http://www.arcticparl.org/>

⁴ The draft minutes for the meeting can be found in Appendix 1. The text of this report focuses on material not covered in full in the minutes, acting as a supplement, with a Canadian focus, to the minutes.

⁵ Finland Prime Minister's Office, [Finland's Strategy for the Arctic Region 2013](#).

agreement related to the EU ban on imported seal products,⁶ which he suggested would facilitate the EU's admission to the AC as an observer.

Finland's Arctic Strategy focuses on the country's expert knowledge of matters related to the Arctic and ways that Finland can contribute to Arctic cooperation and development. The strategy addresses education, research, infrastructure development, environmental security and international cooperation. The Minister pointed out that many topics, such as infrastructure development and capacity building, highlighted by the Conference Statement from the 11th CPAR in Whitehorse ("Whitehorse Conference Statement"),⁷ are also addressed by Finland's strategy.

The Minister declared that Finland, as the future AC Chair, recognizes the important role of parliamentarians in Arctic cooperation and will collaborate with parliamentarians and the Standing Committee to advance the AC's work. He noted the role of the Standing Committee in establishing the AC and mentioned that Finland supports increasing the capacity of indigenous organizations to participate in the work of the AC as recommended by the Whitehorse Conference Statement. The Minister also mentioned that the upcoming 20th anniversary of the AC is an opportunity to assess means to better position it to respond to future challenges. Finland supports the consideration of new areas for legal treaties among Arctic states.

The Minister indicated that, in Finland's view, climate change with resulting summer sea ice loss is the main cause of increased shipping and natural resources exploitation activities in the Arctic. Regarding shipping, the Minister noted the exceptional cooperation among Arctic countries at the International Maritime Organization in developing the Polar Code,⁸ and encouraged all countries to ratify the code. Oil and gas exploitation represents economic opportunities but also risks for the environment and local communities. Therefore, for the Minister, mitigation and adaptation to climate change actions are vital. He suggested that climate change science findings are indisputable and that greenhouse-gas emissions are driving global temperature increases to a tipping point.

The Minister stated that policies must respond to scientific conclusions and pointed out that the EU is devising common greenhouse-gas emissions targets. He also declared that the recently announced U.S.-China agreement⁹ on the subject is an important step forward and that there is a need for a global binding agreement on greenhouse-gas emissions in Paris in 2015.

The Minister commended Canada for its efforts in establishing the Arctic Economic Council (AEC)¹⁰ and stated that Finland fully supports its creation. In his opinion, the establishment of the AEC during a period of geopolitical tensions in Ukraine demonstrates

⁶ Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, "[Canada Pursues Expanded Access and Opportunities in European Markets for Indigenous Sealers](#)," 10 October 2014.

⁷ Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, "[Conference Statement](#)," 10 September 2014.

⁸ International Maritime Organization, "[Development of an international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters \(Polar Code\)](#)," *Shipping in polar waters*.

⁹ The White House, "[U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation](#)," *Office of the Press Secretary*, 11 November 2014.

¹⁰ Arctic Council, "[Arctic Economic Council](#)."

the willingness from Arctic states to keep the Arctic as a conflict-free area that is shielded from disputes occurring elsewhere in the world.

A Canadian delegate noted a recommendation from the Whitehorse Conference Statement to “hold an Arctic Summit, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council in 2016, involving heads of state and governments of the Arctic Council member states, as well as the heads of the Permanent Participants,” and asked the Minister if Finland would support organizing such a summit. The Minister replied that Finland supports holding an Arctic Summit and noted that Arctic stakeholders should work on preparing initiatives and proposals that could be used as a base for organizing such a summit.

Another Canadian delegate asked the Minister about specific initiatives that could enhance the possibility of organizing an Arctic Summit. The Minister responded that Finland is open to diverse types of proposals and will put great effort into ensuring that such a summit takes place.

A Canadian delegate asked the Minister about his views on the U.S. priorities¹¹ for its Chairmanship in 2015-2017, and the way those priorities intersect with Finland’s agenda. In the Minister’s opinion, there have been wide consultations among Arctic states regarding priorities for the next Chairmanship and the U.S priorities certainly fit Finland’s Arctic Strategy.

B. CULTURAL COOPERATION IN THE BARENTS REGION AND NORTHERN DIMENSION POLICY

In the Whitehorse Conference Statement, CPAR asked the Standing Committee to

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 Standing Committee invited Ms. Maija Lummeperu, Finland’s Ministry of Education and Culture, to make a presentation about cultural cooperation initiatives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council¹² and the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture¹³. According to Ms. Lummeperu, cultural cooperation initiatives are best conducted by regional-level organizations and such cooperation in northern Europe is an integral part of Europe-wide cultural cooperation strategy.

A Canadian delegate mentioned that the Whitehorse Conference Statement stresses the role of cultural cooperation in enhancing communities’ resilience in the context of environmental and socioeconomic changes. He also noted that Canada is the co-lead country at the AC for the Arctic Adaptation Exchange project. That project aims to develop an on-line information portal facilitating access to data, knowledge and decision-support tools needed by governments, industry, Arctic indigenous peoples and other residents to manage climate change risks. The Canadian delegate then asked Ms. Lummeperu

¹¹ United States Arctic Research Commission, “[Arctic Council Presentations.](#)”

¹² Barents Euro-Arctic Council, “[The Joint Working Group on Culture \(JWGC\).](#)”

¹³ Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, “[About Us.](#)”

whether exchange mechanisms through the University of the Arctic¹⁴ could also be viewed as a cultural cooperation tool.

Ms. Lummepero agreed that the University of the Arctic, being a network of universities, is an ideal tool for stimulating people's mobility and cultural exchanges.

C. USE OF BIOENERGY IN FINLAND

The use and cost of energy is a long-standing agenda item for the Standing Committee. The Arctic region is rich in energy resources but the cost of energy is a serious impediment for the sustainable development of many off-grid communities. The Whitehorse Conference Statement contains recommendations supporting the development of renewable energy sources suitable for the Arctic.

Mr. Timo Ritonummi, from Finland's Ministry of Employment and Economy, informed the Standing Committee of his country's policy on and use of bioenergy.¹⁵ He noted that 35% of Finland's energy already comes from renewable resources and the country's target for 2020 is 38%. Half of Finland's renewable energy resources are derived from the exploitation of wood products.

A Canadian delegate asked Mr. Ritonummi about ownerships of Finland's forests. Mr. Ritonummi replied that approximately 60% of the country's forests are on private lands and 25% are on public lands. Finland also imports wood chips from Russia to be used for bioenergy generation.

D. ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

The establishment of the AEC has been an important priority of the Canadian Chairmanship of the AC. The AEC's inaugural meeting occurred in September 2014 in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The AEC's Executive Committee is chaired by Mr. Tom Paddon (President and CEO of Baffinland Iron Mines) from Canada.

Mr. Rene Soderman, from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed the Standing Committee that the AEC is an independent structure from the AC and is run by businesses for businesses. The AEC will cooperate with the AC and will serve as a forum for exchanges of best practices and technological solutions.

E. EUROPEAN UNION ARCTIC INFORMATION CENTRE

The EU Arctic Information Centre¹⁶ is a network of Arctic research institutions from various EU and European Economic Area countries. Finland worked for some years to have its coordinating headquarter established in Rovaniemi, northern Finland. It should be noted also that the Whitehorse Conference Statement supports the creation of the Centre as one of the tools for Arctic research, education and information collaboration.

Ms. Paula Kankaanpaa, Director of the Centre in Rovaniemi, informed the Standing Committee about the status of the Centre and its work. The Centre is currently assessing the impact of EU policies in the Arctic as well as impacts of changes in the European

¹⁴ University of the Arctic, "[About UArctic.](#)"

¹⁵ Timo Weckroth, [Country policy assessment report on bioenergy – Finland](#), November 2011.

Arctic for the rest of Europe related to shipping, fisheries, oil and gas exploitation, mining, land-use pressures and socio-cultural issues.

F. EVALUATION OF THE 11TH CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION IN WHITEHORSE, YUKON, 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Whitehorse Conference Report, produced by the Parliament of Canada, was presented to delegates during the Standing Committee meeting. Delegates thanked the Canadian Parliament for hosting the Conference in an efficient fashion. The Secretary General also provided his assessment of the Whitehorse Conference in a report. His report commended Canada for organizing an agenda that “provided for many opportunities for informal conversations and networking.” He noted a good gender balance among presenters.

A Canadian delegate indicated that it was an honour for Canada to host the 11th Conference. He thanked delegates for their support for Canada’s position regarding the EU ban on imported seal products, which was reflected in the Whitehorse Conference Statement.

G. STATUS OF THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

A Canadian delegate reported to the Standing Committee on the status of the establishment of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. The CHARS, a key component of Canada’s Northern Strategy that is scheduled to be opened in July 2017, was also mentioned in the Whitehorse Conference Statement as a vital tool for Arctic research.

Mr. Dennis Bevington, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee, informed the Standing Committee about the presentation he made on its behalf on the Whitehorse Conference Statement at the AC’s Senior Arctic Officials meeting in Yellowknife in October 2014. He indicated that parliamentarians should keep track of the wide range of activities in which the AC is engaged. Mr. Bevington stated that CPAR can be more visionary than the AC since it is not tied to governments’ priorities. CPAR acts as an ideal conduit to convey Arctic parliamentarians’ interests and concerns to the AC.

Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, Chair of the Standing Committee, agreed with Mr. Bevington regarding the potential of CPAR and declared that it is now up to parliamentarians to follow up on the recommendations of the Whitehorse Conference Statement with their respective governments and parliaments. He informed the Standing Committee that the European Parliament’s Arctic group is being formed following the May 2014 European elections.

H. SEMINAR ON ARCTIC SECURITY

Topics discussed at the seminar, held in the afternoon of 20 November 2014, were Coast Guard cooperation, military capacity building and new surveillance technologies. Mr. Marcus Rantala, State Secretary at Finland’s Ministry of Defence, stated that economic changes and environmental challenges are part of security concerns. He declared that security challenges must be tackled together, as no single country can successfully deal

¹⁶ Arctic Centre, “[EU European Arctic Information Centre \(EUAIC\) initiative.](#)”

with them alone. Mr. Rantala indicated that better situational awareness is of crucial importance to preparedness and inter-agency cooperation.

According to Mr. Andreas Osthagen from the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies, military security is not yet a pressing issue in the Arctic. He pointed out that environmental issues (pollution, law enforcement and fisheries monitoring) and human security are currently of greater concern.

Mr. Age Refsdal Moe from the Norwegian Board of Technology gave a presentation about the potential of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in the Arctic. He informed the Standing Committee that UAS are a low-budget option for search and rescue operations, oil spills preparedness, real-time visual navigation support and drift ice monitoring. The current obstacles for their use in the Arctic are regulations about airspace use and the low availability of required bandwidths to transmit data. A Canadian delegate mentioned that, in the future, UAS might also be considered as a more economical option for shipping goods to remote Arctic communities compared to current cargo planes.

Ms. Henna Haapala, Finland's Ministry of the Environment, shared her thoughts regarding building resilient communities in the Arctic. She mentioned an article in *The Economist* arguing that the costs of a melting Arctic could be higher than benefits resulting from the exploitation of newly accessible natural resources. According to Ms. Haapala, delaying climate mitigation actions will reduce options for climate-resilience pathways.

A Canadian delegate pointed out that climate change effects could be more severe in the South (for example, the recent snow storm in Buffalo and superstorm Sandy). He suggested that Arctic communities may be better equipped to handle environmental changes given their much smaller sizes. He also indicated that many Arctic communities are rich in renewable energy resources, which are an important advantage when assessing resiliency. He then asked Ms. Haapala about ways to harness Arctic communities' strengths to increase their resiliency. Ms. Haapala noted that traditional knowledge is a vital resource for adaptation to change.

I. VISIT TO ARCTIA SHIPPING LTD.

On 21 November 2014, delegates visited Arctia Shipping Ltd.'s headquarters and its icebreaker Urho. Arctia Shipping Ltd. is a Finnish state-owned company responsible for operating an icebreaker fleet. The company provides icebreaking services for the Finnish Transport Agency as well as for private companies in the offshore oil and gas fields in Arctic waters.¹⁷ It should be noted that the company's CEO and President, Tero Vauraste, is Vice-Chair of the AEC.¹⁸

Mr. Markku Tuhkanen, Communications Director, informed delegates that 60% of the world's icebreakers were built in Finland.¹⁹ He also indicated that one of Arctia's icebreaker is the world's only oil-recovery icebreaker. Mr. Tuhkanen stated that traffic on the Northern Sea Route next year is expected to be reduced by half because of economic sanctions against Russia.

¹⁷ Arctia Shipping Ltd., "[Unique technology - extensive experience and uncompromising expertise.](#)"

¹⁸ Arctia Shipping Ltd. "[Vauraste appointed AEC Vice Chairman.](#)" 3 September 2014.

¹⁹ University of Turku, "[Finland Has an Advantage in Arctic Maritime Technology.](#)" 4 August 2014.

A Canadian delegate enquired about icebreaker building in China. Mr. Tuhkanen responded that China has been very active lately and is building a new icebreaker. He mentioned that Finland recently received a visit from a 100-person Chinese delegation, including the Chinese Vice-Prime Minister. The Chinese delegation discussed maritime technology cooperation opportunities with Finlands, including the sharing of icebreaking technologies.

Another Canadian delegate asked Mr. Tuhkanen about the engine power of Finland's new dual-fuel icebreaker. That icebreaker will use both liquefied natural gas (LNG) and diesel, and is scheduled to be completed in 2016.²⁰ According to Mr. Tuhkanen, the dual-fuel icebreaker will significantly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and fuel costs while having the same engine power as a pure diesel-powered icebreaker. However, the capacity to make a full stop in a few seconds using LNG is still a challenge. The dual-fuel icebreaker would have to switch to diesel in that situation.

J. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for 10-11 March 2015 in Washington, D.C. Future meetings in 2015 are planned for May or June in Reykjavik, Iceland, and for early fall in Brussels, Belgium.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. David Tilson M.P.
President
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

²⁰ Wärtsilä, "[World's first LNG fuelled icebreaker to be powered by Wärtsilä dual-fuel engines.](#)" 10 June 2014.

APPENDIX 1

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 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.

2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR-MEETING IN WHITEHORSE 9 AND 10 SEPTEMBER 2014

Decision:

The Committee approved the minutes from the SCPAR meetings in Whitehorse 9 and 10 September 2014.

3. THE ARCTIC STRATEGY OF FINLAND

Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Foreign Minister of Finland, noted the growing interest for the Arctic all around the world. The Arctic Council opened up to new observers at the Ministerial meeting in 2013 which was an important decision to keep the Arctic Council the main forum for Arctic cooperation.

Climate change the most important factor for increased attention for the Arctic. The background is very worrying but it also opens new opportunities. With the melting ice we are close to a tipping point in the Arctic. There is a new sense of urgency to deal with the issue of climate change. New EU objectives for climate change, deal between China and the US and international negotiations in the IPCC are positive but not enough. Climate change in the Arctic should be highlighted at the COP 21 meeting in Paris 2015.

The economic opportunities are another key factor. 200 billion euros over the next 10 years is expected to be invested in the region. With regards to the economic activities it will be important to prevent accidents and pollution.

Arctic Council will be 20 years in 2016. In that connection we should have analyzes of the Arctic Council and the future needs. The cooperation in the Arctic Council has been

very fruitful. The Arctic is conflict free and we must keep it that way. Despite increased international tension over the situation in Ukraine, everyone has a clear interest to keep only circumpolar cooperation working.

The EU does much Arctic research and has substantial knowledge to address the challenges of the region. As for EU observer status in the Arctic Council there should be a solution at the Ministerial meeting in April 2015. Russia has however voiced some reservations regarding granting the EU observer status.

The Arctic Economic Council was founded in Iqalluit in September 2014. It is a business to business forum, independent and a partner for dialogue for the Arctic Council.

Finally, Minister Tuomioja commented on the conference statement from Whitehorse. He noted the many good proposals and the importance of participation of indigenous peoples as Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. The preparations for the Finnish chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2017 – 2019 have started.

On questions from the Committee the Minister noted that a possible Arctic summit in 2016 needs to be well prepared and useful where the international situation must be taken into consideration. As for special events in 2016, the Mr. Tuomioja was open for proposals, but possible new Arctic agreements in addition to an Arctic summit are possibilities.

The members of the Committee agreed to keep the Arctic as an area of cooperation. As for the topic of strengthening the Arctic Council the Minister would like to see a stronger basis for the Arctic Council.

Finally Mr. Tuomioja was positive to the proposed agenda for the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

4. CULTURAL COOPERATION IN THE BARENTS REGION AND NORTHERN DIMENSION POLICY

Ms. Maija Lummeperu, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, informed the Committee about the cultural cooperation within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) and the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC).

Finland is the current Chair of BEAC.

The cultural cooperation in the Barents region has existed for a long time. In 1993 the Ministers of Culture met in Kirkenes, Norway, to formalize the cooperation between Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia in the Barents region. In addition to the national level cooperation, there is the regional cooperation between the northernmost regions in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The regional cooperation reports to the national level.

A strategy for Barents cultural cooperation from 2014 – 2018 has been agreed upon.

In 2015 the new program “Barents cultural initiative incubator” will start. The Barents cooperation has been a successful cooperation with projects on many areas, including theatres, libraries, indigenous peoples, languages and more. Keywords have been coherence, continuation and continuity.

The NDPC started in 2010 and has its regional focal point in creative industries.

There is a close cooperation and dialogue with NDPC and EU programs. It has created meeting places and forums, and studies of possible cooperation.

On question from the Committee Ms Lummepero noted that there is no special working group on Arctic cultural cooperation, but cooperation happens in different parts of the Arctic region, also on grass root level with people to people contacts.

On the question of what kind of projects that would be suitable for Arctic cooperation, she noted that it would be best to involve the grass root level – people to people – who create projects together which they consider relevant and important. The countries need to provide and support the fundament and basis for the cooperation.

Institution based cooperation is the next step with possible working groups, regional and national together to exchange information, plan and discuss priorities with the people working in the sector. Success of the projects is easier to measure on bi-lateral projects than multilateral projects.

Members of the Committee noted that the strong northern cultures contains significant knowledge on how to survive in the environment they're in. It is important to use the local culture and cooperation to deal with the environmental and economic changes in the Arctic. Student exchange is important to share experiences and as cultural cooperation. An adaptation portal is another way sharing information across the borders.

Ms Lummepero noted that the creative sector, cultural and creative industries, should be seen together and use synergies in the region.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information and will at the next meetings look at cultural cooperation in the entire Arctic region.

5. THE USE OF BIOENERGY IN FINLAND

Deputy Director General Timo Rittonummi, Energy Department, Ministry of Employment and the Economy informed the Committee about cleantec and the use of bioenergy in Finland.

In 2013, wood fuels biggest energy provider in Finland. 38% of the Finnish energy consumption in 2020 shall come from renewable energy and 50 % of the renewable shall come from sustainable forestry in Finland.

In Finland, 1/3 of the energy comes from renewable resources. The Finnish energy market is open. The district heating covers half of the space heating in Finland.

On question from the Committee it was noted that wood chips was provided both from state owned forest and privately owned forest. All what is left from the production in the forest industry is used for production of wood chips. Private owners are the biggest owner of forests in Finland. Some wood is also imported from Russia. Fortum is the biggest actor on the industry side.

Regarding cooperation across the borders the Mr. Ritonummi noted that there is cooperation within the EU.

Representatives from the Finnish delegation informed the Committee that Finland next month will vote on whether or not to build a new nuclear power plant. Finland has also created a roadmap for energy in 2050. It includes the EU 2020 targets, but also own targets such as the decision of Helsinki to go from coal to use of more forests and more renewable energy.

Export of cleantech from Finland will also be enhanced.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

6. ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Mr. René Söderman, Counsellor, Department for Europe, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed the Committee about the establishment and structure of the Arctic Economic Council.

The Arctic Economic Council was established in September 2014 as an independent body. The establishment was facilitated by the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and is now a circumpolar business forum. The main idea is to help shape sustainable Arctic economies by sharing best practices, technological solutions, and work with standards etc. The Arctic Economic Council shall cooperate closely with the Arctic Council and be the business voice of the Arctic.

Working groups for the following business areas will be established: infrastructure, energy, mining, tourism, fishing, human resources and capacity building.

The AEC shall focus on traditional and local knowledge and small businesses. It has 42 business representatives appointed by the eight Arctic states and the 6 permanent participants.

The president is from Canada and Vice-Presidents from Finland and the USA.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

7. EU ARCTIC INFORMATION CENTRE

Professor Paula Kankaanpää presented the EU Arctic Information Centre and strategic assessment in the assessment they have produced. Information and knowledge are the most important factors for implementation of sustainable development policies.

The EUAIC has 19 partners around Europe and will provide access to information, exchange and collect research and outreach to relevant stakeholders.

The Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of Development in the Arctic was test case for the EU Arctic information Centre. Within the timeframe from December 2012 to September 2014 with one million euros was the assessment produced.

An Arctic communication from the Commission is expected in 2015. A final decision on the establishment of the center should come then.

On question from the Committee professor Kankaanpää noted that the EU is already spending large sums on Arctic research and that this Arctic information center can function for a small amount of money – 3-4 million euros a year. This depends on the level of ambitions.

There is also a dilemma in the aim of being cross sectorial and the need of getting financing from source in the European Commission, but the getting funding from the environmental directorate is the most realistic.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information

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

The participants took note of the report from the Secretary General. The conference in Whitehorse was very well organized and the feedback on the adopted conference statement has been positive.

The Chair underlined the importance of a variety in background for speakers addressing the conference.

A Conference report from the Conference in Whitehorse produced by the Canadian Parliament is available on the internet.

Decision:

The Committee takes note of the report and the evaluation.

9. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR

Canada reported on the establishment of the High Arctic research station in Churchill. The construction has started and it will open 1 July 2017.

The Vice-Chair of SCPAR Mr. Bevington reported from the SAO meeting in Yellowknife in October. The Arctic Council is involved in a wide range of activities, including black carbon which is equally important to other parts of the world and to the work in the IPCC. The presentation of the U.S. chairmanship program for 2015 – 2017 was interesting with an emphasis on climate change, renewable energy and economic development. The presentation, given by Mr. Bevington at the SAO meeting on the

main results from the CPAR in Whitehorse, was well received as more visionary than the ordinary work of the Arctic Council.

Norway and the Chair of the Committee informed about the letter he has sent to the different Ministers of Foreign Affairs with the Conference Statement from Whitehorse attached. The Chair has also had meetings in the European Parliament and attended the Arctic Circle in Iceland. The Norwegian government has recently presented a new strategy for the High North.

Finland noted that they also have conveyed the conference statement from Whitehorse to the Finnish government. The delegation did also have a meeting with governmental representatives in advance of the SAO meeting in Yellowknife.

Sweden informed about the new government after the elections in September 2014. Climate change and adaptation to climate change are important policy items for the new government.

Saami Parliamentary Council informed about the upcoming establishment of a Saami secretariat in Brussels. SPC will seek membership in the Nordic Council and the Arctic Council. The Saami representative also reported about tensions regarding the use of land which the Saamis traditionally have used and where new activities are starting without consultations with the Saami community in advance of the decisions.

The Nordic Council reported from the latest session in Stockholm in October 2014 where the Arctic was one of the items on the agenda. A new Arctic program from 2015 - 2017 was agreed upon with around 8 million Danish kroner in a yearly budget.

The West-Nordic Council reported from the latest annual meeting in September where it was decided that the West-Nordic Countries shall develop a common Arctic strategy. The West-Nordic theme conference will be in Asiaat in the end of January 2015 and it will be about the Arctic and the West-Nordic countries.

The West-Nordic Council hosted a session at the Arctic Circle conference in Reykjavik.

Russia reported on the work to implement the Arctic strategy of Russia. President Putin has also appointed Mr. Shtyrov as a new special representative for the Arctic.

Iceland noted with appreciation that the EU and Canada has found a solution to the conflict around seal products. The Arctic Circle Assembly was recently organized in Reykjavik and gathered 1400 participants from 34 countries, and just in advance there was a conference on gender equality.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

10. NEXT MEETINGS OF SCPAR

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

Decision:

The Committee welcomed the invitation by the U.S. delegation to meet in Washington D.C. 10-11 March 2015.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
SCPAR MEETING IN HELSINKI

20 November 2014

List of participants

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr. Dennis Bevington, MP Mr. Larry Miller, MP Mr. Thai Nguyen, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament
Finland	Ms. Johanna Ojala-Niemelä, MP Ms. Mirja Vehkaperä, MP Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director, International Department Ms. Maarit Immonen, Assistant for International Affairs
Iceland	Mr. Jón Gunnarsson, MP Ms. Vilborg Ása Guðjónsdóttir, Adviser
Norway	Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, MP
Russia	Mr. Fedot Tumusov, MP Mr. Alexander Kurdyumov, MP Ms. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary
Sweden	Ms. Sara Karlsson, MP Ms. Eva Hjelm, Adviser

PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

Sámi Parliamentary Council	Mr. Håkan Jonsson, President Ms. Kristina Nordling, Administrator
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OBSERVERS

Nordic Council	Mr. Simo Rundgren, MP, Finland Mr. Torkil Sørensen, Senior Advisor Ms. Mari Herranen, Counsellor of International Affairs, Secretary of the Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council
West-Nordic Council	Ms. Inga Dora Markussen, Secretary General

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

GUESTS

Mr. Erkki TUOMIOJA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Ms. Maija LUMMEPURO, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs,
Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

Mr. Timo RITONUMMI Deputy Director General, Energy
Department, Ministry of Employment and the Economy,
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Mr. René SÖDERMAN, Counsellor, Department for
Europe, Unit for Northern Europe, Ministry for Foreign
Affairs, Finland

Ms. Paula KANKAANPÄÄ, Professor, Director, Arctic
Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

Mr. Markku HEIKKILÄ, Head of Science Communications,
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

Mr. Lassi HEININEN, Professor, University of Lapland,
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Ret. Admiral Henrik KUDSK, Denmark

Ms. Jennifer SPENCE, PhD Candidate, School of Public
Policy and Administration, Carleton University, Canada

INTERPRETERS

Mr. Aleksei Repin

Ms. Victoria Frantseva

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
Seminar on Security in the Arctic

20 November 2014

List of participants

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr. Larry Miller, MP Mr. Dennis Bevington, MP Mr. Thai Nguyen, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament
Denmark/Greenland	Mr. Johan Lund Olsen, MP Mr. Peder Pedersen, Head of Section
European Parliament	
Finland	Ms. Johanna Ojala-Niemelä, MP Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director, International Department Ms. Maarit Immonen, Assistant for International Affairs
Iceland	Mr. Jon Gunnarsson, MP Ms. Vilborg Ása Guðjónsdóttir, Adviser
Norway	Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, MP Ms. Ingrid Heggø, MP Mr. Jan Henrik Fredriksen, MP Ms. Margunn Ebbesen, MP
Russia	Mr. Aleksandr Kurdyumov, MP Mr. Fedot Tumusov, MP Mrs. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary
Sweden	Ms. Sara Karlsson, MP Ms. Eva Hjelm, Adviser

PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

Sámi Parliamentary Council	Mr. Håkan Jonsson, President Ms. Kristina Nordlig, Administrator Ms. Kirsten Anne Guttorm, Adviser
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OBSERVERS

Nordic Council

Mr. Simo Rundgren, MP
Mr. Torkil Sørensen, Senior adviser
Ms. Mari Herranen, Counsellor of International Affairs,
Secretary of the Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council

West-Nordic Council

Mr. Bill Justinussen, President, MP
Ms. Inga Dora Markussen, Secretary General

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

INTERPRETERS

Mr. Aleksei Repin
Ms. Victoria Frantseva

GUESTS

Mr. Marcus RANTALA, State Secretary, Ministry of
Defence, Finland
Ret. Admiral Henrik KUDSK, Denmark
Mr. Andreas ØSTHAGEN, Norwegian Institute for Defence
Studies
Mr. Åge REFSDAL MOE, Norwegian Board of Technology
Ms. Henna HAAPALA, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of the
Environment, Finland
Dr. Teija TIILIKAINEN, Director of the Finnish Institute of
International Affairs FIIA

Mr. Markku HEIKKILÄ, Head of Science Communications,
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland
Mr. Aleksi HÄRKÖNEN, Ambassador, Department for
Europe, Unit for Northern Europe, Ministry for Foreign
Affairs, Finland
Ms. Paula KANKAANPÄÄ, Professor, Director, Arctic
Centre, University of Lapland, Finland
Mr. Heikki SAVOLA, Counsel, Clerk to the Defence
Committee, Parliament of Finland
Mr. René SÖDERMAN, Counsellor, Department for Europe,
Unit for Northern Europe, Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
Finland

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
DESTINATION	Helsinki, Finland
DATES	November 19 to 21, 2014
DELEGATION	
SENATE	N/A
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Larry Miller, M.P. Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Thai Nguyen, Advisor
TRANSPORTATION	\$3,918.31
ACCOMMODATION	\$1,145.18
HOSPITALITY	\$0.00
PER DIEMS	\$660.15
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$0.00
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$5,723.64