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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
on the Meeting of the Standing Committee of
Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region**

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

**Reykjavik, Iceland
June 1, 2007**

Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation on the Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 1, 2007

Introduction

Mr. Bob Mills led a delegation of two parliamentarians to the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) on 1 June 2007. The other member of the delegation was Mr. Scott Simms. Mr. Tim Williams from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament accompanied the delegation as an advisor.

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region 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. The conference also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers. The conference meets every two years. The Seventh Conference was held in Kiruna, Sweden on 2-4 August 2006 with the eighth to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, U.S.A., on 12-14 August of 2008.

Between conferences, Arctic parliamentary cooperation is carried on by the Standing Committee, which started its activities in 1994. The Conference and Standing Committee take initiatives to further Arctic cooperation, and act, in particular, as a parliamentary forum for issues relevant to the work of the Arctic Council. The Standing Committee takes part in the work of the Council as an observer.¹

Meeting Summary

Follow-Up on the Kiruna Statement

The Chair circulated a document (see Appendix 1) referring to specific paragraphs of the Kiruna conference statement with remarks on follow-up activities from the secretary general of the Standing Committee.

A discussion ensued with emphasis on: the support for the role of universities in sustainable development in the Arctic; the Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension in the European Parliament held in Brussels on 28 February - 1 March 2007; and, an agreement on maritime security between Norway and Iceland including the need for cooperation for safety and sustainable development.

Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council

A presentation was made by a Norwegian Senior Arctic Official (SAO) on the goals for the Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. The three issues to be stressed are: climate change and the follow-up to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment; integrated resource management in the Arctic region; and, the structure of the Arctic Council. Of interest was the announcement that the next three chairs (Norway, Denmark and

¹ Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, <http://www.arcticparl.org/> accessed 5 July 2007

Sweden) were cooperating on a long-term approach to the work of the Council until 2013.

A summary was also provided of the meeting of Senior Arctic Officials held in Trømsø Norway, 12-13 April 2007. Topics discussed included: the importance of identifying best practices in resource management within the 17 Arctic ecosystems identified by scientists; climate change and the cryosphere; cooperation on adaptation in the Arctic; and, activities of the International Polar Year.

The following discussion included two interventions from the Canadian delegation. The first was about the cryosphere and climate change, in particular inquiring about the state of science regarding the Greenland ice sheet. The second was regarding the management of Harp seals in the Atlantic, in particular suggesting an examination of a more comprehensive north Atlantic management regime.

Iceland and Marine Security

A senior arctic official (SAO) from the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign affairs gave a presentation on maritime security from an Icelandic perspective. Climatic and technological change are making arctic maritime transportation possible and increased shipping in this area means that the focus of maritime policy has moved from a cold-war focus on the north Atlantic toward the arctic.

The SAO highlighted the results of a conference called “Breaking the Ice: Arctic Development and Maritime Transportation Prospects of the Transarctic Route – Impact and Opportunities” held in Akureyri, Iceland, 27-28 March 2007.² The importance of the Arctic Council’s Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment,³ for which Canada is a lead country, was stressed.

In the discussion that followed Canada made an intervention stressing the risks and lack of emergency response capacity associated with cruise ships piloted by people untrained for Arctic conditions taking thousands of tourists into Arctic waters.

Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA)

SLiCA is an international joint effort of research and indigenous people to measure and understand living conditions in the Arctic.

Indigenous peoples and researchers from the United States, Canada, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the indigenous peoples of the Kola Peninsula and Chukotka in Russia have contributed to SLiCA. SLiCA is a Sustainable Development initiative of the Arctic Council and is supported by the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Saami Council, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North. The aims of SLiCA are to:

Measure living conditions in a way relevant to Arctic residents;

Document and compare the present state of living conditions among the indigenous peoples of the Arctic; and,

² The summary is available at: http://arcticportal.org/webcast/recorded-webcasting/archived-webcasts/conferences/breaking-the-ice/summary/breaking-the-ice_ensk-tgfa.pdf , accessed 9 July 2007

³ AMSA Website: <http://arcticportal.org/pame/amsa> , accessed 9 July 2007

Improve the understanding of living conditions to the benefit of Arctic residents.

SLiCA is funded in part by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Statistics Canada.⁴

The international project coordinator for SLiCA gave an overview of the findings of the study so far which resulted from a detailed questionnaire.⁵ The results of SLiCA seem to suggest that Canada's indigenous arctic peoples generally have better over-all living conditions than most others, particularly compared to the peoples of the Russian Chukotka region, though clear challenges remain.

The Standing Committee showed its strong support for SLiCA and interest in its results. During the discussion links were drawn between SLiCA and the Arctic Human Development Report⁶ and the work of the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

SCPAR Input into the Green Paper on EU Maritime Policy

The Standing Committee approved a document to be submitted as its input into the development of an EU maritime policy (see Appendix 2).

Draft Program for the Conference in Alaska, August 2008

The participant to SCPAR from the United States of America presented a draft program for the next Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic region to be held in Alaska, 2008. The suggested agenda items were: International Polar Year; climate change; and, energy. These were subsequently approved by the Standing Committee.

Status of the Work of SCPAR

Delegations participating at the Standing Committee reported on activities occurring in their countries. The head of the Canadian delegation stressed Canada's support for, and participation in, the International Polar Year with \$150 million to be invested and 44 uniquely Canadian studies. These studies include strong attempts to get local input. The federal government's environmental policy (Turning the Corner) was described as well as the potential importance of carbon capture and storage to the development of Canada's oil sands. The importance of the G-8+5 climate dialogue process was stressed because of the participation of countries responsible for 76% of global emissions and the emphasis on discussing solutions as opposed to problems.

Next SCPAR Meeting

A decision was taken by the Standing Committee to meet next in Ottawa, Canada, on 19 October 2007. The following meeting is most likely to be at the end of February 2008, in a joint meeting with the University of the Arctic to be held in Finland.

Respectfully submitted,

⁴ SLiCA, "What is SLiCA?," http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/projects/Living_Conditions/index.htm, accessed 9 July 2007

⁵ Results available at: http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/projects/Living_Conditions/results.htm, accessed 9 July 2007

⁶ Available at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/Chapters%20PDF.htm>, accessed 9 July 2007

Appendix 1

[Kiruna] Conference Statement with Comments from the Secretary General



Document 2.1

Seventh Conference of Parliamentarians of the
Arctic Region, Kiruna, Sweden, 2-4 August 2006

CONFERENCE STATEMENT WITH COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

C. ASK GOVERNMENTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO

Use the attention and debate following the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) to raise a strong Arctic message on climate change on the international agenda, underlining the role of the Arctic as an early warning sign for global climate change;

Make sure that concrete policy proposals are made on how to follow up the ACIA Policy Document from the Arctic Council meeting in Reykjavik, November 2004, and initiate a continuous follow up with reports at regular intervals (5 – 10 years);

Follow up ACIA

The Arctic Council under the Norwegian chairmanship has climate change as one of its main priorities and has initiated projects related to climate change. One project looks at the impacts of reduction in sea ice, a changing Greenland ice sheet and varying snow cover and permafrost conditions.

The opinion of the Secretary General is that the work on climate change is conducted well and that the Committee continue to follow the work closely.

Ensure financial resources to generate monitoring and research stations/platforms that can secure observations of climate change and the effect of pollution;

Strengthen the adaptive capacities of the Arctic residents as mentioned in a political statement by the Arctic states at the COP 11 meeting in Montreal, and to promote research, exchange of experiences and good practices, to develop strategies needed to

support Arctic residents in their efforts to sustain their health, culture, economic life and general well being;

Under the Norwegian chairmanship the Arctic Council has initiated a project on adaptation to make available all knowledge and make an overview of existing knowledge, expertise and research on adaptation and vulnerability to climate change in the Arctic. This project is in line with the recommendation from the Kiruna statement.

Retain and intensify efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions and other greenhouse gases and strengthen the multilateral environmental agreements relevant to the Arctic;

The phrase to “to reduce CO₂ emissions and other greenhouse gases” is to the knowledge of the Secretary General not used in any of the Arctic Council projects. There are different opinions concerning the role of the Council in relation to reduction of CO₂ emissions, and at present the Arctic Council is not a forum for this discussion. However the indirect effect of some of the projects might lead to a reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. One example is “The Arctic Energy Summit” in Anchorage 15-18 October which focuses on technology and outreach.

Ensure openness to data and accessibility to geographical areas and research related data;

Openness and accessibility constantly needs to be stressed for the Arctic cooperation to be able to continue to deliver valuable assessments as background for political decision making. The problems concerning data for the upcoming “Oil-and Gas Assessment” have been solved, but the parliamentarians should where it’s possible and necessary advocate openness and accessibility also in the future.

Carry out the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment as outlined in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan adopted by the Arctic Council of Ministers at the 4th Arctic Council meeting in November 2004;

Make sure that the ongoing Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment within the Arctic Council fully covers the Indigenous Peoples’ past, present and projected future activities in the Arctic Seas;

The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment is expected to be delivered to the Ministerial Meeting in 2009. The indigenous peoples in the Arctic are important participants in the process of making the Assessment.

Ensure that natural resources of the Arctic are exploited in a sustainable manner and to the benefit of the peoples living in the Arctic;

“Project on Best Practices in Ecosystem Based Oceans Management in the Arctic” is a new project under the Arctic Council. This project is likely to cover this article to some extent. The scope of the article is very broad and will need a long term follow-up.

Call on the partners to the Northern Dimension, EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland, to agree on a clear cut, visible and dynamic Arctic policy, with a strong political commitment by all partners that should include the USA and Canada as observers, and establish Arctic partnerships within the Northern Dimension on energy and the marine environment;

The European Commission's new Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document and the Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy of 24 November 2006 creates the basis for the new Northern Dimension and its partnership between EU, Russia, Iceland, and Norway, with Canada and the US as observers.

Members representing parliamentary bodies in the North, including SCPAR, met on a conference in Brussels 28 February to 1 March 2007 to discuss the new policy. In the Northern Dimension documents the Arctic is an important area of cooperation. There are some who wants the Northern Dimension primarily to focus on the Baltic Sea, but at the conference in Brussels the Arctic dimension was strong and visible.

The conference in Brussels called on the President of the European Parliament and the Speakers of the parliaments of Iceland, Norway and Russia to prepare for the arranging of the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum to be held every two years in order to discuss issues of common concern and examine the evolution of the new Northern Dimension policy.

The Arctic Council has not the direct link into the European Union like SCPAR. The European Commission was accepted as an ad-hoc observer at the last Senior Arctic Official meeting in Tromsø in April 2007.

Make concerted efforts to develop environmentally friendly technology for transport and economic activity in the Arctic to protect its vulnerable nature and the way of life for the Arctic peoples;

Promote and invest in research, development and deployment of alternative and low impact energy sources suitable to the Arctic region;

"The Arctic Energy Summit" in Anchorage 15-18 October 2007 is an Arctic Council project where various aspects of technology will be discussed.

In light of the impact of climate change, and the increasing economic and human activity, initiate, as a matter of urgency, an audit of existing legal regimes that impact the Arctic and to continue the discussion about strengthening or adding to them where necessary;

Together with UNEP Grid – Arendal, SCPAR hosted a seminar in September 2006 on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their relevance to the Arctic. The seminars' overall recommendation was "to assess the effectiveness and relevance of MEAs in the Arctic and examine the need and options for improving the existing regime as well as the need and options for developing an Arctic Treaty or Arctic Framework Convention".

Among the participants at the Arendal seminar there were representatives from the secretariats of 13 MEAs.

The Secretary is looking into different ways to proceed with this matter. A further assessment of the most relevant treaties is necessary to be able to clarify current legal situation in the Arctic and which treaties which impact the Arctic.

The followup of article 29 is connected to article 28.

The Arctic Council representatives should be asked what is happening to follow up this article.

Propose to the United Nations that the scope of the Annual Treaty Event in 2007, or at the earliest possible time, should be UN Treaties relevant to the Arctic;

After communication with the UN treaty section it has been decided that the Annual Treaty Event in 2008 shall have focus on treaties relevant to the Arctic.

The Secretary General will continue the dialogue with the UN Treaty Section and the Arctic Council to see that the decision is followed up through activities in connection with the Treaty Event.

Strengthen the dialogue, analyzes and take concrete measures regarding gender aspects in Arctic societies, especially men's changing role in society and female out-migration from rural areas;

There have been few Arctic Council projects/conferences which directly address gender equality. The Conference "Taking Wing", arranged in 2002 in Finland, addressed gender issues in an Arctic perspective, "Women and Resource Management in the Rural North" is an Arctic Council project, and the Arctic Human Development Report had a chapter on Gender Equality.

A question to the representative of the Arctic Council on how gender equality is reflected in the Arctic cooperation and how the Norwegian chairmanship plans to raise the profile on gender equality may be raised. Will there be a gender perspective in the development of Arctic Social Indicators?

Make sure the potential of the International Polar Year 2007/2008 is maximised through sufficient governmental financial support and use the findings of the Arctic Human Development Report as a tool to give the International Polar Year 2007/2008 a strong human dimension;

Use the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development to implement specific programs for Arctic education;

Take initiatives to ensure a coordinated and joint effort to analyse and make use of the results of the International Polar Year in policymaking;

Conduct under the auspices of the UN, by the end of IPY in 2008, an international conference "The Arctic – a region of global cooperation";

Promote the Arctic region and Arctic science, with a special focus on the young generation, to create a renewed curiosity and interest in Arctic science, and use the University of the Arctic as an important player in this process, and to hold in 2007 with the assistance of UNESCO an international conference on the role of the Universities situated in the Arctic with regard to the sustainable development of the Arctic Region;

Ensure the participation of the Arctic indigenous peoples and the use of their knowledge in the Arctic science;

Provide increased funding to the University of the Arctic to ensure its continuous success;

The IPY has started and the focus for SCPAR should now be towards the legacy of IPY and how to make use of the results in future policymaking. SCPAR should take initiatives in this process. (IPY is suggested as a topic at the conference in Alaska 2008.)

In relation to conferences on education in cooperation with UN-bodies, the secretariat has established a contact with UNESCO to see how SCPAR and UNESCO can cooperate.

For the SCPAR meeting, possibly in February 2008, we are planning to have the meeting back to back with the principals connected to University of the Arctic. At this meeting SCPAR can discuss different alternatives to promote the ideas in the Kiruna statement.

Implement the funding of the approved Project Support Instrument;

The realization of the Project Support Instrument (PSI), which is planned to be administered by NEFCO (Nordic Environmental Finance Cooperation), depends on financial support from the Russian government. There will take place a meeting between NEFCO and Russian officials in May to discuss PSI.

Carry out an assessment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as proposed by the Arctic ICT network;

The work on the ICT assessment is proceeding and is expected to be delivered to the Ministerial meeting in 2009.

Strengthen their cooperation regarding marine security, especially search and rescue matters;

Iceland hosted a conference in Akureyri in the end of March called "Breaking the ice" which also debated the issue of maritime security. Marine security is also an important aspect of the Arctic Maritime Shipping Assessment (see articles 22-23).

SCPAR will discuss maritime safety at the meeting in Reykjavik.

D. ASK THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION TO

Continue the work, also at a national level, of promoting a strong social dimension in Arctic cooperation, as indicated in the Arctic Human Development Report, with a special focus on children and youth;

The living conditions for the people in the Arctic have always been high on the agenda for Arctic parliamentarians. In the SCPAR meeting in Reykjavik the Committee will be introduced to the findings in "Slica" (Survey of living conditions in the Arctic), and it's planned to have a special meeting involving University of the Arctic at a SCPAR meeting early in 2008. The findings in "Slica" and cooperation with UArctic will be important in promoting the social dimension in the Arctic cooperation.

In both these meetings the Committee should remember the focus on children and youth.

Actively follow the work of the planning and implementation of the International Polar Year 2007/2008;

As mentioned under article 37 the IPY has started. The Committee should discuss how to address the legacy of the IPY. In July 2008 there will be a Science conference on the IPY in St. Petersburg, and in 2010 there will be an IPY congress in Oslo on the legacy of IPY. Both hosted by the international IPY- committee.

IPY is a proposed topic for the conference in Alaska 2008

Actively promote the Arctic region with regard to the new Northern Dimension policy;

SCPAR participated at a conference on the Northern Dimension in Brussels 28 February – 1 March 2007 and did actively promote the Arctic as an important region in the Northern Dimension policy.

SCPAR will give an input to the creation of a new Maritime policy in the European Union.

Continue to promote the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in concrete projects as a tool for delivering services to Arctic citizens, such as telemedicine and education in local communities

As mentioned under article 39 the ICT assessment is being made. The role of SCPAR will be to identify and propose new possible projects and ways to use ICT in the Arctic. The ICT assessment will hopefully be of help in this process.

Ensure that there is adequate and continuous follow-up, in parliaments of Arctic countries as well as in international organisations and negotiations, of conclusions and recommendations that have implications for the Arctic regions and peoples;

Every member of SCPAR have a responsibility to promote the Arctic, the Arctic cooperation and the Conference Statement from Kiruna.

Consider to review the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee before the next conference in 2008 in order to improve the working methods;

The Secretary General has started to review the Rules of Procedure and plan to put this on the agenda for a SCPAR meeting in 2008.

Work in their home parliaments to prepare a common concept for the development and control of environmental programs, programs of natural resources development, transport and energy networks which affect (or does not affect) to climate change and of preservation of Arctic nature for next generations of the Arctic peoples;

E. THE CONFERENCE

Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-government agencies at this Conference, and recognises their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed;

Welcomes the forthcoming Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council in 2006-2008;

Welcomes and accepts the kind invitation of the USA to host the Eighth Conference in 2008.

Appendix 2

SCPAR input to the European Union hearing regarding the Green Paper on maritime policy



Document 5.1

29 May 2007

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
SCPAR input to the European Union hearing regarding the Green Paper on maritime policy

Introduction

The Arctic is often described as the last wilderness. Recent scientific results have however shown that even the last wilderness is closely connected to what happens in the rest of the world. What is more, the rest of the world can learn much by studying Arctic climate change as the rest of global community may in turn be influenced by the Arctic.

In the “Arctic Pollution” report produced by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) in 2002, it was proven that certain Arctic species, particularly those at the upper end of the marine food chain, such as polar bears and whales, carry high levels of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals deriving from sources outside of the Arctic. Through traditional diets and consumption of marine species levels of toxics that exceeded national guidelines can be found in Arctic residents.

In the “Arctic Climate Impact Assessment” (ACIA), launched in 2004, the results of global warming in the Arctic were analyzed. The findings in this comprehensive report showed that the temperature in the Arctic is rising twice as fast as lower latitudes and reiterated that the Arctic is an early warning sign for the rest of the world with regard to climate change. *Its major implications for the whole planet need to be addressed globally. This is also underlined in the “Resolution on Europe's High North - Energy and Environmental issues” from the EEA JPC meeting 23 May 2006.*

Climate change and increased marine access

The Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians appreciates the focus on climate change in the Green Paper. The Committee would like to point out some of the consequences of global warming for the Arctic.

Key Finding # 6 (out of 10) in the ACIA states:

“Reduced sea ice is very likely to increase marine transport and access to resources”.

A new maritime policy in the European Union must take into account the increased marine access to the Arctic waters. Global warming will lead to a dramatic reduction of sea ice in the Arctic. Since the launching of the ACIA (2004), reports have observed an even faster reduction of sea ice and predict that the Arctic summer ice will be gone by 2040. The all-time minimum in 29 years of satellite record-keeping was in 2005. Including 2006, the September rate of sea ice decline is now approximately -8.59% per decade, or 60,421 sq km per year.

According to the US Geological Surveys the Arctic share of undiscovered petroleum resources in the world is 23.9 % and the share of proven petroleum resources is 12.7 %. As a result of the reduced sea ice we will gain better access to the petroleum resources in the Arctic, which will lead to increased resource exploitation and marine transport.

A new Arctic Ocean requires enhanced environmental protection and marine safety measures.

New domestic and international legislation and new international guidelines should balance freedom of navigation interests with robust maritime safety and environmental systems. This balance needs to be reflected in the new EU maritime policy.

Goods transported by ship is at present the least environmentally damaging method of transport; nevertheless, shipping has a considerable environmental cost, and therefore a sustainable balance between environmental protection and economic use of the oceans is essential. CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases must be reduced and renewable energy sources need to be introduced and promoted for shipping.

Recommendations by Arctic parliamentarians

“If the ice disappears for large parts of the year, we will see an explosion in human activities in the Arctic.”

(Quote from the Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) at the last Parliamentary Conference in Kiruna.)

On several occasions the Arctic parliamentarians have focussed on the increased marine access which will follow from the reduced sea ice in the Arctic Ocean.

“The possibilities and limitations regarding a legal regime in the Arctic” were debated and this debate is reflected in the Conference Statement from Kiruna. The parliamentarians made the following recommendation to the governments of the Arctic Region and the institutions of the European Union:

“In light of the impact of climate change, and the increasing economic and human activity, initiate, as a matter of urgency, an audit of existing legal regimes that impact the Arctic and (to)continue the discussion about strengthening or adding to them where necessary;”

Treaties concerning the law of the sea are important aspects in such an audit. The Committee reiterates its recommendation and asks the European Commission to initiate an audit as mentioned above.

As a result of the already increasing shipping activities in the Arctic waters and expected further increases, the Kiruna declaration also deals with maritime security:

Strengthen their cooperation regarding marine security, especially search and rescue matters;

The shipping activities relating to the transport of goods, oil and gas, tourism, research, etc. will continue to increase with increasing marine access in the Arctic Ocean. This represents a major challenge, and future international cooperation regarding marine security, especially search and rescue matters, will be important. *This is underlined in the Statement from the Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension held in Brussels March 1 2007.*

The Committee is of the opinion that maritime security must play a significant role in the new maritime policy of the European Union *and calls for greater coordination to prevent accidents and, should one nonetheless take place, to agree on joint mechanism to combat its effects.*

The commercial possibilities and environmental challenges related to an opening of a Northern Sea Route are closely connected to the above mentioned issues of increased marine access, legal regimes in the Arctic and the cooperation on marine security. Routes through the Arctic dramatically shorten transit distances between existing commercial regions and trade centres and will be primarily of interest for shipping from Europe to Asia. Via the Northern Sea Route, the navigational distance between Hamburg and Yokohama, for instance, is only 6,900 miles, compared with 11,430 miles via the Suez Canal.

The prospect of routine shipping along the Northern Sea Route in summer raises important implications for the regional and global economy, for coastal communities, and for marine resources. This needs to be reflected in the new maritime policy.

An important instrument for cooperation in the region is also the Northern Dimension policy of the EU, Iceland, Norway and Russia. One of the priority sectors of this policy is transport and logistics. The setting up of a new partnership in this field, within the Northern Dimension framework, is presently being explored.

Arctic Council activities on maritime policy

An important message from the Arctic parliamentary committee is the need to cooperate internationally when creating a maritime policy. The Committee will therefore briefly present the most relevant work in the Arctic Council (the cooperation between the Arctic governments) in relation to maritime policy.

The Arctic Council presented the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan in 2004. The background for this was the new Arctic Ocean and the retreating Arctic Sea Ice (younger and thinner ice, decreasing extent), increasing Arctic resource development (oil, gas, minerals) increasing marine access and potentially longer seasons of navigation, especially during the summer.

There are four main goals in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan:

Pollution prevention – reduce and prevent pollution in the Arctic marine environment.

Biodiversity and ecosystem integrity – conserve Arctic marine biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Promoting human health – promote the health and prosperity of all Arctic inhabitants.

Marine resource use – advance sustainable Arctic marine resource use.

As a follow-up on the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan and the marine aspects of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) was given its mandate in 2004 and is expected to be finished in 2009.

AMSA will present different scenarios of marine activities for the period 2020-2050, and a strategy for “ecosystem-based management” of the Arctic Ocean.

The essential question lies in finding the balance between the freedom of navigation during commercial exploitation of the natural resources, and protection of the environment.

AMSA encompasses many stakeholders and decision makers: the Arctic states, indigenous arctic peoples, the maritime industry (shipbuilders, classification society, shipping firms, maritime insurers), research organisations, non-Arctic States (Japan, China, Germany, UK) and others.

There is also an Arctic Council project on “Best Practices in Ecosystem Based Oceans Management in the Arctic”, and it’s likely to be a project on adaptation to climate change in the Arctic.

Concluding remarks

Climate change is the key term when creating a maritime policy relevant to the Arctic.

Climate change influences Arctic communities. Villages have to move, fish stocks in the Arctic Oceans are moving further north and biodiversity is changing. The melting of the Arctic sea ice cover is the most dramatic evidence we have of global climate change, and the most easily understandable by people the world over. The projection of ice-free Arctic Ocean summers by mid-21st Century foretells profound changes for the people and ecology of the region, and significant implications for the global economy as well.

In some ways the Arctic is undoubtedly unique. Yet the changes taking place there will have significant implications for the global community, and the challenges of adaptation for communities and living resources in the Arctic may provide important lessons for the future of other regions as well.

Rising temperatures and receding pack ice, followed by new or increased economic and commercial activities are projected in the altered Arctic. A ‘resource rush’ in the Arctic would have real and lasting impact, both for the peoples and countries of the region and for the international community.

During the International Polar Year (2007-2009) we expect to gain new knowledge that will effect how we manage our Oceans. New relevant information needs to be incorporated in EU maritime policy to make it a dynamic and relevant instrument for the future management of our Oceans.

Appendix 3



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Draft minutes

Meeting in the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Time: 1 June 2007 at 9.30 am

Venue: Reykjavik, Nordica Hotel

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

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

The minutes from the from the SCPAR meeting in Brussels 28 February 2007 were approved.

2. DISCUSSION ON FOLLOWING-UP THE KIRUNA STATEMENT

Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg made some additional remarks to the paper prepared by the secretary.

Regarding article 35 in the Kiruna statement Ms. Solberg informed on the cooperation with UNESCO. The initiative "Education for All in the Arctic" is taken by the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, and is very much in line with the recommendation from Kiruna. The Norwegian commission to UNESCO will in June try to collect support for this project from the Nordic countries and Russia. Canada has already signalled support for the project. She asked the SCPAR members to consider supporting this initiative.

On the request of Ms. Solberg Finland and Ulla Karvo accepted the task to follow the progressing work with the ICT assessment and to follow up the Kiruna statement on ICT.

Ms. Solberg also informed the Committee that the European Parliament has decided to host the first Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum in spring 2009 as a follow-up to the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Conference the 1 March this year.

Mr. Nikolaev informed the Committee of a conference which will be held in Moscow November 20-22 2007 named "The role and place of Universities in the sustainable

development in the Arctic". The international scientific conference will be held under UNESCO Aegis.

Mr. Nicolaev further informed the Committee of the project initiative "Circumpolar Civilisation in World Museums: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" and asked the Committee to support the project.

Mr. Nikolaev also underlined the need to follow-up the International Polar Year.

Ms. Ulla Karvo stressed the importance to follow up on the Northern Dimension initiatives in the Kiruna statement, and found it important that all national parliaments involved are also given the opportunity to participate in the planning of the next parliamentary ND Forum. The committee had supported this approach already at its previous meeting.

Mr Sigurdur Kari Stefansson underlined the need to focus on maritime safety.

3. REPORT FROM THE NORWEGIAN CHAIRMANSHIP IN ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Norwegian Senior Arctic Official (SAO) Mr. Robert Kvile reported to the Committee on the initiatives taken by the Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

There is a growing interest in the Arctic, especially generated by energy supply issues and climate change.

At the last SAO meeting in Tromsø 12-13 April 2007 Italy, China and the European Commission met as ad-hoc observers.

Mr Kvile briefly reiterated the three major topics in the chairmanship program:

Integrated management of resources,

Climate change,

The structure of the Arctic Council.

Norway has coordinated with Denmark and Sweden some common priorities, 2006-2013 as they follow as chairs of the Arctic Council. Denmark will take over as chair at the ministerial meeting in spring 2009. A secretariat set up in Tromsø to serve the current chair is established in this period of Scandinavian chairmanship. Three persons are hired; one Icelandic/US, one Denmark/Greenland and one Canadian.

Mr. Kvile presented three projects which are about to be started:

1. Best practises in Ecosystem-based Oceans management.

There are 17 ecosystems in the Arctic and through the project it will be collected management policies and focus on best practices.

A conference on the topic will take place in Norway autumn 2007.

2. Climate change and the Cryosphere

The project aims at studying the consequences of climate change on the Greenland icecap, Sea ice, and Permafrost and snow. What is happening, why is it happening and its consequences.

Conference in Norway this autumn

Adaptaion

Adaptation to economic, environmental and social consequences of climate change.

The project aims at gathering available information on adaptation to climate change.

On question from the Committee Mr. Kvile informed that the restructuring of the Arctic

Council will not be pushed under the Norwegian chairmanship. They had planned to

look at the division of labour between the Working Groups of the Council but the Council doesn't share a common view at the moment.

Mr. Kvile foresaw better coordination between the regional councils in the North, and

more formal links as for instance having ministerial meetings together. But he also

underlined that the Arctic Council is a bit different with Canada and the USA as

members.

4. CHALLENGES IN MARITIME SECURITY FROM AN ICELANDIC PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Thorir Ibsen, Senior Arctic Official from Iceland, gave an intervention on Maritime Security from an Icelandic perspective. Maritime issues always high on the Agenda in Iceland and Iceland take an active part in international forums to make promote safe shipping.

In 2005 the report “North meets North” was released.

Increased shipping and tourist activities, increased oil and gas transport, more fishing etc are both positive and negative. It creates new opportunities but must also make sure that the new activities are balanced and sustainable.

New technology and climate change will also make it possible for normal ships break through the ice and cross the Arctic in 40-50 years time.

Mr Ibsen made many referrals to the results of the Icelandic conference “Breaking the Ice” which took place in Akureyri in the end of March this year. A report has been made and can be found at www.arcticportal.org

In the next 10-15 years resource development and tourism will be the main drivers in Arctic maritime policy. Iceland is central geographically in this aspect, and the Arctic Council will be a central body in making this development safe.

Mr. Niels Sindal highlighted that maritime cooperation in the Arctic must be coordinated with other international organisations as IMO. There is a need to get an arctic code of maritime activities. We can't prevent ships travelling in the Arctic but there is a need for a special Arctic education for captains.

The discussion of the status of the Arctic waters, whether its national or international, must be started.

Mr. Bob Mills asked about the capabilities of rescuing a sinking cruise ship in the Arctic.

Mr. Thorir Ibsen answered that these issues are a part of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment which is to be delivered to the ministerial meeting in 2009.

5. DISCUSSION ON INPUT TO THE GREEN PAPER ON EU MARITIME POLICY

The draft proposal to input was approved by the Committee.

6. PRESENTATION OF SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE ARCTIC (SLICA)

Mr. Birger Poppel, project director of "Survey of living conditions in the Arctic" (Slica) presented the findings in the Slica project.

The project started in 1997 and the results first presented in March 2007. The project is based partnership with the indigenous peoples in the Arctic.

The questionnaire had 200 questions and 90 minutes were used in average. The budget was 8 million US dollars, and the results are well connected to the work of the Arctic Human Development Report and the work the work to create a set of Arctic Social Indicators.

The major findings are:

- A combination of traditional activities cash employment is the prevailing lifestyle of Arctic indigenous people. It takes money to pursue traditional activities; households with higher incomes can, and do, choose to spend income on these activities. Nine in ten Inuit think traditional activities are important to their identity.
- Family ties, social support of each other, and traditional activities have a lot to do with why indigenous people choose to remain in Arctic communities.
- Well-being is closely related to job opportunities, locally available fish and game, and a sense of local control. Wellbeing and depression (and related problems like suicide) are flip sides of the same coin. Improving well-being may reduce social problems.
- Health conditions vary widely in the Arctic: three in four Greenlandic Inuit self-rate their health as at least very good compared with one in two Canadian and Alaska Inuit and one in five Chukotka indigenous people.
See also: <http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org/>

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON A DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE IN ALASKA AUGUST 2008

Mr Isaac Edwards presented the draft program and agenda items for the next Conference of Arctic parliamentarians will be in Alaska in 2008.

The conference venue will be Fairbanks, and the proposed dates are 11-14 August 2008.

The three main items which are suggested are:

- The International Polar Year
- Climate change
- Energy

The Committee accepted the proposed dates for the conference and the suggested main agenda items.

8. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR

Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg reported from her trip to Washington and New York. She met with Senator Murkowski and Senator Stevens and discussed the upcoming conference in Alaska and climate change.

In New York Ms. Solberg especially mentioned the meeting with the Head of the UN Treaty Section where she was informed that they will follow our recommendation from Kiruna and make treaties relevant to the Arctic an important part of the Annual Treaty Event in 2008. This will need a close follow-up from the Committees side.

Ms. Solberg also reported on the new targets set by the Norwegian government to reduce emission of greenhouse gasses; 30% reduction of greenhouse gasses within 2020, reduce the emissions under the Kyoto-protocol with further 10% by 2012, and be carbon neutral in 2050.

Mr. Sigurdur Kari Kristiansson reported on the outcome of the elections in Iceland the 12 May and the formation of the new government between The Independence Party (Conservative) and the Social Democratic Party.

Policy to combat pollution and climate change are at the top of the political agenda in Iceland.

Ms. Ulla Karvo gave an update on the outcome of the Finnish election 12 March and a majority coalition was formed by the Centre Party, the National Coalition Party, the Green League and the Swedish People's Party of Finland.

There will be a Barents parliamentary conference in Rovaniemi 11-12 June.

Ms. Sinikka Bohlin, gave a report from the activities of the Nordic Council which is awaiting answers from the government on the recommendations made by the parliamentarians on issues like Arctic research, adaptation to climate change, and research regarding a legal treaty in the Arctic.

The Nordic Council' Presidium will travel to Svalbard in the end of June, and the Nordic Council session will be in Oslo 30 October-1 November 2007.

Ms. Sinikka Bohlin also gave a report from the activities of the Swedish parliament. A seminar on IPY was arranged 18 April in the parliament. It was arranged together with the Swedish IPY-committee, and gathered some 50 participants.

Sweden will be chairing many regional councils at the ministerial level the coming years. 2008 – Nordic Council, 2009 – the European Union, 2009-2011 Barents Euro-Arctic Council and 2011-2013 the Arctic Council. The parliament will work for the benefit of the Arctic region in all these chairmanships.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has visited the north of Norway.

Mr. Bob Mills reported on the 44 Canadian IPY – projects and the 150 million dollars the government will spend. In addition there are many other international projects with Canadian participation.

Mr. Mills also reported on the recent developments on the negotiations on climate change in the G8 + 5.

G8 +5 will meet in Berlin and are looking for the solutions to climate change. A final report will be delivered in Japan in 2008.

Mr. Lars Anders Baer awaited new development in the politics on saami issues in Sweden and Finland, but nothing had happened so far.

The UN declaration on indigenous rights will possibly be brought to a vote this autumn at the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Vasily Usoltsev reported on the upcoming Duma elections in December and how much of the work in the Duma now is related to the election.

The work to identify boarders in the North is almost finished.

He briefed the Committee on the regional consequences of the federal budget

Mr Isaac Edwards reported on a new approach to climate change policy in the US.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next SCPAR meeting will be in Ottawa 19 October 2007.

The first meeting in 2008 will be in Rovaniemi, Finland 28-29 February, where the first part of the meeting will be together with UArctic.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

MEETING IN REYKJAVIK

1 JUNE 2007

List of Participants

MEMBERS

| | |
|----------|--|
| Canada | Mr. Bob Mills, MP Mr. Scott Simms, MP Mr. Timothy Williams, Advisor |
| Denmark | Mr. Niels Sindal, MP Mr. Lavst Riemann Hansen, Delegation Secretary |
| Finland | Ms. Ulla Karvo, MP Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director, International Department |
| Iceland | Mr. Sigurdur Kari Kristiansson, MP Ms. Arna Bang, Advisor Ms. Magnea Marinisdottir, Advisor |
| Norway | Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg, MP, Chair of SCPAR |
| Russia | Mr. Mikhail Nikolaev, MP, Council of Federation Mr. Egor Andreev, Councillor, Council of Federation Mr. Sergey Aksyonov, Advisor, Council of Federation Mr. Vasily Usoltsev, MP, State Duma Mr. Victor Sitnov, MP, State Duma Ms. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary, State Duma |
| Sweden | Ms. Sinikka Bohlin, MP (also representing the Nordic Council) Ms. Eva Hjelm, Senior Officer, International Department |
| The U.S. | Mr Isaac Edwards, Legislative Director |

PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Lars Anders Baer, Saami Parliamentary Council

OBSERVERS

Mr. Jan Widberg, Senior Adviser,
Nordic Council secretariat

Mr. Thordur Thorarinsson, Secretary General,
West-Nordic Council

GUESTS

Mr. Robert Kvile, Senior Arctic Official, Norway,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Thorir Ibsen, Senior Arctic Official, Iceland,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Birger Poppel, International project
coordinator, SLiCA

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General of
SCPAR

INTERPRETER

Ms. Sesselja Helgadóttir
Ms. Tamara

Travel Costs

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|--|---|
| ASSOCIATION | Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association |
| ACTIVITY | Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region |
| DESTINATION | Reykjavik, Iceland |
| DATES | June 1, 2007 |
| DELEGATION | |
| SENATE | |
| HOUSE OF COMMONS | Mr. Bob Mills, M.P. Mr. Scott Simms, M.P. |
| STAFF | Mr. Tim Williams, Analyst |
| TRANSPORTATION | \$ 15,017.48 |
| ACCOMMODATION | \$ 2,903.60 |
| HOSPITALITY | \$ |
| PER DIEMS | \$ 1,271.80 |
| OFFICIAL GIFTS | \$ |
| MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ 19,192.88 |