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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

**Syktyvkar, Republic of Komi, Russia
September 28 and 29, 2011**

Report

INTRODUCTION

Peter Goldring, M.P., led a Canadian delegation of two to the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) held in Syktyvkar, Russia, 28 and 29 September 2011. The other delegate was Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P. Accompanying the delegation was Mr. Sebastian Spano from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament as advisor to the delegation. Appended to this report are the draft minutes of the meeting of 28 September 2011 in Syktyvkar, Republic of Komi, Russia. These minutes were prepared by the secretary general of the Committee.

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 Eighth Conference was held in Fairbanks, Alaska, U.S.A., 12-14 August 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.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Presentations by Officials of the Komi Republic

The meeting was preceded by a series of presentations from officials from the Komi Republic on developments in the Komi Republic relating to economic development, governance, resources and the environment, support for indigenous cultures and peoples, and education.

1. Intergovernmental and Interregional Cooperation in the Arctic Region – the Komi Experience

Senator Vladimir Torpolov, member of SCPAR, and former governor of Komi, gave an overview of the activities of the Republic of Komi in the areas of intergovernmental and interregional cooperation. He noted that there are a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements between the Republic of Komi and other arctic regions. Perhaps the most important one is the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation agreement under which Komi is one of five regions in North-West Russia participating in regional cooperation activities. The Barents region is made up of 14 regions in northern Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

A priority for the Komi Republic is the integration of the northern regions including through developing transportation links, promoting regional cultures, and economic development. A key investment project for Komi is the main railway line connecting countries and regions of the Barents region. A project to protect and preserve fragile northern species and natural habitat was launched in the Pechora delta in collaboration with the Global Environment Fund. A four million Euro fund has been established for this purpose.

The Republic of Komi has a strong connection with the Finnish people, being part of the same Finno-Ugric world. There are numerous areas of cooperation with Finland including cooperation on forestry, fisheries, reindeer herding, environmental protection and tourism, energy and medical care. A Finno-Ugric cultural centre and park recently open in the village of Yb.

2. Advancement of Arctic Research and Science in the Republic of Komi

Mr. Askhab Askhabov, Chairman of the Presidium of the Komi Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, reviewed the history of and recent developments in scientific research in the Komi Republic. Scientific research has played an important role in the development of Komi's various industries. The Komi Scientific Centre, part of the State University, has six key institutes or scientific schools including: biology, chemistry and geology. The university itself has its origins in the turn of the 20th century. The Centre works with scientific centres from other Arctic region countries such as Norway, Finland and Canada. Much of the Centre's work relates to the development of natural resources. The geology institute is currently mapping offshore oilfields, while the biology institute is undertaking studies of the ecosystems of the tundra, climate gasses and their relationship to the migration routes of northern reindeer. Together with a Norwegian scientific research centre, researchers from Komi are continuing a study of the effects of the oil and gas industry on the health of inhabitants of Komi.

Mr. Askhabov commented that while the Komi Republic has felt the effects of the economic recession in much of Europe, it has fared much better than other northern regions. Royalties from the sale of oil continue at a steady rate. The rate of unemployment is among the lowest in Russia, at 3-4%. While there has been a brain drain of young people moving from rural or remote regions to the cities, there continues to be sufficient interest among the young in pursuing sciences and in environmental awareness.

3. Natural Resources Management and Environmental Protection – Regional Aspects

Mr. Sergei Geraimovich, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Republic of Komi gave a presentation to the Committee on the management of Komi's natural resources. Komi is one of the richest natural resource regions in Russia. There are large oil and gas and mineral reserves including 145 gas fields and six coal mines. Environmental protection efforts have been given high priority in Komi, particularly since a major oil spill in the 1990s. Mr. Geraimovich highlighted some of the notable efforts in this regard including: the setting aside of six million hectares of land as

a protected area, representing approximately 14.5% of Komi's total land area; the development of land use standards; a methane investigation project; and a project to improve and monitor drinking water quality. He noted that an inventory of protected areas – approximately 137 - is currently being developed to help preserve wildlife and natural environments.

4. Indigenous Peoples Support in the Komi Republic

The presentation on support for indigenous people in the Komi Republic was given by Mr. Valery Markov, Senior Vice-Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Komi. The Komi constitution establishes certain rights for indigenous peoples in Komi including language rights, economic rights and protections for Komi culture. The constitution grants Komi representatives rights of participation on the State Council of Komi, thus providing a role in the legislative process. As a result, there are statutes in place to protect indigenous languages (Komi is now taught as a second official language in the schools), to protect reindeer herding as a Komi economic and cultural activity and to support other traditional indigenous economic activities and businesses.

Approximately 60% of the population of the Republic of Komi is of Russian origin, while 25% is of Komi origin. The Komi population has dropped from about 50% in the mid-20th century. This has been due largely to the influx of Russians who have come to pursue employment in the extraction industries.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Markov indicated that gender equality and the participation of women in society, particularly in universities, is improving. The Republic of Komi uses its Arctic neighbours as role models to improve the educational and economic prospects for women.

5. Participation of the Komi Republic Universities in International Exchange Programs

Mr. Georgy Korsunov, Rector Assistant, External Relations, Ukhta State Technical University gave the presentation on this agenda item.

There is a high degree of cooperation between Arctic region educational institutions and institutions from other countries. These have proved to be extremely important for the Komi Republic, enabling Komi students to benefit from courses offered elsewhere and enriching the educational programs in Komi. Mr. Korsunov reviewed the numerous cooperative arrangements including:

- A summer school for teachers through the University of Applied Sciences of Seinäjoki, Finland.
- A program for young professionals in forestry and international business in Russia and Finland.
- An English language distance “Bachelor of Northern (Circumpolar) Studies” program in collaboration with the University of Nordland in Norway.

- The “North2North” student exchange program with Norway which also offers scholarships.
- A joint Arctic regions studies program with the University of Versailles in France.
- Several working groups and research projects through the Barents University of the Arctic.
- Ukhta State Technical University programs including: collaboration with the University of the Arctic, the Fulbright Scholarship program, student exchanges with Kazakhstan, and English programs with the U.S. State Department.

6. Climate Changes in the Quaternary Period in the European Part of North Russia

This agenda item was presented by Dr. Lyudmila Andreicheva, Department Head, Geology Institute of the Komi Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Andreicheva reviewed the results of her research on the topic. Her overall conclusion is that temperatures are actually colder today than at the start of the quaternary period, the period marked by the development of *homo sapiens*. She noted that temperatures were about 1-2 degrees higher 300,000 years ago, and 2-4 degrees higher 180,000 years ago, than they are today. While overall temperature patterns show fluctuations, she noted the phenomenon of more recent high temperature periods being colder than previous high temperature periods by about one degree.

B. The Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, 28 September 2011

The Agenda of the Standing Committee was modified somewhat from the original agenda circulated in advance of the meeting. The current agenda and minutes from the meeting held in Reykjavik, 9-10 June 2011 were approved.

1. 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

The Committee agreed that the 10th Conference of Parliamentarians from the Arctic Region shall be held on 5-7 September 2012 in Akureyi, Iceland.

Ms. Gretarsdottir, from the Icelandic delegation reported on the preparations for the Conference. Three broad themes are proposed for the Conference:

- Sustainable development
- Corporate social responsibility, particularly toward smaller communities
- Enhancing human development in the Arctic

These themes will need to be refined as planning progresses. A number of further issues to develop include: a closer study of the financing of business development in the north in light of the financial crisis, and turning policy recommendations arising from scientific studies into concrete action.

A recommendation was made by the Chair of the Committee that rapporteurs for each of the three themes should be appointed for the Conference. Canada, Finland and Sweden were proposed. Delegates from each of the country delegations indicated that they would need to report back to the Committee on whether it is feasible to act as rapporteur.

2. Arctic Governance in an Evolving Arctic Region

A broad discussion took place in respect of the proposals contained in the revised draft paper entitled “Arctic Governance in an Evolving Arctic Region” dated August 9, 2011. Generally, the Committee members were supportive of the proposals in the paper. The Chair of the Committee reviewed the updated proposal based on discussions at the meeting of the Committee in Reykjavik in June 2011. He drew to the Committee’s attention the proposed Search and Rescue Agreement as a new development in the Arctic Council’s governance structure. He urged the Committee to consider how this new structure can be used by the Committee to influence the work of the Arctic Council. The Committee discussed the importance of increasing its involvement in the Arctic Council at the ministerial level so that parliamentarians can have more effective input in the Arctic Council.

It was noted that Arctic countries should consider more closely the effect of the opening up of new sea routes through the Arctic and consider developing a common Arctic shipping strategy.

In reviewing the paper a number of suggestions were made by members of the Committee:

- The sub-headings should be rearranged. It was suggested that the Permanent Secretariat of the Arctic Council should be listed first, followed by Budgets, Arctic Vision and the Arctic Council as an international organization.
- The paper should have new sections to address maritime pollution, maritime safety, natural resources and human well-being, and ecosystem management.
- More input from aboriginal/indigenous organizations is needed, although the Chair of the Committee noted that two aboriginal organizations participated in the development of the paper. Neither organization was from Canada.

The Committee took a decision to the effect that the updated paper reflected the discussions in Reykjavik.

3. Proposal for a Rotating Chairmanship of SCPAR

The Icelandic delegation renewed its proposal for a rotating chairmanship of the Committee. The delegation proposed that “The Chair of the Committee shall rotate between the members, ideally every two years.” The proposal was approved by the Committee. It is unclear whether this decision will have any impact on the way the Chair of the Committee is selected. It is noteworthy that no order of rotation was agreed to. It was understood that it would not always be possible to have a Chair serve for two

years, given the uncertainties of elections in member parliaments. The proposal was approved by the Committee.

4. Status of the Work of SCPAR

Each delegation provided an overview of developments in their respective countries in relation to the Arctic. A detailed summary of these presentations is provided in the minutes of the meeting appended to this report.

5. Next Meeting of SCPAR

The next meeting of the Committee shall be held in Sweden, 13-15 February 2012.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

C. Tour of Cultural Sites of the Komi Republic

Understanding indigenous cultures and promoting and preserving these cultures is an important mandate of the SCPAR. In furtherance of this aspect of the work of SCPAR, several visits were arranged by the host country, Russia, to several sites of cultural significance in the Komi Republic. Delegates visited the Suomi-Ugrian Centre in the village of Yb. Delegates toured the village including a newly-constructed cultural-educational centre that will serve as a focal point for promoting the Suomi-Ugrian cultures. The Centre is equipped with conference and meeting rooms as well as an arts and crafts centre.

The delegates also visited the Zaran folk crafts centre in S. Vylgort and the Geology Institute Museum. The Canadian delegation took note of some comments made during the course of the tour of the Geological Museum concerning the development of the Russian oil sands. The delegates were shown geological samples and maps of the Russian oil sands. The samples and the maps suggested that Russia has considerable reserves of oil sands, perhaps comparable to Canada's oil sands. Canadian delegates found this information to be highly illuminating as Russian oil sands development is a topic that seldom arises in discussions concerning fossil fuel development and climate change.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Peter Goldring, M.P.
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

Appendix 1

Draft Minutes of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region held on 28 September 2011 in Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, Russia



Draft minutes

SCPAP meeting in Syktyvkar 28 September 2011

Opening of the meeting

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was opened by Senator Torlopov and Chair of SCPAP Mr. Morten Høglund.

Deputy Head of Komi Republic Mr. Konstantin Romadanov wished the Committee welcome to Komi and Syktyvkar. Remembering the meeting of SCPAP in Syktyvkar in 2001, Mr. Romadanov thanked Mr. Torlopov and Mr. Markov for bringing the Committee to Syktyvkar.

Speaker of the Regional Duma Ms. Marina Isitkovskaya, welcomed SCPAP and mentioned some of the current political issues in the Republic of Komi. The Republic is engaged in new projects to improve the handling and utilization of waste.

Ms. Isitkovskaya also mentioned the work to preserve new areas of the Komi Republic by making natural preserved areas with strong limitations of industrial development.

Mr. Høglund informed the Committee that the meeting would be divided into two parts. The first part would be presentations from invited experts, and the second part after lunch would be internal matters for the Committee.

Decision:

The Committee adopted the agenda and the proposed order of agenda items with the added information presented by the Chair.

1. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC REGION – THE KOMI EXPERIENCE

The Russian member of SCPAP Mr. Vladimir Torlopov introduced the Committee to the experiences of the Komi republic on international cooperation. Being the largest region in the North of Russia, Komi is active in many areas of international cooperation.

The most important is the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation (BEAC), but there are also many bilateral agreements with neighboring countries.

The BEAC Strategy for social and economic development has top priority and the Komi representatives actively participate in the Working Group on these matters in BEAC. Important BEAC projects in Komi are the new library with a new international information center and the North transportation corridor/Barents link with the new railway construction between counties and countries in the Barents region.

In May 2009 the Third Barents Parliamentary conference took place in Syktyvkar and in August 2011 a new Finno-Ugric cultural park opened in Yb.

In the Pechora delta the republic has a project together with Global Environment Fund (GEF) to preserve the nature.

Mr. Torlopov underlined the importance of the close connection with Finland as Komi is a part of the Finno-Ugric world and that the cooperation is developing well. Cooperation projects with Finland include areas such as: forestry, fishing, reindeer, environmental tourism, energy saving, medical cooperation – cardiology, and the cultural cooperation through the recently opened Finno-Ugric center.

This meeting with SCPAR is a new step in building Syktyvkar as a meeting place for international cooperation.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

2. ADVANCEMENT OF ARCTIC RESEARCH AND SCIENCE IN THE KOMI REPUBLIC

Mr. Askhab Askhabov, Presidium Chairman of the Komi Scientific Centre and member of Russian Academy of Sciences informed the committee about the development of universities in the Republic of Komi.

The first university opened in 1906 and in the first period the focus was on social and humanitarian studies. As the industrialization of the republic started in the 1930ies and 1940ies new research branches started related to the industry. In 1946 a new center was established and it created a new start for research in natural sciences.

Today the State University has a number of institutes including geology, psychology, chemistry and language.

The university is still doing a lot a work related to the utilization the natural resources in the republic. The institute of geology is involved in mapping of oilfields off shore and at Novaia Semlja. The Institute of biology is i.a. working the ecosystems of the tundra and its connection to climate gasses and the migration routes of Northern Reindeers

A study on the effect of oil and gas industry on human health in the Komi republic is ongoing.

They also give input when new federal laws on arctic issues are being made.

On questions from the Committee regarding the effects of oil and gas industry on human health, Mr. Askhabov informed that the project has started but no results are published yet.

Members of the Committee asked how the global recession has hit Komi, they wanted to get more information of the railway project, how they work to balance environmental protection with exploitation of natural resources, and the situation in recruiting young scientists?

Mr. Askhabov noted that young people are not as eager as before to go into science and that there is a brain drain from the rural areas to the big cities and to the international community. However this has not been a big problem so far in the Republic of Komi.

As regards to balance development and protection there needs to be found consensus and compromises.

Mr. Torolpov mentioned the large oil spill in Komi in the mid 90ies and as a result of this the regulations meet international standards, if not even stricter. The area where the oils spill took place is today rich in fish and they have managed to restore the original environment after the oil spill.

Mr. Torlopov noted that the European recession has hit Komi. The republic is very dependent of natural resources and taxes from the industry. But compared to other subjects in Russia, Komi is rather well off. The cooperation with Lukoil is good and in 2010 and 2011 the tax flow has been good. This has allowed Komi to adopt new regulations related to housing problems and other social issues.

The railway project has support from central Russian authorities and is also cooperation between Russian subjects.

With regards to a question regarding the labor market, Mr. Torlopov said that there is very little unemployment in Komi – 3-4 % is one of the lowest in the Russian federation.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

3. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – REGIONAL ASPECTS

Mr. Sergey Geraimovich, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Komi informed the Committee about the rich natural resources in the Republic of Komi. The resources include oil, gas, coal, different minerals including diamonds and gold.

Emphasis is being put on sustainable growth and environmental safety. They have learned many lessons from cleaning up after the oil spill in the 90ies.

There are currently 145 gas fields and six coal mines in use and there are rich reserves.

The infrastructure may have negative impact on the environment. Special programs for environmental protection started in 1930ies and today 14, 5 % of the Komi Republic is preserved.

Waste handling are now being dealt with in new programs. Mr. Geraimovich underlined that waste handling is a big problem and the percentage of recycling is low. Industry

waste from wood harvesting and coal origins from inconvenient places of industry far away from other infrastructure. They seek to better utilize low quality wood.

Priority is given to the supply of high quality drinking water with different projects spanning from 2011-2015.

Projects through the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation on environmental protection include 11 programs for cleaner production such as training of engineers.

The government has environmental events to engage the wider public through environmental training and education.

The Committee was wondering how they combine the extraction of oil and gas and mitigation of climate change, and about the effects of the melting permafrost.

Mr. Geraimovich said they have different commission taking care of these issues. One Commission will soon meet in Usinsk and visit an installation to look at the preparedness in case of an accident.

Replying to another question from the Committee Mr. Geraimovich did not see a conflict between the extraction of natural resources and the preservation of the nature. From the 1930ies special protected have been established, and today there are 137 protected areas including two 2 from the federal level.

Inventory of protected areas will be ready in 2014 and we will have a new policy for the protected areas.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information

4. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUPPORT IN THE KOMI REPUBLIC

Mr. Valery Markov, Senior Vice-Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Komi introduced the Committee to the situation for the indigenous peoples in Komi. Today 60% are of Russian origin, 25 % Komi, and many other small numbered peoples.

The recent years the number of Komi people has decreased. Nenets people, Khanty people and Mansi people live in special areas in the North as hunters.

74 % of the people in Komi live in urban settlements and 24 % lives rural. This has changed from 1970 until now as people are moving from rural areas to urban.

The rights of the indigenous peoples are protected through legislation. The most important federal laws are the constitution, the languages and education law from 1991, and reindeer herding law from 2011. The Komi law shall be in accordance with the federal law.

The implementation of the education law concerns i.e. the right to study native language in school, the history and culture. Economical support is given to traditional business initiatives.

The Komi language is studied in 100 schools by 25 000 school children. However the state policy does not only support Komi people but also organizations for other peoples in Komi.

Reindeer breeding development and infrastructure for meat and food production motivates entrepreneurship in local villages connected to reindeer husbandry.

The Komi people congress was first congress held in 1991. The 10th Congress will be arranged in February 2012. The Congress proposes new legislation and is for Komi people living all over the Russian Federation.

Members of the Committee wanted to know about the participation of women in society in general and especially at universities. There was also a question if there were conflicting interests between the indigenous population in Komi and the Russian population.

Mr. Markov replied that they try to use the use of the Arctic neighbors as good examples in the work towards gender equality. The situation in Komi is getting better but from a lower level of equality.

90 % of the people in Komi used to be Komi people. In the mid 20th century the number was 50/50 and in the year 2000 25 % of the people were Komi. It has been the extraction of natural resources which mainly has brought new people to Komi. Komi is however a stable republic and no conflicts between its different peoples.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

5. PARTICIPATION OF THE KOMI REPUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Rector Assistant, External Relations, Ukhta State Technical University Mr. Georgy Korsunov introduced the Committee to the subject of student exchange.

Cooperation between educational institutions and student exchange are very effective in building mutual understanding between peoples and nations. The Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation is important basis for the cooperation where they participate in the Working Group on education and research.

The State Forest Institute has a close cooperation with Finland, Norway and Sweden.

A project for planning of forestry includes many actors in the sector. They will develop new technology especially for Komi which includes a network of forest roads.

In a bilateral Russian – Finnish program of forest sector development – the aim is the improvement of teachers. There are several cooperation projects with Finland on forestry.

The Ukta University is also involved in the University of the Arctic, and is involved in cooperation projects with all the SCPAR members' countries. A Bachelor program of Circumpolar studies is run together with the University of Nordland in Bodø Norway.

The University is participating in the North2North cooperation in UArctic for student exchange.

In May 2011 delegation from Maine University visited Syktyvkar to look into the possibilities of cooperation. The Ukta University cooperates with a French university on

academic exchange and diploma projects and Arctic regions studies, and is involved in the Fulbright program, student exchange with Kazakhstan, and an English program with the US Department of State.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

6. CLIMATE CHANGES IN QUATERNARY PERIOD IN EUROPEAN PART OF THE NORTH OF RUSSIA

Dr. Lyudmila Andreicheva, Head of Department of the Geology Institute of the Komi Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, presented her findings to the Committee.

In the 20th century she had seen an increase in the temperature. Dr. Andreicheva noted that the climate on earth has always changed between warm and cold periods, and the period she had studied was very limited taking into account the time of existence of the earth.

About 300 000 years ago the temperature was 1-2 degrees higher, birch and pine were more frequently observed. 240 000 – 180 000 years ago there were even higher temperatures – 2-4 degrees warmer than it is today.

50 000 – 25 000 years ago was a chilly period – 2-6 degrees colder than today, and 10 000 years ago was in a middle of an unstable but cold period. 5000 year ago the temperature was 2-3 degrees higher than today and there was forest up to the Pechora area.

Today it is a stable chilling trend of the climate. Every high temperature period is 1 degree colder than the previous warm period. So based upon the studies of Dr. Andreicheva the climate is getting colder.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

7. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR-MEETING IN REYKJAVIK 9 JUNE 2011

Decision:

The minutes from the meeting in Reykjavik 9 June 2010 was approved.

8. 10TH CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Ms. Gretarsdottir from Iceland updated the Committee on the preparation of the Conference and proposed to have the Conference in Akureyri 5-7 September 2012. Since the topics presented in the draft program are broad, some more consideration on the specific angels needs to be done. With regards to human development one of the main challenges is to get the policy recommendations in the science reports

transformed into action. It was also proposed to look closer into how business development in the North is being financed after the financial crises.

The Chair of the Committee also proposed that Finland, Sweden and Canada should appoint rapporteurs from their delegations as rapporteurs at the Conference. The mentioned delegations reported to the Chair that they needed to check this back home before they made any commitments.

Decision:

The Committee decided to arrange the 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Akureyri 5-7 September 2012.

9. ARCTIC GOVERNANCE IN AN EVOLVING ARCTIC REGION

Mr. Høglund guided the Committee through the updated proposal, based on the deliberations at the meeting in Reykjavik in June. He was generally satisfied with the paper. In addition to some editorial corrections Mr. Høglund proposed that latest development in the governance structure of the Arctic Council as the Search and Rescue agreement needs to be reflected in the paper. The parliamentarians should look upon this development and discuss how we can influence the future use of this new mechanism. The use of task forces to address specific areas of the Arctic cooperation creates new possibilities. The Committee needs to establish a dialogue with the Arctic Council in this respect.

Mr. Høglund further noted that as new sea routes are opening up the Arctic countries should look at this more closely and develop a common Arctic shipping strategy.

These thoughts were generally supported by the members of the Committee. Members of the Committee also pointed to the importance of the chapter concerning a “vision for the Arctic”. It was also proposed to include some words in the introduction concerning maritime safety, natural resources and human social well-being.

Another proposal was to change the order of the different chapters – to have the proposal to establish an international organization as the final recommendation.

Members of the Committee pointed to the importance of having participation of the indigenous peoples in discussing governance issues in the Arctic. Finally it was proposed to include something about ecosystem based management into the paper, which also could be a topic at the next meeting of the Committee.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that the updated paper on Arctic governance reflected the discussion in Reykjavik with the additions mentioned at the meeting in Syktyvkar.

10. PROPOSAL OF A ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP OF SCPAR

The Icelandic delegation presented the latest proposal of a rotating chairmanship of SCPAR:

“The Chair of the Committee shall rotate between the members, ideally every two years.”

Decision:

The Chair of the Committee shall rotate between the members, ideally every two years.

11. ELECTION OF NEW VICE-CHAIR OF SCPAR

Mr. Morten Høglund proposed Ms. Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir as new Vice Chair of SCPAR.

Decision:

Ms. Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir was unanimously elected as the new Vice Chair of SCPAR.

12. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR

The Canadian delegation presented the principles and priorities in its Northern Strategy. The strategy was developed in 2009 and is based 4 priorities which continue to guide Canada’s policy on the Arctic. The priorities are:

- Exercising Arctic sovereignty
- Promoting social and economic development
- Protecting the environmental heritage
- Improving and devolving Northern Governance

Canada continues to invest in the Arctic which includes an army training center in Resolute Bay, a new deep water berthing and fueling facility in Nanisivik, and the construction of a new fleet of patrol ships and icebreakers.

The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act will extend its application from 100 to 200 nautical miles from Canada’s coastline.

There continue to be boundary disputes with Denmark and the United States, but these disputes are well managed. The dispute with Denmark concerns Hans Island which is a 1.3 square km uninhabited island and regular bilateral discussions are taking place to move towards a solution.

In the Beaufort Sea the dispute concerns the maritime boundary north of Alaska and the Yukon. The disputed area measures approximately 6250 nautical miles and both has agreed to continue the dialogue and engage the experts from both countries to address the technical aspects of the boundary.

In respect to the North-West passage Canada welcomes navigation in the Arctic waters but on the condition that ships respect Canadian controls related to safety, security, protection of the environment and Inuit interests. The North-west passage is internal waters of Canada, not an international strait.

With respect to determining the extent of the Canadian continental shelf, a submission to the UN commission will be presented by the end of 2013. The scientific work to map the shelf is done in cooperation with the US, Russia and Denmark.

The Government of Canada continues to transfer power to the 3 Northern territories particularly in the areas of resource and land management.

The Arctic Net project has received 67.3 million in funding and the aim is to help to adapt to climate change.

As a follow up of the International Polar Year Canada will host the conference "From Knowledge to Action" in Montreal 22-27 April 2012.

In light of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico Canada has initiated a review of off-shore drilling practices in the Arctic.

A number of projects in Canada involve aboriginal communities in the management of projects and development of economic life in the region. An example is the Mackenzie Gas project which directly involves aboriginal communities through a model of aboriginal participation.

The Russian delegation reported that there is a constant work on Arctic legislation in the Russian Federation. There was also a big Arctic meeting in Arkhangelsk last week. The meeting was organized by the Russian Geographical Society, where Prime Minister Putin, many MPs and governmental representatives took part in discussion on the changing situation in the Arctic as a result of the global warming.

The Icelandic delegation reported of more debate on Arctic issues within the Icelandic society. Two conferences in Akureyri, including the Northern Research Forum, have taken place recently. There is no news from parliament since the last meeting, but there has been a big media debate on the role of non-Arctic states in the Arctic and the Arctic Council. This is partly because a Chinese company wants to buy a big piece of land in Iceland.

The Swedish delegation noted that the presidency of the Arctic Council and a new Swedish Arctic Strategy has drawn the attention towards the Arctic in Sweden.

The 5th Barents Parliamentary Conference took place 18-20 May in Luleå.

Maritime safety in the Arctic is an important issue in the Nordic Council Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources and a proposal on maritime safety will be discussed at the Nordic Council session in the beginning of November.

The Nordic Council and Torkil Sørensen informed the Committee of the theme of the Nordic Council session "Open Nordic Societies". The Nordic Council of Ministers have prepared a new Arctic program and a new program for cooperation with the neighbors' in the West – Canada

The West-Nordic Council reported on the results of the Councils' annual meeting last August where they recommended mapping out the common interest of the West-Nordic Countries to, as a result of the changing climate. This will include shipping and utilization of natural resources. The topic for next year's theme conference is the West-Nordic

region's position in the international community with a special focus on the Arctic and business development.

The Finnish delegation noted that not much has happened after the election last spring. The Finnish delegation will meet next week. There is also an interesting development in the Northern Dimension partnership on transport and logistics, with a new push in the railway cooperation in the North – especially Norway and Finland.

The Norwegian delegation noted that the tragic events in Norway 22 July have influenced the political discussion to a large extent.

The Norwegian delegation to the Arctic parliamentary cooperation visited Murmansk and Kirkenes in late August to learn about the people to people cooperation in the North and business cooperation between Norway and Russia.

A new agreement between Russia and Norway will make it possible for the ones living within 30 kilometers from the border to cross the border without visa. The agreement is expected to enter into force in the beginning of 2012. The agreement on the delimitation between Russia and Norway has created new oil and gas activities in the Barents Sea. Finally within a few weeks the Norwegian government is expected to present a new policy paper on Norwegian Arctic policy.

13. NEXT MEETING OF SCPAR

The next meeting of SCPAR will be in Sweden 13-15 February 2011. (*sic*)

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Appendix 2

Draft List of Participants

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr. Peter Goldring, MP Mr. Dennis Bevington, MP Mr. Sebastian Spano, Resources and Environment Section, Parliamentary Information and Research Service
Denmark/Greenland	Mr. Peder Pedersen, Head of Section
Finland	Mr. Jouko Skinnari, MP Ms. Natalia Kylvänen, Assistant Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director
Island	Ms. Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir, MP Ms. Arna Bang, Adviser
Norway	Mr. Morten Høglund, MP
Russia	Mr. Mr. Vladimir Torlopov, Senator, Council of Federation Mr. Kirill Mangush, Counsellor Mr. Nikolay Dankov, Counsellor Mrs. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary Mrs. Tatyana Fedorova, Protocol
Sweden	Ms. Ann-Kristin Johansson, MP Ms. Eva Hjelm, Senior Officer

OBSERVERS

Nordic Council	Mr. Torkil Sørensen, Senior Adviser
West-Nordic Council	Mr. Kari P. Højgaard, President of the West-Nordic Council Mr. Thordur Thorarinsson, Secretary General

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

GUESTS

Mr. Askhab Askhabov, Presidium Chairman, Komi Scientific Centre, Ural Branch, RAS
Mr. Sergey Geraimovich, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Komi
Ms. Galina Gabusheva, Minister of National Policy of the Republic of Komi
Mr. Georgy Korshunov, Rector Assistant, External Relations, Ukhta State Technical University
Ms. Lyudmila Andreyicheva, Chief of Department, Regional Geology, Komi Sciences Centre

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	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
DESTINATION	Syktyvkar, Republic of Komi, Russia
DATES	September 28 and 29, 2011
DELEGATION	
SENATE	N/A
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Peter Goldring, M.P. Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Sebastian Spano, Advisor
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 24, 145. 27
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 1, 413. 86
HOSPITALITY	\$ 0. 00
PER DIEMS	\$ 728. 13
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 0. 00
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 21. 57
TOTAL	\$ 26, 308. 83