

Canada - Europe  
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire  
Canada - Europe

**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**

**Longyearbyen and Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway  
3-6 June 2013**

# REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

Ryan Leef, Member of Parliament, led a Canadian delegation of two to the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) held in Longyearbyen and Ny-Ålesund, Norway, 3-6 June 2013. The delegation also included Mr. Dennis Bevington, Member of Parliament. Ms. Shauna Troniak from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament attended as Advisor to the delegation.

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Conference) is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the eight 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 Tenth Conference was held in Akureyri, Iceland, 5-7 September 2012. The Eleventh Conference will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, 9-11 September 2014.

The Conference adopts a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council (the Council) and to the governments of the Arctic states and the European Commission. The Standing Committee closely monitors how governments implement the Conference Statement, and take new initiatives to further Arctic cooperation.<sup>1</sup>

Between conferences, Arctic parliamentary cooperation is facilitated by the Standing Committee,<sup>2</sup> which began 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 Council. The Standing Committee takes part in the work of the Council as an observer.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See: Tenth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Akureyri, Iceland, 5-7 September 2012, [Conference Statement](#).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the membership of the Standing Committee, see Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, [Standing Committee](#).

<sup>3</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, [Home](#).

## MEETING SUMMARY

The Standing Committee met in Longyearbyen on 3 June 2013 and in Ny-Ålesund on 4-5 June 2013. Items 5 to 7 in the following summary were discussed and decided upon in Ny-Ålesund. The draft minutes of the meetings are also attached to this report as Appendix 1.

### 1. Presentation by the Governor of Svalbard

Vice Governor Lars Erik Alfheim provided an introduction to the region and to the work of the Governor of Svalbard.

Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, situated between 74° to 81° north latitude. Spitsbergen is the largest and only inhabited island. Longyearbyen, the capital, is home to approximately 2100 people year-round; the other permanent settlements are Barentsburg (pop. 500), Ny-Ålesund (30) and Hornsund (5-10). The main economic activities in the region are coal mining, research and tourism.

The region has a unique legal status. The 1920 Svalbard Treaty (or Spitsbergen Treaty)<sup>4</sup> recognizes the “full and absolute sovereignty of Norway” over the archipelago (Art. 1), but the terms of the treaty govern the exercise of Norwegian sovereignty in several areas. For example, the treaty grants certain rights to the nationals of state parties<sup>5</sup> to reside in Svalbard and to undertake “maritime, industrial, mining and commercial operations”, subject to local laws and regulations (Art. 3). The treaty also provides that all taxes, dues and duties levied must only benefit Svalbard and generally not exceed what is required for the benefit and maintenance of the region (Art. 8). The treaty also requires Norway to protect Svalbard’s natural environment (Art. 2).

A complex combination of local, Norwegian and international law therefore applies in Svalbard. As noted previously, the treaty states that Norwegian and local laws apply to all commercial and industrial activities on the islands. Barentsburg, for example, is a coal mining settlement that is populated by Russian and Ukrainian nationals, operated by a Russian state-owned mining corporation, and is subject to Norwegian mining law.

Mr. Alfheim stated that the treaty applies within Svalbard’s territorial waters (12 nautical miles); past this maritime zone Norwegian law applies.

Most of Svalbard’s land mass (67%) is protected, though almost all of the land (99.6%) is open and accessible (except for certain polar bear habitats). Svalbard’s protected areas include 21 nature reserves (including 15 bird sanctuaries), 7 national parks and one geotope protection area.

Mr. Alfheim noted an increase in international fishing vessels around Svalbard at higher latitudes (up to 82° north) almost year-round. He expressed concern that debris from these

---

<sup>4</sup> The Governor of Svalbard, Treaty between Norway, The United States of America, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Ireland and the British overseas Dominions and Sweden concerning Spitsbergen signed in Paris 9th February 1920 (English and French versions). Note that the entire archipelago was called Spitsbergen at the time the treaty was signed.

<sup>5</sup> The treaty had 14 original “High Contracting Parties”, including Canada. Today there are over 40 signatories.

vessels is being carried by the Gulf Stream and accumulating on the north coast of Svalbard.

Mr. Alfheim noted that Svalbard is located between the Northeast Passage and Northwest Passage. The region has already seen an increase in maritime traffic in recent years, and more traffic is anticipated as a result of greater access to these maritime routes. He stated that new and renewed environmental protection policies must be developed to address current and future increases in maritime traffic in the region.

In discussion with delegates, Mr. Alfheim noted that 10-15 large cruise ships, carrying up to around 5000 passengers each, arrive annually in Svalbard. He noted that the capacity to do search and rescue operations remains a concern, particularly with this increase in maritime traffic. However, he suggested that the Search and Rescue Agreement signed by the Arctic Council member states is a promising start in addressing the issue. Currently, six planes and two helicopters are used in rescue operations in Svalbard, along with one boat that is 24 hours away. About 80 search and rescue operations are conducted in Svalbard annually (or 1-2 per week).

Mr. Alfheim also noted the lack of complete and detailed maps of the region. A ship monitoring program using the satellite-based Automatic Identification System (AIS) is currently being tested in Svalbard.

## **2. Report from the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna**

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr. Høglund, provided a brief report to the Committee from the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting held in Kiruna on 15 May 2013. He noted that six new states were granted observer status at the Arctic Council. The application of the European Union (EU) for observer status was put on hold pending the resolution of certain concerns of the member states, which are addressed in a letter by the President of the European Commission. He noted that Greenland had boycotted the Kiruna meeting over concerns about its role and opportunities for participation in various Arctic council meetings.

The Chair further noted that Canada formally took over the chairmanship from Sweden at the Kiruna meeting, and the Arctic Council member states finalized two documents – Kiruna Declaration and Vision for the Arctic<sup>6</sup>. Mr. Høglund stated that these documents provide a good foundation for action through the current chairmanship. In addition, member states signed a binding agreement on oil spill preparedness and response. This agreement, he stated, represents an important first step toward improved cooperation among Arctic states on this issue.

The delegate from Greenland, Ms. Olsvig, explained that the government of Greenland had chosen to boycott the Kiruna meeting as it was felt that a narrow interpretation of the Council's rules of procedure under Sweden's chairmanship had reduced the role of Greenland and the Faroe Islands at various Arctic Council meetings. She asked that the Standing Committee endorse a statement addressing the boycott and affirming the inclusive character of the Arctic Council.

---

<sup>6</sup> See Arctic Council, Main documents from Kiruna Ministerial Meeting.

The Standing Committee adopted such a statement at its meeting in Ny-Ålesund on 5 June 2013, the text of which is included in the draft minutes of this meeting (attached to this report as Appendix 1).

The delegate from the EU, Mr. Gallagher, noted with approval the Council's decision to provisionally accept the EU as an observer pending the resolution of member states' concerns. He noted that the EU remains interested in furthering Arctic cooperation and contributes 20 million euros annually to Arctic research. He also noted the recent agreement between the EU, United States and Canada regarding cooperation in marine research (concluded on 24 May 2013).

A delegate from Canada, Mr. Leef, stated that discussions with the EU are progressing and the government of Canada remains confident that they will continue to progress well.

A delegate from Canada, Mr. Bevington, stated that a synopsis of speeches from the Kiruna meeting prepared by his office indicates that the environment remains the most significant issue at the Arctic Council.

### **3. Conference in Whitehorse on 9-11 September 2014**

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

A delegate from Canada, Mr. Leef, noted the ongoing work within the Canadian Parliament on the logistics and program for the Conference, and stated that the environment and impacts of climate change in the Arctic would be important topics to address.

Delegates discussed other possible topics for discussion at the Conference. These included:

- Environmental, social and cultural impact assessments and the participation of local people in these processes;
- The inclusion of local people and incorporation of traditional knowledge in decision-making processes;
- Follow-up on the Standing Committee's previous work on governance at the Arctic Council; and
- Capacity building for economic and social development, including issues surrounding education and cooperation between local authorities and businesses.

#### **4. Economic Development and Capacity Building in the North**

At the previous meeting of the Standing Committee in Washington, D.C., in March 2013, delegates agreed to draft a report focusing on economic development and capacity building in the North. Delegates reviewed a first draft of this paper and made the following suggestions for issues to be addressed within its scope:

- Ensuring local people benefit from development and participate in decisions regarding the use of local resources;
- A human rights approach to development (included in the Standing Committee's 2012 Conference Statement);
- Building a "democratic infrastructure" (i.e. institutions to support the participation of local people in decision-making);
- Corporate social responsibility, including ongoing work under the United Nations Global Compact to develop guidelines for business based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Student exchanges and mobility programs and initiatives of the University of the Arctic;
- Cost of living in the North, and connections between cost of living and community sustainability; and
- The role of gender and gender-based analysis (to build on discussions held at the 2012 Conference in Akureyri).

The Standing Committee agreed to review a second draft of the paper at its next meeting in Murmansk, Russian Federation, 18-20 September 2013.

#### **5. Future Leadership of SCPAR**

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr. Høglund, noted that three delegates were in discussion for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair: the delegate from Greenland, Ms. Olsvig; and the delegates from Canada, Mr. Leef and Mr. Bevington. The Chair stated that he had advised the Canadian delegation to select one candidate for consideration for the position of Chair or Vice Chair.

Mr. Leef stated his intention to withdraw his name for the position of Chair and maintain his candidacy for the position of Vice Chair.

Delegates elected Ms. Olsvig as Chair of the Standing Committee. The decision will take effect following the next meeting of the Standing Committee in Murmansk, 18-20 September 2013. The election of the Vice Chair was postponed to the next meeting in Murmansk. Delegates agreed that Ms. Olsvig will act as Vice Chair of the Standing Committee up to that meeting.

## 6. Status of the Work of SCPAR

Delegates provided updates on developments in relation to Arctic issues in their respective countries. Further details on these presentations are provided in the minutes of the meeting (attached as Appendix 1).

The delegation from Canada informed the Standing Committee of a May 2013 report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development entitled “Canada and the Arctic Council: An Agenda for Regional Leadership.”<sup>7</sup>

## 7. Next meeting of the Standing Committee

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Murmansk, Russian Federation, 18-20 September 2013.

### Briefings in Ny-Ålesund

On 5 June, delegates toured Ny-Ålesund, an international scientific research community approximately 100 km northwest of Longyearbyen. Members of the delegation visited and were briefed on the work undertaken at the Norwegian Mapping Authority Observatory<sup>8</sup>, the Kings Bay Marine Laboratory,<sup>9</sup> and the joint French-German Arctic Research Base “AWIPEV.”<sup>10</sup>

The director of the research community, Jon Erik Nygaard, provided an overview of the community and its history. Ny-Ålesund was established as a permanent settlement in 1916, and was primarily a coal mining community until the early 1960s. Following an accident in 1962 in which 21 miners perished, the Norwegian government closed the mine and began transitioning the community toward scientific research activities.<sup>11</sup> Today, ten states maintain permanent research facilities in Ny-Ålesund; the most recent of which to open was the Indian National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research in 2008.<sup>12</sup>

The community has a year-round population of 35, and may accommodate up to 180 in the summer months. Mr. Nygaard noted that the community is largely supplied by ships that port in its harbour from May to September, and largely self-funded through rental income, a harbour tax levied on cruise ships and the community store. There are several challenges to the sustainable functioning of the community, he noted, including the periodic influx of tourists from the large cruise ships that port in the community in the

---

<sup>7</sup> Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, [Canada and the Arctic Council: An Agenda for Regional Leadership](#) (May 2013).

<sup>8</sup> Norwegian Mapping Authority (Kartverket), About the Geodetic Institute.

<sup>9</sup> Kings Bay AS, Kings Bay Marine Laboratory.

<sup>10</sup> See AWIPEV Base: French - German Arctic Research Base at Ny-Ålesund / Spitsbergen.

<sup>11</sup> Kings Bay, the state-owned company that had operated the coal mine, also transitioned toward managing and maintaining the research community, and is now primarily responsible for maintaining infrastructure and providing logistical support to the community (e.g. air transportation, power and water supply, food services). See Kings Bay AS, History.

<sup>12</sup> See also Kings Bay AS, Research Stations.

summer months. Providing and maintaining sufficient infrastructure to support research activities also remains an ongoing challenge. To provide sufficient network capacity, for example, the Norwegian government is currently funding a project to run 150-200 km of sub-sea fibre optic cables from Longyearbyen, at an estimated cost of around 120 million DKK (22 million CAD).

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Ryan Leef, M.P.  
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association



# APPENDIX 1

## Conference of Parliamentarians of The Arctic Region

### The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

#### MEETING IN SVALBARD

**3 JUNE 2013 AT 16.30**

Venue: Radisson Blue Polar, Longyearbyen

(Item 7 and 8 were decided at a meeting in Ny-Ålesund 5 June)

#### **Draft minutes**

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

##### Decision:

The Committee adopted the agenda and the proposed order of agenda items for the SCPAR meeting.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR-MEETING IN WASHINGTON 11 MARCH 2013**

##### Decision:

The Committee approved the draft minutes from the SCPAR-meeting in Washington 12 March 2013.

#### **3. PRESENTATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF SVALBARD**

Deputy Governor Mr. Lars Erik Alfheim introduced the Committee to his work and responsibilities of the Governor of Svalbard.

He started by pointing out that while Svalbard is far away from most places in the world, it is centrally located in the Arctic, between 74 degrees and 81 degrees north. There are about 2600 people living in Svalbard (2100 in Longyearbyen) and 40 nationalities.

The Governor's office has 33 people employed in three departments; environmental, police- and administrative department.

Discovered in 1596 by Wilhelm Barents, Svalbard's history includes whaling, tourism, coal, polar explorations and research. The three pillars of the society today are coalmining, research and tourism.

The biggest settlement beside Longyearbyen is Barentsburg which is a Russian company town with about 400 workers in the coal mine. Even though it is a Russian town it is under Norwegian jurisdiction.

Mr. Alfheim presented the Committee to the Svalbard Treaty signed in Paris in 1920.

The Svalbard Treaty Determines Norway's absolute and unlimited sovereignty over Svalbard in article 1, gives equal rights to residence in Svalbard and to undertake certain kinds of activity (article 3), collected taxes, dues and fees may only benefit Svalbard, (article 8), and Norway has the obligation to protect Svalbard's natural environment (article 2).

67% of the land mass on Svalbard is protected but 99,6 % of the land is open/accessible. There are 21 different natural reserves and 7 national parks.

Mr. Alfheim informed about the increase in fishing vessels along the coast of Svalbard as the water now is open up to 82 degrees north almost year around on the west coast of Svalbard.

He also expressed concern for all the garbage from fishing vessels which reach the shores of Svalbard. He didn't want more development of the North as it could be a threat to the fragile environment on and around Svalbard.

On questions from the Committee the Deputy-Governor could inform the Committee that there is a course for guides and the University of Svalbard but that it was not a prerequisite for being a guide on Svalbard.

There is 60,000 to 80,000 tourists arriving by boat yearly and some of the ships carry up to 5,500 passengers. He said that the SAR agreement signed by the Arctic Council member states is a good start but does not provide better capacity for operations.

By satellite surveillance they keep better track of the fishing vessels but the charts around for the waters around Svalbard are poorly developed. The use of pilots will improve the safety of shipping.

Svalbard is not a place which provides the normal services you would expect on mainland Norway. The health care is limited and there are no social benefits. If you

are not able to provide for yourself the Governor will send you off the island. But anyone can come, work and live on Svalbard.

The Svalbard tax is approximately 8%.

Mr. Alfheim noted that the effects of climate change are very visible on Svalbard with retreating glaciers and diminishing sea ice, especially in the fjords.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

#### **4. REPORT FROM THE ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KIRUNA**

Mr. Morten Høglund participated at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Kiruna and informed the Committee of what happened at the meeting.

Mr. Høglund noted the broad participation from the Foreign Ministers and that the meeting had been successful. New states were given observer status in the Arctic Council and the application from the EU was put on hold.

Canada took over as Chair of the Arctic Council after Sweden, and the meeting adopted a declaration and a vision statement. The latter is inspired by a proposal from the Arctic parliamentary cooperation.

Greenland decided to boycott the meeting as their possibilities for participation in the Arctic Council meetings had been reduced.

The signing of an agreement on oil spill prevention between the Arctic Council members was an important first step in better cooperation in that field between the Arctic countries.

Ms. Sara Olsvig agreed that there were many good things that had happened at the meeting in Kiruna and elaborated on Greenland's boycott of the meeting. She agreed with the Premier of Greenland that the reduced possibilities for participation at the different Arctic Council meetings is a problem, but disagreed with the boycott at a procedure to protest against this development.

Ms. Olsvig proposed that the Committee should agree upon a statement addressing the boycott of Arctic Council by Greenland. The Committee agreed upon statement at its meeting the 5 June in Ny-Ålesund and is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Gallagher noted that the Arctic Council had granted observer status to number of countries, and understand the concerns of Canada has with regards to the European Commission. Mr. Gallagher was pleased that there was some progress with the

application from EU and expressed hope that Canada and EU will find a solution in not too distant future.

He also informed the Committee that EU wants to contribute to the Arctic cooperation especially through funding of Arctic research.

Mr. Leef noted that to his knowledge the discussion between Canada and the EU was progressing well.

Ms Ann-Kristin Johansson expressed disappointed by how Sweden as Chair had handled the situation with Greenland.

Mr. Bevington informed the Committee that he has a synopsis of different speeches from the Kiruna meeting, and noted that environment still important for the different speakers.

This must also be reflected in the future Arctic cooperation.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

## **5. CONFERENCE IN WHITEHORSE 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region will be hosted by the Canadian parliament in Whitehorse 9-11 September 2013.

At the meeting in Washington DC, the Committee decided to start preparing a report which focus on the economic development and capacity building in the North.

Mr. Ryan Leef informed the Committee about the work on an agenda and program for the conference and that the impacts of climate change in the Arctic is an important topic.

Other members of the Committee noted that interesting topics could be:

How Canada involve local people in the process when making Environmental Impact Assessments.

Follow up on the work on governance and see where the Arctic Council has moved since the report was agreed upon and where the Committee should continue to promote further work.

Governance and business and economic development of the region as such.

Participation of the people living in the Arctic in the Arctic cooperation.

The members also highlighted the need to think strategically and how the parliamentarians can guide the development of Arctic Council through the conference statement.

Decision:

The Committee members took note of the proposals for the continuing planning of the conference.

## **6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE NORTH**

Mr. Høglund presented the draft report “Economic development and capacity building in the North”.

The draft was generally well received by the members of the Committee. Proposals for the further work with the report were:

The importance to take human rights approach.

Include text about “democratic infrastructure” – the ability to communicate with the citizens and provide the needed infrastructure to enable people to influence the development of their own societies.

Elaborate on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Cooperation in mining and the use of student exchange and mobility programs.

The cost of living and how economic development often make it worse - connected to sustainability of the societies in the Arctic through different economic times.

Develop energy resources suitable for the Arctic - also important for the sustainability of societies as the price of energy is high.

The gender perspective.

Decision:

The Committee noted the different amendments and look forward to a new draft report at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **7. FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF SCPAR**

At the meeting it became clear that Ms. Olsvig was the only candidate to become the new Chair of SCPAR. Mr. Leef and Mr. Bevington were candidates to the Vice-Chair position.

Decision:

The Committee elected Ms. Sara Olsvig to new Chair of SCPAR. Ms. Olsvig will take office after the meeting in Murmansk 18-20 September 2013. Ms. Olsvig will act as Vice-Chair of SCPAR up to the Murmansk meeting.

The election of Vice-Chair was postponed until the Murmansk meeting.

## **8. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR**

Denmark/Greenland informed of the equality between Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands in the work of the Arctic Council.

The election in Greenland in March led to a change in Government. Important issues in Greenland politics are taxation of minerals and legislations for so-called "large scale projects". There will be drilling off-shore off the coast of Greenland but there will not be granted new licenses.

The annual Arctic debate in the Danish parliament has also turned into a debate about the Realm of Denmark.

There is a big conference in Alta on indigenous issues starting 8 June which is a preparatory conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. The conference will agree upon a statement addressing the well-being of the indigenous peoples in the world.

A member from Canada informed about an upcoming report on Arctic in the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Chair of SCPAR informed about his participation at a meeting in Warsaw with state observers to the Arctic Council, and the tendency to divide the observers into different groups.

The Norwegian delegation told about the visit they had to Finland in April, meeting also with the Finnish delegation to the Arctic parliamentary cooperation.

The Norwegian government has set aside money for a new antenna at the Norwegian Mapping Authority in Ny-Ålesund.

In April the Norwegian parliament hosted a Barents Parliamentary Conference where the need of a comprehensive Barents Transport Plan was highlighted.

The Finnish representative also reported about the visit from the Norwegian parliament in April and informed about an upcoming visit to Murmansk and Kirkenes by 30 Finnish MPs in September.

The Swedish delegate informed the Committee of a recent report from the Swedish Auditor General about the work in the Arctic Council in Sweden. Among the conclusions from the report is that the government does not inform the parliament sufficiently about the work in the Arctic Council.

Sweden holds the Chair of the Nordic Council of Ministers and one of the prioritized programs concern better cooperation in the mining sector – NORDMIN.

The European Parliament informed the Committee of an expected resolution on Arctic issues - most likely in October 2013. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is also preparing a resolution on the Arctic for the meeting in Istanbul.

The Russian delegate wished the Committee welcome to Murmansk in September and noted that agenda items at that meeting could be the latest Arctic strategy for the Russian Federation and an expected new law on living conditions in the Arctic.

The representative from the Sami Parliamentary Council informed the Committee of a new meeting in the negotiations of a Nordic Sami Convention in August. Sweden has also presented a new mineral strategy which is worrying the Sami people.

The Swedish Sami parliament had elections in May and there may be changes when the parliament meets for the first time after the election in August.

## **9. NEXT MEETING OF SCPAR**

The Russian delegation welcomed the Committee to Murmansk in September and presented a draft program and agenda.

### Decision:

The next meeting of SCPAR will be in Murmansk 18-20 September 2013.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

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

**MEETING IN SVALBARD**

3-6 June 2013

**List of participants**

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr Ryan Leef, MP Mr Dennis Bevington, MP Ms Shauna Troniak, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament
Denmark/Greenland	Ms Sara Olsvig, MP, Mr Peder Pedersen, Head of Section
European Parliament	Mr Pat de Cope Gallagher, MEP Mr Tarvo Kungla, Desk officer Mr Thomas Krings, ALDE political group, Policy adviser
Finland	Ms Johanna Ojala-Niemelä, MP Mr Guy Lindström, Deputy Director
Norway	Mr Morten Høglund, MP Mr Eirik Sivertsen, MP Ms Ingalill Olsen, MP Mr Henning Skumsvoll, MP Ms Line Henriette Hjemdal, MP Mr Bjørnar Dahl Hotvedt, Senior adviser



Russia                      Mr Fedot Tumusov, MP  
                                 Ms Irina Kuzmina, Secretary

Sweden                     Ms Ann-Kristine Johansson, MP  
                                 Ms Eva Hjelm, Adviser

#### PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

Sámi Parliamentary      Mr. Håkan Jonsson, MP  
Council                     Ms. Kirsten Anne Guttorm, Adviser

#### OBSERVERS

West Nordic Council     Mr. Lars Emil Johansen, President  
                                 Mr. Thordur Thorarinsson, Secretary General  
                                 Ms. Elly Hauge Pedersen

SECRETARIAT             Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

INTERPRETERS         Mr. Stein Larsen  
                                 Ms. Katerina Sandstø

## **SCPAR statement on the situation of Greenland and the Arctic Council**

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region has noted the decision of Greenland not to attend the Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna, and putting on hold all of its participation in the work of the Arctic Council. The committee hopes that boycott will not be used as a procedure in the future.

The committee finds it very important, that the Arctic Council continues its inclusive character. It is important, that there is space in the council's work to effectively hear the voices of the peoples living in the Arctic.

The Arctic Council is a member state organization, and the member states are the eight Arctic states.

As the committee has highlighted in its report on Arctic Governance in an Evolving Arctic Region, the Arctic Council has a solid tradition of including the indigenous peoples of the Arctic in its work. The Council has a unique structure, with six permanent participants and the council must build on that unique structure.

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region hopes that the negotiations between the Kingdom of Denmark and the chairmanship of the Arctic Council will be successful for all parts.

## TRAVEL COSTS

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Longyearbyen and Ny-Ålesund Svalbard, Norway
<b>DATES</b>	3 – 6 June 2013
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Dennis Bevington Mr. Ryan Leef
STAFF	Ms. Shauna Troniak
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$22,857.73</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$4,268.16</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$2,026.43</b>
<b>GIFTS</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,152.32</b>