

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**

**Washington, D.C., United States of America  
March 10-11, 2015**

# Report

## INTRODUCTION

A Canadian delegation of two Members of Parliament, Mr. Ryan Leef and Mr. Dennis Bevington, attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) held in Washington, D.C., United States (U.S.), from 10 to 11 March 2015. Accompanying the delegation was Mr. Thai Nguyen from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament as advisor to the delegation.

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR) is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the eight Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the U.S.) and the European Parliament. CPAR also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers. CPAR meets every two years. The 11<sup>th</sup> CPAR took place in Whitehorse, Yukon, from 9 to 11 September 2014.<sup>1</sup>

At the conclusion of each biennial conference, CPAR adopts a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council (AC) and to the governments of the eight Arctic states and the European Commission. Between conferences, Arctic parliamentary cooperation is facilitated by the Standing Committee, which began its activities in 1994. The Standing Committee monitors how the governments implement the Conference Statement, and takes initiatives to further Arctic cooperation. CPAR and the Standing Committee act as a parliamentary forum for issues relevant to the work of the AC. The Standing Committee takes part in the work of the AC as an observer.<sup>2</sup>

## MEETING SUMMARY<sup>3</sup>

### A. DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES' CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Admiral Robert Papp, Special Representative for the Arctic, U.S. State Department, presented the draft program of the U.S. chairmanship of the AC to the Standing Committee.<sup>4</sup> The overall focus of the U.S. chairmanship is “One Arctic: Shared Opportunities, Challenges and Responsibilities,” showing “unity among the Arctic States and peoples” and that “all of us, not just the Arctic States and peoples, share in responsibly managing the region.” It has three thematic areas:

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<sup>1</sup> The Whitehorse Conference report is available at: <http://www.arcticparl.org/files/cparconference2014-e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, <http://www.arcticparl.org/>

<sup>3</sup> The draft minutes for the meeting can be found in Appendix 1. The text of this report focuses on material not covered in full in the minutes, acting as a supplement, with a Canadian focus, to the minutes.

<sup>4</sup> United States Arctic Research Commission, [Arctic Council: United States Chairmanship \(2015-2017\)](#), Virtual Stakeholder Outreach Forum, 2 December 2014.

- Arctic Ocean Safety, Security and Stewardship;
- Improving Economic and Living Conditions; and
- Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change.

Admiral Papp indicated that the draft U.S. program contains measurable goals and attempts to balance environmental, climate and security concerns. He also indicated that the U.S. will carry on Canada's emphasis on the people of the North, including partnership with the Arctic Economic Council (AEC)<sup>5</sup> as a tool to achieve sustainable development of the Arctic.

Admiral Papp mentioned that the U.S. will maintain collaboration with Russia on Arctic issues, despite the conflict in Ukraine, since the AC needs consensus from the eight Arctic states in order to move forward.

A Canadian delegate asked Admiral Papp about ways the U.S. intends to carry on the partnership with the AEC. The delegate mentioned that, as in Canada, the great majority of the people in the U.S. live in the South, and enquired about the involvement of Arctic residents in the decision-making process of the U.S. as the AC's Chair. The Canadian delegate also asked the Admiral about the importance of mental wellness issues in the U.S. chairmanship program.

Admiral Papp replied that the AEC is a business-to-business cooperation forum with no state interference but noted that some members of the AEC are state-owned companies. Regarding the decision-making process, Admiral Papp indicated that there have been several consultations completed with Alaskan stakeholders as part of the drafting process of the U.S. chairmanship program. Admiral Papp also confirmed that mental wellness, including suicide prevention, will be part of the U.S. program.

## **B. ALASKA'S PERSPECTIVES ON THE UNITED STATES' CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**

Mr. Craig Fleener, senior advisor to the Governor of Alaska on Arctic Policy, informed the Standing Committee about Alaska's perspectives on the U.S. chairmanship of the AC.<sup>6</sup> According to Mr. Fleener, Alaska's views and involvement in the making of U.S. Arctic policies is of paramount importance since Alaska is the only American Arctic state. He indicated that Alaska prioritizes economic development, diversification of employment opportunities and development of employment skills in its policies.

A Canadian delegate asked Mr. Fleener about ways to retain the skilled workforce in the Arctic since often workers participate in employment skills development programs but then leave the region for more attractive opportunities elsewhere. Mr. Fleener replied that Canada provides a good example of an Arctic state that has a high retention of its Arctic labour pool. He indicated that creation of employment opportunities in local

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<sup>5</sup> Arctic Economic Council, [About Us](#).

<sup>6</sup> See Alaska Arctic Policy Commission's 2015 Final Report, <http://www.akarctic.com/>

communities is vital. However, Mr. Fleener also noted that having skilled indigenous people leave their communities and work in various positions across the state or for the federal government can be positive for the employer and society, since it increases societal sensibility regarding the Arctic.

Another Canadian delegate suggested that economic development can induce higher income disparities and poverty levels in local communities. Natural resource development can generate short-term benefits, but these benefits are not sustainable if there are no local economic spin-offs. Mr. Fleener added that it is important to find a way to let small communities continue to be able to rely on a subsistence economy if they wish to do so.

### **C. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**

Mr. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Ms. Susan Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure and Mr. Michael Hix, Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Environment presented to the Standing Committee findings of the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report on the U.S. participation in the AC and recommendations for improvements.<sup>7</sup> The report concluded that there is a need for better coordination and specific resources allocated to follow-up on recommendations of the AC. The GAO also suggested separate funding for infrastructure and Arctic cooperation in order to increase the effective implementation of the Arctic Council recommendations.

A Canadian delegate pointed out that with rotating AC chairmanships, coordination of the Council's priorities is important for progress to be made on multi-year initiatives. He gave the example of the marine protected areas and ecosystem-based management initiatives which have been a topic of discussions and study for the past four years. In his opinion, without coordination of priorities between successive chairmanships, it would be difficult to keep track of progress made in order to move the issue forward.

The GAO representatives suggested that the recently established Secretariat of the AC in Norway would be helpful in providing the continuity needed. However, priorities will still be set by the country holding the chairmanship of the Council. They also indicated that an inventory of past recommendations and progress accomplished on various initiatives is required.

### **D. STATUS OF THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Standing Committee suggested the possibility that the September meeting of the Standing Committee be moved from Brussels to Fairbanks, Alaska, so that members could also attend the Arctic Energy Summit on 28-30 September 2015.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> United States Government Accountability Office, *Arctic Issues: Better Direction and Management of Voluntary Recommendations Could Enhance U.S. Arctic Council Participation*, GAO-14-435, May 2014.

<sup>8</sup> 2015 Arctic Energy Summit, <https://arcticenergysummit.institutenorth.org/>

A Canadian delegate indicated that because of the planned federal elections in October in Canada, it is highly probable that the Canadian delegation will not participate in the September meeting of the Standing Committee. He also updated the Standing Committee on progress made at the AC under Canada's chairmanship. The delegate stated that the Arctic Economic Council, which acts as a forum to discuss common economic challenges and discover new business opportunities to develop and benefit the North, held its first meeting in September 2014. He also mentioned that a key priority of Canada has been to incorporate traditional and local knowledge more effectively into the AC's ongoing work. The Canadian delegate added that Canada is working closely with the incoming Chair, the U.S., to advance shared priorities.

Another Canadian delegate informed the Standing Committee that membership of the Canadian delegation to the Standing Committee may change as a result of the October Canadian general election. He indicated that he is pleased to see that renewable energies are part of the U.S. chairmanship's program. The delegate pointed out that the Northwest Territories has a solar energy strategy and aims to install solar systems with the capability to supply up to 20% of the average load in diesel communities.<sup>9</sup> He also called for increased sharing of information and practices among Arctic countries in renewable energies strategy.

A U.S. delegate presented to the Standing Committee a map of Alaska showing the surface occupied by federally protected areas. She explained to the Standing Committee the conflicting views between the U.S. federal government and the State of Alaska regarding the use of these areas and development in Alaska in general.<sup>10</sup>

A Canadian delegate argued that natural resources' development can adversely impact local communities and provided the example of diamond mines in the Northwest Territories. He indicated that many workers at these mines come from the South. He added that the development of the mines disturbs the caribou's migration route, which affects a major food source of local populations. The delegate explained that the issue is not whether industrial development should occur or not but figuring out ways to make economic development benefit Arctic residents.

#### **E. LETTER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE CANADIAN CHAIRMANSHIP AND THE INCOMING UNITED STATES' CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**

Members of the Standing Committee agreed to sign a letter (Appendix 2) to the Chair and the incoming Chair of the AC to reiterate key recommendations included in the

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<sup>9</sup> Government of the Northwest Territories, *Northwest Territories Solar Energy Strategy 2012-2017*, November 2012, [http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/strategies/solar\\_energy\\_strategy\\_2012-2017.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/strategies/solar_energy_strategy_2012-2017.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> See Lisa Murkowski, Lisa Murkowski: White House's Arctic 'implementation plan' lacks action, Alaska Dispatch News, 13 February 2014, <http://www.adn.com/article/20140213/lisa-murkowski-white-houses-arctic-implementation-plan-lacks-action>

CPAR's Whitehorse Conference Statement.<sup>11</sup> The letter also included a recommendation from the Standing Committee to the current AC's Chair and incoming Chair to:

raise a strong Arctic message to communicate the consequences of climate change in the Arctic at the UNFCCC COP 21 negotiations in Paris in December 2015.

### **FUTURE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for 12 May 2015 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The meeting in Reykjavik will be held back to back with the 4th Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum from 10-11 May 2015 to which members of the Standing Committee are invited to participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. David Tilson, President  
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

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<sup>11</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, *Whitehorse Conference Statement*, 11 September 2014, <http://www.arcticparl.org/files/conference-statement-2.pdf>

## APPENDIX 1



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

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THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

### MEETING IN WASHINGTON

10 March 2015 at 9.30 am

Venue: Library of Congress, Member's Room – Thomas Jefferson Building

Draft minutes

### DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA, CHAIR

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

The Chair informed the Committee that Senator King would not be able to attend the meeting. Two items were added to the agenda – possible participation at the “Arctic Energy Summit” 28-30 September 2015 and a draft letter from the members of SCPAR to Minister Aglukkaq and Secretary Kerry as current and incoming Chair of the Arctic Council.

Decision:

The Committee adopted the agenda and the proposed order of agenda items for the SCPAR meeting with adjustments presented by the Chair.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR-MEETING IN HELSINKI 20 NOVEMBER 2014

Decision:

The Committee approved the minutes from the SCPAR-meeting in Helsinki, 20 November 2014.

#### 3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE US CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Admiral Robert Papp – Special Representative for the Arctic, US State Department, introduced the members of the Committee to the draft program for the US Chairmanship.

Adm. Papp noted that the Chairmanship of Arctic Council is not a unilateral program and that they have talked and travelled to get feedback from the Arctic countries and interest groups. The contact with Alaska has been especially important with several listening sessions. The current draft balances the need of safety/security and environment in a good way. The revised program received good feedback at the SAO-meeting in Whitehorse the previous week, and almost all proposals were accepted.

Mr. Papp expressed support in the Arctic Economic Council as a tool to achieve sustainable development of the Arctic. He went on to underline the importance to have the lines open in the Arctic and continue to include all countries in the cooperation.

The US Arctic Chairmanship program will increase the Arctic public diplomacy and elevate the interest of Arctic in the US, including by bringing people to Alaska.

Finally Adm. Papp noted that there are different Arctics in many ways – North America – Nordic - and Russia somewhere in between.

On questions from the Committee Adm. Papp noted that the initiative to establish and connect Marine Protected Areas in the Arctic is a follow-up from the Oceans Conference in Washington last year. A Regional Seas Program, binding or not binding agreements to protect new areas, did not reach a consensus at the SAO meeting in Whitehorse last week. This is a controversial topic in Alaska.

On another question Adm. Papp noted that the Arctic Economic Council is a business to business cooperation with no state interest. The US has representatives from Alaska appointed by a business association.

Papp also informed the Committee that mental wellness – including suicide prevention – is a part of the chairmanship program.

With regards to the issuing of visa for travelling and participating in the Arctic meetings, Adm. Papp noted that the relations are not normal right now, but that he would look into the question and make it work within the restrictions made by the states.

Adm. Papp is in favor of the US ratifying UNCLOS and raised the issue if Alaska could ratify it.

To strengthen the Arctic Council Adm. Papp wants to strengthen the Arctic Council secretariat and look into the structure of the Working Groups under the Arctic Council.

As for the number of observers to the Arctic Council he raised the issue if there should be a rotation between the observers for having observer status – like 6 years in and 6 years out.

Adm. Papp went on the underline the importance of implementing the agreements between the Arctic states. There will be a table top SAR exercise this fall and hopefully a full Arctic SAR exercise next year. Also the oil spill agreement needs exercises.



The US will initiate an assessment on telecommunication in the Arctic, continue to address adaptation to climate change in the Arctic, and reduction of emissions of black carbon and methane.

The Arctic coastal nations have negotiations of an agreement on fisheries in the High Seas of the Arctic Ocean.

As for research in the Arctic the US will address this, including by looking at how we share information on research and how to include observers.

Finally Adm. Papp noted that there is political will to have an Arctic Council side-event during the COP 21 in Paris in December and that they are looking into how to address this.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

#### **4. ALASKA PERSPECTIVE ON THE US CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**

Mr. Craig Fleener, senior advisor to the Governor of Alaska on Arctic Policy, informed the members of the Committee about the situation and Alaska and the expectations for the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Alaska supports the work in the Arctic Council to foster economic development in the Arctic. Mr. Fleener informed about frictions between Alaska and the federal level concerning the use of land in Alaska to further develop the resource potential in Alaska. Around 67% of the land in Alaska is federally owned. Mr. Fleener proposed to establish an innovation fund to improve economic development in Alaska.

Reducing energy costs is most pressing topic in Alaska as the high cost of energy limits all development. This must also be addressed through promoting energy efficiency and more renewable energy. There is little infrastructure in Alaska, very few roads and no railway.

Food security is a vital issue since the fishery collapsing in some parts of the state where many live on subsistence resources.

Arctic research is another area where we need to cooperate better in the Arctic through increased coordination and cooperation when doing research, and by making the results more easily accessible.

Finally Mr. Fleener addressed the need of improving the funding for the participation of the Permanent Participant in the work of the Arctic Council.

On questions from the Committee Mr. Fleener noted that the best way to keep educated people in their societies is to create job opportunities. He also saw good things in having indigenous peoples working in various positions across the state, for the employer and the society.

Members of the Committee pointed to the importance of food security, reduce the cost of energy and the general cost of living. One possibility may be localizing the economy in a stronger way. There were also where experience of increased local poverty when developing mines in the north.

Mr. Fleener also pointed to the importance of finding a way to let the small communities continue to be small communities with a subsistence lifestyle.

The importance of telecommunication was also raised by the members of the Committee as a tool to create new jobs in rural areas.

On a question from the Committee Mr. Fleener noted that Alaskans are similar to all other people, they want to take care of themselves and their families, and make use of the opportunities in their communities without interference from the government.

Finally Mr. Fleener noted that Alaska is open for business and work to attract foreign investors. The cost of energy is an obstacle in refining some of the products in the state to generate more jobs and value from the natural resources such as fish and oil.

#### Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

### **5. THE ROLE OF THE US IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**

Mr. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Ms. Susan Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure and Mr. Michael Hix, Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Environment presented the findings in the report from the US Governmental Accountability Office looking into how the US organizes its work in the Arctic Council with recommendations for improvements.

The main finding is that there is a need for better coordination and specific resources allocated to follow-up the recommendations from the Arctic Council.

The volume and amount of work of the Arctic Council is increasing with a large number of projects with final recommendations which are too may not specific enough.

The findings in the multilateral audit will be presented in April 2015. The main conclusion is that the Arctic Council has contributed to improved international cooperation in the Arctic, but needs to look at how to organize and coordinate its work.

GAO also presented its report on Maritime Infrastructure in the Arctic and noted that there is a deficit of infrastructure in areas such as deep water ports, mapping and charting, icebreaker capacity.

GAO foresees limited increase in maritime activity over the next 10 years.

On a final note GAO concluded that separate funding for infrastructure and Arctic cooperation will be needed to increase the effective implementation of the Arctic Council recommendations.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

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

The Nordic Council representative informed the Committee that the spring session is moved from Brussels to Copenhagen.

The representative from the West-Nordic Council reported from the recent meeting in Aasiat, Greenland where a Working Group was established to further look into the possibilities of a free trade agreement between the West-Nordic countries.

The West-Nordic Council will celebrate a 30 years anniversary at its annual meeting in August 2015.

The representative from Sweden informed the Committee about the political situation in Sweden after the election in September 2014. An agreement has been reached between most parties in the parliament which makes it possible to govern with a minority government. They will aim broad agreements in parliament. A new commission on energy has been established.

The representatives from Canada updated the Committee on the work of the Arctic Council Chairmanship and with the Ministerial Meeting the 24 April 2015 in Iqalluit. The Arctic Economic Council is established and three thematic networks have started. Canada is like to have an election within the next six months. In the Northwest Territories work on solar energy is making progress.

The representative from Denmark/Greenland informed about the political situation in Greenland after the election 28 November 2014.

A coalition government with Siumut as the big party has been established. The economy in Greenland is under considerable pressure and reforms are needed.

The representative of the European Parliament said that the Commission and the External Services are working on a new Arctic communication expected to be presented by the end of the year.

The representative from Denmark/Faroe Islands informed about the conflicts regarding fisheries as a result of changing swimming patterns for the fish stocks, and the need for better agreements in this field. The Faroe Islands are also continuing to export fish to Russia and does not follow the restrictive regime from the EU, as they look at this as business not politics.

The representative from Norway informed about difficult times for the Coal Company in Svalbard as result of low prices of coal. The mining will continue but with a reduced number of employees. The Norwegian government will present a Whitepaper on the Antarctic before the summer. As chair of SCPAR the Norwegian representative has made speeches at a seminar in Paris about Arctic parliamentary cooperation, about indigenous peoples in the Arctic cooperation in in Alta, Norway and during the Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø.

The representative from Iceland informed about the upcoming Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum 10-11 May 2015 and the following meeting of SCPAR the 12<sup>th</sup>.

The representative from the USA informed about the establishment of an Arctic Caucus in the US Senate with Senators Murkowski and King taking the initiative. The caucus will highlight why the Arctic is important to all of the US, not only Alaska. A financial commitment - a national investment - is needed.

A hearing on the Arctic Executive Order was organized last week. There is a fear that the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council will have too much focus on climate change and too little on economic development.

Senator Murkowski will take part in the US delegation to Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in April. The Senator welcomed members of SCPAR to participate at Arctic Energy Summit 28-30 September in Fairbanks, Alaska.

A representative from Russia informed about the ongoing implementation of program of arctic development in Russia.

The representative from Finland informed about a hearing on a report regarding increased economic cooperation between Finland, Sweden and Norway in the North, and that Finland will have a national election in April 2015.

The secretariat informed about a meeting with Japanese representatives who expressed interest in participating in the next CPAR in 2016, and reported from the Senior Arctic Official meeting in Whitehorse 4-5 March 2015.

In a general discussion after the national reports, Senator Murkowski presented to the Committee a map of the protected areas in Alaska and explained the different views from Washington D.C. and the State of Alaska on the future use of these areas.

In a final round of discussions the members of the committee elaborated on the need to explain how realities of the people living in the Arctic does not always correspond with how the Arctic is looked at in the rest of the world. Especially that the people living in the Arctic needs the opportunity to make use of the resources in their region, be it seals or petroleum resources.

The message to the COP 21 meeting in Paris in December 2015 must not be to make the Arctic into a sanctuary and a symbol in the fight against climate change.

## **The Arctic Energy Summit**

The members of the Committee are encouraged to participate at the Arctic Energy Summit in Fairbanks 28-30 September 2015. The Committee will look into the possibilities of hosting a side-event in connection with the meeting.

### Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

## **7. NEXT MEETING OF SCPAR**

The next meeting of SCPAR will be in Reykjavik, Iceland, 12 May 2015.

The SCPAR meeting will be held back to back with the 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum (NDPF) in Reykjavik 10-11 May 2015. The members of SCPAR are invited to attend both meetings.

### Decision:

The Standing Committee meets in Reykjavik, Iceland 12 May 2015, and the members attend the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum 10-11 May 2015.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The members of the Committee decided to sign a letter to the Chair of the Arctic Council and the incoming Chair of the Arctic Council to reiterate some of the key messages from the CPAR 11 in Whitehorse 9-11 September 2014.

The letter is enclosed to the minutes.



THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

**MEETING IN WASHINGTON**

10-11 March 2015

**Draft list of participants**

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr. Ryan Leef, MP Mr. Dennis Bevington, MP Mr. Thai Nguyen, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament
Denmark/Greenland	Mr. Johan Lund Olsen, MP, Denmark/Greenland Mr. Sjørður Skaale. MP, Denmark/Faroe Islands Mr. Peder Pedersen, Head of Section
European Parliament	Mr. Jørn Dohrmann, MEP Mr. Fernando Garces De Los Fayos, Administrator Mr. Massimiliano Rizzo, Political adviser (ECR political group)
Finland	Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director
Iceland	Ms. Ms. Líneik Anna Sævarsdottir, MP Ms. Arna Bang, Adviser
Norway	Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, MP
Russia	Mr. Vladimir Torlopov, Senator Mr. Kirill Mangush, Senior Counsellor Mr. Vladlen V. Epifanov, Counsellor Mr. Michael Slipenchuk, MP,

Ms. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary  
Sweden Ms. Sara Karlsson, MP

Ms. Eva Hjelm, International adviser

USA Ms. Lisa Murkowski, Senator

Mr. Isaac Edwards, Adviser

### OBSERVERS

Nordic Council Mr. Torkil Sørensen, Senior adviser

West-Nordic Council Mr. Bill Justinussen, President, MP

Ms. Inga Dora Markussen, Secretary General

### SECRETARIAT

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

### GUESTS

Mr. Sergey Kuznetsov, First Secretary, Russian Embassy in Washington

Mr. Igor Lebedev, MP

Mr. Alexander Kurdyumov, MP

Mr. Vadim Dengin, MP

Mr. Pavel Kuzmin, Interpreter

Ms. Irina Ponamoreva, Interpreter

Admiral Robert Papp – Special Representative for the Arctic, US State Department

Mr. Craig Fleener, Special Assistant for Arctic Policy, Governor of Alaska's Office

Mr. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO

Ms. Susan Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure, GAO

Mr. Michael Hix, Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO

Ms. Hillary N. Lebail, Arctic Policy Advisor

## APPENDIX 2



### THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq  
Minister of the Environment  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Minister Aglukkaq and Secretary Kerry:

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ARCTIC PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION**

The participants at the meeting of the March 10, 2015, Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Washington D.C., use this opportunity to reiterate some of the key messages in the Conference Statement from the 11th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region held in Whitehorse.

In seeking to find the balance between protecting the Arctic environment and providing the people living in the Arctic the possibility to create prosperous societies, sustainable infrastructure development is of paramount importance. This is why we recommend to:

*Improve cooperation and coordination when developing sustainable infrastructure in the Arctic Region, and promote new technological innovation and research that supports sustainable energy generation pilot projects in the Arctic for affordable electricity production and heating.*

The participation of the permanent participants is important to the success of the Arctic Council. This is why we recommend to:

*Secure the role and participation of the Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council and provide mechanisms to increase their financial and human resources to participate fully in all the activities of the Arctic Council.*

Capacity building and economic development contribute to the well-being of the people living in the Arctic. As a tool to achieve this we recommend to:

*Establish an Arctic innovation system which links the scientific community, the business sector, political society and local populations, for instance through an Arctic mentorship and mobility program;*

The environmental challenges facing the Arctic and its peoples are significant. To address the impacts of climate change in the Arctic, we recommend to:



*Raise a strong Arctic message to communicate the consequences of climate change in the Arctic at the UNFCCC COP 21 negotiations in Paris in December 2015.*

Washington, D.C., March 10, 2015



Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, MP  
Chair  
Norway



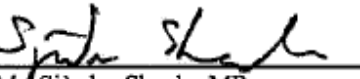
Mr. Dennis Bevington, MP  
Vice-Chair  
Canada



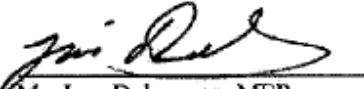
Mr. Ryan Deef, MP  
Canada



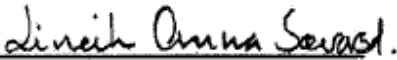
Mr. Johan Lund Olsen, MP  
Denmark/Greenland



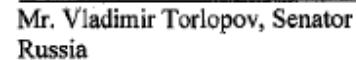
Mr. Sjurður Skaale, MP  
Denmark/Faroe Islands



Mr. Jørn Dohrmann, MEP  
European Parliament



Ms. Línéik Anna Sævarsdóttir, MP  
Iceland



Mr. Vladimir Torlopov, Senator  
Russia



Mr. Michael Slipenchuk, MP  
Russia



Ms. Sara Karlsson, MP  
Sweden



Ms. Lisa Murkowski, Senator  
United States

## 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>	Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
<b>DATES</b>	March 10-11, 2015
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P. Mr. Ryan Leef, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Thai Nguyen, Analyst
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$2,018.80</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$2,986.44</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$753.93</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,769.17</b>