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Foreword

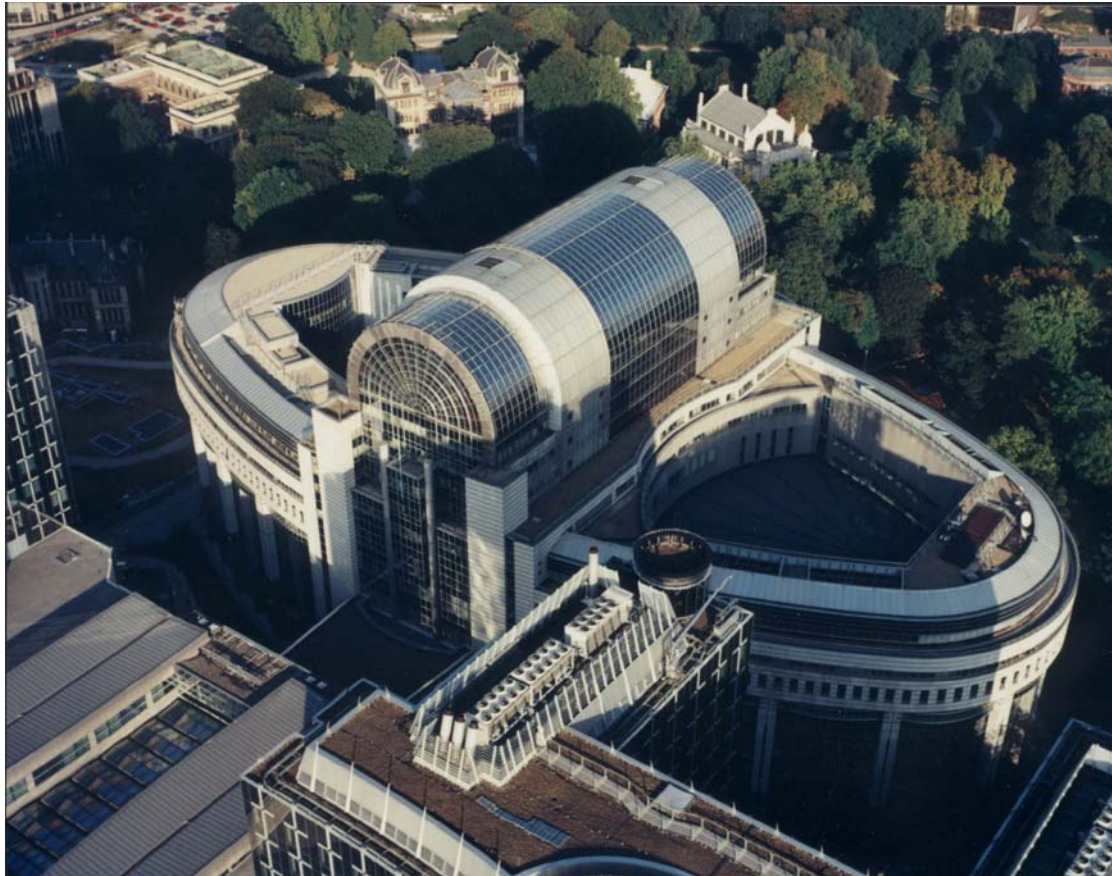
Members of the European Parliament, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the Baltic Assembly, the Nordic Council and of the network of Barents parliamentarians, attended the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Conference in Brussels 28 February to 1 March 2007 to discuss issues relating to the European Commission's new Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document and the Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy of 24 November 2006. As both of these documents mark a new chapter in the history and structure of the Northern Dimension it is appropriate that parliamentarians should organise and prepare for a future Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum to ensure their continued input.

The Conference unanimously adopted a statement supporting the overall aim of the Northern Dimension and its new format as a partnership emphasising, amongst other things, the Northern Dimension as a regional expression of the four EU/Russia Common Spaces Agreements, the importance of the Northern Dimension's Arctic Window especially in respect of the wider debate on climate change, and the critical economic significance of the Baltic Sea region.

It is always extremely valuable that parliamentarians from different countries meet to discuss issues of common concern. It is equally important that the outcomes of these meetings are brought back to the national parliaments and regional organisations and made part of discussions on national policies. It is hoped that the key elements of our discussions in Brussels will prove to have an important contribution in the future success of the Northern Dimension policy. We have underlined the need for coherent and regular parliamentary input. This call now has to be taken up and made into a reality by each of the participating Parliaments.

On behalf of the European Parliament, which had the pleasure of hosting this Northern Dimension Parliamentary Conference, I would like to thank all the participants who contributed to its success.

Diana Wallis



European Parliament in Brussels

Introduction

The Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension was held in Brussels on 28 February - 1 March 2007. The Conference, hosted by the European Parliament, gathered parliamentarians from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the Baltic Assembly, the Nordic Council, and from the network of Barents parliamentarians. Members of the Arctic Council, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, and the Nordic Council of Ministers attended the Conference as observers. Further, representatives of the government of e.g. Canada, Russia, and Latvia, together with members of different interest groups, were present at the Conference, which all in all gathered around 200 interested parties.

Ms Diana WALLIS, Vice President of the European Parliament, opened the Conference and co-chaired the first session together with Ms Hill-Marta SOLBERG, Chair of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic region. The second session was opened by Mr Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT, Vice President of the European Parliament, and co-chaired by Ms Diana WALLIS and Mr Dagfinn HØYBRÅTEN, President of the Nordic Council.

The purpose of the Conference was to debate the new Northern Dimension policy, and to prepare for the arranging of a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum. The two main themes for discussion were the Northern Dimension policies related to the Arctic region and to the Baltic Sea region.

Opening of the Conference

The Conference was opened by Ms Diana WALLIS and in her speech of welcome she expressed special delight that the Conference was hosted by the European Parliament. The Northern Dimension was a policy area of huge significance for the European Parliament and the work within the Northern Dimension had always been important for the institution. She further stressed the value of the new face that the Northern Dimension had entered into with the coming into effect of the new Northern Dimension policy on 1 January 2007. The Northern Dimension was no longer only a European Union policy, but a partnership between the EU and Norway, Iceland and Russia. Ms WALLIS additionally stated that the changes the Northern Dimension was going through could involve making it into a parliamentary affair. Such a development would be beneficial for everybody in the region since it would entail that the Northern Dimension was an affair of those directly elected.



Mrs Diana Wallis, Vice President of the European Parliament and Mrs Hill-Marta Solberg, Chair of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Ms WALLIS pointed out that the creation of a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum had been discussed for many years. Such a forum would provide the elected parliamentarians with a possibility of a direct impact on the Northern Dimension policy. Whereas they indirectly influenced the policy today, a forum presented them with an opportunity to deliver their message with one clear voice. She emphasized that the forum should not take the shape of a new institution, but would rather make up a meeting place for representatives of the different parliamentary bodies in the north. For that reason, it was appropriate that the first meeting took place in the European Parliament, since the European Parliament had many years of experience of cross-border parliamentarianism.

Finally, Ms WALLIS pointed out that the northern part of Europe found itself in a turbulent phase: The enlargement in 2004 had increased the importance of the Baltic Sea area. The European Union was in the process of entering into a new agreement with Russia. Climate change was on everybody's mind and it impacted the High North in particular. Security of energy supply was a priority on the political agenda. The International Polar Year would commence on 1 March this year. Following this, she stressed that the Conference was particularly timely. It was a chance to join together the voices of the different parliamentary bodies of northern Europe, and deliver a straight message on behalf of those they all represented. She hoped that it was a chance they would embrace and looked forward to a productive and successful Conference.

Addresses by Keynote Speakers

Following the opening of the Conference, the floor was given to Ms Margot WALLSTRÖM, Vice President of the European Commission. Ms WALLSTRÖM pointed out that the special needs of the northern region, which she had a personal insight in being born in Skellefteå in the north of Sweden, required cooperation across national and sub-regional boundaries and the Northern Dimension constituted a mechanism for such collaboration. She stressed that mobilizing support from Parliaments across the region would be essential to ensure the success of the new Northern Dimension policy, and welcomed in this context the idea of the establishment of a Parliamentary Forum.

Ms WALLSTRÖM further highlighted the vast number of policy areas that the Northern Dimension aimed to tackle, and specifically mentioned energy, transport, forestry, trafficking in human beings, organized crime, health issues, protection of indigenous peoples, and - most importantly - the environment. She drew the attention to the deterioration of water quality in the Baltic Sea, and to the Arctic region suffering the impact of climate change. In this context she pointed to the setting up of the Environmental Partnership as one of the major achievements of the Northern Dimension. She further assured that the Commission was determined to continue to play its part in the region and to deliver on their common objectives, particularly in regards to climate change impacts. By way of conclusion, Ms WALLSTRÖM highlighted the value of common ownership in reaching the goals of the Northern Dimension policy.

Ms Margot Wallström,
Vice-President of the European Commission



Ms Jónína BJARTMARZ, Minister of the Environment and Nordic Cooperation in Iceland, gave special emphasis to the marine environment in her intervention. She stated that sustainable utilization of marine resources and conservation of the clean marine environment was one of the cornerstones of Iceland's environmental policy. She further stressed the importance of international cooperation over these issues and expressed in this context her content that Iceland was one of the member countries of the Northern Dimension and thereby had the opportunity to take part in the design of the strategies for the Northern Dimension beyond 2006. Ms BJARTMARZ additionally emphasized the importance of strengthening the Arctic Window of the Northern Dimension and drew the attention to the launching of the International Polar Year on 1 March.

Ms Liv Monica STUBHOLT, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway, stated that with the new principle of joint ownership of the Northern Dimension they had an excellent basis for an active European policy towards Northern Europe and the High North. She focused the greater part of her intervention on the Arctic region and highlighted the importance of the High North as an arena for international cooperation. She particularly pointed to its role as an emerging energy province, as well as to the environment and how that was affected by climate change and pollution. In this context she stressed the importance of cooperation with Russia. Ms STUBHOLT further drew the attention to the cooperation with the Arctic Council and the Barents collaboration, and stressed the importance of a fruitful partnership between the regional councils in Northern Europe and the Northern Dimension would bring synergy and added value.



Conference debate

Mr Michael GAHLER, Vice Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, stressed, like many previous speakers, the importance of bringing parliamentarians from different countries and bodies together. He welcomed a Parliamentary Forum for the Northern Dimension in order to avoid overlapping

between different institutions in the region. Mr GAHLER additionally stated that the European Parliament had recently focused particularly on the Baltic Sea region, as part of their work with the broad scope of the Northern Dimension. He further touched upon the issue of energy policy as a foreign policy matter, which he stated was a political focus of the European Parliament at this very moment.



Mr Michael Gahler,
Vice Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs

Mr Alexander STUBB, Rapporteur of the European Parliament, gave a short introduction to what the European Parliament's Baltic Sea Strategy for the Northern Dimension, which was adopted in December 2006, contained. The aim of the report was threefold; to support the Northern Dimension, to make the Baltic Sea a priority, and to raise awareness of the region since it after the enlargement of the EU had become almost an internal sea. It further focused on three issues; the economy, culture, and security. Suggestions in the report included e.g. a summit meeting of the Baltic Sea States, a separate budget line for the region, environmental protection for certain areas in the Baltic region, a common energy policy, improved infrastructure, and the four freedoms of the EU to be totally fulfilled in the area. Not much had happened since the adoption of the report, and Mr STUBB believed that the best way to implement the proposals they had made was through the framework of the Northern Dimension. As such, the report should not be seen as a threat, but a possibility and an opportunity for the Northern Dimension.

Mr Günter GLOSER, Minister of State, representing the German Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, highlighted the significance of the Northern Dimension being a common policy for the north, carried out jointly by the EU and Norway, Iceland and Russia. He further stressed that the Northern Dimension policy was very much in line with EU foreign policy overall; it did not clash with EU policy in the Mediterranean, but was complementary to the same. There was a need for a commitment on behalf of the whole European Union to all policies, whether focusing on the north or on the south. He further welcomed the Northern Dimension being the regional expression of the four Common Spaces of the EU and Russia. When touching on the importance of the work carried out by different regional bodies, and the need for greater cooperation between them in order to achieve practical results, he drew the attention to the Partnerships of the Northern Dimension that had shown to be effective means for the implementation of projects. He favoured looking into the establishment of partnerships for transport and logistics, as well as energy. He

additionally pointed to the opportunities and challenges of the Baltic Sea region, and to the significance of the area for the new Northern Dimension policy. Finally, he highlighted the principle of co-financing, and assured that EU support to the Northern Dimension would be available.

Mr Andrei KLIMOV, representing the International Affairs Committee of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, welcomed the new Northern Dimension policy that was now jointly owned by the EU, Iceland, Norway and Russia. He pointed out that Russia was both the largest European country and the largest northern country, and drew the attention to the difficult living conditions facing many of Russia's inhabitants. In this context, he was particularly satisfied that the Heads of States of the Northern Dimension countries had expressed their willingness to engage with all stakeholders to contribute to the welfare of the region. He further highlighted the broader cooperation between the EU and Russia, and stated that the Northern Dimension had opened up a new chapter in their collaboration. However, Mr KLIMOV stressed that the 'common values' that their partnership was supposed to build on had to be genuinely common and not just belonging to a single party. He further drew the attention to the Northern Dimension partnerships, and stated that increased cooperation in e.g. transport and energy, which had been mentioned by some of the previous speakers, indeed had to continue to be looked into.

When discussing the intensified cooperation, Mr KLIMOV additionally highlighted the important role that parliamentarians had to play, and argued that the Statement winding up the Conference had to express their overall willingness to organize a Parliamentary Forum. He further emphasized that it would be desirable to settle on a date and a place for the first meeting of the Forum during the course of the Conference, as well as to reflect on its mandate.



Mrs Diana Wallis and Mrs Hill-Marta Solberg
co-chairing the Conference

Ms Hill-Marta SOLBERG focused her intervention on the cooperation in the Arctic region. She argued that climate change and the use of natural resources were the most important elements in the Arctic cooperation, and the solutions found between the Arctic countries would influence the rest of the world. The Arctic was believed to hold large parts of the world's undiscovered petroleum resources, and it was further the place where we were likely to first see the results of climate change. Ms SOLBERG further stressed the importance of keeping the Arctic Window in the Northern Dimension open. She emphasized that the Northern Dimension partnerships had to embrace the natural resources in the High North, and advocated in this context the establishment of a Northern Dimension partnership in energy with a focus on sustainable development of existing natural resources, energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

Mr Dagfinn HØYBRÅTEN expressed his satisfaction with the new Policy Framework that was to be implemented by the four partners, drew the attention to the partnership model, and welcomed the principle of co-financing as the general rule. He further particularly stressed the importance of cooperation within the Northern Dimension as regards some of the key issues of today - climate change, energy issues, safe maritime transport and protection of waters and nature. He argued that there was a need for a coherent policy dealing both with the reduction of climate emissions and with the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Finally, he stated his support for the creation of a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum. Such a forum could serve as an important tool in identifying common goals, and create joint responsibility, for the development in the north to the benefit of the people.

Mr Franz THÖNNES, President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, drew the attention to the Baltic Sea as a venue of intense maritime activities, and, which was worse, a recipient of waterborne and airborne pollution. He argued that there was a need for an integrated maritime policy in order to improve the well-being of the Baltic Sea. A safe and secure energy supply was further crucial for the continued development of the Baltic Sea region. Mr THÖNNES additionally stated that the credibility of the Northern Dimension rested on its practical achievements, and pointed to the partnership model that he thought should be extended to the area of transport and logistics. He finally noted that a Parliamentary Forum as a recurrent event for Northern Dimension matters was worth supporting since it would gather stakeholders who could review progress, exchange experiences, and perhaps even coordinate views and activities.

Mr Bob MILLS, Chair of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development of the House of Commons in Canada, stressed the leading role that Canada was playing in the International Polar Year, and pointed out that the IPY represented an unparalleled opportunity for Canada to develop a more complete scientific understanding of their North – an understanding that could be used anywhere in the Arctic region. He further stressed that environmental protection continued to be an important issue for Canada, especially as they were given mounting evidence of a rapidly changing global climate. The ability to understand and adapt to those changes would have long term social and economic consequences. Mr MILLS additionally commented on the work within the G8+5 dialogue group, which was expected to present its solution, emphasizing e.g. new technology and energy efficiency, to climate change in June 2008. As regards the Northern Dimension, he welcomed the development of the policy and looked forward to increased transatlantic

cooperation. He stated that Canada would pursue all opportunities to move it forward, and, above all, to build on the human resource that was needed to solve some of the problems in the north. Further, he underlined that a Parliamentary Forum would provide parliamentarians from all different regional bodies with an opportunity to get together and share best ideas, and emphasized at the same time the importance of not creating a new institution.

Debate and Shorter Exchanges of Views

As the interventions of the keynote speakers, the following debate mainly revolved round the issues of the cooperation within the Northern Dimension, environment and particularly climate change, energy, the marine environment, and finally the arranging of a Parliamentary Forum.

When making more general reflexions over the *cooperation within the Northern Dimension* Mr GLOSER stressed that the European Union had to be careful not to create competition between regions, and to make sure that regions were not played off against each other. In this context, Mr GARCÉS de los FAYOS, representing the European Commission highlighted the importance of the Northern Dimension covering both the Baltic Sea region, and the Arctic region including the Barents area. Mr GARCÉS de los FAYOS further explained that it was difficult to create a separate budget line for the Baltic Sea region, since the Commission had to separate between internal and external policies. As regards financing, Mr NIKOLAEV, Vice President of the Federal Council of Russia, drew the attention to the issue of financing of specific projects, and argued that the contribution of both the European and the Russian private sector had thus far been rather insufficient. He further expressed his support of using the partnership model in other policy areas such as transports.



Conference debate

Ms WALLSTRÖM, when asked to elaborate on the Commission's overall dedication to the Northern Dimension, also highlighted the importance of partnerships. She particularly pointed to the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership as a concrete tool to deal with environmental issues. She stressed that the European Commission contributed with 20 million Euros to the partnership. More generally speaking she further noted that most of the Commission's strategies on climate change and maritime policy addressed the environmental problems facing the region.

Mr KLIMOV was asked to elaborate on his views on the cooperation between Russia and the EU, and clarified that he believed that in order to take the relations between the EU and Russia further, he saw no need to wait until the new PCA agreement was signed and ratified. They could, and should, work within the framework of the four Common Spaces and their Road Maps, and within the framework of the Northern Dimension. He further stressed that Russia was open to cooperation in various formats, even though they would like to see the cooperation rooted in the new and upgraded PCA agreement. In the context of the Northern Dimension and Russia, Mr SAZHINOV, President of the Murmansk Duma, highlighted the importance of the cooperation within Northern Dimension to the northernmost parts of his country. He particularly emphasized breakthroughs made in the environmental area, and in the nuclear and radiation safety area.

As regards the *environment* in general and *climate change* in particular several speakers gave special emphasis to the Arctic. Mr NIKOLAEV stated that the Arctic was a region of many resources and consequently of utter importance. He stressed that the change in climate in the Arctic region would affect the climate of our entire planet, and, as such, the social and economic lives of our countries. Mr NIKOLAEV underlined that the challenge of climate change had to be addressed with the active involvement of all institutions of international cooperation. Mr Jonathan MOTZFELDT, Chairman of Greenland's parliament and of the West-Nordic Council, agreed that global warming had started to severely challenge the Arctic environment, bearing omen of what was to come in other parts of Europe and the rest of the world. Changes to the climate were caused by human activity, and most of that activity took place outside the Arctic. He reiterated Mr NIKOLAEV's request for a coordinated response, and Mr MOTZFELDT called on the EU and the Arctic countries to use the new Northern Dimension policy to strengthen their cooperation concerning matters of common interest, including environmental challenges. Ms JEJLID, from the Sami Parliamentary Council, highlighted in this context that the melting of the ice cover over the Arctic sea might be followed by increased industrial activities, especially in oil and gas, and increased sea transportation. That would not only present severe challenges to the environment, but to indigenous peoples and other residents in the High North.

On the issue of *energy* Mr FREDRIKSEN, from the Barents Parliamentary Network, agreed with Ms JEJLID on the potential for economic activity in the Arctic areas, not least as regards the extraction of oil. He, however, stressed the advantages and argued that oil and gas were more environmental friendly sources of energy than for example coal plants. He further noted that the demand for energy would increase, and the oil and gas reserves in the Barents Sea would consequently only become more important. In this context, Mr KLIMOV expressed some concern that Russia was mainly seen as a source of cheap energy resources to the EU. He believed that too much focus was put on energy in the cooperation between Russia and the EU. Ms BUDREIKAITÉ

finally drew the attention to the gas pipeline that should be built in the Baltic Sea, and argued that an independent group of experts ought to determine whether it was appropriate to build such a pipe line in one of the most contaminated seas in the world. Mr GLOSER agreed that if such a project was going to be carried out, an assessment of its sustainability, or even feasibility, indeed had to be carried out.

In the discussion on the *marine environment*, the issue of illegal fishing was brought up. While emphasizing that this was not her area of expertise, Ms WALLSTRÖM underlined that such activities not only destroyed the environment, but destroyed the internal market and even the credibility of European trade and the Union's efforts to deal with environmental and other problems. Mr FREDRIKSEN pointed to the importance of fishery in the High North, and argued that there was a need for an international convention to stop illegal fishing, which was not only to include Norway and Russia, but all EU nations, as well as China. Mr KRISTIENSEN, from the Nordic Council, stated in this regard that despite all the international attention given to fish piracy, it was still very common and he therefore agreed with Mr FREDRIKSEN on the need for combined efforts in changing the current situation and solving the problem of illegal fishing. Mr KRISTOFFERSEN, from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, drew the attention to the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea and highlighted the importance of cooperation in meeting this challenge too.

Some different views were expressed in the discussion on the arranging of a *Parliamentary Forum*. Ms WALLSTRÖM supported the view expressed by the majority of the keynote speakers and stressed that it was crucial not to create a too burdensome administration or structure for co-operation, since there was no need for yet another institution in the north. Mr SAZHINOV on the other hand argued that the parliamentary collaboration within the Northern Dimension required a new format, and Mr NIKOLAEV suggested that there was a need for a new, robust organization that was prepared to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Conference Statement

A Conference Statement Drafting Committee with appointed representatives from the present delegations met several times during the Conference to discuss how the conclusions of the debate could be formulated in a Conference Statement.

This document was then adopted unanimously on the last day by the participants to the Conference.

European Parliament in Brussels



Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension

Conference Statement

1 March 2007

Members of the European Parliament, of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, of the Baltic Assembly, of the Nordic Council, and of the network of Barents parliamentarians, met at the Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension in the European Parliament in Brussels on 28 February - 1 March 2007 to debate the new Northern Dimension policy and to prepare for the arranging of a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum.

The two main themes for discussion were the Northern Dimension policies related to the Arctic Region and to the Baltic Sea region.

The participants of the Conference having regard to the Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document and the Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy approved on 24 November 2006, welcome the updated, more permanent, high profile, and structured Northern Dimension Policy that came into force on 1 January 2007 and support the suggestion to hold a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum which could improve the role of the parliamentarians of the Northern Dimension region in the implementation of the new Northern Dimension Policy.

The Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension:

1. supports the increased focus on a joint ownership of the new policy by all actors involved; emphasizes, in this context, the importance of Iceland, Norway and Russia being active partners of the new Northern Dimension policy; further notes that the principle of joint ownership should not only apply to the Northern Dimension partners, but to all stakeholders in the region including the regional councils of the North and their parliamentary bodies;
2. supports the overall aim of the Northern Dimension to provide a common framework for the promotion of dialogue and concrete cooperation, strengthening stability, well-being and intensified economic cooperation, promotion of economic integration and competitiveness and sustainable development in Northern Europe;
3. considers the desire to make the Northern Dimension policy a regional expression of the four EU/Russia Common Spaces a constructive and much wanted step forward; believes that it is important that the Northern Dimension aims at filling the four EU/Russia Common Spaces with concrete content, while at the same time focusing on other issues of specific relevance in the North such as its fragile environment, indigenous peoples' issues, cultural diversity and health and social well-being; calls on, to this end, all owners of

the Northern Dimension policy to actively work towards achieving the Northern Dimension objectives, as they also are expressed in the Northern Dimension Arctic Window;

4. draws attention to the priority areas for the Northern Dimension policy: the Baltic Sea, the Kaliningrad oblast with its opportunities for development given its particular geographical situation, as well as the extensive Arctic and Sub-arctic areas including the Barents Region;
5. underlines the role of the Arctic as an early warning area for global climate change; stresses that rapid Arctic warming is likely to have major implications for the whole planet and needs to be addressed globally; emphasizes that climate change and increased ultraviolet radiation in the Arctic have a major impact on the social, cultural and economic well-being of Arctic people; notes, in this context, the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region's call for, in its resolution of 4 August 2006, the adoption of a clear cut, visible and dynamic Arctic policy within the Northern Dimension; underlines that mapping, recognizing and use of indigenous peoples traditional knowledge as a basis for developing the principles of vulnerability and adaptation capacity as a possible tool for future spatial planning, institutional frame working and mitigate measures, to prepare all residents of the High North for the new situation on climate change;
6. recognizes the significance and the potential that the International Polar Year 2007/2008 holds for the promotion of the Arctic region and the development of Arctic science, as well as for the possibility of creating a Charter for Arctic Governance;
7. emphasizes the importance to ensure that the exploitation of the resources and the management of the marine environment in the Barents Sea area is done in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner;
8. underlines the economic significance of the Baltic Sea region with its high growth rates, strong science base and high innovation potential to Europe as a whole; supports, to this end, the work for a Baltic Sea Strategy for the Northern Dimension in order to create favourable conditions for a prosperous, socially balanced, and ecologically sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region; calls attention to the fragile environmental status of the Baltic Sea;
9. emphasizes that the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership is a successful example of practical achievements within the Northern Dimension, stresses the importance of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Health and Social Well-Being; asks, in this context, all Northern Dimension partners to examine the possibility of applying the Partnership model to other priority areas such as transport and logistics, as well as energy;
10. calls on closer cooperation regarding marine security, especially regarding search and rescue matters;

11. calls attention to the principle of co-financing from Northern Dimension partners, as well as from international and private financial institutions where appropriate, as the general rule of funding Northern Dimension activities; asks all owners of the Northern Dimension policy to ensure that sufficient means are allocated to Northern Dimension projects and actions; welcomes in this context the streamlining of the EU funding of the Northern Dimension policy under the new European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI); encourages strong involvement of international regional organizations, international financial institutions, regional and local public organizations, other public bodies and private sources in the implementation of the Northern Dimension policy;
12. welcomes the clearer institutional set-up for Northern Dimension cooperation, coordination and consultation; emphasizes, in this context, that it is of crucial importance for the credibility and implementation of the Northern Dimension to strengthen coordination and cooperation at various levels among European, national, regional, sub-regional, and local authorities, based on the principle of subsidiarity;
13. recognizes the somewhat unstructured overlap of competencies between parliamentary fora in the northern regions; calls for, to this end, the arranging of a recurrent event, a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, with a flexible structure and ownership, to promote the coordination and exchange of views between different institutions for regional cooperation in the North;
14. highlights that a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum would provide representatives of the parliaments of the EU Member States, the European Parliament, the parliaments of Iceland, Norway and Russia, together with the parliaments of the Northern Dimension observer states Canada and the USA and the elected representatives from indigenous peoples' and regional parliamentary assemblies, opportunities for discussion, new initiatives and oversight; emphasizes that it would further bring about a greater democratic legitimacy to the Northern Dimension as it would constitute an essential component in facilitating democratic parliamentary monitoring of the Northern Dimension policy;
15. emphasizes that a Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum could improve the role of the parliamentarians of the Northern Dimension region from the Ural mountains to the Atlantic Ocean in the implementation of the new Northern Dimension policy, including the improvement of the conditions for border crossing of people and goods;
16. calls on the President of the European Parliament and the Speakers of the parliaments of Iceland, Norway and Russia to prepare for the arranging of the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum to be held every two years in order to discuss issues of common concern and examine the evolution of the new Northern Dimension policy.

ПРОЕКТ ЗАЯВЛЕНИЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ

Члены Европейского Парламента, участники Парламентской конференции стран Балтийского моря (ПКБМ), Конференции парламентариев Арктического региона, Парламентской конференции стран Баренцева моря, Северного совета провели встречу в Европейском Парламенте в Брюсселе с 28 февраля по 1 марта 2007 года для обсуждения новой политики «Северного измерения» и подготовки к организации Парламентского форума «Северного измерения».

Двумя основными темами обсуждения стали политика «Северного измерения», связанная с Арктическим регионом и регионом Балтийского моря.

Участники конференции, ссылаясь на Рамочный документ и Политическую декларацию политики «Северного измерения» от 24 ноября 2006 года, приветствуют обновленную, более профилированную, последовательную и структурированную политику «Северного измерения», вступившую в силу 1 января 2007 года, и поддерживают предложение проведения Парламентского форума по «Северному измерению», который должен повысить роль парламентариев стран северных регионов в осуществлении политики «Северного измерения».

Парламентская конференция «Северного измерения»:

1. поддерживает повышение внимания к совместному участию в новой политике всех вовлеченных в неё стран; подчеркивает в этой связи важность Исландии, Норвегии и России в качестве активных партнеров новой политики «Северного измерения»; отмечает далее, что принцип совместного участия должен применяться не только в отношении государств «Северного измерения», но и в отношении всех заинтересованных сторон данного региона, входящих в региональные советы Севера и их парламентские органы;
2. поддерживает всеобъемлющие цели «Северного измерения» для обеспечения существующих рамок для поддержки диалога и конкретного сотрудничества, стабильности, благосостояния и интенсивного экономического взаимодействия, поддержки экономической интеграции и конкурентоспособности, а также устойчивого развития Северной Европы.
3. рассматривает в качестве конструктивного и весьма желательного шага намерение сделать политику «Северного измерения» региональным выражением четырех общих пространств ЕС/России; считает важным, чтобы «Северное измерение» было нацелено на наполнение четырех общих пространств ЕС/России конкретным содержанием, фокусируясь одновременно на других вопросах, имеющих конкретное значение для Севера, таких как уязвимая окружающая среда, проблемы коренного населения, культурное многообразие и здравоохранение, а также социальное благосостояние; призывает в результате все вовлеченные в политику «Северного измерения» стороны к активной деятельности для достижения

целей «Северного измерения», в том числе и его «Арктического направления»;

4. обращает внимание на географические приоритеты «Северного измерения» - Балтийское море и Калининградскую область с их особым географическим положением и проистекающими отсюда перспективами развития, а также обширные пространства Арктики и Суб - Арктики, включая регион Баренцева море;
5. подчеркивает роль Арктики в качестве системы раннего оповещения о глобальных климатических изменениях; придает особое значение тому, что быстрое потепление Арктики с большой вероятностью будет иметь серьезные последствия для всей планеты и потребует глобального решения; подчеркивает, что изменение климата и увеличивающееся ультрафиолетовое излучение в Арктике окажет значительное воздействие на социальное, культурное и экономическое благополучие арктических народов; отмечает в этом контексте призыв со стороны Конференции парламентариев Арктического региона, содержащийся в её резолюции от 4 августа 2006 года, к принятию четко очерченной, обозримой и динамичной арктической политики в рамках «Северного измерения»; подчеркивает основополагающее значение кодификации, признания и использования традиционных знаний коренных народов для разработки принципов учета уязвимости и адаптивности окружающей среды как возможного инструмента будущего реалистического планирования, институционального строительства и проведения компенсационных мер, направленных на адаптацию жителей Крайнего Севера к будущим изменениям климата;
6. признает ту значимость и тот потенциал, которые «Международный полярный год» 2007/2008 имеет для динамики Арктического региона и развития арктической науки, а также возможность разработки «Хартии арктического управления»;
7. подчеркивает важность обеспечения экологически рациональной и устойчивой эксплуатации природных ресурсов и живой среды Баренцева моря;
8. подчеркивает значимость Балтийского моря с его высокими темпами экономического роста, крепкой научной базой и большим инновационным потенциалом для всей Европы в целом; поддерживает в этой связи работу над Стратегией по Балтийскому морю в рамках «Северного измерения» по созданию благоприятных условий для процветающего, социально сбалансированного и экологически устойчивого развития региона Балтийского моря; обращает внимание на чрезвычайный экологический статус Балтийского моря;
9. подчеркивает, что Природоохранное партнерство «Северного измерения» является примером успешных практических достижений в рамках «Северного измерения»; подчеркивает важность партнерства «Северного измерения» в социальной сфере и в области здравоохранения, рассматривает в этом контексте любое партнерство в Северном измерении, применяя

данную модель партнерства к другим приоритетным областям, таким как транспорт, логистика и энергетика;

10. призывает к более тесному сотрудничеству в области безопасности на море, особенно в аспекте поисково – спасательных мер;
11. обращает внимание на принцип софинансирования участниками «Северного измерения», а также приветствует привлечение международных и частных финансовых институтов, где это возможно, в качестве общего принципа финансирования деятельности «Северного измерения»; просит всех участников политики «Северного измерения» гарантировать, что достаточные суммы будут направлены на проекты и деятельность «Северного измерения»; в этом контексте приветствует рационализацию процедуры финансирования ЕС политики «Северного измерения» в соответствии с новым Европейским механизмом политики добрососедства и партнерства (ЕНПИ); поддерживает активную вовлеченность международных региональных организаций, международных финансовых институтов, региональных и местных общественных организаций, других общественных органов и частных источников в реализацию политики «Северного измерения»;
12. приветствует более четкую институциональную организацию сотрудничества, координации и консультаций в рамках «Северного измерения»; подчеркивает в этом контексте, что важнейшее значение для эффективности и осуществления «Северного измерения» имеет укрепление координации и сотрудничества на различных уровнях между европейскими, национальными, региональными, субрегиональными и местными властями на основе принципа субсидиарности;
13. признает наличие проблемы неструктурированности и пересечения полномочий парламентских форумов в северных регионах; призывает в этой связи к созданию Парламентского форума «Северного измерения» в качестве регулярного мероприятия с гибкой структурой для содействия координации усилий и обмену мнениями между различными институтами регионального сотрудничества на Севере;
14. придает большое значение тому, что Парламентский форум «Северного измерения» будет обеспечивать представителям парламентов стран-членов ЕС, Европейского парламента, парламентов Исландии, Норвегии и России вместе с парламентами государств-наблюдателей в «Северном измерении» - Канады и США - и избранным представителям региональных парламентских ассамблей и коренным народам Севера возможности для ведения дискуссий, поиска новых инициатив и осуществление мониторинга; подчеркивает также, что такой Форум придаст бы «Северному измерению» еще большую демократическую легитимность, поскольку стал бы важным шагом к реализации демократического парламентского мониторинга политики «Северного измерения»;
15. подчеркивает, что Парламентский форум «Северного измерения» должен повысить роль парламентариев северных регионов – от Уральских гор и до

Атлантического океана – в деле осуществления новой политики «Северного измерения», включая улучшение условий трансграничного движения граждан и товаров;

16. обращается к Председателю Европейского Парламента и спикерам парламентов Исландии, Норвегии и России с просьбой инициировать подготовку первого Парламентского форума «Северного измерения», организованного с целью обсудить вопросы общего интереса и рассмотреть достижения новой политики «Северного измерения»; в будущем такие форумы должны проводиться каждые два года.

2 марта 2007 г.
Брюссель

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension

28 February - 1 March 2007
European Parliament
Brussels

Programme

Wednesday 28 February 2007

- a.m. Arrival of participants
- 09.00-12.30 Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)
Venue: Altiero Spinelli Building Room ASP A3E3
- 09.00-12.30 Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (SC BSPC)
Venue: Paul-Henri Spaak Building Room PHS P1C051
- 13.00 Lunch with the Standing Committees of the CPAR and BSPC hosted by *Mrs Diana WALLIS*, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Switzerland, Iceland and Norway and to the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee
Venue: Private Salon, Members' Restaurant, ASP Building, Ground Floor (invitation only)

The New Northern Dimension Policy

First Session

- 15.00 Opening of the Conference by *Mrs Diana WALLIS*
Vice President of the European Parliament
Venue: HEMICYCLE (PHS - Paul-Henri Spaak Building)
- Co-Chairs : *Mrs Diana WALLIS*, Vice President of the European Parliament and *Mrs Hill-Marta SOLBERG*, Chair of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Addresses by and exchange of views with:

- *Mrs Margot WALLSTRÖM*, Vice-President of the European Commission
- *Mrs Jónína BJARTMARZ*, Minister for the Environment and Nordic Cooperation, Iceland
- *Mrs Liv Monica STUBHOLT*, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

- *Mr Günter GLOSER*, Minister of State, representing the German Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union
- *Mr Michael GAHLER*, Vice-Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs
- *Mr Andrei KLIMOV*, representing the International Affairs Committee, State Duma of the Russian Federation

- *Mrs Hill-Marta SOLBERG*, Chair of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- *Mr Dagfinn HØYBRÅTEN*, President of the Nordic Council
- *Mr Franz THÖNNES*, President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

- *Mr Bob MILLS*, Chair of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development of the House of Commons, Canada
- *Mr Alexander STUBB*, Rapporteur of the European Parliament

18.30 Meeting of the drafting committee
Venue: HEMICYCLE (PHS - Paul-Henri Spaak Building)

20.00 Dinner hosted by *Mr Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI*, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament
Venue: Private Salon, Members' Restaurant, ASP Building, Ground Floor (invitation only)

Thursday 1 March 2007

08.00 Meeting of the drafting committee
Venue: HEMICYCLE (PHS - Paul-Henri Spaak Building)

The New Northern Dimension Policy

Second Session

09.00-12.00 Opening of the Session by *Mr Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT*,
Vice President of the European Parliament, responsible for relations
with the national parliaments

Co-Chairs: *Mr Dagfinn HØYBRÅTEN*, President of the Nordic
Council and *Mrs Diana WALLIS*, Vice President of the European
Parliament

Continuation of the debate

Venue: HEMICYCLE (PHS - Paul-Henri Spaak Building)

12.00-12.20 Adoption of a Conference Statement

12.30 Closure of the Conference

p.m. Departure of participants

Languages of the Conference: DA,DE,EN,ET,FI,LT,LV,PL,RU,SV

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE NORTHERN DIMENSION 28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2007

PARTICIPANTS

THE BALTIC SEA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

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Mr Franz THÖNNES, MP, Germany, President of the BSPC, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Mr Martin KAYENBURG, MP, President of the State Parliament Schleswig-Holsteinischer Landtag
Ms Dorota ARCISZEWASKA-MIELEWCZYK, MP, Poland, Senator
Mr Kent OLSSON, MP, Sweden, Member of the Nordic Council Praesidium,
Mr Asmund KRISTOFFERSEN, MP, Norway, Chairman of the Nordic Council Environmental Committee

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Ms Anna W. Weiland, Adviser, German Bundestag
Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Secretary of Delegation, Parliament of Poland, Senate
Ms Irina Kuzmina, Secretary, State Duma
Mr Jens Nytoft Rasmussen, Senior Adviser, Nordic Council
Ms Anitra Jankevica, Permanent Int. Secretariat, Council of the Baltic States

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Mr Halldór BLÖNDAL, Vice-chairman of the West-Nordic Council and Chairman of the Icelandic Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, MP, Iceland
Mr Henrik OLD, Vice-chairman of the West-Nordic Council and Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries and Industry of the Faroese Parliament, MP
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Ms Dorthe Lyberth, Secretary of the Chairman of Greenland's Parliament, Greenland
Mr Marius Rein, Secretary of the Faroese delegation to the West-Nordic Council, Faroe Islands
Mr Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General of SCPAR
Mr Lavst Riemann Hansen, Deputy Secretary General of the Danish secretariat to the Nordic Council, DK
Mr Kjell Myhre-Jensen, Head of the Norwegian secretariat to the Nordic Council, Norway
Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director, International Department, Finland
Ms. Arna Bang, Adviser, Iceland
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Mr. Sergey Aksyonov, Adviser, Council of Federation, State Duma, Russia
Mr. Alexander Tribunskiy, Intepreter, State Duma
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Ms Bente DAHL, MP, Denmark
Ms Rannveig GUÐMUNDSDÓTTIR, MP, Iceland, Nordic Council observer on the SCPAR,
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Mr Henrik Hagemann, Secretary General of the Danish secretariat to the Nordic Council
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Ms Terhi Tikkala, Secretary of the Centre Group of the Nordic Council

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Mr Nikolay Revenko, Deputy Head of Mission

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