

# Russia, Brexit, migration and Arctic top MEPs and Norwegian MPs debate

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Lawmakers from the European Parliament and the Norwegian parliament (Storting) met in Oslo on Thursday to discuss foreign policy cooperation and the relations with Russia, Arctic policy and migration crisis. MEPs did not shy away from addressing sensitive issues, namely the slow progress of the EU-Norway negotiations on liberalization of trade in agricultural products, and the concerns regarding the Norwegian child welfare service (Barnevernet) raised in a number of petitions from EU citizens.

Norwegian MPs voiced their concerns on the future of the single market in the light of the UK withdrawal from the EU and stressed that the positions of Norway and other EEA/EFTA states, participating in the single market, should be duly taken into account in the EU-UK negotiations.

After the meeting, the Chair of EP delegation Jørn Dohrmann (ECR, DK) issued the following statement: "The EU-Norway relations are excellent and developing positively. Norway is EU's important ally and a respected partner who fully shares the EU values. Our inter-parliamentary dialogue is of crucial importance in these troubled and insecure times which require our close cooperation and coordination on foreign relations and security, tackling the migration crisis, developing our cooperation in the Arctic, addressing the climate change and deepening our trade relations as a driver for economic recovery."

## Background information

EP Delegation for relations with Norway was represented in the meeting by its Chairman Jørn Dohrmann (ECR, DK), 1st Vice-Chair Anna Hedh (S&D, SE) and members Julia Pitera (EPP, PL), Catherine Stihler (S&D, UK) and Paul Rübig (EPP, AT). Bilateral EU/Norway Inter-parliamentary meetings take place once a year. The next EU-Norway Inter-parliamentary meeting shall take place in Brussels in 2018.

## Further information

- Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/deea/home.html>
- Head of Delegation Jørn Dohrmann (ECR, DK): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124878.html>

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