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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Meeting of the Standing Committee of
Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region**

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

**Vladivostok, Russian Federation
May 29, 2008**

Report

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR or “the Committee”)¹ met in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, on 29 May 2008. The meeting was attended by representatives from all members of SCPAR (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, the United States and the European Parliament) as well as representatives from the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON) and the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, which are both permanent participants of SCPAR. Observers from the Nordic Council and the West Nordic Council were also present. The Canadian delegation to the meeting consisted of Mr. Bob Mills, MP and Mr. Massimo Pacetti, MP. Ms. Lalita Acharya from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament accompanied the delegation as an advisor. Appendix 1 contains a complete list of participants.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ivar Kristiansen (MP, Norway), who began by presenting apologies from Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg (MP, Norway), the Chair of SCPAR, who was unable to attend the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting opened with a series of welcome speeches from Russian politicians: Mr. Mikhael Nikolaev (Senator, Council of Federation and member of SCPAR), Mr. Vasily Usoltsev (MP, State Duma and member of SCPAR), Mr. Igor Pushkaev (Mayor of Vladivostok), Mr. Ruslan Kontraktov (MP, State Duma), and Mr. Vladimir Zakharov (Chairman of the Commission Public Chamber of Russian Federation for environmental policy and environmental protection).

UPDATE ON THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

The Eighth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska from 12-14 August 2008. Mr. Isaac Edwards (Legislative Director, Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski) provided the Committee with an update on the Conference program. He noted that the speakers presenting talks at the Conference will be placing a higher emphasis on solutions rather than on problems. The Committee took note of the information and expressed satisfaction concerning the progress in preparations for the Conference. Mr. Karl V. Matthíasson (MP, Iceland) suggested that the Icelandic Minister of Justice, Björn Bjarnarson, be invited to speak to the Conference on the subject of Arctic marine policy.

¹ The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) is the year-round arm of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. The Conference is a parliamentary body composed of delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States) and the European Parliament. The Conference also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers. The Conference meets every two years. Between meetings of the Conference, SCPAR works to further Arctic cooperation and advance the Arctic Council's agenda. SCPAR has observer status at the Arctic Council, which is a high-level intergovernmental forum.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT CONFERENCE STATEMENT FOR THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad (Secretary General, SCPAR) asked for, and received, approval from SCPAR members for a new format for the Conference Statement. The items on the Conference agenda (Arctic Marine Policy, Human Health in the Arctic Region, Adaptation to Climate Change and Energy Resources in the Arctic) will be reflected as subtitles on the Conference Statement. Mr. Robstad noted that the process of involving national experts to complete the draft statement would now begin. Mr. Bob Mills (MP, Canada) stressed the importance of producing a concise conference statement.

INTERVENTIONS FROM RUSSIAN EXPERTS

Three Russian experts with interests in Arctic issues made presentations to the Committee. The titles of the presentations along with a brief summary of the experts' remarks follow:

1. “Modern social and economical problems of horskie udegeytsy,” Professor Anatoliy Startsev

The Udege (“Udegeytsy”) is a group of indigenous peoples (approximately 2000 people) that lives mostly in the Primorski and Khabarovsk regions of the Russian Federation. Professor Startsev noted that although his talk was about the problems facing the Udege, the issues could be applied to indigenous peoples in other areas as well. Professor Startsev asserted that the lumber industry has never taken the concerns of the Udege into account when conducting its business. Although the lands of the Udege (and other indigenous peoples) are protected by a Presidential Order dating back to 1992, economic problems within a region allow the Order to be modified and logging to be undertaken. Professor Startsev also claimed that some companies operating within the Udege’s lands abuse laws and offer bribes to officials to allow logging to occur in protected areas. Additionally, certain institutions charged with protecting the lands are actually working with logging companies to further the interests of these companies. Dr. Startsev suggested that without changes to these practices, deforestation would continue and the Udege would vanish within 40 years.

2. “The development of the small indigenous peoples of the Far-Eastern Region through ethno-service strategy,” Professor Valentina Chernyavskaya

Professor Chernyavskaya spoke of conflicting interests between indigenous peoples and industrial development in many areas of Russia’s Far East. When land belonging to indigenous peoples is lost to industrial interests, the inhabitants, including many young people, often migrate to the cities. Through the use of an “ethno-service strategy,”² indigenous peoples who have moved to cities are helped to apply their culture and knowledge to modern society, and to adapt to their new environment. The strategy is focused especially on young people.

² Term not explicitly defined during the presentation.

3. “Assessment of the impact on the Arctic environment during the period of business activity,” Professor Svetlana Grivanova

The focus of Professor Grivanova’s talk was on the impact of human activities on the Arctic environment. Professor Grivanova suggested that in the past, extraction of resources and other industrial projects in the Russian Arctic were conducted without regard for the environment. The presentation noted that there are now programs in place to monitor air quality and pollution levels, but that further research into the impact of human activities on the local environment is required.

UN ANNUAL TREATY EVENT 2008 – SEMINAR IN NEW YORK 4 JUNE 2008

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad (Secretary General, SCPAR) presented information on a seminar on Arctic issues to be held at the United Nations in New York on 4 June 2008. The seminar, entitled “The Arctic – A Barometer of Global Climate Change,” was presented in connection with The Annual Treaty Event of the United Nations.³ Ms. Juliane Henningsen (MP, Denmark) represented SCPAR at the event. A copy of the program is attached (Appendix 2).

FOLLOW-UP OF THE KIRUNA CONFERENCE STATEMENT

The Seventh Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region was held in Kiruna, Sweden from 2-4 August 2006. Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad (Secretary General, SCPAR) provided SCPAR Members with an update on work that had been conducted on the proposals made in the Conference Statement to governments in the Arctic region and the institutions of the European Union. Some of the work conducted by SCPAR members in particular included:

- Meetings between the SCPAR Chair, Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg (MP, Norway), and representatives from the United Nations regarding the 2008 UN’s Annual Treaty Event;
- Seminars and conferences organized by SCPAR to promote articles in the Conference Statement; and
- A joint meeting between SCPAR and the University of the Arctic in Rovaniemi in February 2008 where adaptation to climate change was discussed.

Mr. Bob Mills (MP, Canada) emphasised the importance of the role of SCPAR in ensuring that the International Polar Year (IPY) has a legacy; the scientific discoveries and results arising from IPY need to be preserved, and applied to policymaking as necessary.

³ The Annual Treaty Event of the United Nations is an awareness-raising measure to promote participation in the multilateral treaty framework. This year’s event, which will take place in September 2008, will highlight treaties associated with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Year of Planet Earth, the International Year of Sanitation and the International Polar Year.

A copy of proposals made in the Kiruna Conference Statement with annotations from the Secretary General of SCPAR on follow-up activities is included in Appendix 3.

REPORT FROM THE RAPORTEURS ON HUMAN HEALTH IN THE ARCTIC

None of the rapporteurs was present at the meeting. As a result, the Committee decided to postpone the discussion of this item until the next meeting of SCPAR.

REPORT ON ARCTIC ACTIVITIES BY SCPAR MEMBERS

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad (Secretary General, SCPAR) reported that Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg (MP, Norway) attended the last meeting of Senior Arctic Officials⁴ and reported on the work of SCPAR.

Mr. Karl V. Matthíasson (MP, Iceland and Chair of the West Nordic Council) informed the Committee of a conference to be held in June on cooperation and coordination between West Nordic countries (i.e., Denmark (Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) and Iceland) regarding search and rescue cooperation in the North Atlantic. Mr. Mattiason pointed to a lack of sufficient search and rescue capacity in the region after the decision by the United States to withdraw its forces, including rescue components, from Iceland, and to reduce its military presence in Greenland and the Faeroe Islands. The West Nordic Council has called upon governments in the North Atlantic to increase their cooperation regarding search and rescue matters.

⁴ Senior Arctic Officials (referred to as SAOs) are high level representatives of each of the eight member nations of the Arctic Council.

Mr. Bob Mills (MP, Canada) provided SCPAR members with an update on the G8+5 Climate Change Dialogue.⁵ Mr. Mills indicated that the group would be meeting at the end of June 2008 in Japan where it was expected that it would reach an agreement on a post-2012 (after the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol) climate change framework. The group's report would be presented to the Japanese Prime Minister in advance of the G8 Summit to be held in Japan in July 2008.

Mr. Henrik Olsen (Principal Administrator, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, European Parliament) informed the Committee of a seminar on Arctic governance that was held in the European Parliament on 7 May 2008. The seminar was arranged by the Alliance for Liberals and Democrats for Europe and Ms. Diana Wallis (Member, European Parliament). Among the participants were the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Dr. Oran Young (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Mr. Gunnar Sander from the European Environmental Agency.

Respectfully submitted,

Massimo Pacetti, M.P.
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

⁵ The G8+5 Climate Change Dialogue was launched in 2006 and brings together legislators from the G8 and five emerging economies - Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa - with respected international institutions to discuss and agree on policy and actions regarding climate change.

APPENDIX 1

Participants Attending the Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, 29 May 2008



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION MEETING IN VLADIVOSTOK

29 May 2008

List of participants

MEMBERS

| | |
|---------|--|
| Canada | Mr. Robert Mills , MP Mr. Massimo Pacetti , MP Ms. Lalita Acharya, Science and Technology Division, Parliamentary Information and Research Service |
| Denmark | Mr. Niels Sindal , MP Mr. Peder Pedersen, Adviser |
| EP | Mr. Henrik Olsen, Principal Administrator, Inter-Parliamentary Relations |
| Finland | Ms. Ulla Karvo , MP Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director |
| Iceland | Mr. Karl V. Matthíasson , MP Ms. Arna Bang, Adviser |
| Norway | Mr. Ivar Kristiansen , MP |
| Russia | Mr. Mikhael Nikolaev , Council of Federation Mr. I. Vasilyev , Council of Federation Mr. Vasily Usoltsev , MP, State Duma Mr. Ruslan Kontraktov , MP, State Duma Mr. Dimitry Piskarev, Adviser, State Duma Mr. Vitaly Artamonov, Adviser, Council of Federation Ms. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary, State Duma |

Sweden Ms. Eva Hjelm, Senior Officer
USA Mr. Isaac Edwards, Legislative Director

PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

RAIPON Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga, Vice-president, RAIPON
Mr. R. Sulyandziga, RAIPON
Indigenous Peoples Ms. Alona Yefimenko

Secretariat

OBSERVERS

Nordic Council **Mr. Niels Sindal, MP**
Ms. Ulrica Helgesson, Senior Adviser
West-Nordic Council Mr. Karl V. Matthíasson, MP
Mr. Thordur Thorarinsson, Secretary General

GUESTS

Professor Anatoliy Startsev
Professor Valentine Chernyavskaya
Professor Svetlana Grivanova
Mr. Igor Pushkaev, Mayor of Vladivostok City
Mr. Vladimir Zakharov, Chairman of the Commission

Public Chamber

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

APPENDIX 2

Program for the United Nations Treaty Event: Seminar/Panel Discussion 4 June 2008

The Arctic – A Barometer of Global Climate Change

1. A changing Arctic - political and environmental aspects of the Arctic including the emerging issues as climate change and economic activities, Dr. Robert Corell
2. How will the International Polar Year influence future science and politics?
Mr. David Carlson, Director, IPY International Programme Office
3. Climate change in a Greenlandic perspective, Ms. Juliane Henningsen, MP Representing Greenland in the Danish parliament and member of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
4. Indigenous peoples' participation in the work of the Arctic Council and international processes, Ms. Cindy Dickson, Executive Director, Arctic Athabaskan Council
5. The application of the Convention on Biodiversity in a warming Arctic, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Moderator:

Ambassador Løvald, the Norwegian Mission to the United Nations

APPENDIX 3

Follow-up of Proposals Made to Governments in the Arctic Region and the Institutions of the European Union in the Kiruna Conference Statement⁶



Seventh Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Kiruna, Sweden, 2-4 August 2006

CONFERENCE STATEMENT WITH COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

C. ASK GOVERNMENTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO

16. Use the attention and debate following the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) to raise a strong Arctic message on climate change on the international agenda, underlining the role of the Arctic as an early warning sign for global climate change;
17. Make sure that concrete policy proposals are made on how to follow up the ACIA Policy Document from the Arctic Council meeting in Reykjavik, November 2004, and initiate a continuous follow up with reports at regular intervals (5 – 10 years);

Follow up ACIA

The Arctic Council under the Norwegian chairmanship has climate change as one of its main priorities and has initiated projects related to climate change.

The SWIPA-project (Snow, water, ice and permafrost in the Arctic) was adopted at the Senior Arctic Official- meeting in April 2008. The project will assess the changes and consequences of the cryosphere in the Arctic.

The SAO meeting in April 2008 also agreed to assess the role of non CO2 drivers of climate change in the Arctic. The effect short-term pollutants – especially black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and methane – on climate change will be explored.

The Arctic Council has found relevant and interesting ways to follow-up the work within the Arctic Council on climate change.

18. Ensure financial resources to generate monitoring and research stations/platforms that can secure observations of climate change and the effect of pollution;

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks – SAON – is a project under Arctic Council. Three workshops will be arranged and the recommendations from the project presented for the Ministerial meeting of spring 2009.

⁶ Remarks in italics were added by Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General, SCPAR

The SAON group has defined its purpose as “to develop a set of recommendations on how to achieve long-term Arctic – wide observing activities that provide free, open and timely access to high quality data that will realise pan – Arctic and global value-added services and provide social benefits.”

See also: www.arcticobserving.org

The SAON- project very ambitious and interesting and may also be an important part of the legacy of IPY.

19. Strengthen the adaptive capacities of the Arctic residents as mentioned in a political statement by the Arctic states at the COP 11 meeting in Montreal, and to promote research, exchange of experiences and good practices, to develop strategies needed to support Arctic residents in their efforts to sustain their health, culture, economic life and general well being;

Under the Norwegian chairmanship the Arctic Council has initiated a project on adaptation to make available all knowledge and make an overview of existing knowledge, expertise and research on adaptation and vulnerability to climate change in the Arctic. (Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Arctic – VACCA.)

This project is in line with this recommendation from the Kiruna statement.

Adaptation to climate change was also discussed at a joint seminar between SCPAR and University of the Arctic in Rovaniemi 28 February 2008, and adaptation has been on the agenda of several of the SCPAR-meetings. Adaptation will also be on the agenda for the conference in Fairbanks.

20. Retain and intensify efforts to reduce CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases and strengthen the multilateral environmental agreements relevant to the Arctic;

The phrase to “to reduce CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases” is to the knowledge of the Secretary General not used in any of the Arctic Council projects. There are different opinions concerning the role of the Council in relation to reduction of CO2 emissions, and at present the Arctic Council is not a forum for this discussion.

However, the indirect effect of some of the projects might lead to a reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. One example is “The Arctic Energy Summit” in Anchorage 15-18 October 2007 which focused on technology and outreach.

21. Ensure openness to data and accessibility to geographical areas and research related data;

See paragraph 18.

22. Carry out the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment as outlined in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan adopted by the Arctic Council of Ministers at the 4th Arctic Council meeting in November 2004;
23. Make sure that the ongoing Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment within the Arctic Council fully covers the Indigenous Peoples’ past, present and projected future activities in the Arctic Seas;

The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) is expected to be delivered to the Ministerial Meeting in 2009. The indigenous peoples in the Arctic are important participants in the process of making the Assessment, for instance through town hall meetings.

An update on AMSA will be given at the Conference in Fairbanks.

24. Ensure that natural resources of the Arctic are exploited in a sustainable manner and to the benefit of the peoples living in the Arctic;

“Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Oceans Management in the Arctic” is a new project under the Arctic Council. The objective of the project is to present the concepts and practices the Arctic countries have developed for the application of an ecosystem-based approach to oceans management. By looking at multiple uses of the oceans – fishing, transportation, petroleum development, waste disposal etc. – the project takes an holistic approach to ocean management.

25. Call on the partners to the Northern Dimension, EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland, to agree on a clear cut, visible and dynamic Arctic policy, with a strong political commitment by all partners that should include the USA and Canada as observers, and establish Arctic partnerships within the Northern Dimension on energy and the marine environment;

The European Commission's new Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document and the Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy of 24 November 2006 creates the basis for the new Northern Dimension and its partnership between EU, Russia, Iceland, and Norway, with Canada and the US as observers.

SCPAP submitted its comments to the EU Green paper on a new Maritime Policy in June 2007 and a Maritime Policy was adopted by the EU in December 2007.

The European Commission has established a working group which is to draft a proposal for an Arctic policy for the EU. The Working group will present its proposal in December 2008.

SCPAP should continue to follow the development of an Arctic policy in EU very close, and play a constructive role in the preparations of the First Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum.

26. Make concerted efforts to develop environmentally friendly technology for transport and economic activity in the Arctic to protect its vulnerable nature and the way of life for the Arctic peoples;
27. Promote and invest in research, development and deployment of alternative and low impact energy sources suitable to the Arctic region;

“The Arctic Energy Summit” in Anchorage 15-18 October 2007 was an Arctic Council project with IPY status. An “Arctic Energy Action Team” has been established to promote the use of environmentally friendly technology in the Arctic.

Mr. James Hemsath will present the work of the “Arctic Energy Action Team” at the Conference in Fairbanks.

The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment will address environmental aspects of transport in the Arctic, but in the view of the Secretary General this is an issue that should be pushed further forward by SCPAR. Development of cleaner technology to use on ships sailing in the Arctic and development of alternative energy resources for use in the Arctic have not been high on the agenda of the Arctic Council.

28. In light of the impact of climate change, and the increasing economic and human activity, initiate, as a matter of urgency, an audit of existing legal regimes that impact the Arctic and to continue the discussion about strengthening or adding to them where necessary;

Together with UNEP Grid – Arendal, SCPAR hosted a seminar in September 2006 on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their relevance to the Arctic. The seminars' overall recommendation was "to assess the effectiveness and relevance of MEAs in the Arctic and examine the need and options for improving the existing regime as well as the need and options for developing an Arctic Treaty or Arctic Framework Convention".

Among the participants at the Arendal seminar there were representatives from the secretariats of 13 MEAs.

In a joint seminar with the University of the Arctic 28 February 2008, one of two main topics were: "Borders and access to the sea"

The Chair of the Arctic Council, Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, has stated very clearly that there is no need for any additional legal framework in the Arctic. Focus should be on implementing existing legislation.

The followup of article 29 is connected to article 28.

29. Propose to the United Nations that the scope of the Annual Treaty Event in 2007, or at the earliest possible time, should be UN Treaties relevant to the Arctic;

A panel discussion will be held in the UN 4 June 2008 where the focus will be on climate change and biodiversity.

30. Strengthen the dialogue, analyzes and take concrete measures regarding gender aspects in Arctic societies, especially men's changing role in society and female out-migration from rural areas;

There have been few Arctic Council projects/conferences which directly address gender equality. The Conference "Taking Wing", arranged in 2002 in Finland, addressed gender issues in an Arctic perspective, "Women and Resource Management in the Rural North" is an Arctic Council project, and the Arctic Human Development Report had a chapter on Gender Equality.

Since the conference in Kiruna there has been no Arctic Council projects focusing on gender equality.

31. Make sure the potential of the International Polar Year 2007/2008 is maximised through sufficient governmental financial support and use the findings of the Arctic

Human Development Report as a tool to give the International Polar Year 2007/2008 a strong human dimension;

32. Use the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development to implement specific programs for Arctic education;
33. Take initiatives to ensure a coordinated and joint effort to analyse and make use of the results of the International Polar Year in policymaking;
34. Conduct under the auspices of the UN, by the end of IPY in 2008, an international conference "The Arctic – a region of global cooperation";
35. Promote the Arctic region and Arctic science, with a special focus on the young generation, to create a renewed curiosity and interest in Arctic science, and use the University of the Arctic as an important player in this process, and to hold in 2007 with the assistance of UNESCO an international conference on the role of the Universities situated in the Arctic with regard to the sustainable development of the Arctic Region;
36. Ensure the participation of the Arctic indigenous peoples and the use of their knowledge in the Arctic science;
37. Provide increased funding to the University of the Arctic to ensure its continuous success;

31 - 37

The IPY is well on its way. The discussion should now address the results and the legacy of IPY. The Academic society will arrange several conferences which address the legacy issue from a scientific point of view. It will be important also to look at the legacy issue from a political perspective.

Norway presented a proposal on how to maximise the legacy of the IPY at the last SAO- meeting, but withdraw the proposal after a short discussion.

The Committee should continue to address the importance of a political follow-up on the legacy of IPY.

SCPAR has close and good relations with the University of the Arctic. With sufficient funding the UArctic even more programs for Arctic education. But the Arctic Council has very little contact and cooperation with the UN. UNEP is participating as an observer in the Arctic Council, but there a few, if any joint arrangements.

38. Implement the funding of the approved Project Support Instrument;

The Russian government has recently stated that they will provide 3 million euros for the PSI. Some other Arctic countries have also allocated money for PSI. Negotiations are now taking place regarding the guidelines for the PSI.

39. Carry out an assessment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as proposed by the Arctic ICT network;

The work on the ICT assessment is proceeding and is expected to be delivered to the Ministerial meeting in 2009.

40. Strengthen their cooperation regarding marine security, especially search and rescue matters;

Iceland hosted a conference in Akureyri in the end of March called "Breaking the ice" which also debated the issue of maritime security. Marine security is also an important aspect of the Arctic Maritime Shipping Assessment (see articles 22-23).

SCPAR will address maritime safety at the conference in Fairbanks..

D. ASK THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION TO

41. Continue the work, also at a national level, of promoting a strong social dimension in Arctic cooperation, as indicated in the Arctic Human Development Report, with a special focus on children and youth;

The living conditions for the people in the Arctic have always been high on the agenda for Arctic parliamentarians. In the SCPAR meeting in Reykjavik the Committee was introduced to the findings in "Slica" (Survey of living conditions in the Arctic).

The findings in "Slica" and cooperation with UArctic will be important in promoting the social dimension in the Arctic cooperation.

In several meetings with representatives from the Arctic Council chairmanship, SCPAR has advocated a strong human dimension in the work of the Council.

The committee has also appointed a rapporteur on human health in the Arctic, especially related to drug abuse.

42. Actively follow the work of the planning and implementation of the International Polar Year 2007/2008;

As mentioned under article 37 the IPY is well on its way. The Committee should discuss how to address the legacy of the IPY. In July 2008 there will be a Science conference on the IPY in St. Petersburg, and in 2010 there will be an IPY congress in Oslo on the legacy of IPY. Both hosted by the international IPY- committee.

43. Actively promote the Arctic region with regard to the new Northern Dimension policy;

The members of SCPAR participated at a conference on the Northern Dimension in Brussels 28 February – 1 March 2007 and did actively promote the Arctic as an important region in the Northern Dimension policy.

In the Northern Dimension documents the Arctic is an important area of cooperation. There are some who wants the Northern Dimension primarily to focus on the Baltic Sea, but at the conference in Brussels the Arctic dimension was strong a Arctic voice was given by the members of SCPAR.

The conference in Brussels called 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. The first Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum will be held in Brussels in spring 2009.

SCPAR submitted its comments to the EU Green paper on a new Maritime Policy in June 2007 and a Maritime Policy was adopted by the EU in December 2007.

The European Commission has established a working group which is to draft a proposal for an Arctic policy for the EU. The Working group will present its proposal in December 2008.

SCPAR should continue to follow the development of an Arctic policy in EU very close, and play a constructive role in the preparations of the First Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum.

44. Continue to promote the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in concrete projects as a tool for delivering services to Arctic citizens, such as telemedicine and education in local communities;

As mentioned under article 39 the ICT assessment is being made. The role of SCPAR will be to identify and propose new possible projects and ways to use ICT in the Arctic. The ICT assessment will hopefully be of help in this process.

The Finnish member of SCPAR has been appointed by the Committee as a rapporteur on ICT.

45. Ensure that there is adequate and continuous follow-up, in parliaments of Arctic countries as well as in international organisations and negotiations, of conclusions and recommendations that have implications for the Arctic regions and peoples;

Every member of SCPAR have a responsibility to promote the Arctic, the Arctic cooperation and the Conference Statement from Kiruna. Some of the members have written letters to the respective Minister of Foreign Affairs about the follow-up of the Kiruna Statement.

SCPAR will present its work at the UN panel discussion the 4 June and has submitted its views on the future maritime policy of the EU.

46. Consider to review the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee before the next conference in 2008 in order to improve the working methods;

The work of SCPAR since the conference in Kiruna has showed that the current "Rules of Procedure" gives substantial room for different working methods to achieve the goals of the Committee.

- a. The Committee has submitted its views on the EU proposal on a Maritime policy for the EU.*
- b. The Committee has appointed members as rapporteurs on specific topics.*
- c. The Committee has arranged a joint seminar with the University of the Arctic.*
- d. The Committee is co-hosting a meeting in the UN the 4 June 2008.*

*These examples show that the current Rules of Procedure are effective and flexible.
The Secretary General doesn't see a need to change the current Rules of Procedure.*

47. Work in their home parliaments to prepare a common concept for the development and control of environmental programs, programs of natural resources development, transport and energy networks which affect (or does not affect) to climate change and of preservation of Arctic nature for next generations of the Arctic peoples;

E. THE CONFERENCE

48. Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-government agencies at this Conference, and recognises their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed;
49. Welcomes the forthcoming Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council in 2006-2008;
50. Welcomes and accepts the kind invitation of the USA to host the Eighth Conference in 2008.

Travel Costs

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| ASSOCIATION | Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association |
| ACTIVITY | Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region |
| DESTINATION | Vladivostok, Russian Federation |
| DATES | May 29, 2008 |
| DELEGATION | |
| SENATE | |
| HOUSE OF COMMONS | Mr. Robert Mills, M.P. Mr. Massimo Pacetti, M.P. |
| STAFF | Ms. Lalita Acharya, Analyst |
| TRANSPORTATION | \$ 19,248.55 |
| ACCOMMODATION | \$ 2,868.17 |
| HOSPITALITY | \$ 0.00 |
| PER DIEMS | \$ 941.01 |
| OFFICIAL GIFTS | \$ 0.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES | \$ 651.10 |
| TOTAL | \$ 23,708.83 |