Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 3rd Barents Parliamentary Conference

The participants*, elected representatives from the States and Regions participating in the Barents Euro-Arctic Co-operation, met at the 3rd Barents Parliamentary Conference in Rovaniemi, Finland 11 – 12 June 2007, to discuss environmental issues, transport and logistics and health issues in the Barents Region

Noting

the Joint Communiqué of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) 9-10 November 2005;

the Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy endorsed at the Northern Dimension Summit 24 November 2006; in particular, that the extensive Arctic and Sub-arctic areas including the Barents Region, are mentioned as prioritized areas of the new Northern Dimension;

the Conference Statement of the Parliamentary Conference on the Northern Dimension on 1 March 2007;

the Finnish BEAC chairmanship priorities 2005-2007

the International Polar Year (March 2007 – March 2009) organised through the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

Supporting

the enhanced role of the northern regional councils in the Northern Dimension;

the overall objectives of the cooperation in the Barents region to enhance stability and wellbeing and to ensure sustainable development in all aspects: economic, environmental and social;

further development of Barents cooperation in the governmental and regional levels and among the parliamentarians of the region;

further involvement of civil society, non-governmental organisations and peoples of the region, including the indigenous peoples.

the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum to examine the evolution and to facilitate the parliamentary monitoring of the new Northern Dimension Policy

Regarding environmental issues

call on the governments participating in the BEAC-cooperation, BEAC and the EU to

urge the BEAC to use the Northern Dimension policy and regional and cross-border co-operation for promoting cleaner production;

endorse the co-operation on " hot spot" projects and to ask the BEAC to work for getting more financial resources to safeguard the environment in the Barents area;

urge, referring to the successful co-operation in the framework of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, the regional councils in the North to continue their efforts to jointly implement priority projects;

call on governments of the BEAC and the EU to finance small and medium-size projects on energy efficiency in the region;

rely upon the experience and competence of the NEFCO (Nordic Environmental Financing Corporation) and other international financing institutions in implementing the projects;

ask the governments in the Barents Region to continue to pay attention to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment ACIA and the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007, and to convey a Barents message to the international fora bearing in mind those problems the climate change can pose to traditional means of livelihood of the indigenous peoples in the region.

Regarding transport and logistics

call on the governments participating in the BEAC cooperation, the BEAC and the EU to

note the work in the Barents framework and particularly in its BEATA Working Group to promote projects to make the Northern Transport Corridor a viable and well-functioning multi-modal transport corridor, including the Barents Link, BELKOMUR and other connections;

encourage further development of various horizontal and vertical transport connections through the Barents region;

consider establishing a Partnership on Transport and Logistics in the Framework of Northern Dimension in order to better co-ordinate the efforts in this sector;

promote environmentally sustainable transport and logistics solutions in the region;

develop cross-border co-operation between all stakeholders inclusive customs in order to use the rich and vulnerable resources in a sustainable way for the economic growth in the region.

develop and strengthen the East – West infrastructure in the Barents region,

Call on the national and regional parliaments in the region to

raise demands to pay attention to the environmental and security issues in transport sector.

Regarding health and social wellbeing

call on the governments participating in the BEAC cooperation and the EU to

note the Cooperation Programme on Health and Related Social Issues in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2008-2011 planned to be adopted in November 2007 aiming at meeting special needs of the Barents region with the priority areas of cooperation, including the prevention of communicable diseases like HIV/Aids and multi-drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis, prevention of lifestyle related health and social problems and promotion of healthier lifestyles as well as development of primary health care and social services and securing the financial support necessary to achieve the above;

continue the implementation of the Barents HIV/Aids programme and intensify cooperation within the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing in particular in order to fight the HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis;

ensure that the problems of children and youth at risk will be met in regional projects;

continue to develop and intensify the good co-operation in the region and to enhance attention to the problems of the indigenous peoples.

*Regional Council of Deputies of Arkhangelsk, Standing Committee of the Parliamentarisns in the Arctic Region, Baltic Assembly, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference BSPC, Denmark, Finland, Legislative Assembly of Karelia, Komi, Regional Duma of Murmansk, Assembly of Deputies of Nenets autonomous okrug, Nordic Council, Parliamentary Association of North-West Russia, Norway, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Sweden, Åland,