

EU-Circumpolar Arctic Dialogue Seminar

– Programme and Information –

Date: Brussels on 29 November 2018

Venue: NH Brussels EU Berlaymont, Boulevard Charlemagne 11-19, 1000 Brussels.

Time: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm (including reception). Registration desk opens at 8:30 am.

The working language of the seminar will be **English**.

Programme

8:30	Registration
9:00-11:00	Plenary Session <i>Welcoming words</i> by Terkel Petersen (European External Action Service) and Timo Koivurova (Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland) Seita Romppanen (University of Eastern Finland), <i>Arctic climate mitigation via EU law on black carbon - contribution, cooperation and governance</i> David Balton (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, USA), <i>Implementing the Arctic Fisheries Agreement</i> Rob Hindley (Aker Arctic, Finland), <i>Prospects of Arctic maritime transport: logistic and regulatory challenges</i> Oana Spinu, <i>Arctic connectivity: backhaul for the long haul</i> <i>Questions and answers</i> Adam Stepien (Arctic Centre), <i>Introduction to the workshops</i>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Parallel workshops
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Parallel workshops
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	Parallel workshops
17:30-18:00	Closing session Participants' feedback, conducted by Timo Koivurova (Arctic Centre) <i>Closing words</i> by Hilde Hardeman, Director - Head of Service, DG Foreign Policy Instrument
18:00-19:00	Reception

Conference venue is located 200 m from the European Commission's Berlaymont building and 600 m from the Schuman roundabout.

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Dialogue Seminar: overview

The November 2018 EU-Circumpolar Arctic Dialogue Seminar will aim to:

- Obtain input from key Arctic stakeholders and experts to identify challenges and issues (prevalent and upcoming) that policymakers (and not exclusively EU policymakers) would benefit from knowing about
- Deliberate on topics in which policymakers could take future actions
- Facilitate interaction between EU officials, Arctic stakeholders, and experts

The seminar will consider four broad topics, which, among others, are included in the Joint Communication on an integrated EU policy for the Arctic, published by the European Commission and the High Representative on 27 April 2016.

For more information about the EU's Arctic policy, you are invited to visit the European External Action Service Arctic policy website at: https://eeas.europa.eu/arctic-policy/eu-arctic-policy_en

You are also welcome to consult the 2016 Joint Communication at:

http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/arctic_region/docs/160427_joint-communication-an-integrated-european-union-policy-for-the-arctic_en.pdf

The 29 November 2018 EU-Circumpolar Arctic Dialogue Seminar is a part of the EU Arctic Policy Assessment process (2017-2019) carried out via a contract with the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland in Finland and its partners, who provide the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission with policy support. You will find more information on the project at the end of this Information Note.

The seminar will be a working event. Most of participants' time will be spent in thematic workshops, in which a moderator will facilitate discussion in groups of 15-25 participants. Participants include Arctic stakeholders and experts, as well as EU officials.

The seminar will start with a short plenary session, with an introduction to the seminar goals and methodology. Following this, there will be five introductory presentations from invited experts on topics related to four thematic workshops.

In November 2018, the third seminar in a series of dialogue events will feature four workshops:

- Climate Change and the Arctic
- Arctic Maritime Transport
- Governance of the Arctic Ocean and Arctic Fisheries
- Addressing Arctic Connectivity Needs through the Integration and Development of Services

You will find descriptions of the content of the workshops below.

Each workshop will have a moderator and a rapporteur. The participants will have an opportunity to comment on the workshop report before its submission to the European Commission.

Format of parallel workshops

(exact timing of each phase will be decided by moderator depending on the discussion dynamics):

- **Introduction** of participants (15-20 min)
- **Phase 1: Surprises and challenges** (30-50 min)
 - each participant brings to the table one new or surprising development or challenge within the theme of the workshop;
 - all surprises/challenges are placed on the board; moderator chooses 3-4 suggestions for the discussion.
- **Phase 2: Key questions** (80-110 min)
 - moderator leads discussion on the key questions defined in background papers - some questions may be omitted if they were discussed in Phase 1 or if there is no time.
- **Phase 3: Brainstorming for policy ideas** (90-120 min):
 - building on the discussion in Phase 1 and Phase 2, each participant proposes one policy idea for consideration, all policy ideas are placed on the board;
 - participants are divided into small groups of 3-5 persons (moderator ensures that the members of the breakout groups come from different background/interest groups/communities/countries);
 - each group chooses one policy idea among those proposed and develops it further by answering the following questions (different groups can discuss the same policy idea):
 - *Please elaborate the content of the proposed idea?*
 - *What difference compared to the current situation does the policy idea introduce?*
 - *Does the policy idea contribute to important policies/goals (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals, implementation of Paris Agreement, EU Arctic policy objectives, etc.)?*
 - *Who should be responsible for implementing/facilitating the policy idea (if the EU or one of its services/agencies, does it have competence to act)?*
 - *What are the opportunities for realizing the policy idea? What are the factors that make this idea likely to be realized?*
 - *What are the constraints for realizing the policy idea?*
 - groups present outputs of their work to all workshop participants.

Policy idea may be any action by any policymaker, including: policy and regulatory change, new policy target, funding mechanism, new initiative, new network, action in international forum/convention, specific project, etc.

Before the seminar, we ask all participants to think about:

- **a surprise or challenge:** one new or surprising development or one prevalent challenge within the theme of the workshop
- **answers to key questions:** participants thoughts about key questions listed in the background paper for each workshop
- **a policy idea:** one action that policymakers (not only EU policymakers) should take in the near future

Participants will receive the printed list of registrants for each workshop in the morning on 29 November 2018.

Within two weeks after the Dialogue Seminar, the workshop participants will receive a report from the workshops for their feedback and comments.

The chosen outputs of the 2017 and 2018 Dialogue Seminars will be put forward for discussion at the final project seminar, which is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 25 March 2019.

Workshops at the EU-Circumpolar Arctic Dialogue Seminar

Climate change and the Arctic

The workshop will discuss questions related to the climate change Arctic: the role of the Arctic in national, European and global climate policies; the adaptation needs in the region; and the global feedback effects of Arctic changes. While the climate change has been extensively discussed as the central tenet of debates on Arctic governance, Arctic environment and sustainable development, we are exposed to new issues. Major policy developments, primarily the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, are reshaping international, European and national climate governance. In the Arctic, there is currently a strong focus on reducing global GHG, and as a subset of this endeavor, to curtailing black carbon and other short-lived climate pollutants. The debates on global geoengineering options are increasingly audible, triggering questions about scalability, feasibility and intra-regional justice. The workshop will take stock of the recent IPCC and AMAP reports, as well as the outputs of the Second Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Berlin in October 2018.

Arctic maritime transport

The Arctic maritime transport workshop is dedicated to better understanding the current dynamics in Arctic maritime transport. A decade ago, some experts were predicting rapid expansion of Arctic shipping. While volumes of destination shipping have been rising significantly in recent years, fueled primarily by exports of hydrocarbon resources from the Russian Arctic, transit shipping has been limited. The level of uncertainty and risk is high in Arctic shipping, notwithstanding technological and regulatory developments (primarily the Polar Code). This workshop will try to clarify the future prospects for Arctic shipping. Participants will discuss whether policymakers should take actions to make Arctic shipping more economically feasible, while at the same time enhancing the safety and environmental performance of Arctic maritime transport.

Governance of the Arctic Ocean and Arctic Fisheries

The Arctic Ocean coastal states and five other fishing nations have recently signed an agreement on the fisheries in the Arctic Ocean. At the UN, the negotiations are ongoing towards the new UNCLOS implementing agreement, dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The UN process can have some implications for the Arctic. In the region, the establishment of marine protected areas has been discussed and the Arctic can have an important role in reaching the global goals for marine protected areas. The workshop will also take up the issue of marine pollution, local and long-range, including the currently intensely debated question of marine plastics. The focus of this workshop is on the Arctic high sea areas. However, many aspects of the present and future Arctic marine governance – for instance in the light of ecosystem-based management – permeate the boundaries of maritime zones.

Addressing Arctic Connectivity Needs through the Integration and Development of Services

Arctic communications and digital connectivity is currently a topic in focus. Both the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council engaged in work aimed at making Arctic communities, businesses, operators and services better connected. Finland's Arctic Council chairmanship programme includes connectivity as one of its priorities. The industry discusses a number of projects for laying data cables across the Arctic to facilitate intercontinental data transfer while at the same time improving connections for Arctic communities. Policymakers emphasize the need for better satellite coverage. The EU, for instance, is currently working on the integration of its different satellite programmes. Some Arctic regions attract connectivity-intensive digital industries, in particular data centres. In other parts of the Arctic, the remoteness and harsh conditions mean that good connectivity and communication are crucial for the safety of human lives and environmental performance, primarily for shipping, tourism, research and resource extraction.

EU Arctic Policy Assessment project

The EU Arctic Policy Assessment process is a policy support contract awarded to the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland together with a consortium composed of the Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (Germany) and the Arctic Portal (Iceland).

The overall objective of the project is to provide technical support to the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC) in strengthening the EU's Arctic Policy. That will be achieved by informing the potential further development of the policy primarily via interaction with key Arctic and Arctic-relevant stakeholders.

The project aims at producing the following outputs:

- Strengthen dialogue and engagement with Arctic stakeholders;
- Gather feedback from Arctic stakeholders through seminars;
- Track follow-through on the policy responses outlined in the Joint Communication;
- Deepen the EU's understanding of the major issues of importance across the Arctic;
- Report from the dialogue process, including ideas on how to inform the EU's Arctic policy.

These results will be produced through a carefully designed dialogue process aimed primarily at structured input from stakeholders participating in seminars. Altogether, four events will be organized: an EU-European Arctic Dialogue Seminar in November 2017, a breakout event in March 2019 focused on the EU and research cooperation; an EU-Circumpolar Arctic Dialogue Seminar in November 2018, and the final Overview Seminar in February/March 2019. The seminars are designed as working events with participation by invitation only.

The process of acquiring and analysing stakeholder input is facilitated by the expert work of the project team. The project team prepares appropriate background materials, supports identification of invitees, carries out the invitation process, and the logistical organisation of the events. The methodology chosen for the seminars and the structure of the reports to be delivered are directly related to the expected results and are to produce outputs of greatest possible utility for informing the EU's policy towards the Arctic.

The main aim of the events organised within the EU Arctic Policy Assessment is thus to provide the services in the EEAS and the Commission with substantive input into the processes of tracking of policy implementation and further policy development. The complementary goals are to maintain and enhance the ongoing interaction between EU officials and Arctic stakeholders and to raise awareness among these key stakeholders of the EU's actions under the Union's Arctic policy.

Moreover, the experts will provide EU policy officers with ongoing policy advice.

The project duration is 30 months from January 2017 until July 2019.

This seminar is organised as part of the EU Arctic Policy Assessment project, funded by the European Commission. The EU Arctic Policy Assessment project consortium partners are University of Lapland (Arctic Centre, Finland), the Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (Germany), and Arctic Portal (Iceland).

