

Conference Statement

We, the members of the Icelandic Parliament, the European Parliament, the Norwegian Parliament, the Russian Parliament, the Baltic Assembly, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the Network of Barents Parliamentarians, the Nordic Council, the Parliamentary Assembly for North West Russia and the West Nordic Council;

in collaboration with the indigenous peoples of the North;

meeting in Tromsø to discuss cooperation and coordination within the framework of the Northern Dimension policy;

having regard to the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Renewed Northern Dimension held in Oslo, 2nd November 2010, and the progress report on the development of the Northern Dimension;

recalling the conference statement from the First Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum held in the European Parliament 25-26 February 2009;

welcoming the establishment of a Northern Dimension Business Council as environmentally responsible economic development is fundamental in creating sustainable societies;

welcoming the Northern Dimension Institute as an important research and education resource for promoting the Northern Dimension cooperation;

stressing the importance of coordinating the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region with the Northern Dimension policy;

underlining the important participation of observers to the Northern Dimension cooperation;

stressing the importance of a deeper involvement of indigenous peoples in the Northern Dimension policy;

ask the governments of the Northern Dimension cooperation;

regarding the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, to

1. continue to give priority to “nuclear window” projects in Northwest Russia to reduce the environmental dangers and risks.
2. initiate and carry out projects that contribute to the realization of the goals and objectives of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, aiming at achieving good ecological status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021 at the latest.

3. intensify the work to increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, also taking into account the rights of indigenous peoples and better methods of waste management.
4. include projects to reduce the emissions of short-lived climate forcers such as black carbon.
5. as regards exploitation of natural resources, pay particular attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and to special climate, cultural and environmental conditions of the northern regions.

regarding the Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being, to

6. give priority to the implementation of the NDPHS Strategy and ensure their active engagement and sufficient financial resources.
7. take determined action based on scientific knowledge and exchange best practices to promote healthy lifestyles in order to avoid early mortality and chronic conditions leading to the loss of human and economic potential.
8. work forcefully to prevent alcohol related harm, diseases and accidents as use of alcohol represents the biggest health challenge in the Northern Dimension area.
9. increase cooperation on controlling access to alcohol products.
10. take due note of the threat to social well-being caused by high unemployment, particularly among the young, and look at the possibilities to increase the cooperation to fight this problem.
11. include into the Partnership to secure and promote the traditional livelihoods in the Northern Dimension area.
12. cooperate closely with the human health groups working under the auspices of the Arctic Council, and the indigenous peoples, where the synergies from existing work are utilized to provide for better human health in harmony with cultural values.
13. improve the labeling of healthy food products and work towards limiting the use of trans fat in food.

regarding the Partnership on Transport and Logistics, to

14. promote transport strategies and policies that are governed by the principle that the development of transport and logistics infrastructure should be weighed against environmental concerns, for instance by conducting environmental impact assessments.
15. create an action plan with a list of concrete and economically viable priority projects and measures for the improvement of the major transnational transport connections in the Northern Dimension area, aiming at stimulating environmentally sustainable economic growth at the regional level while improving competitiveness at the global level.

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16. give utmost importance to promote east-west transport corridors, which are crucial to connect Europe and Asia, thereby contributing to trade, cooperation and human contacts.
17. attach particular importance to the strategic development of the seaports with associated logistics centres and rail terminals in order to create national, regional and European networks.
18. give the maritime dimension of the partnership due attention, and promote new measures such as reducing harmful emissions from shipping and improving port reception facilities for sewage from ships.
19. strengthen existing and develop new measures to improve the safety of maritime navigation.
20. against the background of a potential increase in maritime transport and tourism in the Northern Dimension area, allocate sufficient resources and enhance international cooperation to ensure emergency response capability, search and rescue capability, and spill response capability.

regarding the Partnership on Culture, to:

21. welcome the Partnership on Culture as an important tool in bringing the people of the North closer together.
22. appreciate the kind offer from the Nordic Council of Ministers to host a secretariat of the partnership in 2011-2013 and encourage one of the partners to step forward to host the secretariat after 2013.
23. ensure that mechanisms for financing are available for projects agreed upon in the Partnership.
24. promote active participation of indigenous peoples in the Partnership.

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25. asks the governments of the Northern Dimension Partners to report at the next Parliamentary Forum on the general development of the policy of the Northern Dimension.
26. asks the Chairs of the Partnerships to report at the next Parliamentary Forum on the results of the Partnerships.
27. asks the governments of the Northern Dimension cooperation, in collaboration with the indigenous peoples, to prepare a model to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in the Northern Dimension policy to improve their well-being.
28. welcomes with gratitude the kind invitation of Russia to host the Third Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum in 2013.

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