

Press Release

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Stronger Arctic ties between Finland and Norway

In a joint meeting between the Finnish delegation for Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation and the Norwegian delegation for Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation in the Storting, the two delegations call for Finland and Norway to reinforce the cooperation between our countries in the North.

As neighbouring countries Finland and Norway have a long history of close cross-border contact and good neighbourly relations. With more activities and opportunities in the Arctic, together with growing political awareness and importance, we see the need to improve our cooperation in the North, especially in the following areas:

Transport and logistics

The Arctic Ocean is opening up for new shipping routes and maritime activities. Harbours, together with land based transport infrastructure, need a cross-border perspective and a long term horizon. Finland and Norway have comparative geographical and technological advantages which must be further explored and utilized. Existing plans and projects must be jointly analysed and implemented to position the region for a new reality in regional and global transport.

Exchange of labour

The free movement of labour between the Nordic countries is instrumental in ensuring the continued prosperity of the Nordic welfare societies and needs constant attention. In the current situation where Finland has a surplus of and Norway has a shortage of engineers, there is a need to address how we can improve the effectiveness of the exchange of labour between our countries. We also encourage our governments to revitalize direct cross-border cooperation between our northernmost communities.

Exchange of students and researchers

Student exchange connects people and countries and develops networks that open for new partnerships in all sectors of society. Finland has a strong tradition in technical education and Norway in environmental and oceanic research.

Finland and Norway are looking for ways to increase their “snow-how”. In a world where an increasing number of nations are doing research in and about the North, Northern countries must cooperate to ensure that the best knowledge about the North is found in the North.

The meeting asked the governments to continue their efforts to reinforce Arctic cooperation between Finland and Norway on the basis of a joint action plan.

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