



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

23.08.18

Approved by the JC 3.12.18

**Meeting of the Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation 25–26. April 2018 in Bodø,
Norway**

1. Welcome to Bodø

Tone Vangen, Chief of Police, Nordland Police District and head of Joint Rescue Coordination Centre North Norway (JRCC NN) welcomed the meeting participants to Bodø and the JRCC NN. She also gave an introduction to the Norwegian search and rescue service.

2. Opening of the meeting

Acting chair of the Joint Committee, Mette Sylvelin Seyersted, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, opened the meeting and informed that the Chair of Joint Committee, Per Olaf Torkildsen was about to start a new position at the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre of South-Norway.

The participants presented themselves briefly. All four countries (Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden) were represented at the meeting. Roy Hojem represented the International Barents Secretariat (IBS).

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following addition to Point 8: Sweden will present a proposal on a Barents Event Logo.

4. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Based on a comment from Norway, the minutes of the last meeting in Sweden (Gimo, 30.11-1.12.17) were adopted with the following change in point 4:

The word “singing” should be changed to “signing”, making the sentence read “In 2018 will also be 25 years from signing the Kirkenes Declaration”. There were no other comments to the minutes of the last meeting.

5. Norway’s chairmanship – main issues

Norway presented some recommendations for the Norwegian Chairmanship 2018 based on the decisions made by the Joint Committee in 2016 and 2017. The recommendations focused on how to further enable the Joint Committee sub-group, Planning and Evaluation Group (PEWG), to assist the Joint Committee and how to make the Joint Committee more visible.

Finland commented that Joint Committee is not visible enough and that something should be done to improve this. Roy Hojem, IBS, commented that the JC is quite visible at the BEAC web-site (www.barentscooperation.org).

There were some inputs regarding more visibility for the JC, among these, the participation in relevant conferences and linking with the work of other groups, i.a. EPPR under the Arctic Council. Another input was to invite a representative from the Barents Press to the next meeting. The Barents Secretariat commented that they could assist in this. Sweden commented that it is a good idea with the press.

6. Information sharing on resently planned activities, new regulations etc.

Finland: The country will experience big organisational changes and possibly changes in the politics. The organisational changes consists of a reform of the regional governments (Counties 2020), the reform of the Rescue Service and changes in the Ministry of the Interior. Today 313 municipalities are jointly responsible for rescue services in rescue service regions. Since 2004 there have been 22 rescue departments in Finland, which carry out rescue service duties in their regions. Four of these regions are connected to the Barents cooperation.

Russian Federation: Presidential elections were held in March, and Vladimir Putin won the election. Russia is therefore in a period of temporary appointments for many important positions. During the new presidential term it is expected that the Russian Federation will focus more on internal matters like economic growth and regional development. Furthermore, Russia presented invitations to the members of Joint Committee to two events: an annual international expo event “Complex Safety 2018” in Moscow 6-8th of June, and an international conference “Prevention and Management of emergencies in the Arctic” in Murmansk 18-19th of July.

Sweden: Sweden will have an election this year. Of important cases recently, the government has received a report concerning terror attacks investigation, The report was handed over to the government on the 30th of April. In May, the government is planning to hand out a pamphlet to the population about public safety and how people should be prepared in case of a crisis (water, food, batteries, heat etc.). This pamphlet will be published in many languages. The people must understand that they can't just rely on the society to help them. Sweden presented an invitation to Stockholm 7th of May for the Baltic sea GD-meeting. A new county general for Norrbotten has been appointed.

Norway: Norway presented the status for the new Norwegian all weather search and rescue helicopters. The new helicopters have much greater range, better all-weather capability and greater speed than the helicopters used today (Sea King). The contract covers 16 helicopters with an option for a further six. The first of the new helicopters was delivered in 2017 and the last will be delivered in 2020, when the last Sea King will be phased out. Furthermore, Norway also presented a few milestones regarding Nødnett (the Norwegian Emergency Public Safety Network) which is a separate radio network based on the TETRA standard. In 2016, cross-border communication between Norway and Sweden was achieved. The two countries are the first countries in the world to implement and put to use cross-border communication for public safety agencies. Also, Norway and Finland have now established a similar cooperation to secure cross-border communication between the two countries. They are currently working on the technical aspects of interconnecting Nødnett with the Finish Virve TETRA-network.

The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection informed about organizational changes in the directorate, and talked about standards for accreditation in exercises. A standard for vests used on place of incident is something the Joint Committee might discuss. The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre informed about the Exercise Barents between Russia and Norway, information sharing (broadband communication in the Arctic), the project ARCSAR and cruise-ship exercises in Arctic conditions.

7. General information from the International Barents Secretariat by Roy Hojem

Roy Hojem from the BEAC Secretariat gave an update on current issues. The secretariat has experienced rather high activity since the last meeting of the Joint Committee, including meetings in several working groups within the BEAC-cooperation. The Secretariat marked its 10 jubilee this January.

Last meeting it was decided that the Joint Committee will try to come up with more ways to keep in touch with the other working groups in close cooperation with the secretariat. Roy Hojem has taken the matter under discussion in the secretariat and received positive response from working group on the Environment, Steering Committee for the Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area (BEATA) and regional working group on Transport and Logistics. These groups would like to be invited to meetings in the Joint Committee.

Acting Chair of the Joint Committee, Mette S. Seyersted encouraged the Joint Committee members to send relevant updates regarding the Joint Committee members to the Barents Secretariat (Roy Hojem). Furthermore, there was a positive response to a proposition that the BEAC Secretariat could send an email to the members of the Joint Committee whenever a new document is posted regarding rescue cooperation.

8. Update on the planning of Barents Rescue 2019, Sweden

Sweden presented the plan for exercise Barents Rescue 2019. The exercise will be held in Kiruna. Many aspects of the planning is already completed. Sweden presented a proposal for the Event Week. The Joint Committee was satisfied with the proposal. The PEWG have no part in the planning for the moment. Russia made a proposal to have an exercise in winter conditions in the future. Conclusion: this is up to each country, but the Joint Committee should discuss this in a future meeting.

Documents concerning the exercise will be published here:

<http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/Working-Groups/BEAC-Working-Groups/Rescue-Cooperation>

The exercise will focus on the following: Joint Cooperation at site, cooperation with forensics (CIS) at the accident scene, cooperation between First Responders in the Barents Region, test robust communication between the Tetra users in a region within the Barents region, test the Barents Manual on alarming, and use of evaluation method AAR (After Action Review).

Timeline: The IPC will be held in Stockholm 29-31 May, the MPC 3-5 December in Umeå and FPC 7-9 May 2019 in Kiruna. AlarmEx will be 28-30 August 2019 and Event Week will be 23-27 September 2019.

Sweden had a proposal for a logo that could be used for all the Barents Rescue events. Russia commented that many will not understand what the logo is about, and that it should be possible to change some of the logo each time (e.a. put in an emblem for the relevant region in Russia). To this, Finland commented that the logo is intended for people within the Barents cooperation, and that they will understand. Conclusion: The logo for the exercise can be decided by each country. All of the countries were happy with Sweden using the proposed logo for the exercise in 2019. The discussion about a joint logo should continue in a later meeting.

9. The organisation of PEWG – proposal from Russia

At the last meeting in Joint Committee it was decided that the Russian Federation would prepare a paper with their thoughts on developing the work of the PEWG. This was sent to the members of the Joint Committee before the meeting in Bodø (as an attachment to the agenda). Russia presented the proposal implying an extension of the PEWG from the existing core group to a model consisting of a core group and several sub groups. Finland commented that there are few people working on this theme, so they can't nominate many people permanently to this kind of work. Norway commented that we should focus on the existing core group and that it would be possible for the core group

to interact with experts without changing the actual structure of the PEWG. At a later stage, the Joint Committee could discuss if it is necessary to extend the group.
Conclusion: The size and structure of PEWG remains unchanged and the Joint Committee will primarily focus on the actual core group (PEWG) in the planning and evaluation of the exercises.

10. Request for assistance – how to reply?

Norway presented two proposals for attachments to the Joint Manual:

- Acknowledgement of Request for Assistance and
- Offer of Assistance.

To this Russia had a question: When should the requesting party repeat the request for assistance if no acknowledgement of the request has been received? It was agreed that the request could be repeated within 15 minutes.

Sweden commented that the heading in the document “Offer of assistance” should be changed to “Initial” offer of assistance. The two documents were approved with this change.

11. Introduction to SAMLOK Nord,– Bodø

At SAMLOK Nord, the Joint Committee was given an introduction to the SAMLOK – project containing the mutual location of the emergency centres of fire, police and health. A general tour of the premises of SAMLOK Nord was also included.

12. Joint Manual – possible updates

It was decided that Norway will add the two approved attachments (agenda point 10) to the Joint Manual.

13. JRCC North Norway gave presentations on:

- a. The Norwegian Search and Rescue Service
Visions of the future Search and Rescue Service (film)
- b. The handling of the Russian helicopter accident off the coast of Svalbard

14. Next meeting

It was decided that a proposal for dates for the next meeting will be sent by email.

15. Any other business

The JRCC North Norway informed that they are planning an aircraft exercise in the area between Norway, Finland and Russia. Finish JRCC has confirmed that they will take part in the exercise. Russia clarified that the line of command for a request of participation would be the Ministry of Transport, not EMERCOM.

16. Closing of the meeting - Acting chair, Mette S. Seyersted closed the meeting.

