

# Minutes from the April 8th 2016 meeting in RWGIEC, Stockholm

## ATTENDANTS:

Torbjörn Halvardsson  
Christian Chrømer  
Jouni Ponnikas for Paavo Keränen  
Elena Tihonova  
Stein-Gunnar Bondevik

From the secretariat:

Tomas Hallberg  
Rebecka Snefugli

Not present

Marti Kankaanranta  
Tomas Blomster

## AGENDA:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Presentation of the participants
3. A presentation of BEAC and the other working groups, by Tomas Hallberg, director of the International Barents Secretariat
4. What should the targets be for RWGIEC - our strategy and mission? Working session.
5. Working methods of RWGIEC - what resources can be allocated to reach our goals.
6. Time and place for next meeting
7. Miscellaneous

## MINUTES:

1. Approved
2. The group was informed that Føretagarna Norrbotten has a new manager in place, Tomas Blomster ([tomas.blomster@foretagarna.se](mailto:tomas.blomster@foretagarna.se)), and that he will take a seat in the group for the future.
3. Tomas Hallberg held a presentation of the BEAC, including an overview of the working groups. There was some discussion around whether it would be wise to collaborate more closely with other groups, and we decided we would keep inviting leaders of other groups to our meetings.
4. Overall goal:

**Keep an overview of investments and larger economic developments, and communicate these to respective stakeholders.**

It was also noted that as we are in an area dominated by small and medium sized companies, we need to keep this in mind as we report on the investments and other business opportunities. We also discussed the need to change the traditional north-south mindsets, it is a long term project to make people more use to operate east-west.

We also concluded that there is one common interest for all regions - to attract work force. This may be an opportunity for the group in the future. We also concluded that topics discussed in the group may not always be a direct reflection of the current needs in the business communities, there is a need to look ahead, as long as we balance with talks on current situation.

5. We agreed that there is a lack of resources to carry out this kind of work. Before we start projects to support our main goal, we need to carry out a desk-top study in order to find out whether there are bodies that does similar work, in order to avoid duplicate mandates. The group agreed that we should all adress this issue to our respective regional governments, to check out whether there is a willingness to support projects that the group suggests, and how this can be done in an easy way. We agreed that Chrmer and Bondevik should talk to the County Council of Troms for the first support to the desk top study. We also agreed that the chairmanship should ask for administrative support locally for the respective chairmanship period.

6. Next meeting will be held in Murmansk during the Murmansk Business Week in November. Meetings before that may be held by way of video conferencing. Minister Tikhonova will be our formal host and contribute to arrange the visit.

7. The current chair, Stein-Gunnar Bondevik, has been appointed head of Innovation Norway´s Rio de Janeiro office, starting from the summer. Christian Chrmer, director of NHO Troms and Svalbard, was elected new chair. He accepted the nomination, on the terms that he needs a formal clarification from his supervisors. He will accept via email as soon as things are formally in order. We also discussed possibilities to be represented in the upcoming regional meeting in Kainuu in May, this will have to be confirmed once mr. Chrmer is formally in place as leader.

Tromsø April 13 2016

Stein-Gunnar Bondevik