

## Summary of activities: Regional Working Group on Investment and Economic Cooperation

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The working group has met twice during 2016 but a change of leadership and a continued trouble gathering the working group has continued.

A complete working group met in Stockholm in April with a full attendance from all countries represented. Mr. Stein-Gunnar Bondevik left the position as leader of the working group due to a change of job. Mr. Christian Chrømer from the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise took on the job to lead the group from the Stockholm meeting.

A new meeting was held in November in Murmansk. Both the Finnish and Swedish delegates had to cancel their attendance in the weeks prior to the meeting so a meeting with limited capacity took place in Murmansk with the following content:

- Excursion over the icebreaker Lenin
- What do we expect from you as a working group – Thomas Hallberg
- Presentation of the Royal Norwegian Consulate in Murmansk
- Economic status, cooperation and trade – Russia
- Economic status, cooperation and trade – Norway
- Discussion and setting a new course

In my opinion it is a challenge that the various participation countries is represented with a variety of public and private institutions with different mandates for the participation and progress of the working group. A fundamental discussion within the partners of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council on how to structure the work and reposition this working group is recommended.

In the meeting in Murmansk, I had to inform the International Barents Secretariat that I will have be relieved from the duty as leader of the working group. I have changed position within the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise and will not be able to lead the group from Oslo. A new leader has to my knowledge not yet been appointed by the three northern regions of Norway.

All the best,

Christian Chrømer