Invitation to the 13. Meeting of the Barents environmental ministers

I have the pleasure of inviting you to the 13th meeting of the Barents environmental ministers, which will be held in Vadsø, Finnmark County in Norway 29.-30. November 2017. The results of the two-year Norwegian chairmanship in the Barents Working Group on Environment will be presented and discussed in the meeting.

The Barents region has unique natural qualities and unbroken wilderness areas. However, the region is faced with the challenges of climate change, pressure on biological diversity and pollution from both present and past industrial activities.

The Barents Working Group on Environment has in the past two-year period worked actively to meet these challenges, with the involvement of both central and regional authorities and experts.

Efforts have been made to promote the further exclusion of Barents environmental “hot spots”, transboundary cooperation on nature conservation and protection of waters and river basin systems. Action on climate change has been an overarching priority, with the aim to integrate mitigation and adaptation to climate change into the work of all the working groups of the Barents Council.

I look forward to discussing these issues, as well as future tasks for our cooperation during the upcoming Swedish chairmanship period in the Working Group on Environment.

Yours sincerely

Vidar Helgesen

Photos: Helen Andersen and Alexander Kopatz (Brown bear).
# Barents Ministers of Environments meeting 2017 in Vadsø, Norway. 29.-30.11.2017

## 28 November
Arrival of participants from Stockholm/Helsinki/Moscow in Oslo.

## 29 November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00-09.55</td>
<td>Flight Oslo-Tromsø (SK 4406)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15-11.22</td>
<td>Flight Tromsø-Vadsø (WF 932)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00-12.30</td>
<td>Check in at the Scandic Hotel in Vadsø (check in guaranteed at 4PM, some rooms may not be ready upon arrival)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30-13.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30-16.00</td>
<td>Meeting of the ministers in “Varangerfjord” meeting room</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td>Bus to Vardø</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30-21.30</td>
<td>Program in Vardø, including official dinner</td>
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<td>• Visit to the Pomor museum and Vardø Vessel Traffic service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Dinner at Vardø Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.30-22.30</td>
<td>Bus to Vadsø</td>
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## 30 November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07.00-09.00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00-11.00</td>
<td>Meeting of the Ministers continue in “Varangerfjord” meeting room</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-11.30</td>
<td>Photos, press options</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.45-13.00</td>
<td>Transport to the airport</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.50-15.05</td>
<td>Flight Vadsø-Tromsø (WF 935)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.10-18.05</td>
<td>Flight Tromsø-Oslo (SK 4423)</td>
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13th meeting of the BEAC Environmental ministers, 29.-30. November. Vadsø, Norway

Draft agenda as of 13. October:

29. November, 13.30-16.00

1. **Opening statements**

   a. Report from the BEAC Working Group on Environment
   b. Statement by the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples

   Statements by the heads of delegations

3. **Nature protection and water issues**
   a. Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park
   b. Barents Protected Areas Network (BPAN)
   c. Water project - tbd

   Statements by the heads of delegations

30. November, 09.00-11.00

4. **Barents Environmental Hot Spots**
   a. New excluded hot spots
   b. Presentation of progress in the Hot Spot «Wood waste in the Komi republic»
   c. Projects of Nordic Environment Finance Cooperation (NEFCO) in the Barents Region

5. **Climate Change**
   - Presentation of the study Barents 2050

   Statements by heads of delegations

6. **Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration**

7. **Priorities of the Swedish chairmanship 2018-2019**
   - Handing over the chairmanship

8. **Closing the meeting**
Practical information

Registration: Please register by the following link and fill the registration form by 1. November 2017: http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/Working-Groups/BEAC-Working-Groups/Environment/ministerial-meeting

Please note that participation in the meeting is by invitation only.

Hotel: A block reservation has been made at Hotel Scandic Vadsø 29.-30. November. The price is 1 414 NOK per person, including breakfast. Bookings must be made individually by 8. November.
E-mail address for room bookings: meeting.vadso@scandichotels.com.
Phone: +47 78 95 57 51
Use the reference code 46329356
Credit card number must be a part of the booking as guarantee for payment.

Hotel web site:
https://www.scandichotels.no/hotell/norge/vadso

Flights: Flights are to be booked individually. The recommended flights for the full program are mentioned in the programme on page 3. Please note that bookings should be made as early as possible, as the planes to and from Vadsø are rather small.

Weather: No parts of the programme are planned to be outdoors, but please be prepared with proper winter clothing. At this time of the year temperature can be ranging from 0 to -10, last 10-year mid-temperature being -4.8. It can also be snowing or be windy weather.

For more information, please contact:

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About Vadsø and Vardø

**Vadsø** (Northern Sami: Čáhcesuolu; Kven: Vesisaari) is the administrative center in Finnmark County, Norway. In the municipality of Vadsø the number of inhabitants is ca. 6000. The town of Vadsø is the administrative center of Finnmark County and many state offices and regional offices are situated here. Also new small and medium size businesses, especially in the fields of culture and knowledge, have been established. A big employer in Vadsø town is the national office for hospital procurements.

**Vardø:** (Kven: Vuorea; Norern Sami: Várggát) is a town and the administrative center of Vardø Municipality in Finnmark county, Norway. The town is located on the island of Vardøya in the Barents Sea, just off the coast of the large Varanger Peninsula. The town has a population of ca. 2000. Vardø is the easternmost town in Norway (and in all the Nordic Countries), located at 31°E, which is east of Istanbul.

Vardø is the oldest fishing village in Finnmark and one of the oldest towns in Finnmark (1789). It is famous as the “Pomor capital”, when the city in the 19th century was a center for trade with Russia. Fishing is still important way of self-employment in Vardø. Other employers are the Vardø municipality, State office for criminal injuries compensation and the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

Information about the Varanger and Pomor museum:
http://www.varangermuseum.no/en/english-welcome-page/

Information about the Vardø Vessel Traffic Service:
http://www.kystverket.no/en/EN_Maritime-Services/Vessel-Traffic-Service/