



TALKING BARENTS

Date: **16th of June 2016**

Venue: **Norway House**, Rue Archimède 17, Brussels

Time: 14h00-17h30 + Reception with Barents delicacies

BARENTS COOPERATION

The open window between Europe and Russia

The geo-political situation in the aftermath of the Ukraine crisis has put a strain on the relationship between Russia and the West. Political cooperation on national level is reduced to a minimum, with the introduction of sanctions on both sides.

The Barents Region represents an important exception; in the Northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia people continue the extensive cross-border cooperation in areas such as culture, business development, indigenous peoples' issues, education, civil society and environmental protection. For more than 20 years, Barents enthusiasts have contributed to tear down stereotypes and to prevent misunderstandings and potential conflicts in the region.

We welcome you to take part in our seminar, which aims at providing the EU capital with more knowledge about the unique examples of best practice, as well as highlighting challenges and opportunities the Barents cooperation faces.

Organised by:

The Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the North Norway European Office



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs





13h30 **Registration and Coffee**

14h00 **Introduction**

- Oda SLETNES – Ambassador of Norway to the European Union
- Karen MALAYAN, Deputy Permanent Representative, the Russian Permanent Representative to the European Union
- Liisa JAAKONSAARI – Member of European Parliament (S&D), Vice Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

14h40 **The importance of people-to-people cooperation**

- Anne-Cathrine LARSEN – Acting Head of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- Pentti MALINEN – Chair of Barents Regional Council, Kainuu (Finland)

15h00 Coffee and refreshments

15h20 **Examples of cooperation – best practices**

- **Barents Press: How to prevent one sided media coverage through journalist networking**
Amund TRELLEVIK – leader Barents Press Norway
Anna KIREEVA – leader Barents Press International
- **Future perspectives for Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Region**
Tatiana EGOROVA – Barents Indigenous Peoples Office
- **Environment and climate challenges in the region**
Maria DRONOVA – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Russia
Helén Johanne ANDERSEN – Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
- **Sports cooperation as soft diplomacy**
May-Bente ERIKSEN – Leader, Barents Sport Committee

16h45 **DISCUSSION: Talking Barents - Future of the Barents Cooperation**

- Runar SJÅSTAD – Mayor of Finnmark County Council (Norway)
- Pentti MALINEN – Chair of Barents Regional Council, Kainuu (Finland)
- Christina HENRIKSEN – Chair, Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in Barents Euro-Arctic Council
- Inna FEDOROVA – Barents Regional Youth Council

Moderator of Talking Barents session – Rune Rafaelsen, Mayor of Sør-Varanger (Norway)

17h30 Reception with **Barents region specialties** prepared by chef Tor-Emil Sivertsen

Moderators: Anna Petrova (Russia) and Timme Ellingjord (Norway)