



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

June 2008

Mission Statement

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

The first Parliamentary Conference concerning Arctic cooperation was held in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1993. The following Arctic parliamentary conferences have been held in Yellowknife, Canada; Salekhard, Russia; Rovaniemi, Finland; Tromsø, Norway; Nuuk, Greenland and Kiruna, Sweden. The next conference will be held in Fairbanks, the USA, 12-14 August 2008.

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, which is responsible for the work between conferences, started its activities in September 1994.

One of the main priorities of the Standing Committee was originally to support the establishment of the Arctic Council. The new organization, representing the eight Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA) was founded on 19 September 1996. Since then the Committee has worked actively to promote the work of the Council. The Committee participates in the meetings of the Arctic Council as an observer.

The Eight Conference in Fairbanks 12-14 August 2008, will focus on the following major themes:

- Maritime policy
- Human health in the Arctic,
- Adaptation to climate change,
- Development of rural energy resources.

The conference is attended by representatives from the national parliaments of the Arctic states and the European Parliament. Observers also participate from governments and inter-parliamentary organizations as well as from observer states and relevant international organizations.

The Conference adopts a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council and to the governments of the eight Arctic states and the European Commission. The Standing Committee closely monitors how the governments implement the Conference Statement, and take new initiatives to further Arctic cooperation.

Qualifications for participation in the Standing Committee are compatible with those for representation on the Arctic Council.

The Chair of the Standing Committee is Ms. **Hill-Marta Solberg**, MP, Norway. Members of the Committee are: Mr. **Robert W. Mills**, MP, Canada, Ms. **Juliane Henningsen**, MP,



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Denmark/Greenland; Ms. **Bilyana Ilieva Raeva**, MP, European Parliament; Mr. **Hannes Manninen**, MP, Finland; Mr. **Sigurður Kári Kristjánsson**, MP, Iceland; Ms. **Sinikka Bohlin**, MP, Sweden; Mr. **Ildar Gimaletdinov**, MP, State Duma, Russia; Mr. **Mikhail Y. Nikolayev**, MP, Council of Federation, Russia and Ms. **Lisa Murkowski**, Senator, the USA.

The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council are represented by Mr. **Egil Olli**, Saami Parliamentary Council; Ms. **Patricia A. Cochran**, ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Council) and Mr. **Sergey N. Haruchi**, President, RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North).

Mr. **Bjørn Willy Robstad**, the Norwegian parliament, is the Secretary General of the Committee.

For further information: www.arcticparl.org or please contact the secretariat at the address below.

Bjørn Willy Robstad

Secretary General

Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
Stortinget, the Parliament of Norway
0026 Oslo
bwr@stortinget.no
Tel: +47 2331 3603
Fax: +47 2331 3862