



# **An Integrated EU Policy for the Arctic**

## **Copernicus for Polar Regions Industry Workshop**

**Heino Nau  
European Commission - DG MARE  
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## EU Arctic Policy - Key steps

- 2008 Communication: first EU Arctic policy document
- 2009 and 2011: reactions from the Council and the European Parliament.
- 2012 Communication: showcase of EU engagement in the Arctic
- 2014: EP resolution and Council conclusions, asking the Commission to develop an integrated EU policy for the Arctic
- April 2016 Joint Communication (COM and EEAS): an integrated EU policy for the Arctic

## Arctic Challenges + Opportunities

- Region characterised by very low population density + harsh climate + fragile ecosystem + remoteness from major markets
  - Climate change affecting Arctic disproportionately: PACE + MAGNITUDE + EXTENT
  - **BUT**: abundant natural resources + unique environment
  - New opportunities for sustainable economic development: renewable energy + tourism + 'blue growth'
- => EU aims for a safe, stable, sustainable, and prosperous Arctic

## **EU Arctic Policy – 3 Pillars**

1. Tackle Climate change + Protect Environment
2. Promote sustainable development
3. International cooperation

# 1. Climate Change + Environment - Policy response

- Paris Agreement + Climate Actions (€ 206 bn)
- EU Circular Economy Package (Plastics strategy)  
+ Black Carbon + Polar Code (Heavy Fuel Oil)

## 2. Sustainable development - policy response

- Connectivity: transport + communication
- Investments: Streamlining EU funding
- Boosting Green and Blue Growth

### **3. International cooperation – Policy response**

- Arctic Council + International organisations
- Dialogue with indigenous peoples
- Fisheries management
- Scientific cooperation

## Arctic Stakeholder Forum – Background

- Established 2016 following EU Arctic Communication
- Purpose: to identify investment priorities across countries and regions concerned
- Members of forum: governments of Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and Faroe Islands, regions of North Norway, North Sweden, Mid Sweden, East and North Finland, Saami Council and EU institutions
- Report finalised and published end 2017

## Recent Developments

- **CLIMA:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**) Report October 2018: limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society
- **ENVIRONMENT:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial (October 2018): Changes in the Arctic worse than expected => PACE + MAGNITUDE + EXTENT
- **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:** Arctic Sea Route + Natural Resources
- **GEOPOLITICS:** Security + Stability + Spheres of Influence

***Thank you for your attention***