

**Partnership Annual Conference (PAC)
Tenth Conference
Helsinki, Finland
22 November 2013**



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Title	Statement from the 3 rd Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	<p>The 3rd Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum was held in Arkhangelsk, Russian Federation, on 11-12 November 2013 at the invitation of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.</p> <p>The speech delivered by Chair Country Finland is available on the NDPHS website at: http://www.ndphs.org/?speeches.</p>
Requested action	For information

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We, the members of the Icelandic Parliament, the European Parliament, the Norwegian Parliament and the Parliament of Russia, with the participation of the representatives of the Baltic Assembly, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, parliamentarians of the Barents region, the Nordic Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the North - West of Russia and the West Nordic Council;

met in the city of Arkhangelsk to discuss the cooperation and coordination within the Northern Dimension policy and the effectiveness of the interaction for improving the quality of life and sustainable development in the North,

agreeing that the key role of the Northern Dimension as an equal partnership between Russia, the EU, Iceland and Norway is to foster prosperity, sustainable development and well-being through regional cooperation in the Northern Europe;

recalling the conference statements from the First Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, held at the European Parliament 25-26 February 2009 and the Second Parliamentary Forum held in Troms on the 22-23 February 2011

taking into account the outcome of the Third meeting of the Senior Officials on 8 November, 2011 in Reykjavik, and the meetings of the Steering Group of the Northern Dimension;

welcoming the decisions of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Northern Dimension held on 18 February, 2013 in Brussels;

taking note of the third progress report on the development of the Northern Dimension and supporting the Joint statement of the Third Ministerial meeting;

welcoming the contribution of the Northern Dimension Business Council in the development of dialogue between governments and businesses, public-private partnerships, Working Groups of the Business Council, and a new Group on Culture and Creative Industries;

welcoming the initiative of the Northern Dimension Institute on the development and strengthening of research and education cooperation within the Northern Dimension, its desire to become a "mark of quality" in the analysis of potential regional projects;

supporting the holding of the next Conference on the Northern Dimension with the participation of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the European Economic and Social Committee;

recognizing that the Northern Dimension contributes to the maintenance of stability and security in Northern Europe and is an example of equitable cooperation in the region;

Call on the governments and regional authorities, cooperating within the framework of the Northern Dimension:

Regarding the strengthening of cooperation in the Northern Dimension Region, to:

1. Further develop the Northern Dimension, which is based on geographical proximity, economic interdependence and common cultural heritage of its members;

2. Intensify cooperation based on common interests by identifying joint priority areas based on the work done so far and seeking for a more systematic approach in the whole Northern Dimension area;

3. Take into account the ongoing work of the EU-Russia Working Group on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, aiming to define common themes for cooperation based on joint priorities identified in the Strategy of Social and Economic Development of the North-Western Region up to 2020 of the Russian Federation and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;

4. Deepen close interaction between the structures of the Northern Dimension and the regional councils of the Northern Europe;

5. Consistently move towards our common goals in the area of economic development, human dimension, transport and logistics, environmental protection, education and culture, energy, civil security, health, social well-being and tourism;

6. Support the activities of the civil society organizations of the Northern Dimension area in the interest of the ND policy;

Regarding the Northern Dimension Partnerships and the role of parliamentarians in solving the problems with the implementation of projects in Partnerships to:

7. Create measures and mechanisms of inter-parliamentary coordination of cooperation and of promotion cooperation by parliamentarians within the Northern Dimension, including that in the practical scale;

8. Participate actively in the processes of cooperation based on the principles of integrated security and adherence to international law;

9. Intensify the activities to promote a systemic vision of partners' interaction within the Northern Dimension partners;

10. Support, where appropriate, joint meetings on the development of the Northern Dimension and the functioning of its partnerships at the government, parliamentary and regional levels, including when appropriate representatives of the indigenous people of the North;

11. Use the full potential of partnerships to achieve human well-being objectives in the Northern Region;

12. Enhance cooperation in the field of modernization and innovation of Northern Dimension partnerships;

13. Pay greater attention to the empowerment of the Northern Dimension Institute and the Northern Dimension Business Council, involving them in the activities of higher education institutions, to promote innovative development of the North;

14. Contribute to the solution of problems of partnerships including assistance in identifying opportunities for increasing funding for partnerships.

Regarding the cross-border cooperation for the prosperity and sustainable development of the North to:

15. Promote the continuing development of cross-border cooperation within the Northern Dimension Area, foster economic and social development in regions of either sides of common borders, address common challenges, promote better conditions and modalities for

ensuring the mobility of persons and facilitate direct contacts between people in the border regions including visa facilitation;

16. Analyze additional potential of the activities of cross-border cooperation, its input is essential in the Northern Dimension;

Regarding the experience and problems of trans-border programmes in the North to:

17. Contribute to the strengthening and expansion of trans-border programmes initiated for the development of economic, social and environmental potential of Northern territories, as well as the solution of problems of the indigenous people;

18. Contribute to the dissemination of innovative technologies promoted through trans-border initiatives within the Northern Dimension;

19. Coordinate the basis of trans-border programs with programs and national strategies of the countries and EU strategies wherein these programs are implemented.

Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum calls on:

20. Governments of the Northern Dimension Partners to report at the next Parliamentary Forum on the overall development of the Northern Dimension policy and actual problems;

21. Chairs of the Partnerships to report supported by the partnerships' secretariats at the next Parliamentary Forum on the results of partnerships activities and actual problems;

22. Gratefully accept the kind invitation of Iceland to hold the Fourth Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum in 2015.