



August 2006

## Mission Statement

### CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

The first Parliamentary Conference concerning Arctic cooperation was held in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1993. The Seventh Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region was held in Kiruna, Sweden in August 2006. Previous conferences have been held in Yellowknife, Canada; Salekhard, Russia, Rovaniemi, Finland, Tromsø, Norway and Nuuk, Greenland. The next conference will be held in Alaska in 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 September 19, 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, and takes part as invited guest in meetings of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

The Seventh Conference in Kiruna, Sweden focused on the following major themes:

- The International Polar Year 2007-2008,
- Innovation in Arctic governance; The possibilities and limitations of creating a legal regime for the Arctic,
- The Opening of the Arctic Sea Route.

The conference was attended by representatives from the national parliaments of the Arctic states and the European Parliament. Observers also participated from governments and interparliamentary organizations as well as from observer states and relevant international organizations.

The Conference adopted a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council and to the governments of the eight Arctic states and the European Commission. The Standing Committee will closely monitor 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 Mrs. **Hill-Marta Solberg**, MP, Norway. Members of the Committee are: Mr. **Bob Mills**, MP, Canada, Ms. **Lene Jensen**, MP, Denmark; Mr. **Kuupik Kleist**, Denmark/Greenland, Ms. **Diana Wallis**, MP, European Parliament; Mr. **Kimmo Kiljunen**, MP, Finland; Mr. **Sigurður Kári Kristjánsson**, MP, Iceland; Mr. **Runar**

**Patriksson**, MP, Sweden; Mr. **Vasily Usoltsev**, MP, State Duma, Russia; Mr. **Mikhail Y. Nikolayev**, MP, Council of Federation, Russia and Ms. **Lisa Murkowski**, Senator, USA. The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council are represented by Mr. **Lars Anders Baer**, Saami Parliamentary Council; Ms. **Sheila Watt-Cloutier**, President, ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Conference) and Mr. **Sergey N. Haruchi**, President, RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North).

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

For further information: [www.arcticparl.org](http://www.arcticparl.org) or please contact the secretariat at the address below

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