

# Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

*- Providing added value to the whole of Europe!*



We are pleased to welcome you to a breakfast in the European Parliament highlighting the potential and obstacles faced by the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA). Swedish MEP Jens Nilsson (S&D) and Finnish MEP Riikka Manner (ALDE) will lead a discussion on how EU cohesion policy can realise the enormous potential, and overcome the obstacles faced by Europe's far north.

On the one hand these are regions with a harsh climate, low population density (0,6% of EU population on 13% of EU land area), and vast distances both within and to the big external markets. On the other hand they are regions abundant with resources destined for European markets, including critical raw materials, minerals, forests and energy - and at the same time hosting world leading innovation clusters and exciting new growth possibilities.

EU policy can make sure the NSPA's provide added value to the benefit of the whole of Europe, in line with the objectives set out in the Europe 2020-strategy. There are encouraging examples of how NSPA's have managed to turn obstacles into possibilities thanks to European support. And as these areas have been allotted extra allocation of funding in the forthcoming budget period we feel it is important for EU policymakers to get a chance to learn the facts and figures related to the NSPA.

***A Warm Welcome!***

**Tuesday 5th of June**

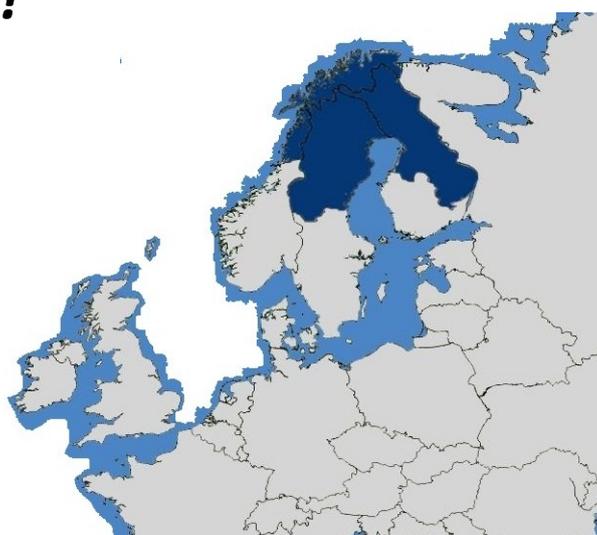
**8:30–9:30**

**Breakfast served from 8:00**

**A5G315**

**European Parliament**

If not having an EP-badge, register at the latest 28/5:  
[info@nspa-network.eu](mailto:info@nspa-network.eu)



**NSPA**   
Northern Sparsely Populated Areas