

NSPA OPEN DAYS SEMINAR 2012

09B07 – Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA): The heart of European east-west cross-border cooperation

Date: 9th of October 2012
Organiser: Northern Sparsely Populated Areas, NSPA
Venue: East Finland EU Office, Rond-Point Schuman 6, Brussels

Description: The seminar will focus on the role of NSPA in regional east-west cross-border cooperation in the High North, like the Arctic Council, Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Northern Dimension Partnership and how these cooperation's together with ENPI-CBS and other EU program and the Baltic Sea Strategy can contribute to create added value for the whole of Europe. The objective is to high-light ongoing processes and how they can interact creating a best practice of a common market in remote sparsely populated areas. Areas with handicaps that are obstacles but also create innovation and cooperation between the EU, EEA and Russia.

Program:

- 14:30** **Welcome remarks by the moderator**
Mr. *Jens Nilsson*, MEP, former Mayor City of Östersund, Jämtland, Sweden
- 14:40** **Outlook on the arctic cooperation in the High North on top of Europe**
Mr. *Torgeir Larsen*, State secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- 14:55** **The Northern and Russian Dimension of cross-border cooperation in research**
Ms. *Minna Piipponen*, PhD, Head of Education, Karelian Institute, VERA Centre for Russian and Border studies, University of Eastern Finland
- 15:10** **Nordic Business Link as an example of every-day cross-border market growth**
Mr. *Andreas Lind*, Managing director, Swedish Lapland Chamber of Commerce
- 15:25** **Business Safari for common growth across common borders**
Ms. *Alma Karaberg*, Deputy director, SIVA International Management AS
- 15:40** **Coffee**
- 16:00** **The Northern part of the Baltic Sea as a player on macro-regional level**
Ms. *Dorota Witoldson*, Programme Manager, Cross-Border Cooperation, DG Regional Policy E.2
- 16:15** **The Barents and the future visions for one growing region in four different countries**
Mr. *Matti Pennanen*, Mayor of Oulu, North Finland
- 16:30** **The way forward as an example for Europe – Debate**
Comments from each speaker and questions from the audience.
- 16:55** **Final remarks from the moderator**
- 17:00** **Reception with drinks and snacks**