



KOMMISSIONEN FOR DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABER

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KOMMISSIONENS ARBEJDSDOKUMENT

Anden handlingsplan for den nordlige dimension (2004-2006)

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Dette dokument er en opfølgning af den første handlingsplan for den nordlige dimension¹, der blev vedtaget af Det Europæiske Råd i Feira i juni 2000, og som udløber ved udgangen af 2003. I teksten er der anført generelle principper og en metodologi, centrale mål og prioriteter samt de mekanismer, der skal bruges for at holde øje med gennemførelsen af aktiviteter under den nordlige dimension. De aktiviteter, som partnerne i den nordlige dimension, vil deltage i for at tage fat om hver enkelt af disse prioriteter, er nærmere anført i bilag 1.

Ved udarbejdelsen af den anden handlingsplan for den nordlige dimension har Kommissionen baseret sig på konklusionerne fra den anden ministerkonference om den nordlige dimension, der blev afholdt i Luxembourg den 21. oktober 2002, og især på *Retningslinjer for en ny handlingsplan*², der blev vedtaget af denne konference og paraferet af Rådet for Den Europæiske Union (almindelige anliggender og eksterne forbindelser) den 22. oktober 2002. Den anden handlingsplan er resultatet af fælles bestræbelser fra en bred vifte af partnere i den nordlige dimension, og Kommissionen har gjort udstrakt brug af en høringsproces, hvortil der er kommet indlæg fra EU-medlemsstater og partnerlande, fra Europa-Parlamentet og det Europæiske Økonomiske og Sociale Udvalg, fra regionale organer og tilknyttede organisationer.

Den anden handlingsplan afspejler disse fælles bestræbelser, og der er lagt vægt på komplementaritet, subsidiaritet og synergi blandt alle partnere i den nordlige dimension. At opnå en effektiv interaktion vil være af afgørende betydning, hvis de fælles mål skal kunne nås og den nordlige dimension få succes i de kommende år

1. EN VISION FOR DEN NORDLIGE DIMENSION

Fire år efter at den nordlige dimension blev lanceret på Det Europæiske Råd i Helsinki i december 1999, er den i dag et synligt bevis på et effektivt regionalt samarbejde, der bidrager til almindelig velfærd i Den Europæiske Union og naboerområder.

Den nordlige dimension er en fælles ramme til fremme af politisk dialog og konkret samarbejde. Begrebet den nordlige dimension dækker et bredt og forskelligartet geografisk område, der strækker sig fra Arktis og Subarktis til de sydlige kyster ved Østersøen, og fra Nordvestrusland i øst til Island og Grønland i vest. Merværdien heraf ligger i den synergi og sammenhæng, som den skaber gennem aktiviteter, der gennemføres af alle partnere.

Den nordlige dimension er et EU-ledet initiativ. Dens succes vil afhænge af aktiv deltagelse af alle involverede parter, såvel på nationalt som regionalt eller lokalt plan, fra erhvervslivet eller civilsamfundet generelt. Hovedformålet med denne handlingsplan er derfor at give en klar operationel ramme for alle interessenter ved at opstille klare strategiske mål, prioriteter og konkrete aktiviteter. De må bæres frem i en samarbejdsvillig ånd baseret på bred deltagelse, subsidiaritet og komplementaritet og med en effektiv arbejdsdeling og overordnet samarbejde og overvågning.

¹ Handlingsplan for den nordlige dimension med Den Europæiske Unions politikker over for tredjelande og på tværs af grænserne (2000-2003), 9401/00, 14. juni 2000; er tilgængelig på:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/ndap/06_00_en.pdf.

² Retningslinjer for en ny handlingsplan - Formandskabets konklusioner om fremtiden for Den Europæiske Unions politikker for den nordlige dimension, Luxembourg, 21. oktober 2002; er tilgængelig på:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/doc/guidelines02.pdf.

Der er allerede lagt et stærkt fundament for dette arbejde med den første handlingsplan, hvor Europa-Kommissionen har spillet en afgørende rolle for gennemførelsen, og hvor EU-medlemsstater, partnerlande, regionale organer, civilsamfundet, erhvervslivet og forskningsinstitutioner hver især har udført vigtige aktiviteter, der har bidraget til de overordnede mål i handlingsplanen.

Fremover vil den nordlige dimension få endnu større betydning i forbindelse med udvidelsen af EU; med en vellykket indgåelse af tiltrædelsesforhandlingerne og undertegnelsen af tiltrædelsestraktaten med ti tiltrædende lande, herunder dem, der er direkte involveret i den nordlige dimension, træder den nordlige dimension ind i en ny fase. Det er blevet understreget i en meddelelse fra Kommissionen om "Det bredere europæiske naboskab"³, og den nordlige dimension vil være et betydeligt bidrag til at fremme EU's nye politik om naboskab, hvor der bygges på fælles interesser og en fælles dagsorden mellem det udvidede EU og dets naboer.

Europa-Kommissionen vil fortsætte med at yde støtte til aktiviteter under den nordlige dimension gennem eksisterende EU-programmer og vil forsat arbejde på at skabe større sammenhæng og interoperabilitet mellem de forskellige EU-instrumenter, der er tilgængelige for dette formål. Styrken i den nordlige dimension vil ligge i den kombinerede indvirkning af aktiviteter, der udøves af alle partnere, herunder EU-medlemsstater og partnerlande, internationale finansielle institutioner, regionale organer og den private sektor. Den fremgangsmåde, der benyttes til finansiering og koordinering inden for den nordlige dimensions miljøpartnerskab, er en model, der kan bruges i andre vigtige sektorer inden for den nordlige dimension, forudsat at der er et tilstrækkeligt engagement fra alle interessenters side.

Ved at partnerne udveksler informationer om aktiviteter og resultater under den nordlige dimension, vil man kunne undgå dobbeltarbejde og overlapninger, mangler vil kunne identificeres, og bedste praksis vil kunne deles. Kommissionen vil gerne sørge for at samle og videregive disse informationer til alle, der har interesse heri, men hvis informationsudvekslingen skal være effektiv, kræver det bidrag fra alle partnere.

2. HANDLINGSPLANEN 2004-2006: GENERELLE MÅL OG PRIORITEREDE SEKTORER

Udvidelsen af Den Europæiske Union vil få konsekvenser for den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension. I handlingsplanen tages der fat om de muligheder og udfordringer, som denne historiske begivenhed frembyder, således at det kan komme hele regionen til gode. I den forbindelse er det væsentligt med et forstærket samspil på alle niveauer mellem Rusland og EU.

Denne handlingsplan dækker fem brede prioriterede områder:

- økonomi, erhvervsliv, infrastruktur
- menneskelige ressourcer, uddannelse, videnskabelig forskning og sundhed
- miljø, nuklear sikkerhed og naturressourcer
- grænseoverskridende samarbejde og regionaludvikling
- retlige og indre anliggender.

³ *Det bredere europæiske naboskab: en ny ramme for forbindelserne med vores naboer i øst og syd*, KOM(2003) 104 endelig, 11. marts 2003; er tilgængelig på: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/we/doc/com03_104_en.pdf.

I den nordlige dimension lægges der også særlig vægt på regioner med specifikke behov, som Arktis og Kaliningrad.

Handlingsplanen respekterer internationalt anerkendte principper om bæredygtig udvikling, god regeringsførelse, åbenhed og deltagelse, ligestilling mellem mænd og kvinder, minoritetsrettigheder og beskyttelse af oprindelige folk⁴.

På linje med EU's Lissabon-strategi opfordres der i handlingsplanen til, at alle involverede partnere vedtager politikker om økonomi, beskæftigelse og sociale anliggender, der kan styrke hinanden⁵.

3. SPECIFIKKE PRIORITETER OG MÅL, 2004-06

3.1. ØKONOMI, ERHVERVSLIV, INFRASTRUKTUR

En tættere integration af markederne, styrkede økonomiske forbindelser med Den Russiske Føderation og et moderne infrastruktursystem skal være målene på mellemlang og lang sigt for den nordlige dimension i denne sektor. I den forbindelse er der identificeret specifikke prioriteter vedrørende:

- Handel, investeringsfremme og virksomhedssamarbejde
- Infrastruktur, herunder energi, transport, telekommunikation og informationssamfundet.

3.1.1. Handel, investeringsfremme og virksomhedssamarbejde

En bæredygtig og vedvarende økonomiske vækst i den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension er en hovedprioritet for perioden 2004-2006. De økonomiske muligheder, som udvidelsen af EU byder på, må udnyttes fuldt ud. Der må udvikles et gunstigt erhvervsklima på begge sider af den kommende EU-grænse ved, at der blandt andet gennemføres økonomiske reformer i Den Russiske Føderation og ved en indsats fra russisk side på at blive integreret i den internationale økonomi (gennem tiltrædelse af WTO) og i EU's økonomi (gennem initiativet om det fælles europæiske økonomiske område).

Der vil blive gjort en yderligere indsats for at fjerne tekniske og andre hindringer for handel og investeringer, fremme lige konkurrence mellem de økonomiske aktører og udvikle en gennemsigtig finanssektor. SMV'er må der udvises særlig opmærksomhed over for, navnlig i Rusland, så det bliver lettere for virksomhederne at omstille sig til det europæiske marked. De

⁴ Nyere dokumenter fra Kommissionen, hvor disse emner er taget op er f.eks.:
- *En bæredygtig udvikling i Europa for en bedre verden: En EU-strategi for bæredygtig udvikling*, KOM(2001) 264 endelig, 15. maj 2001, er tilgængelig på:
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0264en01.pdf;
- *Nye styreformere i EU – En hvidbog*, KOM(2001) 428 endelig., 25. juli 2001, er tilgængelig på:
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0428en01.pdf;
- *På vej mod en EF-rammestrategi for ligestilling mellem mænd og kvinder (2001-2005)*, KOM(2000) 335 endelig, 7. juni 2000, er tilgængelig på:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equ_opp/strategy/com2000_335_en.pdf;
- *Beretning fra Kommissionen til Rådet - Status over arbejdet med oprindelige folk* KOM(2002) 291 endelig, 11. juni 2002.

⁵ Vedtaget i marts 2000 af Det Europæiske Råd i Lissabon, den europæiske beskæftigelsesstrategi skal gøre Den Europæiske Union i stand til "at blive den mest konkurrencedygtige og dynamiske videnbaserede økonomi i verden, en økonomi, der kan skabe en holdbar økonomisk vækst med flere og bedre job og større social samhørighed". Flere oplysninger herom fås på:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/employment_strategy/index_en.htm.

igangværende bestræbelser på at fremskynde grænsepassage og bekæmpe korrupktion bør fortsættes.

Der må træffes foranstaltninger til at fremme investeringerne, hvor der tages hensyn til den rolle, som udenlandske investeringer kan spille, og behovet for at tiltrække de typer investeringer, som bedst kan fremme udvikling og innovation. Planerne om at fremme Østersøområdet som et "fælles investeringsområde" bør støttes.

Virksomhedssamarbejde, handel og økonomi må udvikle sig under fuld overholdelse af internationalt anerkendte principper for bæredygtig udvikling ud fra deres miljømæssige, sociale og økonomiske hensyn samt ligestilling og beskyttelse af menneskerettigheder.

En fortsat effektiv gennemførelse af hertil tilknyttede støtteforanstaltninger, især gennem EU-programmer som f.eks. Tacis og INTERREG samt gennem bilaterale og regionale samarbejdsprogrammer vil få en vigtig rolle at spille her.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At forbedre erhvervs klimaet, ved at fjerne tekniske og andre hindringer for handel og investering og fremme samarbejdet mellem erhvervslivet i hele regionen.*
- *At støtte økonomiske reformer og regeltilnærmelse i Rusland, ved at styrke åbenhed og forudsigelighed i handelsforbindelser.*
- *At fremme små og mellemstore virksomheder (SMV'er), især russiske SMV'er, og deres tilpasning til det europæiske marked. Partnerne i den nordlige dimension vil arbejde på at gøre det lettere for SMV'er at få adgang til kapital, at tilskynde til udveksling af bedste praksis og uddannelse og at forbedre ledelses- og andre færdigheder og kendskabet til forskrifter.*
- *At støtte industrivirksomheder i deres forsøg på mere bæredygtig produktion, for at forbedre de økonomiske resultater og samtidig tage miljøhensyn og tilbyde socioøkonomiske muligheder til den oprindelige befolkning i regionen.*
- *At fremme handel og økonomiske forbindelser ved en forbedring (eller også indførelse) af integreret grænseforvaltning. Toldbehandlingen af varer ved grænsen bør begrænses til højst to timer. Partnerne i den nordlige dimension kan opnå dette blandt andet ved at sørge for tilnærmelse af toldlovgivningen, ved at bekæmpe korrupktion, og ved at modernisere infrastrukturen ved grænsen og rationalisere procedurerne ved grænsen.*

3.1.2. Energi

Det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, er rigt på naturressourcer og har et betydeligt potentiale med hensyn til energiproduktion og -forsyning, og det har samtidig et enestående miljø, som er meget sårbar over for forurening eller andre sideeffekter ved en ikke-bæredygtig udvikling.

Infrastrukturen i området må udvikles for at skabe større sikkerhed for energiforsyningen til det europæiske kontinent. Arbejdet med energispørgsmål må inddrage yderligere udvikling og integration af energimarkeder, styrkelse af dialogen mellem EU og Rusland om energi, udvikling af energikilder på en miljøvenlig måde og øget energieffektivitet og -besparelse. Dette energipartnerskab er hovedsageligt rettet mod at skabe større sikkerhed for

energiforsyningen til EU og at forbedre investeringsvilkårene i Ruslands energisektor, således at infrastrukturen kan forbedres, de energieffektive og miljøvenlige teknologier kan fremmes, og energibevaringen i Rusland kan øges.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At udbygge nettene til transport af elektricitet og naturgas i den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, for dermed at bidrage til, at EU's indre energimarked kan fungere på konkurrencevilkår, at der er energiforsyningsikkerhed i hele Europa. Partnerne i den nordlige dimension vil arbejde på at forbedre samordningen af energiproduktion og -forsyning, og på at opnå fuld integration af de tiltrædende lande i EU's prioriterede indsatsområder for energitransport og i et fælles europæisk energimarked.*
- *At sørge for, at udvikling og anvendelse af energikilder sker på en mere effektiv og miljøvenlig måde. Partnerne i den nordlige dimension vil også gøre, hvad de kan, for at transporten af energimaterialer kan foregå på en sikker måde, at mulighederne for øget anvendelse af vedvarende energi udnyttes, og at Østersøområdet anvendes som forsøgsområde for de fleksible Kyoto-mekanismer*
- *Den Europæiske Union og Den Russiske Føderation vil fortsat arbejde på at styrke energidialogen mellem EU og Rusland⁶, som blev lanceret på topmødet mellem EU og Rusland i oktober 2000 med henblik på at forbedre energisamarbejdet.*

3.1.3. Transport

Det er af afgørende betydning for den økonomiske udvikling i regionen, at transportinfrastrukturen bliver forbedret i det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, og at hovedprioriteterne bliver udvikling af et multimodalt transportsystem, der forbedrer forbindelserne inden for regionen og med nabolandene, skabelse af et miljøvenligt integreret transport- og kommunikationsmarked, en mere effektiv udnyttelse af eksisterende infrastruktur og den videre gennemførelse af det paneuropæiske transportnet i partnerlandene. Sikkerhedsniveauerne inden for alle transportmåder må forbedres, især sikkerhed til søs, blandt andet ved støtte til videnskabelig forskning.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At tage fat om flaskehalse og trafikpropper i den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, og samtidig skabe et miljøvenligt transportnet, der integrerer tiltrædelseslandene. Grundlaget for dette arbejde vil være Kommissionens revision af retningslinjerne for det transeuropæiske transportnet (TEN-T) og Kommissionens hvidbog "Den Europæiske transportpolitik frem til 2010"⁷.*
- *At øge sikkerhedsniveauerne inden for alle transportmåder. Sikkerhed til søs vil blandt andet blive højt prioriteret med henblik på at beskytte havmiljøet mod ulykker, som truer*

⁶ Energipartnerskab mellem EU og Rusland:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/en/lpi_en_3.html.

⁷ Den Europæiske transportpolitik frem til 2010 - De svære valg, KOM(2001) 370 endelig, 12. september 2001, er tilgængelig på: http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/en/lb_en.html.

økosystemerne i havet og ved kysterne og de udsatte oprindelige befolkningers socioøkonomiske liv. Videnskabelig forskning vil støtte aktiviteter af den art.

3.1.4. Telekommunikation og informationssamfund

Informations- og kommunikationsteknologi vil spille en væsentlig rolle for udviklingen af en velstående og bæredygtig region inden for den nordlige dimension i de kommende år. Regionen i den nordlige dimension kan udvikle en ledende videnbaseret økonomi, især gennem opfølgning af handlingsplanen for nordlige dimension, der blev lanceret i 2001.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At fremme den samordnede udvikling af telekommunikations- og informationssamfundsnet og -tjenester i den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, herunder de regulerende og administrative rammer. Der bør gøres en samordnet indsats for at støtte udvikling af informations- og kommunikationsteknologi i det nordvestlige Rusland for at undgå, at der udvikles en teknologi- og infrastrukturkløft.*
- *I betragtning af hvor stor betydning informations- og kommunikationsteknologien har, hvis regionen skal overvinde de ulemper, der skyldes de lange afstande og det barske klima, vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension gøre alt, hvad de kan for at fremskynde regionens overgang til et informationssamfund, at sørge for bedre levevilkår og adgang til moderne tjenester, herunder telemedicin og e-læring.*

3.2. MENNESKELIGE RESSOURCER, UDDANNELSE VIDENSKABELIG FORSKNING OG FOLKESUNDHED

Den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, har et rigt udbud af menneskelige ressourcer og et stort videnskabeligt potentiale. Fremtiden for hele området, også Arktis, dets sociale velfærd og økonomiske vækst vil i vid udstrækning afhænge af udviklingen af dette potentiale.

3.2.1. Menneskelige ressourcer og beskæftigelse, almen og faglig uddannelse og kultur

For at hjælpe med at lukke op for den rige beholdning af menneskelige ressourcer og det høje videnskabelige potentiale i regionen er det først og fremmest kapacitetsopbygning, almen og faglig uddannelse og videreuddannelse, videnskabelig forskning og sundhed, der skal prioriteres. Umoderne kvalifikationer og færdigheder skal ajourføres, så de kan leve op til de moderne teknologiske krav. De studerende og forskerne skal kunne maksimere de muligheder, de har, gennem mere udveksling mellem universiteterne og anvendelse af virtuelle læringsfaciliteter til at fremme en bæredygtig økonomisk vækst.

Kulturel udvikling (herunder kulturturisme) bør udbygges ved at mobilisere og koordinere nationale, regionale og lokale myndigheder, ngo'er, det private erhvervsliv og civilsamfundet til at bevare kulturarv og fremme kulturel mangfoldighed.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At fremme skabelsen af en "videnbaseret region" gennem fælles projekter, netværk og mobilitet inden for almen og faglig uddannelse, forskning, kultur og ungdom og ved at*

bringe information og læringsmuligheder til fjerntliggende områder gennem internetbaserede og andre værktøjer.

- *At fremme en dialog, som giver regionen mulighed for at udvikle sig som et dynamisk og åbent kulturelt område ved at øge bevidstheden om kulturarven og fremme lokal og regional udvikling.*

3.2.2. Videnskabelig forskning

Videnskabelig forskning er af afgørende betydning for regionens udvikling, og hovedmålet er at sørge for, at forskningsaktiviteterne bliver koordineret på en effektiv måde, og at man ser på indvirkningen af den igangværende økonomiske, miljømæssige, politiske og sociale ændring i regionen. Samarbejdet mellem virksomheder, universiteter og videnskabelige kredse bør fremmes med henblik på at skabe mere beskæftigelse.

Denne handlingsplan støtter derfor videnskabelig forskning i det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, hvor der fokuseres på klimaændringer og økonomiske, sociale og miljømæssige virkninger forårsaget af klimavariabilitet og klimaændringer.

Der må tages særligt hensyn til forskning vedrørende udvikling af infrastruktur og materialer, der kan modstå de barske klimatiske forhold, forbedring af miljøvenlig udforskning, udvinding og transport af fossilbrændsler og mineraler, udvikling af passende transportpolitikker og -teknologier samt analyse af sociale, politiske, økonomiske og miljømæssige ændringer i hele regionen. Ved opstilling af forskningspolitikker og -projekter vil det være vigtigt at høre ikke blot de forskellige forskningsinstitutioner, men også organer som Arktiske Råd og Det Euro-Arktiske Barentsråd.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At forbedre kommunikation og informationsudveksling mellem alle sektorer af det videnskabelige samfund i Rusland og i det udvidede EU og samtidig opfordre til, at unge forskere inddrages. Det vil forbedre udbredelse af information til det videnskabelige samfund som helhed i regionen og skabe en mekanisme, der kan stimulere samarbejdet mellem de mange videnskabelige institutter og universiteter i Norden.*
- *At styrke forskning og teknologiudvikling, især inden for sektorer, der berøres af klimaændringer, miljøbeskyttelse, bæredygtig forvaltning og udnyttelse af naturressourcer, energiforsyningssikkerhed, social og økonomisk udvikling i regionen.*

3.2.3. Folkesundhed

Der må gives høj prioritet til bekæmpelse af overførbare sygdomme (især tuberkulose og hiv/aids i det nordvestlige Rusland og tiltrædelseslandene, og til behandling af problemer, der vedrører sundhed generelt og social velfærd, såsom narkotikamisbrug, alkoholisme og andre livsstilsrelaterede vilkår. Samfundet som helhed må være aktivt for at fremme sundhed og sunde livsførelse. En styrkelse af det internationale samarbejde på alle niveauer er af

afgørende betydning for, at disse mål kan nås, blandt andet gennem oprettelse af et partnerskab for folkesundhed og social velfærd inden for den nordlige dimension⁸.

Når disse spørgsmål skal behandles, vil aktiviteterne blive udviklet, så de er i overensstemmelse med EU-strategien om folkesundhed (EU's folkesundhedsprogram 2003-2008⁹) og med de henstillinger, der blev vedtaget på det fjerde topmøde mellem Østersøstaterne i Skt. Petersborg den 10. juni 2002 om truslen fra overførbare sygdomme¹⁰

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At tage de udfordringer op, der vedrører alvorlige overførbare sygdomme, især tuberkulose og hiv/aids. Der vil blive lagt særlig vægt på sundhedsproblemer hos børn og unge, hvor der også vil blive taget fat om sociale og økonomiske årsager til sygdomme af den art.*
- *At fremme og udbygge internationalt samarbejde om spørgsmål vedrørende folkesundhed mere bredt, og også gribe fat om de sociale determinanter bag sundhedsproblemer, miljøets indvirkning på borgernes sundhed og strukturel reform af sundhedsydelser i hele regionen.*

3.3. MILJØ, NUKLEAR SIKKERHED, OG NATURRESSOURCER

3.3.1. Miljø

Miljøproblemerne i regionen er velkendte og omfattende, også specifikke faktorer som den særdeles alvorlige indvirkning af klimaændringer i det høje nord og den negative konsekvens af forureningen af det skrøbelige marine økosystem og de arktiske egne.

Intet land og ingen organisation er i stand til at håndtere disse problemer på egen hånd. Det er derfor afgørende, at der er en samordnet og koordineret indsats, både med tilnærmelse af miljøstandarder og -politikker og med finansiering af fælles samarbejdsaktiviteter. Miljøpartnerskabet under den nordlige dimension er et nyttigt eksempel på, hvordan det med en fælles fremgangsmåde er muligt at håndtere alvorlige problemer. I dette arbejde må partnerne i den nordlige dimension inddrage overvågningsrapporterne fra Den Europæiske Union, Helcom, Baltic 21 og Arktisk Råd.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At styrke dialogen mellem EU og Rusland om miljøanliggender inden for rammerne af partnerskabs- og samarbejdsaftalen og arbejde for fuld respekt for internationale miljøkonventioner.*

⁸ Der vil blive truffet en endelig afgørelse om oprettelse af et sådant partnerskab på et møde på højt niveau, der skal afholdes i Norge i oktober 2003. Flere oplysninger om dette initiativ kan fås på:
www.stakes.fi/ndpartnership.

⁹ Europa-Parlamentets og Rådets afgørelse nr. 1786/2002/EF af 23. september 2002 om vedtagelse af et program for Fællesskabets indsats inden for folkesundhed (2003-2008); er tilgængelig på
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm.

¹⁰ Erklæring fra det 4. topmøde mellem Østersøstaterne om truslen fra overførbare sygdomme, Skt. Petersborg, 10. juni 2001; er tilgængelig på
http://www.cbss.st/documents/meetingshead_government/stpetersburg2002/.

- *At overvåge og tackle forurenere over hele regionen, især kemikalier, persistente organiske miljøgifte (POP), tungmetaller, giftigt affald og byaffald, i forbindelse med søer og de arktiske egne som Barentshavet og Østersøen. Der vil også blive lagt særlig vægt på problemet med luftforurening og på indførelse af renere produktionssystemer.*
- *At gøre fuldt brug af multilaterale finansieringsmekanismer, som for eksempel den nordlige dimensions miljøpartnerskab (NDEP) og den nordiske miljøudviklingsfond.*

3.3.2. Nuklear sikkerhed

De enorme problemer med oplagring og bortskaffelse af radioaktivt affald i den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, især det nordvestlige Rusland, giver anledning til stor bekymring (blandt andet brugt nukleart brændsel fra oplagte ubåde og isbrydere, utilstrækkelige eller manglende oplagringsfaciliteter, og andet affald som for eksempel blandet affald og flydende affald).

At sørge for, at atomkraft anvendes på en sikker måde, og at brugt nukleart brændsel og radioaktivt affald forvaltes på en sikker måde, er en prioritet i det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension. Hovedproblemerne er at finde oplagringsfaciliteter til brugt nukleart brændsel fra isbrydere og atomdrevne ubåde, at skulle forvalte mange forskellige former for radioaktivt affald, herunder blandet og flydende affald, og at finde en løsning på, hvad der skal gøres med ubåde, der er taget ud af drift. En anden hastende prioritet i regionen er lukning og nedlukning af risikable atomreaktorer. Hovedmålet er at opnå et rimeligt sikkerhedsniveau i hele regionen.

Denne handlingsplan støtter således et nært multilateralt samarbejde mellem nationale myndigheder, blandt andet om retlige initiativer som for eksempel aftalen om det multilaterale atom- og miljøprogram i Den Russiske Føderation. Det vil indebære en effektiv og rettidig gennemførelse af projekter gennem det nukleare vindue i støttefonden for miljøpartnerskabet inden for rammerne af den nordlige dimension samt opgraderede overvågningsprocedurer og en effektiv udveksling af information og ekspertise om forvaltning af nukleart materiale.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At implementere projekter gennem det nukleare vindue i støttefonden for miljøpartnerskabet inden for rammerne af den nordlige dimension, så snart aftalen om opstilling af et multilateralt atom- og miljøprogram i Den Russiske Føderation (MNEPR) er undertegnet. Der vil ske en prioritering af forvaltningen af brugt nukleart brændsel og nukleart affald samt af afvikling af nukleare anlæg og oplægning af ubåde.*
- *At styrke overvågning og beskyttelse af miljøet i forbindelse med strålingsfare gennem øget samarbejde, blandt andet bedre koordinering af nationale planer for håndtering af hændelser i forbindelse med nuklear sikkerhed i regionen.*

3.3.3. Naturressourcer

Regionen er rig på naturressourcer, især olie, mineraler og træ. Disse ressourcer er meget vigtige for den økonomiske udvikling i lokalsamfundene, men de er under stort pres. En bæredygtig brug af naturressourcerne er af afgørende betydning, hvis regionens langsigtede økonomiske potentiale skal kunne realiseres, uden at det får en negativ indvirkning på den

følsomme økologiske balance i området eller hos de oprindelige samfund, som er afhængige af disse ressourcer.

For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At hjælpe med at sikre, at de nordiske og arktiske økosystemer og deres biodiversitet fortsat vil være levedygtige og livskraftige, og at de kan nære menneskets socioøkonomiske behov, og at tilskynde til en ansvarlig og bæredygtig udnyttelse af skove og fiskebestand, med aktiv deltagelse af lokale aktører, lokalsamfund, SMV'er og oprindelige folk i beslutningstagningen.*

3.4. GRÆNSEOVERSKRIDENDE SAMARBEJDE

Dette samarbejde skal bidrage til at fremme den økonomiske udvikling i regionen og integration af hele det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension. Ansvar for at indlede et samarbejde mellem naboregioner på grundlag af et egentligt partnerskab er først og fremmest regionernes eget. De finansielle EU-instrumenter skal støtte samarbejdet så effektivt som muligt. Der er også behov for en koordinering af EU-midler og bilaterale midler til at lette det grænseoverskridende samarbejde med Rusland inden for det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension.

De forskellige ordninger for grænseoverskridende samarbejde i området, herunder Euroregioner og samarbejdet mellem Rusland og Litauen på grundlag af *Nida-initiativet*, vil kunne danne grundlag for en intensivning af arbejdet med fokus på grænserne til Rusland inden for den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension. For at tage højde for ovenstående prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At implementere grænseoverskridende samarbejdsinitiativer om prioriterede temaer som for eksempel økonomisk og social udvikling, miljøbeskyttelse, transport og telekommunikation, grænseovergange og grænseforvaltning folkesundhed og kulturudveksling.*
- *At styrke samordningen af finansieringsprogrammer, der styres af Den Europæiske Union og af andre kilder, blandt andet internationale finansinstitutioner og Nordisk Ministerråd. Den Russiske Føderation vil blive inddraget i samfinansieringen af aktiviteter så meget som muligt. Europa-Kommissionen vil på alle måder forsøge at forbedre samordningen af EU-programmer, især Tacis og INTERREG, også den eventuelle indførelse af et nyt instrument for nabolande, som det er planlagt i meddelelsen om "Det bredere europæiske naboskab".*
- *Yderligere at stimulere inddragelsen af lokale aktører, lokalsamfund og lokale myndigheder, ved at styrke subsidiaritet og lokalt ejerskab af projekter. Der vil kunne opnås bedre resultater, hvis der bygges på eksisterende eksempler på trepartssamarbejde, og der benyttes den ekspertise, der findes i regionale og subregionale organer, for eksempel det subregionale samarbejde for Østersøstaterne, unionen af baltiske byer og Barentsregionalrådet.*
- *At tage fat om de store udfordringer som Kaliningrad-regionen står over for i fremtiden som en russisk enklave omgivet af Den Europæiske Union. EU, Den Russiske Føderation og andre partnere vil arbejde på gennemførelsen af grænseoverskridende projekter, der*

tager spørgsmål op vedrørende økonomisk og social udvikling og miljø, sundhed, kampen mod organiseret kriminalitet samt passende infrastruktur ved grænseovergange og effektiv grænseforvaltning.

3.5. RETLIGE OG INDRE ANLIGGENDER

3.5.1. Bekæmpelse af organiseret kriminalitet

Organiseret kriminalitet er et stort problem i regionen og kræver en fælles indsats fra alle partnerlande. For at løse problemer som økonomisk kriminalitet, hvidvaskning af penge, ulovlig indvandring og menneskehandel er det nødvendigt med en koordineret, effektiv tilgang.

For at kunne hjælpe med ved ovennævnte prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At forbedre koordineringen mellem nationale administrationer og politi for at udnytte ressourcerne bedst muligt, udvikle konkrete operationelle tiltag mellem EU og Rusland og gøre samarbejdet omkring lovhåndhævelse mere effektivt.*
- *At tage fat om menneskehandel og narkotikahandel samt kriminalitet, der går ud over børn og kvinder.*
- *EU og Den Russiske Føderation vil arbejde for en hurtig og effektiv gennemførelse af EU-Rusland-handlingsplanen mod organiseret kriminalitet og andre initiativer, der er beregnet på at indgå i de respektive nationale, regionale og lokale myndigheders aktiviteter og ekspertise, fremme delingen af efterretninger og prioriteter og forbedre støtten til ofrene for kriminalitet.*

3.5.2. Integreret grænseforvaltning

Udvikling af en effektiv grænseforvaltning er helt afgørende, hvis man skal undgå, at der opstår nye skillelinjer i Europa, og samtidig sørge for gensidig sikkerhed, respekt for loven og grænseoverskridende kontakter. Denne handlingsplan støtter forsøg på at nå en sikker og effektiv forvaltning af grænsen mellem EU og Rusland, at forhindre ulovlige rejser og samtidig gøre det let for lovlig handel og rejser ved at reducere ventetider, forbedre infrastruktur, øge samarbejdet mellem relevante grænsemyndigheder og harmonisere lovgivning, standarder og procedurer.

De økonomiske aspekter af en bedre grænseforvaltning er taget op i afsnit 3.1. Derudover vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At bekæmpe ulovlig indvandring og anden grænseoverskridende kriminalitet, og gøre det lettere for lovlig handel og rejse ved en forbedret og integreret grænseforvaltning.*

3.5.3. Civilbeskyttelse

At sikre effektive standarder og procedurer for offentlig sikkerhed og deltagelse i beslutningsprocessen er af særlig interesse for det område, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension; en af hovedprioriteterne vil være udvikling af et fælles område, hvor folk kan føle sig sikre.

Den nye handlingsplan støtter derfor målet med at forbedre civilbeskyttelse, hvor der lægges særlig vægt på Østersøregionen og Barentsregionen, og at udvikle det euro-baltiske program yderligere.

Det er vigtigt at få udviklet forbindelsen mellem civilsamfundet og den statslige eller erhvervsmæssige beslutningstagning, harmoniseret lovgivningen og udvekslet erfaringer og ekspertise på områderne sikkerhedspraksis og redningsvæsen.

For at kunne hjælpe med ved disse prioriteter vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension derfor arbejde på at nå følgende hovedmål (med specifikke aktiviteter som anført i bilaget):

- *At forbedre og tilskynde til samkøring af sikkerhedsprocedurer, ved samtidig at fremme civilbeskyttelse, god regeringsførelse og direkte deltagelse af offentligheden i projektplanlægning.*

3.6. TVÆRGÅENDE EMNER: KALININGRAD OG DEN ARKTISKE REGION

Som tidligere nævnt er Kaliningrad og den arktiske region to slående eksempler på specifikke regioner med specifikke behov. For at sikre den rette opmærksomhed omkring disse behov er de blevet behandlet her som tværgående emner og indgår i hver enkelt hovedprioritet i handlingsplanen.

3.6.1. Kaliningrad

Ansvaret for udviklingen af den russiske *Oblast* Kaliningrad ligger naturligvis hos Den Russiske Føderation. I betragtning af dens særlige geografiske situation som en russisk enklave omgivet af Den Europæiske Union er det imidlertid meget vigtigt at fremme dialogen og samarbejdet mellem Kaliningrad og nabo-partnerne i den nordlige dimension.

Alle fem prioritetssektorer, der er omfattet af denne handlingsplan, har særlig relevans for Kaliningrad. Hvad enten det er inden for områder som økonomi, menneskelige ressourcer, miljø, grænseoverskridende samarbejde eller retlige og indre anliggender, vil aktiviteter under den nordlige dimension være af betydning, idet de er med til, at Kaliningrad fuldt ud vil kunne udnytte de muligheder, der opstår med udvidelsen af EU.

På det økonomiske område vil der især blive lagt vægt på opbygning af en bedre ramme for handel og investering, støtte til administrativ reform, fremme af gensidige forbindelser mellem erhvervslivet og udvikling af SMV'er samt en mere smidig grænseforvaltning; energiforsyningsikkerhed og yderligere udvikling af regionale transportnet vil der ligeledes blive lagt vægt på.

Der vil også blive lagt vægt på at støtte udvikling af menneskelige ressourcer, herunder faglig og erhvervsmæssig uddannelse, udvekslinger på uddannelsesområdet og andre fælles projekter inden for uddannelse, forskning, kultur og ungdom samt fælles tiltag for at bekæmpe trusler mod folkesundheden.

Der vil blive taget fat på miljøsager for at få løst eksisterende problemer (især vand- og jordforurening, byaffald og kemikalier) og at sikre en bæredygtig udvikling i regionen fremover. NDEP-støttefonden samt finansiell støtte fra internationale finansielle institutioner og andre partnere i den nordlige dimension på bilateral basis kan være med til at gribe fat om disse udfordringer.

Det grænseoverskridende samarbejde, hvor der fokuseres på Kaliningrad og naboregionerne til EU, vil have særlig betydning inden for det økonomiske, sociale og miljømæssige område samt med at fremme kontakter fra folk til folk på lokalt plan.

En fælles indsats for at bekæmpe organiseret kriminalitet, smugleri, ulovlig migration og menneskehandel vil bidrage til at sikre gensidig sikkerhed og respekt for loven, hvilket er til fordel for alle.

Europa-Kommissionen har allerede gjort en særlig indsats på mange af disse områder og vil fortsætte med og styrke denne indsats, så længe den nye handlingsplan løber. Som et eksempel herpå indgår der i Tacis's indikativprogram for Rusland for perioden 2004-06 en særlig pakke for Kaliningrad, hvortil der er afsat omkring 25 mio. EUR i de pågældende tre år, og hvor der især fokuseres på sektorer som administrativ reform og erhvervsudvikling, folkesundhed, uddannelse og grænseoverskridende samarbejde. Denne pakke ligger ud over de bredere tiltag, der gøres gennem Tacis's russiske nationale program og gennem NDEP, som også kommer Kaliningrad til gode.

3.6.2. Arktis

De nordligste områder i regionen kræver særlig opmærksomhed i betragtning af de barske klimatiske vilkår, det skrøbelige miljø, der i stigende grad trues af forurening af forskellig slags, høje omkostninger til infrastruktur, der skal forbinde tyndt befolkede områder over lange afstande, og sundhedsproblemer, der truer de *oprindelige* befolkningsgrupper, der lever i det høje nord.

Alle fem prioritetssektorer, der indgår i den nuværende handlingsplan, er også relevante for Arktis, selv om det nok er den økonomiske sektor, sektoren for menneskelige ressourcer og miljøsektoren, der har primær betydning. Det vil dog især være vigtigt at fremme et bredere internationalt samarbejde om disse emner, hvor der også er involveret partnere som USA og Canada, der har lignende problemer med deres arktiske og subarktiske områder.

At tilskynde til økonomisk udvikling i den arktiske region er af afgørende betydning, men den må foregå i fuld respekt for den skrøbelige miljøsituation i regionen og involvere lokalbefolkninger og oprindelige folk i beslutningstagningsprocessen på alle niveauer. Infrastruktur vil få en særlig betydning, især med hensyn til, hvilken rolle de forbedrede ICT-net kan spille for at overvinde afstands- og klimaproblemerne.

Informations- og kommunikationsteknologi har også en afgørende rolle, når det drejer sig om at fremme menneskets muligheder gennem fjernundervisning og at tilskynde til at bevare lokale kulturer, oprindelige sprog og kulturarv. Arktis universitet er et godt eksempel på sådanne initiativer.

En bedre miljøovervågning i Arktis og fælles tiltag for at beskytte det arktiske miljø mod kemikalier, persistente organiske miljøgifte og nuklear forurening vil blive styrket ved at udnytte det forskningsarbejde, der er foregået inden for Arktisk Råd og Det Euro-Arktiske Råd. Arktis er også et vigtigt globalt laboratorium, og partnerne i den nordlige dimension vil fremme deres arbejde yderligere på dette område gennem blandt EU's og Nordisk Ministerråds FTU-programmer.

Mange af de sektorer, der er omfattet af denne handlingsplan er særligt relevante for Grønland, som det fremgår af en meddelelse fra Kommissionen til Rådet og Europa-Parlamentet¹¹. Når som helst det er muligt og relevant bør Grønland inddrages i

¹¹ Meddelelse fra Kommissionen til Rådet og Europa-Parlamentet - *Midtvejsrevision af den fjerde fiskeriprotokol mellem EU og Grønland*, KOM(2002) 697 af 3.12.2002.

gennemførelsen af denne handlingsplan gennem EF-programmer, der er åbne for Grønlands deltagelse.

Derudover vil EU også se videre i Norden og fortsætte sit samarbejde med USA og Canada inden for rammerne af den nye atlantiske dagsorden¹² med USA og den fælles erklæring om nordligt samarbejde med Canada¹³. Dette kan være med til at opbygge gode synergier på områder som miljø, energi, nuklear sikkerhed, folkesundhed, oprindelige folk og fremme af bæredygtig udvikling i polar og tilstødende regioner.

4. OVERVÅGNINGS- OG KONTROLMEKANISMER

Den brede vifte af aktiviteter, der skal gennemføres under handlingsplanen for den nordlige dimension, og nødvendigheden af, at alle partnere arbejder sammen med tanken om komplementaritet og subsidiaritet, gør, at det er absolut nødvendigt at have passende, aktuelle mekanismer til overvågning af fremskridt, kontrol af resultater og identifikation af mangler. Disse mekanismer kan kun blive effektive, hvis de er baseret på bidrag fra alle involverede partnere.

Hvis der er ajourførte og nemt tilgængelige oplysninger til rådighed om aktiviteter og resultater under den nordlige dimension, vil det også kunne gøre vort arbejde mere synligt for alle berørte partnere (og for offentligheden som helhed) og gøre det muligt at fastslå, hvad der er opnået og af hvem, hvad der er i gang eller under forberedelse, og hvad der mangler at blive gjort.

I forbindelse med den første handlingsplan har Kommissionen allerede udarbejdet to årsrapporter om aktiviteter under den nordlige dimension¹⁴. Endnu en rapport vil blive udarbejdet ved udgangen af 2003. Disse dokumenter er væsentlige for informeringen af både Rådet for Den Europæiske Union og Europa-Parlamentet om de fremskridt, der er gjort med gennemførelsen af handlingsplanen for den nordlige dimension, og inddrager fuldt ud disse institutioner i overvågnings- og kontrolmekanismerne. Andre rapporter, som f.eks. årsrapporten om *EU-Canada-samarbejdet om nordlige spørgsmål*¹⁵, kan også indgå i den generelle vurdering af de fremskridt, der er nået i specifikke spørgsmål inden for den region, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension.

Kommissionens rapporter fra 2001 og 2002 gav en fyldestgørende oversigt over de aktiviteter, der er gennemført af Det Europæiske Fællesskab for at nå mål og prioriteter under den nordlige dimension, men de havde deres begrænsning, eftersom de ikke kunne give en

¹² Hele teksten til den nye transatlantiske dagsorden, der blev undertegnet på EU-USA-topmødet i Madrid den 3. december 1995, er tilgængelig på:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/new_transatlantic_agenda/text.htm.

¹³ Den fælles erklæring om nordligt samarbejde blev udstedt på EU-Canada-topmødet i Ottawa den 16. december 1999. Den fælles erklæring er tilgængelig på:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/canada/summit_12_99/north_cooperation.htm.

¹⁴ *En nordlig dimension for Unionens politikker*, et dokument fremlagt på ministerkonferencen i Luxembourg den 9. april 2001,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/conf/formin2/invent_01.pdf, og 2002 årsrapporten om gennemførelsen af handlingsplanen for den nordlige dimension, Kommissionens arbejdsdokument, SEC(2002) 1296 af 26.11.2002,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/doc/progprep02.pdf.

¹⁵ EU-Canada har udarbejdet årsrapporter om samarbejdet om nordlige spørgsmål siden 1999 efter den fælles erklæring om nordligt samarbejde (se fodnote 7). Den seneste rapport om EU-Canada-samarbejdet om nordlige spørgsmål blev vedtaget på EU-Canada-topmødet i Ottawa den 19. december 2002. Dokumentet er tilgængeligt på: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/canada/sum12_02/index.htm#3.

fyldstgørende indblik i relevante aktiviteter, der var gennemført af andre partnere i den nordlige dimension. Det er vigtigt at få afhjulpet dette problem under gennemførelsen af den anden handlingsplan. I kraft af sin rolle som overordnet koordinator vil Europa-Kommissionen sammenkøre disse årsrapporter og trække på bidrag fra alle partnere.

Ud over disse årsrapporter (og som grundlag for senere rapporter) kan det også være nyttigt at overveje oprettelse af et internetbaseret system, der hele tiden giver de nyeste oplysninger om de vigtigste aktiviteter. For at et sådant system kan være effektivt, må alle partnere yde deres bidrag, og det bør sættes i værk, samtidig med at denne handlingsplan træder i kraft.

Hvis de kan bygge på løbende og fyldstgørende indberetninger vil partnerne i den nordlige dimension løbende kunne kontrollere de fremskridt og resultater, der nås under handlingsplanen. I den forbindelse bør højtstående embedsmænd hvert år indkaldes til møde for at vurdere gennemførelsen af handlingsplanen, se på, hvilke fremskridt der er gjort, og identificere, hvilke områder der trænger til yderligere tiltag. Det vil også være højtstående embedsmænd, der bliver ansvarlige for at give politisk vejledning i, hvordan handlingsplanen gennemføres, og i dens fremtidige udvikling. I den forbindelse vil de højtstående embedsmænd på mødet i 2005 kunne fremsætte anbefalinger vedrørende opfølgningen af den anden handlingsplan og de forhold, der skal behandles efter 2006.

Disse møder for højtstående embedsmænd skal normalt afholdes hvert år om foråret, og de skal være for repræsentanter fra EU-institutionerne, EU-medlemsstaterne, partnerlandene, regionale organer i den nordlige dimension og de internationale finansielle institutioner. Repræsentanter for regionale og lokale myndigheder, fra erhvervslivet og fra civilsamfundet bør også opfordres til at deltage.

For at grupper i civilsamfundet kan deltage i undersøgelsen af, hvilke fremskridt der er gjort under handlingsplanen, vil det også være godt, hvis Det Europæiske Økonomiske og Sociale Udvalg kunne organisere et forum en gang om året om gennemførelsen af handlingsplanen, hvor repræsentanter fra de sociale og økonomiske organisationer, der er repræsenteret i udvalget, kunne samles. De kan bygge på de gode erfaringer, der er gjort med lignende fora, der er afholdt i 2001 og 2003. Ligeledes ville det være fint, hvis EU's Regionsudvalg kunne organisere lignende fora regelmæssigt, hvor repræsentanter fra lokale og regionale myndigheder fra de områder, der er omfattet af den nordlige dimension, kunne samles.

ANNEX 1

The Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, 2004-06

Specific activities to be pursued in addressing the priority objectives

set in the Action Plan

The priority objectives to be addressed under the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan are set out in the main text, for each of the five priority sectors included in the Action Plan. This annex, which represents an integral part of the Action Plan, elaborates on these objectives by setting out the specific activities, in terms of both dialogue and cooperation actions, which Northern Dimension partners will pursue in implementing the Action Plan and addressing these priority objectives.

Many of the activities listed here have been proposed by EU Member States, partner countries or regional bodies in the context of the wide consultation process carried out by the Commission from November 2002 to March 2003. Others have been proposed by the Commission, building on and strengthening existing EU dialogues or programmes. The active implementation of these activities, by Northern Dimension partners as a whole or bilaterally, by the different regional bodies and other stakeholders, will ensure that the wide range of issues covered by the Northern Dimension are most effectively addressed.

The list of activities given here should not however be considered as exhaustive, since there are other initiatives under implementation or being developed by individual partners that can also contribute effectively to the achievement of the key Action Plan objectives. It will be important in reviewing progress towards these objectives that all relevant activities are kept in mind.

In the implementation of all the objectives of the Action Plan, a key role will be played by the EU-Russia PCA dialogue, by Community programmes such as Tacis, Phare and INTERREG, and in the future by Structural Funds (also for the new Member States) and by the activities of all Northern Dimension partners, including regional bodies and other stakeholders.

Northern Dimension activities, by priority objective, 2004-06

1. ECONOMY, BUSINESS, INFRASTRUCTURE

1.1. Trade, Investment promotion and business co-operation

To improve the framework conditions required for the establishment of a favourable business climate, including inter alia the removal of technical and other barriers to trade and investment and enhanced networking and co-operation among the business community across the region.

- Continued effective pursuit by the European Union and the Russian Federation of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement dialogue in fields related to economic reform, regulatory convergence and competition policy. Continued efforts in the framework of the creation of a EU/Russia Common European Economic Space, building on the joint concept which should be agreed by end-2003. This means, inter alia, removal of non-tariff barriers to trade.

To support economic reforms and regulatory convergence in Russia, reinforcing the transparency and predictability of trade relations.

- Enhanced co-operation among all partners to identify and remove obstacles to trade and investment through appropriate studies, benchmarking and reporting.
- Strengthened dialogue, networking and co-operation among the business community across the region (all partners), including notably activities carried out through such bodies as EU-Russian Industrialists' Round Table, the *ScanBelt* project supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the *BaltPartenariat* of the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association.
- Strengthened dialogue, networking and co-operation among consumers' groups and regulatory bodies across the region, building on the work being carried out by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

To promote the creation and development of SMEs, especially Russian SMEs, and their adjustment to the European market. Northern Dimension Partners will work to facilitate SMEs' access to capital, encourage the exchange of best practice and training and promote better knowledge of regulations.

- Continued promotion and development of SMEs on the basis of the European Charter for Small Enterprises, adopted by the Feira European Council in June 2000¹⁶ and the Nordic Charter for Small Innovative Companies, Entrepreneurs and Independent Inventors adopted by the Nordic Ministers of Industry on 7 October 2002.
- Enhanced participation of SMEs and other stakeholders from Member States, acceding countries, Iceland and Norway in the EU Multi-annual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in order to improve the business environment and

¹⁶ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enlargement/charter/index.htm>.

implement the European Charter. This must be done through the exchange of best practice and the stimulation of the debate between public authorities and the business community on the most efficient policy tools and measures to foster business development. Through the European Investment Fund it is now possible for financial institutions in Member States and acceding Countries to operate in the sector of risk capital and borrowing to SMEs. Support is provided by the network of Euro-Info Centres, 68 of which presently cover the Northern Dimension region¹⁷.

- Continued support provided to Nordic SMEs by the Nordic Project Fund (*Nopef* – *Nordic Council of Ministers*), through loans and grants for co-financing of feasibility studies aiming at an investment into a new market. During the period 2004 – 2006 *Nopef* will start at least 300 new feasibility studies in Northwest Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The result will be around 120 new investments, especially in Northwest Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but also in Poland and Ukraine. Russia will in 2004-2006 continue to be the main market of *Nopef* with 25% of the feasibility studies.
- Continued support provided by the CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation in benchmarking and circulating information on best practice through its Internet gateway system¹⁸.
- Pursuit of the stimulation of competitive and innovative business through projects such as CONNECT, supported by INTERREG until May 2005, involving 25 regional technology transfer agencies in Norway, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

To support industrial enterprises in their moves towards more sustainable production, in order to improve economic performance while addressing environmental concerns and offering socio-economic opportunities to the indigenous peoples of the region.

- Continued financial support to be provided by the Nordic Finance Group, consisting of the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), the Northern Development Fund (NDF) and the Nordic Project Fund (*Nopef*) to companies and SMEs working on cleaner production programmes.
- Continued effective implementation of Cleaner Production programmes, such as training courses, introduced in the Russian part of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, under the supervision of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and with financial support from NEFCO Revolving Fund for Cleaner Production.
- Pursuit of dialogue and networking by all Northern Dimension partners on economic incentives and eco-efficiency tools, implementation of international conventions and agreements to promote management of environmental issues in industry.

¹⁷ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/networks/eic/eic.html>.

¹⁸ www.balticmarket.org.

- Continued implementation of initiatives such as the COMPASS project (Competitive Alternatives for Sustainable Private Sector Investments in the Baltic Sea Region) led by Northern German Laender, with INTERREG funding.
- Strengthened attention to be paid by all Northern Dimension partners to indigenous interests in relation to economic activities, and in particular extractive industry, with a view to protecting inherited rights of self-determination, land rights and cultural rights of indigenous peoples of the region.

To facilitate trade and economic relations along the old and new border of the European Union, through the improvement of integrated border management. Clearance time for border crossings of goods should be reduced to a maximum of two hours. Northern Dimension partners will achieve this objective particularly by encouraging the convergence of custom legislation, by fighting corruption, and through the modernisation of border-crossing infrastructure and the rationalisation of procedures at borders.

- Continued effective implementation of Tacis projects assisting the modernisation of border-crossing points along the border of the enlarged Union.
- Continued construction or modernisation of Polish border-crossings, in particular along the border with the Kaliningrad Oblast. Grzechotki – Mamonovo II border crossing and modernisation of Goldap – Gusev crossing.
- Continued construction or modernisation of Lithuanian border-crossings, in particular along the border with the Kaliningrad Oblast. Border inspection posts constructed with Phare assistance in Kybartai (rail) and Panemune (road).
- Enhanced co-operation between Northern Dimension national administrations, in particular through the Task Force II for Customs Co-operation under the Working Group for Economic Co-operation of the BEAC and the CBSS Working Group for Economic Co-operation, the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Conference (BSR-BCCC), the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) and the Business Advisory Council (BAC).
- Implementation of projects such as *Telematics in Foreign Trade Logistics and Delivery Management (TEDIM)*, aimed at developing logistics and related information processing in Baltic Sea region. TEDIM development areas relate to border crossing IT procedures, information management on rail and at sea, logistical service networks and harmonising this potential. Participating companies provide project funding, but funding has also been available from EU TEN Transport, INTERREG, Phare and Tacis.
- Strengthened co-operation for the introduction or improvement of integrated border management with the full engagement of all parties involved, according to the methodology of the *Laufzettel* project, developed within the framework of the *Baltic Sea Customs Conference (BSCC)*.

1.2. Energy

To help develop the electricity and natural gas networks in the Northern Dimension region, thus contributing to the competitive operation of the EU internal energy market and to the security of energy supplies across Europe. Northern Dimension partners will work to improve

the co-ordination of energy production and supply, and to achieve full integration of the accession countries in the EU priority axes for energy networks and into a Common European Energy Market.

- Continued efforts by the European Commission to identify the priorities for energy infrastructures. These will be established in the revised Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Networks (TEN-E), to be adopted by the Commission in 2003. The full integration of the accession countries in the EU priority axes for energy networks will be also analysed in the course of 2003, including the increased transportation of oil by pipelines. The Commission's recent Communication on energy policy for the enlarged European Union¹⁹ sets guidelines to face up to the challenges of growing external energy dependence between the EU and its neighbouring countries. It also examines the need to address infrastructure issues on a regional level, to diversify sources of energy, at both geographical and technological level, and to broaden the basis for energy trade in Europe and its adjoining countries.
- Continued preparations for an electricity connection (Power Bridge) between Lithuania and Poland.
- Further encouragement to the development of mutually beneficial regional electricity market, through European Commission participation in the joint committee of Baltic Sea states on electric power industry BALTREL²⁰, on the basis of the 2002 study: "Towards a Common electricity Market in the Baltic Sea region", which presented an analysis of the main issues for the development of an open electricity market in the Baltic Sea region.
- Further encouragement to the work of Baltic Gas with thirteen participating gas companies to further develop the gas pipeline and gas storage infrastructure in the region.
- Enhanced dialogue in the framework of the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC), encompassing Denmark, Poland, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland. The European Commission is represented by the Directorate General for Energy and Transport.
- Continued implementation of projects such as BalticCHAIN²¹ (funded by the INTERREG Programme) on provision of legislative information to generate concrete projects and establish structures such as a Project Preparation Fund or Guarantee Agencies.

The European Union and the Russian Federation will continue their work to strengthen the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue²², launched at the EU-Russia Summit of October 2000 with the purpose to improve energy cooperation.

¹⁹ Commission Communication *On the Development of Energy Policy for the Enlarged European Union its neighbours and partner countries*, COM(2003)262 Final of 13 May 2003.

²⁰ BALTREL – Baltic Ring Electricity Co-operation Committee, gathering 18 organisations with operations in 11 countries. For more information : <http://www.baltrel.com/>.

²¹ BalticCHAIN – Baltic Clearing House and Information Network

²² http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/en/lpi_en_3.html.

- Continued EU-Russia dialogue and implementation of joint projects in the following areas: improvement of the energy legal framework, security of the energy transport networks, new energy transport infrastructure, legal security for long term energy supplies, technology co-operation and energy efficiency.
- Identification and development of opportunities for energy saving initiatives in the Russian Federation using Kaliningrad, Archangelsk and Astrakhan (the latter outside the Northern Dimension region) as pilot regions. A huge potential for energy saving exists in the Russian Federation amounting to an estimated annual saving of 400 Million ton oil equivalent (Mtoe).
- Implementation of the North European Gas Pipeline²³, which is part of one of the EU's TEN-E priority axes and also one of the projects defined as being of "common interest" in the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue. An important element of the North European Gas Pipeline is the possibility of building spur lines, from the main trunk, connecting with the Swedish East Coast close to Stockholm and to the Kaliningrad Oblast. Spur lines to the new Member States should also be taken into consideration.

To ensure that the development and utilisation of energy resources will be made more efficient and environmentally friendly, Northern Dimension partners will also endeavour to ensure safe transportation of energy materials, to explore the possibilities for increased use of renewable energy and to establish a testing ground for flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol in the Baltic Sea Region.

- Continued attention to be paid to the safe transport of oil by ship from ports at the Baltic Sea, such as, Ventspils in Latvia and Butinge in Lithuania, Primorsk and potentially from Murmansk in Russia. Concrete initiatives to improve the situation are addressed under Maritime Safety (see below). This question will be addressed more globally in the context of the projects of common interest under the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue.
- Continuation of the work of the Energy Efficiency Centres (Murmansk, Kirovsk, Petrozavodsk, and Arkhangelsk), which are also Barents Energy Focal Points. The centres are engaged in a range of promotional and informational activities, and they serve a valuable function as contact points between energy companies, authorities, consultants and lenders.
- Promote and improve the use of wind energy, inter alia through the "Wind Energy in the Baltic Sea Region" INTERREG project, which will run until January 2006, promoted by the Northern German Laender.
- Increased co-operation among all Northern Dimension partners, including local/regional authorities, with a view to establishing a testing ground for flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol in the Baltic Sea Region as an instrument for deepened energy co-operation, investment and policy co-ordination in the whole area.

²³ The North European Gas Pipeline would bring gas from Northern Russia to Germany and then onwards to the Netherlands and the UK.

1.3. Transport

To address bottlenecks and choke points in the Northern Dimension region, creating at the same time an environmentally friendly transport network integrating accession countries. The basis for such a work will be provided by the Commission revision of the Guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and the Commission White Paper “European Transport Policy for 2010”²⁴.

- Continued work of the *High Level Group*, established by the European Commission and chaired by K. Van Miert (former Vice-President of the Commission), composed of representatives from Member States and Accession countries. The Group will assist the Commission with the preparation of a proposal for a far-reaching revision of the Decision (1692/96) related to the Community priorities for the development of the TEN-T.
- Strengthened integration of accession Countries in the TEN-T system, in accordance to the principles and objectives laid out in a Commission Communication to be issued in 2003.
- Strengthened implementation of *Pan-European Corridors and Areas*, notably Pan-European Corridors I and IA (Helsinki to Warsaw and to Gdansk, via Tallinn, Riga and Kaunas), and Corridor IX (Helsinki to St Petersburg, Moscow and Pskov, Kiev, and on to Chisinau and to Alexandroupolis), as well as the links from Kaliningrad and Klaipeda via Vilnius to Minsk.
- Implementation of the satellite navigation system *Galileo*, which can have a huge potential impact on the transport infrastructure in the Northern Dimension region. The shortcomings of currently available satellite navigation services are accentuated under the particular geographic and demographic conditions of the Northern Dimension countries. Support will have to be given by the European Commission and EU Member States to the implementation of Galileo, designed to overcome these shortcomings and to boost innovation in the region. The system will significantly improve the availability of reliable open and protected navigation services for transport and search and rescue operations. Moreover, Galileo will reduce dependence of critical infrastructures (power generation, banking etc) on time synchronisation services of the GPS system controlled solely by the US government.
- Continued implementation of the 2003-2005 Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area (BEATA), aimed at producing a series of studies and plans covering coherently the entire Barents Region (forecasts and models of passenger and freight transport). This will eventually lead to a compilation of national transport investment programs that support the regional perspective and elimination of border constraints. The activities will contribute to the development of an efficient, sustainable transport system focusing on the improvement of necessary east-west transport possibilities in the Barents region. Funding provided by

²⁴ *European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to Decide*, COM(2001)370 final, 12 September 2001, available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/en/lb_en.html.

national and county financial resources and the INTERREG III B programme Baltic Sea Region.

- Promotion of cross-border rail transport, addressing gauge incompatibility through the standardisation of changeable railcar axles. A full-scale, 2-year demonstration project will commence in autumn 2004 on the Finland-Sweden border. When economically feasible, the construction of standard European track gauges (e.g. between the Polish border and Kaunas, Lithuania) could also be considered.

To increase safety levels within all modes of transport. High priority will be attributed, in particular, to maritime safety, with a view to protecting the marine environment from accidents that threaten sea and coastal ecosystems as well as the socio-economic life of populations involved. Scientific research will support such activities.

- Implementation of the Commission proposal²⁵ on accelerated phasing in of double hull oil tankers²⁶, issued following the Prestige accident²⁷. The Commission's proposal is based on three main elements: (1) a provision that heavy fuel and heavy grades of oil cannot be carried in single hull tankers when visiting EU ports, (2) an acceleration of the calendar for the phasing-out scheme for the various categories of single hull tankers and (3) a broader application of the technical inspection regime (the so-called Condition Assessment Scheme or CAS) applying to that type of vessels. Attention will be paid to other maritime safety requirements stemming from the severe ice conditions in some parts of the Baltic.
- Strengthened dialogue and co-operation with Russia, accession countries bordering the Baltic Sea and third countries, since a significant share of the threat of oil spills, which could affect European shores, originates from the transportation of heavy fuel and heavy grades of oil in sub-standard tankers flying the flag of third countries. Such polluting oils shall only be carried by double hull tankers. This is in line with the suggestions made by the Commission in its Communication mentioned above, the Conclusions of Copenhagen European Summit, the Conclusions of the Transport Council of 5–6 December 2002 and the Resolution of the European Parliament of 19 December 2002²⁸.
- Implementation of concrete initiatives such as the INTERREG project “Northern Maritime Corridor (NMC)”, aimed at establishing a closer partnership between national/regional authorities (including port authorities) and with the business community (manufacturers, shippers, oil companies, etc.) to maximise the regional development effect in the north, the south and along the corridor. The Northern Maritime Corridor is essentially the western extension of the Northern Sea Route as defined and long promoted by the Russian Federation. As with the NMC, the Northern Sea Route contains strong elements of economic development, navigational and environmental safety, in particular as oil tanker traffic from Murmansk increases in the future.

²⁵ I.e. amendment of EC Regulation 417/2002

²⁶ COM (2002) 780 final of 20 December 2002

²⁷ COM (2002) 681 final of 3 December 2002

²⁸ PA5 TA PROV (2002) 0629 On measures to alleviate the effects of the Prestige disaster.

- Carrying out of research projects such as ARCOP (ARctic Operational Platform) that commenced in January 2003 under Finnish co-ordination and concerned with maritime transport of oil in Arctic waters or SAPITS (SAfety of northern Pipelines and associated Transport Systems) currently under consideration for Tacis funding.

1.4. Telecommunications and Information Society

To promote the co-ordinated development of telecommunications, information society networks and services in the Northern Dimension region, including the regulatory and administrative framework. A co-ordinated effort should be made to support Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) development in Northwest Russia, to help avoid the development of a technology and infrastructure gap.

- Continued implementation of the Northern eDimension Action Plan (NeDAP) through EU programmes and public/private funding at national and regional level. In particular, implementation of co-operative activities with a clear focus on the following priority action lines:
 - Infrastructure and faster Internet access;
 - Skills and Internet Usage for business, citizens and government; and
 - Stimulating the use of the Internet.
- Effective implementation of NeDAP activities in key sectors such as: High Speed Research Networks and advanced broadband applications, ICT Security, eSkills, eCommerce, eGovernment eIndicators and eEnvironment, needed to strengthen the Northern region's leading position in the Information Technology (IT) sector. Continued dialogue and networking, involving all relevant actors, will also be necessary in order to ensure an adequate follow-up of NeDAP, which expires in 2004.
- Improved planning by governments in the Northern Dimension region and the EU neighbouring countries for the adoption of the Information Society and promotion of new technologies by Governments, Business and Citizens.
- Promotion of policies in EU neighbouring countries designed to attract investments into the IT market and to encourage the development of a pro-competitive regulatory framework in the sectors of telecommunications and electronic commerce and reduce the East-West digital divide
- Promotion and support to regional co-operation for the inter-operability of networks (including research networks) and services in the Northern Dimension region and the EU neighbouring countries, including e-commerce services and electronic signatures.
- Continued implementation of *Nordunet2*, a Nordic Council of Ministers research program on advanced Internet and Internet applications in the sectors of Research and Development.

Bearing in mind the importance of ICT in helping the Northern Dimension region to overcome the disadvantages caused by long distances and a harsh climate, Northern Dimension partners will make every effort to accelerate the transition of the region to an information society, to ensure better living conditions and access to modern services, including telemedicine and e-learning.

- Further promotion of the use of telemedicine by extending a project covering hospitals in Arkhangelsk and Tromsø into other areas of Russia. At present, the project includes building a telemedicine studio in Arkhangelsk, as part of a network of 16 studios in the oblast. Initiative financed by the INTERREG programme, Norway and Russian partners.
- Continued implementation of projects on e-learning such as the Barents Virtual University, the University of the Arctic and the Baltic Sea Virtual Campus, a common systems platform for e-learning and virtual study courses, funded through the INTERREG III B programme.
- Promotion of the eBarents Action Plan to survey the possibilities of access to the Internet in remote areas, facilitate development of broadband networks crossing the borders of the Barents Region and develop a plan for wider dissemination of ICT knowledge.
- Enhanced attention to be paid by all Northern Dimension partners to make sure that plans for developing Telecommunications and Network infrastructure as well as e-business take proper account of the interests of indigenous communities and institutions.

2. HUMAN RESOURCES, EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

2.1. Human Resources, Education and Culture

To promote the creation of a “knowledge-based region” by promoting joint projects, networking and mobility in the fields of education, research, culture and youth and by bringing learning to remote areas through Internet-based tools.

- Continued support to curriculum development, development of teaching methods and material as well as to the improvement of university management through multilateral co-operation projects involving higher education establishments from EU Member States and the Tempus Partner Countries (including the Russian Federation) as well as to the mobility of academic staff in the said countries through the Tempus III programme; continued support to multilateral projects and student mobility in the field of education and vocational training through Community instruments such as Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci which encompass EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries as well as Norway and Iceland. All these programmes will run until 2006
- Continued use of the Nordic Grant Scheme of the Nordic Council of Ministers to develop long-term collaboration projects in the fields of higher education and research, and in the voluntary sector, through the NORDPLUS Neighbour initiative. The focus will be on Nordic languages, culture and society, and environmental technology. Annual funding of €1.3m from 2004-2006 will be

provided by partner countries in the Northern Dimension and the Nordic countries.

- Strengthened co-operation and networking with Russian institutions through the Barents Virtual University²⁹ and the University of the Arctic's multi-lateral structures³⁰.
- Launch and implementation of a NCM Action Plan for Education and Scientific Research co-operation with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Northwest Russia aimed at developing a common Nordic-Baltic region for education and research and to further develop Nordic co-operation with Russian authorities and institutions.
- Strengthened development of curriculum, teaching methods and materials at Kaliningrad State University, offering a model for other Russian institutions, through the EuroFaculty-Kaliningrad Project, funded by Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden in the CBSS framework.
- Strengthened support to the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs, a hub for information distribution and co-ordination for all youth issues, including the development of a regional youth identity and the encouragement of youth involvement in civil society/business. Funding provided by Sweden, Finland, German Estonia, Lithuania, Norway and Russia.
- Continued provision of information on opportunities through the Barents Youth Co-operation Office in Murmansk, co-financed by Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia in the BEAC framework.
- Enhanced mobility for students, teachers, researchers and academic personnel by applying the Swedish experience of the Visby Programme³¹ elsewhere in the Northern Dimension region.
- Promotion of co-operation through the use of e-Learning, Virtual Study facilities and cross-border joint curricula, through the Baltic Sea Virtual Campus, a common systems platform for e-learning and virtual study courses, funded through the INTERREG III B programme.

To promote a dialogue that enables them to develop the region as a dynamic and open cultural area, raising awareness of cultural heritage, including as a promoter for local and regional development.

- In the BEAC framework, preparation of joint actions by national and regional organisations, such as the Barents Regional Council's action plan for multi-lateral co-operation, which includes projects such as the Barents Portal of Cultural Networks and Gateway to Barents, a training centre for project leaders, some of which are funded through INTERREG.

²⁹ <http://www.bvuniversity.org/>.

³⁰ <http://www.uarctic.org/>.

³¹ http://www.si.se/e_visby/2544.cs?dirid=11608.

- Promotion of multilateral co-operation and dialogue on cultural projects around the Baltic Sea through the *Ars Baltica* network³².
- Continued use of the Nordic Council of Ministers Culture Programme for Saami cultural co-operation, for providing grants to young artists, for supporting translation of literature from a Nordic to a Baltic language and vice versa and for supporting seminars on inter-cultural co-operation.
- Strengthened regional co-operation on the basis of the report to be presented by the Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation at the 2003 meeting of Ministers of Culture in St Petersburg, including the establishment of a Baltic Sea Forum, as a platform for effective co-ordination of activities.

2.2. Scientific Research

To improve communication and information exchange among all sectors of the scientific community in Russia (including Kaliningrad) and in the enlarged EU, encouraging at the same time the involvement of young researchers. They will improve the dissemination of information to the scientific community at large in the region and create a mechanism for stimulating co-operation between the many scientific institutes and universities in the North.

- Creation of a *Northern Dimension Research Network for Science and Technology* for the longer-term strengthening and promotion of scientific capacity and co-operation in the north, particularly in view of the enlargement process and the participation of Russia in the 6th EU Framework Programme on Research, Technological Development and Demonstration³³ (RTD).

To strengthen research and technology-development activities, particularly in sectors relating to climate change, environmental protection, sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources, safety and security of energy supplies, maritime safety, social and economic developments in the region.

- Enhanced targeted research within a largely northern European consortium will provide a scientific basis for increasing the safety of ice bound shipping. It is expected that this research will be supported within the thematic research priority 1.6.2 Sustainable Surface Transport, objective 4.11 of the in the 6th EU Framework Programme on Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (RTD) and will provide a major contribution to the establishment of a solid knowledge base for the design and maintenance of ice strengthened vessels operating within northern waters.
- Enhanced support will be provided for the integration of risk based ship design. This will focus on strategies and technologies to improve maritime safety in terms of new ship designs, operational procedures and risk-based regulations. A systematic and all-embracing approach to ship safety will lead to a strategic overview of safety and effective use of critical technologies. Important for the environment and also for the northern shipping industry. The participation of

³² <http://www.ars-baltica.net/>.

³³ More information on the 6th EU Framework Programme on RTD is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html.

Russia and Baltic countries is possible within the financial rules of 6th EU Framework Programme on Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (RTD).

- Enhanced research activity in the High-North, building inter alia on UK research into the role of the high-latitude ocean in decadal climate variability, the sensitivity of marine eco-systems to environmental change, fluctuations in the mass of sea ice and ice sheets, and the role of boreal forests in the Earth System.
- Strengthened emphasis on the circumpolar Arctic through *International Polar Year (2007)*. Discussions are already underway in the international scientific community to define priorities and collaborative efforts. Activities of interest are related to climate change and its impacts, adaptation measures, indigenous communities, pollution pathways, new technologies, etc. In particular, Russia aims to play a strong and visible role in the IPY and is supported in this aim by the European Commission.
- Development of the knowledge required to establish a more harmonised and effective monitoring regime for illicit oil discharges through the OCEANIDES project (3-year duration) that commenced in December 2002 as a contribution to environmental protection in the entire maritime territories of Germany in the Baltic and North Seas and part of the Finnish maritime territory in the Baltic Sea. Co-ordinated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the project includes German, Finnish, Norwegian and British partners.
- Improved effectiveness of fisheries monitoring in the Baltic through a 3-year JRC project to commence during 2003. Providing support to the enlargement process, customers are the fisheries monitoring authorities of Latvia, Poland, Lithuania as well as Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Germany. The effort will focus on integration of monitoring technologies (remote sensing, JRC software tools and modelling activities relating to cod stocks in the Baltic Sea).
- Strengthened international networking on sustainability research, through the Virtual Research Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and the Baltic 21 Institute for Sustainable Industry.

2.3. Public Health

To address the challenges linked to the fight against major communicable diseases, and particularly tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. In addition to this, special attention will be paid to health problems in children and young people, addressing also the social and economic roots of such diseases.

- Enhanced dialogue and effective implementation of concrete activities through the Task Force on Communicable Diseases Control established in the CBSS framework, through which 150 projects have been undertaken involving regional organisations in disease surveillance, HIV and tuberculosis control, prevention of antimicrobial resistance, support to primary health care and health in prisons.
- Implementation of the BEAC 2003-2007 programme on health and related social issues, principally funded by participating countries.

- Establishment of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing and rapid implementation of concrete projects in the region to address the problems related to communicable and lifestyle-related chronic diseases. Building on a joint concerted action at international level, the Partnership will strongly emphasise the necessity of *prevention*, working to re-orient public policies and strategies as well as health and social services. The Partnership will have to integrate some existing co-operation systems and structures, with a view to maximising their overall effectiveness on a regional scale.
- Implementation of region-wide projects covering EU Member States, accessing countries, Iceland and Norway on improving information and knowledge on public health issues, enhance the capability of responding rapidly and in a co-ordinated way to health threats, promote health and prevent disease by addressing the health determinants.
- Enhanced exchange of information among all partners of the region on the promotion of healthier lifestyles, the role of education and training on health of children/young people. Development of high quality statistics comparable between countries through the NCM committees on health and social statistics.
- Implementation of some 400 projects between 2004-2006 through the NCM Action Plan for Children and Youth in the 3 Baltic Countries and Russia, to improve the health of children in Russia, particularly street/prison children. Funding provided by central and local authorities and partner NGOs.
- Strengthened co-operation between the 5 Nordic countries, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and North West Russia in the framework of a Partnership and Action Plan on combating use of narcotic drugs, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

To enhance and extend international cooperation on public health issues beyond communicable diseases as such, in order to address also the social determinants of health problems, the impact of the environment on citizens' health and the structural reform of health services across the region.

- Promotion of the establishment of a Northern Dimension partnership in Public Health and Social wellbeing to support concerted and wide-ranging joint actions to overcome the serious health and social problems in the area. The partnership could reinforce wide collaboration of countries, organisations, financial institutions, business and industry, communities and civil society. It should be based on long-term sustained commitments by equal partners, with initial impetus coming from the Northern Dimension partner countries themselves.
- Through the 6th EU Framework Programme on RTD and national research programmes, promotion of research on the relationship between the environment, pollution and health, notably by monitoring human exposure to mercury, persistent organic pollutants and other chemicals.

3. ENVIRONMENT, NUCLEAR SAFETY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1. Environment

To strengthen the EU-Russia dialogue on environmental issues in the framework of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement, and work for the full respect of international conventions on environment.

- Enhanced co-operation of all partners to ensure convergence of environmental legislation, standards and norms throughout the region, including Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Improved enforcement of laws, environmental monitoring and capacity building of environmental administration at regional level in Northwest Russia.
- Enhanced commitment of all partners for the implementation of the HELCOM³⁴ Copenhagen Declaration on maritime safety and reduced pollution and the rapid ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, UN/ECE Espoo, Aarhus and Stockholm Conventions. Cooperation on Kyoto Protocol implementation, in particular via Joint Implementation projects and via the EU initiative on the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)³⁵, identified as a joint EU-Russia field of cooperation in the space sector³⁶.

To monitor and tackle pollutants throughout the region, principally chemicals, POPs, heavy metals, toxic and urban waste, in order to reduce their impact on the Barents and Baltic Seas, on inland waters and on the Arctic. Particular attention will also be paid to the problem of air pollution and to the promotion of cleaner production systems.

- Enforcement or development of national legislation ensuring convergence with European regulations or directives on (inter alia) chemicals, toxic and urban waste, water and sea pollution, safety of oil transport by sea.
- Enhanced attention to the monitoring of pollutants in the region, on the basis of reports and researches carried out by the European Environment Agency, the Arctic Council, HELCOM and Baltic 21³⁷. Of particular relevance in this framework:
 - AMAP³⁸ monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in the Arctic, studying their effect on Arctic species and integrate information on the effects on health.
 - PAME³⁹ Working Group strategic plan to be developed over next 2 years, led by Iceland and Canada.

³⁴ The Helsinki Commission, or HELCOM, works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental co-operation between Denmark, Estonia, the European Community, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. HELCOM is the governing body of the "Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area" - more usually known as the 1992 Helsinki Convention, entered into force on 17 January 2000. More information available at: <http://www.helcom.fi/>.

³⁵ COM(2001)609 final

³⁶ A joint statement was signed in 2001 between the European Commission, the European Space Agency and the Russian Aviation and Space Agency under the EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA).

³⁷ More information on Baltic 21, the CBSS initiative aimed at developing and implementing a regional Agenda 21 in the Baltic Sea Region is available at: <http://www.ee/baltic21/>.

³⁸ Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, a working group of the Arctic Council (<http://www.amap.no/>).

- Update of the NEFCO/AMAP report on priority environmental hot spot in the Russian part of the Barents region, to be presented by NEFCO in August 2003.
- Continued implementation of projects financed in the framework of EU programmes such as Tacis, LIFE and INTERREG. Among others:
 - Tacis €24 M contribution to the construction of a South West Wastewater Treatment Plant in St Petersburg. Support to similar activities in Kaliningrad.
 - Improve Water Quality Management in coastal zones through INTERREG project due for completion by 2005.
 - Integrate coastal zone development through “BaltCoast” INTERREG project, due for completion in 2005.
- Implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP), aimed at reducing pollution in the Baltic Sea catchment area in order to restore the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea. Participants: HELCOM Contracting Parties, other countries in the catchment area, NGOs and IFIs. Individual Hot Spot owners in co-operation with local, regional, national programmes and international donors and financing institutions finance the activities encompassed by the programme.
- Implementation of projects in the framework of the 2001-2004 Nordic Environmental Action Plan of the Nordic Council of Ministers Projects, including inter alia:
 - Nordic-Baltic co-operation on chemicals: EU Accession Support Workshop Programme on actual Chemicals Control Issues, in the framework of the Baltic countries Regional Projects on Chemicals Control (BACCON).
 - Air Quality Assessment in the Baltic Countries, as a Consequence of Local Pollution and Long Range Transport – a Co-operation between Nordic and Baltic Countries within the Framework of EMEP’s 20 Years Assessment⁴⁰.
- Implementation of the Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution in the Arctic⁴¹, established by the Arctic States, entailing several projects including on cleaner production, and control/elimination of PCBs, obsolete pesticides and dioxins.

To make full use of multilateral funding mechanisms, such as the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership and the Nordic Environmental Development Fund.

- Continued effective implementation of the projects included in the “Environmental Window” of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership

³⁹ Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, a working group of the Arctic Council (<http://www.pame.is/>).

⁴⁰ EMEP: Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Europe

⁴¹ More information on the *Arctic Council Action Plan To Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic* (ACAP) is available at: <http://www.arctic-council.org/activities.html#acap>.

Support Fund. Strengthened dialogue and co-operation among the International Financial Institutions operating in the region, and especially NIB, EBRD, EIB and NEFCO.

- Implementation of environmental projects in the framework of the Nordic Environmental Development Fund (NMF) established by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 1995 and managed by NEFCO. The fund has a total capital of approximately € 40 million. The annual contribution to the fund amounts to around € 5 million. The fund is intended to complement and supplement other financing organisations, particularly IFIs and bilateral sources. Local participation in the financing is required.

3.2. Nuclear Safety

To implement the projects included in the Nuclear Window of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership Support Fund without delay, following the signature of the agreement establishing a Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Programme in the Russian Federation (MNEPR). Priority will be given to the management of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste, decommissioning of nuclear facilities and nuclear powered submarines.

- Conclusion and implementation of the MNEPR agreement, which provides for the necessary legal framework for carrying out multilateral and bilateral nuclear-related projects in the Russian Federation.
- Effective and rapid implementation of the first projects encompassed by the Nuclear Window of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership Support Fund, including⁴²:
 - Infrastructure at Andreeva Bay;
 - Spent nuclear fuel management at Andreeva Bay;
 - Building 5 at Andreeva Bay;
 - Radioactive waste management at Andreeva Bay;
 - The Lapse;
 - Interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel;
 - Interim storage facility for radioactive waste;
 - Repository for short and intermediate level short-lived radioactive waste (at Novaya Zemlya);
- Continued implementation of bilateral (mainly Norwegian-Russian) projects to support the dismantling of Russian submarines and infrastructure development for clean up at Andreeva Bay.

⁴² More information on the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, including details on the projects mentioned in the text is available at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/ndep/infomemo.pdf.

- Continued implementation of the programme for the decommissioning of the Ignalina (Lithuania) nuclear power plant.

To strengthen monitoring and the protection of environment from radiation through increased co-operation, including improved co-ordination of national plans for dealing with nuclear safety incidents in the region.

- Strengthened networking and exchange of information between the members of the CBSS on radiation monitoring data, on the basis of the Agreement signed at the CBSS Ministerial meeting held in Hamburg on 7 June 2001. Continued implementation of such agreement through the CBSS Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, including common communication exercises with the CBSS countries and CEC as participants.
- Strengthened national emergency plans, with priority given to preparedness of coherent and integrated international actions within the region and increased civilian co-operation with Russia to improve safety and safeguarding of nuclear installations and waste sites.
- Enhanced role of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Arctic Council in monitoring the radiation levels in the Arctic region and providing scientific advice to decision-makers on the initiatives to be taken to combat effectively these problems.

3.3. Natural Resources

To help ensure that Nordic and Arctic eco-systems and their bio-diversity shall remain viable, vigorous and able to sustain human socio-economic needs, and to encourage the responsible and sustainable utilisation of forests and fish stocks, with the active participation of local actors, communities, SMEs and indigenous peoples in the decision-making process.

- Implementation of projects within the framework of the Nordic Environment Programme for Agriculture and Forestry of the Nordic Council of Ministers, including:
 - Methanoxidation as integrated environment indicator;
 - Status for environmental regulations of Agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region;
 - Traditional Rural Biotopes and Landscapes- Management in the Nordic and Baltic Countries.
- Implementation of projects in the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS) of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Such activities include, among others:
 - Technology and the Nordic Forest Sector (a pilot study for 2003);
 - Nordic IUFRO thinning experiments in Norway spruce (2003-2005);
 - The potential of Larch wood for exterior use (2003-2005);

- Structural timber quality in Norway spruce: Genetic variation and rapid measurement technique (2003-2005).
- Ensured follow up on the EU initiative on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in the Northern Dimension area.
- Continued development of the NOVA-BOVA University, a Nordic Council of Ministers platform for Nordic co-operation and for exploring new ways to forge a networking university without boundaries) NOVA University - The Nordic forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University - is a platform for efficient and innovative Nordic co-operation, exploring new ways to forge a networking university without boundaries. The BOVA University includes NOVA and the Baltic countries. The aims of BOVA is the same as for NOVA. The BOVA secretariat is placed in Lithuania.
- Enhanced promotion of the role of regional/local administrations, SMEs, NGOs and organisations of indigenous peoples in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

4. CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

To implement cross-border co-operation initiatives principally on priority themes such as economic and social development, environmental protection, transport and telecommunication, border crossings and border management, public health, and cultural exchanges.

- Enhanced co-operation in the framework of the present INTERREG III programmes on the Northern Dimension Area, including the participation of the Russian partners.
- Support provided to the new INTERREG programmes to be set up in the area after 2004, especially those covering the new external border of the EU. Use as an example the existing well functioning structures on the external border. These INTERREG programmes more fully into the implementation of the Northern Dimension as well on the policy level as on the project level.
- Continued EU financial support for border crossings on the external borders of the EU on the Northern Dimension area with a view of facilitating legal movements of goods and people and prevention of illegal migration and smuggling.
- Continued efforts to develop within these programmes joint projects with a genuine cross border or regional character, such as:
 - "The Gulf of Finland Growth Triangle" introduces a new concept of regional and economic co-operation. The aim of the concept is to promote public-private co-operation, trade and economic development between Southern Finland, Estonia and the St. Petersburg Area, i.e. across current and future external EU borders.
 - "Baltic +": Southern Baltic Sea with participation of regions from Sweden, Germany, Poland (duration until 2005).

- “Via Baltica Nordica Development Zone”: Northern & Eastern Baltic Sea involving regions from Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Kaliningrad Oblast (duration until 2005).
- “SEAGULL DevERB”: South-Eastern Baltic Sea, a project related to Euroregion Baltic: local and regional authorities from Sweden, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Kaliningrad (duration until 2005).
- “Baltic Palette II”: Central & Eastern Baltic Sea with regions from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, as well as the Leningrad Oblast and St Petersburg (duration until 2004).
- South Baltic Arc”: Southern Baltic Sea coast participation of regions from Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and the Kaliningrad Oblast (duration until 2004).
- “STRING II”: South-Western Baltic Sea involving regions from Germany, Denmark, Sweden (duration until 2004).
- “Metropolitan Areas (MA+)”: Strengthening competitiveness of metropolitan areas including regions and municipalities from Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland as well as St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast (duration until 2005).
- “Rural Development Connection”: Stimulate development in rural areas with the participation of regions and municipalities from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (duration until 2005).
- “The PIPE project”: Attracting and involving youth for development in rural areas with regions from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania plus the region of Murmansk (duration until 2004).
- BALTCOAST especially its part (subproject) “The Vistula Lagoon / Baltijsk Spit -common vision and ways of harmonisation different demands”. The Project aims at demonstrating practical ways how to simultaneously promote development and protection. The Project is led by Ministry of Labour and Construction of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany) and covers the coastal, as well as offshore, areas all over the Baltic Sea (especially in Denmark, Germany, Finland, Poland, Sweden, Latvia, and Estonia).

To strengthen co-ordination among funding programmes operated by the European Union and by other sources, including international financial institutions and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Russian Federation shall be involved in the co-financing of activities as much as possible. The European Commission will make every effort to improve the co-ordination of EU programmes, and particularly Tacis and INTERREG.

- Strengthened co-ordination between national, international and EU financing of cross border and regional activities on the Northern Dimension Area.
- Continued efforts for the further consolidation of co-ordination between relevant EU instruments which promote cross border and regional co-operation on the Northern Dimension area including the possibility of creating a new

Neighbourhood Instrument which builds on the positive experiences of promoting cross-border co-operation within the Phare, Tacis and INTERREG programmes.

To further stimulate the close involvement of local actors, communities and administrations in the whole process in order to strengthen subsidiarity and local ownership of projects. Better results will be achieved by building on existing examples of tri-partite co-operation and by using the expertise of regional and sub-regional bodies such as the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation, the Union of Baltic Cities, the Barents Regional Council.

- Continued co-operation in the framework of the regional and sub-regional bodies to develop the local and regional administration in the neighbouring Northwest regions of Russia. In this context the possibilities offered by the Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBBP), which is funded under the Tacis Programme and aims at encouraging the submission of projects proposals by NGOs, Non Profit Organisations and local/regional authorities should be fully exploited as well as the different twinning programmes. The new INTERREG programme “Interact” could play a key role in this.

To address the key challenges faced by the Kaliningrad region in its future development as an exclave surrounded by the European Union. The EU, the Russian Federation and other partners will work on the implementation of cross-border projects dealing with economic and social development, environmental issues, health issues, the fight against organised crime as well as adequate infrastructure on the border crossings and efficient border management.

- Development and effective implementation of the trilateral Poland-Lithuania-Russia INTERREG III A programme on the Kaliningrad region to be set up in 2004 in order to ensure the full commitment of the Kaliningrad regional and local authorities to this programme.
- Cross border co-operation on this area to be promoted inter alia through:
 - A joint regional development plan for the whole area on the basis of the INTERREG III A programme.
 - Enhanced co-operation in the framework of the Lithuanian- Russian “Nida” initiative and the trilateral (Lithuania, Russia, Poland) INTERREG programme.
 - Provision of adequate Tacis funding to the projects related to this trilateral INTERREG programme through the Special Package for Kaliningrad.
 - Continued financial support for the border crossings between Kaliningrad and Poland and Lithuania.

5. JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

5.1. Prevention and fight against organised crime

To improve the co-ordination among national administrations and police forces in order to optimise the use of resources, develop concrete operational measures between the EU and Russia, and increase the effectiveness of law enforcement co-operation.

- Rapid and effective implementation of EU-Russia Action Plan against organised crime. Use of the Community Programme AGIS⁴³ to help legal practitioners, law enforcement officials and representatives of victim assistance services from the EU Member States and accession countries to set-up Europe-wide networks, exchange information and best practices in the field of cooperation in criminal matters.
- Implementation of the Tacis 1 M€ project on organised crime in Kaliningrad, which will promote multi-disciplinary cooperation in the region.
- Strengthened co-operation between the Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea and other multilateral fora, in order to avoid duplication and improve the overall effectiveness of the actions in the region.
- Continued dialogue and networking between Nordic Council and Baltic States in the framework of Nordic-Baltic Co-operation, focusing in particular on legislation shaping, co-operation between the supreme courts and training in this area, fight against trans-national organised crime (including fight against terrorism and cyber crime, bio terrorism and money laundering), co-operation between prisons (NORD-BALT follow-up) and trafficking in human beings. The ministers will meet regularly. A Nordic-Baltic Contact group with representatives from the Ministries of Justice plans and co-ordinates the 5+3 meetings and are responsible for the various implementation of actions decided by the ministers. Such actions involve seminars, conferences and networks. The Nordic Council of Ministers has also financed a co-operation between prison administrations in northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.
- Continued support for police forces in the Baltic States, Kaliningrad and St Petersburg (e.g. through training, transfer of knowledge, combat of organised crime and trafficking) from the Ministries of the Interior of Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.
- Continued co-operation between the penitentiary authorities in Archangelsk and Schleswig-Holstein on e.g. modernising the penitentiary, training of personnel, transfer of knowledge and expertise, material support.

To address as a priority trafficking in human beings and drugs and tackle crime targeting children and women.

- Exploration of the possibilities offered by the Community Programme Daphne⁴⁴ to implement activities in the field of the fight against violence on women.
- Implementation of the 1 M€ Tacis Trafficking in Women project in Russia.
- Prioritisation of co-operative work on reducing the risk to children's safety from emerging technologies, on the basis, inter alia, of the proposals elaborated by the

⁴³ More information on the EU AGIS Programme is available at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/agis/funding_agis_en.htm.

⁴⁴ More information on the EU Daphne Programme is available at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm.

Council of the Baltic Sea States Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk.

- Implementation of anti-trafficking public and media campaign in Murmansk oblast, including seminars and training, through SIDA⁴⁵ funding.
- Strengthened dialogue and development of appropriate measures in the context of the Nord-Baltic Co-operation between Nordic Council and Baltic countries.
- Implementation of Nordic-Baltic Contact group seminars, conferences and networks. The Nordic Council of Ministers has also financed co-operation between prison administrations in northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.
- Delivery of co-operation programme against prostitution and trafficking in women, under the Swedish chairmanship of the Nordic Council of Ministers, planned for 2003-2004. A survey of the situation concerning prostitution and trafficking in women and of existing initiatives in the Region will be followed by projects aimed at strengthening the situation of victims and potential victims and at discouraging the demand for sexual services from women and children.

5.2. Integrated border management

To combat illegal immigration and other cross-border crime through improved and integrated border management.

- Strengthened regional co-operation on issues such as the return of illegal migrants between the participating countries, implementation of the migration and asylum policy, detention of illegal migrants, first contact standards for asylum seekers, issues related to the implementation of an EU-Russia readmission agreement when signed.
- Implementation of Polish modernisation of its border crossings in 2003-2005, with a view to prevention of illegal migration and smuggling of goods, as well as shortened waiting times. Along border with Kaliningrad, Poland to start construction of Grzechotki-Mamonovo II border crossing and modernisation of Gołdap-Gusev crossing.
- Implementation of the Tacis projects on modernisation of the border crossing points in Kibarti - Chernyshevsky (8 M€) and Bezledy - Bagrationovsk (3 M€).
- Implementation of bilateral pilot projects aimed at reducing number of authorities directly present at the border, launched in the Barents Region, jointly financed on a cost-sharing basis by participating states, in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council framework.
- Implementation of proposal for Polish Border Guards to invite Russian partners to study experience of German-Polish border and consider the possibility of using parts of this experience at their border.

⁴⁵ Swedish International Development Agency

- Promotion of the measures exemplified by the trilateral border management co-operation structures between Finland, Estonia and Russia and between Finland, Norway and Russia.

5.3. Civil Protection

To improve and encourage the convergence of safety procedures, promoting at the same time civil protection, good governance and direct public participation in project planning.

- Continued effective implementation of the EUROBALTIC Programme (INTERREG IIIB) for Civil Protection, aimed at improving the regional capacity to protect human life, the environment and cultural heritage.
- Implementation of Barents Euro-Arctic Council-promoted Barents Rescue 2001 follow-up project to prevent and limit consequences of accidents in the Barents Region, to clarify and simplify applicable legal/administrative frameworks, to develop a map of present emergency and rescue resources in the Region and establish a list of regional contact points, to compile clear and simple instruction manuals in all relevant languages for request/provision of rescue assistance and to develop and deepen contacts between actors with emergency and rescue responsibilities. Project to last from January 2003-December 2005. Total budget €689,636, funded from INTERREG III A programme Kolarctic with co-financing from Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden (€589,636). Additionally, €100,000 applied for from INTERREG III B programme Baltic Sea Region within the Barents Regional Council's umbrella project "Barents 2010".
- In the EUROBALTIC framework, enhanced co-operation among emergency and rescue services to improve regional capacity to prevent and respond to natural and man-made disasters, support for institution and human capacity building and promotion of the transfer of expertise on information technology and decision-making support systems.
- Active support for joint projects in the frame of the existing bilateral co-operation agreement between Kaliningrad and the Schleswig-Holstein State Parliament (Landtag), including seminars and traineeships for civil servants and parliamentarians on e.g. legislation, political, public or civil society.

ANNEX 2

List of abbreviations

AC	Arctic Council
AGIS	Community Framework Programme for the co-operation in criminal matters and the fight against crime
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
BAC	Business Advisory Council
BALTREL	Baltic Ring Electricity Co-operation Committee
BASREC	Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation
BCCA	Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association
BEAC	Barents Euro-Arctic Council
BEATA	Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area
BSCC	Baltic Sea Customs Conference
BSR-BCCC	Baltic Sea Region Border Control Conference
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States
CEES	EU/Russia Common European Economic Space initiative
Daphne	Community Programme to combat violence against children, young people and women
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMEP	Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Europe
EU	European Union
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FP	Framework Programme
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
IBBP	Institution Building Partnership Programme
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFIs	International Financial Institutions

INTERREG	Community programme aiming to stimulate inter-regional cooperation within the EU
IPY	International Polar Year
IT	Information Technology
JHA	Justice and Home Affairs
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LIFE	EU Financial Instrument for the Environment
MNEPR	Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Programme in the Russian Federation
NCM	Nordic Council of Ministers
ND	Northern Dimension
NDEP	Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership
NDF	Northern Development Fund
NeDAP	Northern eDimension Action Plan
NEFCO	Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIB	Nordic Investment Bank
NMC	Northern Maritime Corridor
NMF	Nordic Environmental Development Fund
Nopef	Nordic Project Fund
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Programme
PCA	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
Phare	Community assistance programme for the Central European candidate countries
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RTD	Research, Technological Development and Demonstration
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SNS	Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee

Tacis	Community Technical Assistance programme for the Commonwealth of Independent States
TEN-E	Trans-European Energy Network
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WTO	World Trade Organisation