



“Three of the Arctic Council eight are now members of the European Union. For the new two, Sweden and Finland, the EU exerts a powerful new pull of economic, and perhaps eventually, political integration. The EU is in the midst of massive undertakings; a common currency, expansion to the East and structural reform. None of these need negate Nordic interest in pushing ahead in the Arctic, priorities will be set for foreign policy in the Nordic countries. And while all of the Nordic EU members can claim a history of more dynamic in their “Norths” than can Canada, the big pull right now is South. Not so in Norway, which having decided to eschew the EU, has, among the eight, set the highest priority on the Arctic Council”

Bilateral Relations

Policy Options

- 4.1 To maximize the effectiveness of its environmental assistance programs to Russia, Canada should emphasize the strengthening of human and scientific capacity via scientific exchanges and technology transfers. (Quebec)
- 4.2 Through the Canada-Russia Agreement Canada should seek to unite international expertise in the North to utilize that expertise (“brain power”) that already exists. (Edmonton)
- 4.3 Canada needs to continue dialogue with the U.S. outside of established fora to try to resolve Canada-U.S. differences including whaling, sealing and environmental issues in general. (Iqaluit)
- 4.4 Participants agreed that international circumpolar exchanges for Inuit/northern peoples should be a priority, and that barriers to such activities should be reduced. One suggestion was that circumpolar passport requirements, between Canada and Greenland specifically, be reviewed. Immigration requirements impede travel among families who are separated by barriers (borders) perceived as artificial and sometimes not accepted. Immigration requirements also impede skill exchanges through such things as teacher exchanges, because of barriers to temporary employment in Canada. (Iqaluit)

