



# EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue

14-15 May 2024  
Brussels

**Brussels, Belgium, Charlemagne building, 170 Rue De La Loi**  
*(Panel themes and descriptions are tentative – final content may change)*

## EU ARCTIC FORUM – 14 MAY

14 MAY (MORNING)

### The EU in the Arctic: an expanded outlook

International cooperation in the Arctic is more important than ever. The increasing interest in the region by non-Arctic states is illustrated by numerous actions and dedicated policies. However, Europe has a long history of engagement in and with the Arctic. In this panel, high-level representatives from Arctic and non-Arctic EU Member States will present their views and discuss possibilities for enhancing international cooperation in the Arctic, from a European perspective.

### Thriving Arctic ecosystems

Climate change is the most comprehensive and existential threat the Arctic faces, and it has reached an unprecedented crisis point. The dire consequences, exacerbated by environmental degradation, extend to the whole planet, and profoundly affect nature and people in multiple ways, some of which are only just becoming apparent. This panel examines ways to overcome these challenges, with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as solutions for the sustainable use of land and marine resources.

14 MAY (AFTERNOON)

### The way forward for Arctic entrepreneurship and sustainability

Arctic development is driven by both local economic forces and initiatives as well as increasing global demand for products from Arctic sources. It is also fostered by local and regional political support and enabled by opening opportunities. At the same time, economic development in the Arctic is sometimes limited by lack of infrastructure and skilled workers. In this panel, Arctic entrepreneurs and local decisionmakers discuss how they navigate those challenges, and how economic development in the Arctic can be made both sustainable and inclusive, maximising the benefits of the green and digital transitions, enhancing circularity, promoting innovation and attractiveness, fostering prosperity and well-being, and taking into account the interests of those living in the Arctic.

### Emergency Management in the Arctic

Increasing interest in Arctic resources, infrastructure, transport, and tourism requires enhanced safety and security systems. However, as human activities in the region increase, hazards linked to climate change such as wildfires, floods or extreme weather also increase. This increases risks for people and the environment. Hence, civil protection, emergency preparedness and response or maritime search and rescue operations are becoming more relevant in the Arctic context. This panel focuses on how emergency response capacities can be strengthened and what is the EU's role in this process.

### Research in and for the Arctic

International scientific and technological cooperation is essential for the Arctic to understand and cope with the changes the region undergoes, and for the rest of the world to understand climate change and the interconnected Earth systems. This panel examines the EU's support to science, research and innovation activities in and for the Arctic, the ways to further strengthen them, and to make EU research more participatory, including active engagement with local and indigenous communities.



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DIALOGUE – 15 MAY

15 MAY (MORNING)

## Diverse, Just and Inclusive Arctic Societies

People are the key to sustainable development and resilient societies. The Arctic is rich and diverse in terms of ethnicities, cultures, identities, governance, demographics, migration patterns and social realities. This panel focuses on inclusiveness as a process and a goal to create safe and resilient societies as well as to attract and retain newcomers.

## Arctic resources and Indigenous voices

Climate change and its impacts remain the largest threat to the Arctic and the world. Climate change also negatively feeds into environmental challenges such as resource depletion, pollution, and biodiversity loss. This panel examines these challenges, with a focus on sustainable energy production and resource use through the lens of Indigenous peoples' voices and experiences.

## Weaving traditional knowledge into international processes

Engaging with people living in the Arctic is key to building sustainable and resilient cooperation with international partners. This panel discusses how Indigenous peoples have contributed to the international scene by sharing their experiences and traditional knowledge, and how traditional knowledge can support international processes.



# ARCTIC YOUTH DIALOGUES\* – 15 MAY

15 MAY (AFTERNOON)

## The first EU Arctic Youth Dialogue from a youth perspective: Impressions, outcomes and policy recommendations

Youth and project partners present the objectives of the *Youth Together for Arctic Futures* project, share impressions from activities leading to the session, and deliver youth recommendations for EU Arctic policy based on participatory workshops and an interactive session with EU policy makers.

## Youth engagement in action

Youth and policymakers from the Arctic and EU share their experience in co-decision making processes in a storytelling format.

## Thematic coffee break

Policymakers and youth engage in conversations around the theme *The power of youth?! - Youth involvement and youth co-decision making in the Arctic and Europe*, exchanging views, sharing experiences and developing new ideas.

## Ensuring the uptake of youth recommendations in policymaking

A dialogue between policymakers and youth looking into how youth recommendations already are and can be further included into relevant processes, sharing experiences and discussing possible ways forward.

Listening to the youth - how can the EU ensure that youth recommendations developed during Arctic Youth Dialogues impact policies?

## Concluding session

*\*The EU-Arctic Youth Dialogues are held back-to-back to the EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue. The EU-Arctic Youth Dialogues is funded by the European Union as part of a large initiative, and organized and delivered by a consortium led by the WWF Global Arctic Programme (WWF Sweden), in cooperation with the Arctic Youth Network, the European Youth Parliament (Schwarzkopf-Stiftung Junges Europa) and its Norway Alumni Association, the Saami Council, Arctic Mayors' Forum, Tromsø commune, the University of Tromsø, and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists. The EU-Arctic Youth Dialogues have been envisioned and implemented with Arctic and European youth as co-creators, with notable involvement of Arctic Indigenous youth.*