



# EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous People's Dialogue

14-15 May 2024  
Brussels

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Brussels, Belgium, Charlemagne building, 170 Rue De La Loi

Draft Agenda

### EU Arctic Forum – 14 May

*Master of ceremony: Raphaël Goulet, Head of the Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, Arctic Policy Unit, European Commission*

08:00-08:30 Registration and welcome coffee

08:30-09:00 **Welcome and opening**

Opening messages by the European Union

09:00-10:40 **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.

Facilitator: Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy-Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Speakers:

- Tobias Elling Rehfeld, Ambassador, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Petteri Vuorimäki, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Louise Calais, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- Franziska Hagedorn, Head of Division for Arctic Policy, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and UK, Foreign Office of Germany
- Carlos Lopez Ortiz, Deputy Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain
- René van Hell, Arctic Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- Piotr Rakowski, Senior Advisor for Arctic Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
- Carmine Robustelli, Special Envoy for the Arctic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

10:40-11:10 Coffee Break

11:10-12:15 **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.

Moderator: Vassilis Dokalis, International Relations Officer, European Commission

Speakers:

- Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General for Environment, European Commission
- Kirsti Mijnhijmer, Head of Secretariat, Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme
- Birgitta Larsson, Mayor of Gällivare, Sweden
- Rolf Rodven, Executive Secretary, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Arctic Council
- Olavur Gregersen, CEO, Ocean Rainforest

12:15-13:45 Standing Lunch

13:45-15:00 **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.

Moderator: Clara Ganslandt, EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters, European External Action Service

Speakers:

- Moray Gilland, Head of Unit, Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation and Enlargement, European Commission
- Jillian Verbeurgt, Co-founder and Chief Technology and Product Officer, GreenBytes
- Carina Sammeli, Mayor of Lulea, Sweden
- Katarina Sætersdal, Senior Advisor, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise
- Hanna Moen Reinsnes, Founder, Gobmi

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:30 **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.

Moderator: Miguel Roncero, International Relations Officer (EU Arctic policy), European Commission

Speakers:

- Spyros Afentoulidis, Team Leader, Contingency Planning, Analysis and Situational Awareness, European Commission
- Ole Kristian Bjerkemo, Chair, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group, Arctic Council
- Tonje Johansen, Advisor, Saami Council
- Kerry Thistle, Director, Economic Development & Strategy for the City of Yellowknife, Canada
- Christina Corbane, Deputy Head of Unit of the Disaster Risk Management Unit, Leader of the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, European Commission

16:30-17:30 **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.

Moderator: Clara Ganslandt, EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters, European External Action Service

Speakers:

- Elisabetta Balzi, Head of Unit, Ocean, Seas and Waters, European Commission
- Nicole Biebow, EPB Chair, AWI-EU PolarNet
- Lina Madaj, Vice-President, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists
- Aslak Holmberg, President, Saami Council
- Ari Alatossava, Mayor of Oulu, Finland

17:30-17:45 **Conclusions**

Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

18:00-20:00 **Standing light reception**

## Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue – 15 May

*Master of ceremony: Raphaël Goulet, Head of the Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, Arctic Policy Unit, European Commission*

08:00-08:30 Registration and welcome coffee

08:30-09:00 **Keynote addresses**

Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

Pirita Näkkäläjärvi, President of the Sámi Parliament in Finland, President of the Sámi Parliamentary Council

Inuuteq Holm Olsen, Head of Mission and Minister Counsellor, Greenland Representation to the European Union

09:00-10:15 **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.

Moderator: Corine Wood-Donnelly, Associate Professor of International Relations & the High North, Nord University

Speakers:

- Clara Ganslandt, EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters, European External Action Service
- Brynjar Andersen Saus, Project Manager, UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- Solveig Rossebo, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
- Lásse Valkeapää, Saami Council
- Louis Papis Chemnitz, Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network, Inuit Circumpolar Council

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:45 **Resources in the Arctic**

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.

Moderator: Anu Fredrikson, Executive Director, Arctic Frontiers

Speakers:

- Joaquim Nunes de Almeida, Director, Mobility & Energy intensive industries, European Commission
- Eirik Larsen, Head of the Human Rights Unit, Saami Council
- Hjalmar Dahl, Vice-Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council International, President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland
- Asisaun Toovak, Mayor of Utqiagvik, United States
- Mikael Janson, Director, North Sweden European Office

11:45-13:00 **Weaving indigenous and 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.

Moderator: Patti Bruns, Secretary-General, Arctic Mayors' Forum

Speakers:

- Herb Nakimayak, Executive Council Member, Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Elle Merete Omma, Head of EU Unit, Saami Council
- Vicki Lee Wallgren, Director, WWF Global Arctic Programme
- Michael Karcher, Senior Scientist and Arctic PASSION Coordinator, Alfred-Wegener-Institut
- Nikoosh Carlo, Commissioner, US Arctic Research Commission

13:00-13:10 **Conclusions**

Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

13:10-14:30 **Standing Lunch**

## EU-Arctic Youth Dialogues\* – 15 May

*Master of ceremony: Raphaël Goulet, Head of the Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, Arctic Policy Unit, European Commission*

*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. Panellists representing the youth are chosen by their peers in workshops taking place during the days leading to the EU-Arctic Youth Dialogues.*

### 14:30-15:00 **Keynote addresses**

Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Bjort Samuelson, President, Parliament of the Faroe Islands

### 15:00-15:30 **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.

Facilitator: Naja-Theresia Hoegh, EU Special Advisor on Youth to European Commissioner Urpilainen (Greenland)

Panel composition: Arctic Youth representatives (TBC)

### 15:30-16:10 **Youth engagement in action**

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

Facilitator: Ronja Wedegärtner, WWF Global Arctic Programme

Panel composition:

- Zoe Okleasik, Iñupiaq youth, Arctic Youth Ambassadors cohort 2023-2024, US
- Asisaun Toovak, Mayor of Utqiaġvik, United States
- Julius Mihkkal Eriksen Lindi, Project Advisor Arctic and Environmental Unit Saami Council, Norway
- Arctic Youth representatives (TBC)

### 16:10-16:40 **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.

### 16:40-17:40 **Including 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. The session is divided into two heats.

Facilitator: Brynjar Andersen Saus, Project Manager, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Panel composition:

- Clara Ganslandt, EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters, European External Action Service
- Solveig Rossebø, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
- Erkki Parkkinen, Mayor of Salla, Finland

- Arctic Youth representatives (TBC)

17:40-18:00 **Conclusion: Dialogue with the youth - how can the EU ensure that youth recommendations developed during Arctic Youth Dialogues impact policies?**

Peter Wagner, Director, Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission

Arctic Youth representatives (TBC)

18:00 **Standing light reception**

*\*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.*