

## Statement of European Union to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft

In the following position paper, which is the last one before the final negotiations, the European Union and all its member states would like to express their gratitude to the initiative of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Within the borders of the EU we agree on acute need of worldwide steps toward preservation of nature of planet Earth and avoiding of negative impacts of climate change. Citizens of the EU countries are ready to take immediate steps to fight climate change especially in Arctic area, where its impacts are the most visible and threatening.

EU presents this position and will join final negotiations not only as ad hoc observer by Arctic Council, but also as a representative body of three Arctic Council member states and seven observer countries that belong to the European Union. We are prepared to advocate our position on the topics chosen by the representatives of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century, especially on environmental issues. All citizens of the EU and their representatives are determined to resolve the questions of the Arctic in accordance with the needs of indigenous population and worldwide community.

- Research, Climate and Environmental Change

European Union considers the fact that the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century resigned on negotiations about legally binding international agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as missed opportunity, but understands the complexity and sensitivity of this issue for some negotiating parties.

- i. European Union is willing and prepared to provide its research capacities to cooperation under the authority of Arctic Council. EU and its members dispose of physical capital and experts that can bring significant progress to mitigation of negative impacts connected to climate change in the Arctic area. We propose to establish cooperation with universities and research centers not only from countries connected with Arctic Council, but also from other parts of the world. The topic of Arctic is so crucial that it requires full attention of the whole world community.

- ii. The proposition of Research Fund creation is supported by the representatives of the EU. Research is considered by us as the key issue about Arctic area. We have to contribute as much as we can to mitigate climate change negative impacts mostly seen in the Arctic. We propose the financial contribution to be binding for all member and observer states of the Arctic Council. The countries have to take responsibility for their participation in decision making concerning Arctic issues.
- Population and Indigenous People
    - i. The EU has been involved in working towards the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous communities of the Arctic region are recipients of financial support from numerous funding programmes provided by European Union. These programmes aim to help remote communities in northern Europe develop their economic, social and environmental condition. The EU can have a positive impact on the development of the Arctic for the benefit of local communities and indigenous peoples. In the spirit of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Commission would be willing to discuss with relevant Member States on how the funding opportunities under the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial framework could contribute to this objective. It will be important to ensure that the programmes financed by the EU are effective, accessible, and meet the development needs of local populations.
    - ii. We agree with the proposal to support the existing Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council, which is a special platform for negotiations about the changing conditions in the Arctic region. It is very important to increase the efficiency of meetings ministers of environment, relevant arctic experts and other legitimate participants from the Arctic states.
    - iii. The improving the knowledge of indigenous people in Arctic region will play an important role in future. The representatives of Arctic indigenous peoples have to be well informed and consulted on the EU policies that affect them.

We welcome the idea to enhance their educational opportunities, by setting up educational institutions and sending qualified teachers.

- Geopolitical division and resource management

The geopolitical division of the Arctic area is very difficult and we propose thorough negotiations concerning natural resources, transport and other issues. The member states of Arctic Council and especially five states around Arctic should elaborate legally binding document covering natural resources, transport and geopolitical division of the area. This document could be above all other bilateral and multilateral agreements signed so far among these states. The position of UNCLOS law in the Arctic area should also be cleared.

- i. Preservation and protection of the environment have always been one of the priorities of EU policy. Leaving healthy and sustainable habitat for future generations should always stand before economy and the member countries of the EU will strongly represent this position.
- ii. The question of the division of the Arctic area among states is difficult and stands on variety of bilateral and multilateral agreements. The European Union recommends thorough negotiations in order to elaborate single agreement covering all the issues and signed by at least five closest states, but supported internationally.

- Law of the Sea and Arctic waterways

The majority of EU external trade is carried out at sea, the EU has significant experience in shipping, ship-building, satellite navigation, search and rescue as well as port infrastructure development. The other impact of Arctic melt down will be opening up of new sea routes via the Arctic to the east coast of Asia and the west coast of North America.

- i. European Union welcomes the possibility of maritime transport in Arctic region beneficial for international trade between Europe and Asia. The Commission and EU Member States are following developments in Arctic sea transport closely, including the traffic and frequency of merchant ships and cruise passenger vessels on the Northern Sea Route, the North-West Passage or

Arctic waters in general, as well as any practices or requirements of coastal states with effects on international navigation. The EU, through the Commission and Member States, supports the development of a mandatory 'Polar Code' by the IMO. We concur with the strict exclusion of the navigation of armed vessels.

- ii. The EU will work with Arctic states on enhancing monitoring and surveillance capabilities, including the use of satellites. Earth-orbiting satellites are essential tools for communication, navigation and observation in the Arctic. EU satellite programmes are already providing considerable support to those living and working in the region.
- iii. The nature-based tourism is growing rapidly. The tourism sector has considerable potential for creating jobs and boosting economic growth. The EU will explore further potential for innovative economic activities, such as the further development of the sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism, and renewable energy sectors. EU regional as well as cross-border and transnational programmes for covering the Arctic regions of the EU support several projects developing new approaches to tourism in the Arctic.

The representatives of the European Union are honored to be invited as the negotiating party of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We hope that our position will be taken into consideration and that the parties will come to successful agreement during our final negotiations.

Delegation of European Union