

Forum for 21st century

The Development in the Arctic

Propositions to 3rd Draft

The EU would like to thank the Forum for the 21st Century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on the development in the Arctic. The EU recognizes the seriousness of the geopolitical, environmental and economic situation in the Arctic.

After an in-depth analysis of the third draft proposed by the Forum for 21st Century let us comment on the proposals and include our suggestions as well. We would like to express our thanks for finding possible solution to the situation in the Arctic. We hope to reach a common understanding between all states present and all parties involved.

1. Political division

The EU recognizes the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the appropriate vehicle to set the criteria for dividing the Arctic area in just and equitable manner. Thus, we believe the aquatory should be in the property of the Arctic states and not a public property.

The EU strongly supports the building of the *Arctic Research Centre for the Incessant Cooperation* (ARCTIC), which would take the patronage over the research of the continental shelves to ensure every country's right to its extended aquatories and discontinue boundary disputes among *Arctic Council* members.

We believe that the aquatories beyond the borders of the Arctic states shall be subjected to the status of the *Antarctic Treaty*.

2. Security dimension

We support the idea of forbidding any military actions in Arctic region, such as the establishment of military bases and fortifications, the carrying out of military manoeuvres, as well as the testing of any type of weapons. According to the Danish Arctic Strategy, the enforcing of the states' sovereignty is one of the priorities and therefore, the UN armed forces, through their visible presence in the region, are permittied. The EU considers the Antarctica regime applicable, thus the use of military personnel or equipment for scientific research or for any other peaceful purpose should be permitted.

3. Natural resources

The EU endorses the fact, that each Arctic state shall exercise its authority over factually divided part, though any voluntary cooperation between the parties shall not be prohibited.

The EU strongly supports the Danish Arctic Strategy, regarding existing natural resources, including exploitation of mineral resources under the highest international standards; noticeable increase in the use of renewable energy sources; ocean harvest of the living resources in a sustainable way, and exploration of the new economic opportunities in the Arctic, in close cooperation with industries involved, in order to maintain the leading role in the cooperative international research within the Arctic region.

4. Transport

Concerning the shipping, the high international safety standards must be established and applied for all ships navigating within the Arctic waters.

Furthermore, in terms of shipping policy, which aims to promote shipping activities in the Arctic region under high safety standards, such international regulations ensure that ships are competing within a uniform framework, which is crucial for the Kingdom of Denmark, and so is for the EU.

Because of the extreme conditions in sparsely populated Arctic region, prevention of marine vessel accidents is crucial. Preventative measures must be set in place that allow for the progressive increase in safe navigation activities within the Arctic waters, while at the same time effectively minimising and ultimately preventing marine accidents, and furthermore, mitigating any damage to the Arctic natural environment and natural resources.

The EU approves the proposed approach and agrees upon limitations of the transport utilization of the Arctic area, which shall be researched by the *ARCTIC*.

5. Environmental issues

The EU reaffirms that the vision is to explore and exploit mineral resources in the Arctic under the best international practices. Greenland and the Faroe Islands will be attractive areas for exploration and management of mineral resources, which must be

competent and effective in ensuring that such mineral resources are explored and exploited under the highest international standards of safety, health, environment, emergency preparedness and transparency.

The EU concurs that the protection, safety, and preservation of the sea environment will be ensured with commitment to the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*. The *ARCTIC* shall monitor the changes in the sea, the impact of the global warming on polar region and possible effect of the management and the utilization of the Arctic mineral resources.

ARCTIC will establish an adequate framework with strict standards to enable an environmentally responsible utilization of the Arctic area.

We agree, that in cases of not abiding by these standards and environmental pollution, the harm shall be eliminated by the perpetrator in time proportionate to the extent of damages. If this will be neglected, the sanctions shall be imposed on the originator of the damage by the *International Court of Justice in Hague*.

6. Protection of autochthonous inhabitants

The EU appreciates the opportunities for indigenous people to celebrate their cultural traditions in peace. We call upon all parties involved to ensure that people respect all indigenous heritage, spiritual sites, churches, cemeteries and other sites with spiritual, historical or cultural significance, and that they do not remove any artefacts.

Accuracy and authenticity of the original, genuine local culture and products can be achieved through close cooperation with the Arctic indigenous people.

Greenland and Denmark have a tradition of close and constructive cooperation in the area of ameliorating the conditions of the world's indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples are in some situations particularly exposed to possible human rights violation. New challenges requiring urgent attention, such as climate change, also arise.

The EU strongly supports the building of *International Fund for Protection of Autochthonous Inhabitants* (IFPAIN) that shall help the autochthonous people ensure their rights and protection of their natural environment, which will interrelate with the economic progress of the Arctic area.

7. Establishment of legal binding agreement

The EU endorses establishment of one legal agreement consisting of all frameworks listed in issues above.

We hope our recommendations to the third draft will be taken into account.