

A European Arctic Policy: The Role of non-Arctic Member States

Workshop Summary Report for IASC

THE PROJECT

<i>Title</i>	A European Arctic Policy: The Role of Non-Arctic Member States Call for papers and International congress
<i>Overview</i>	<p>The congress provided a forum for academic, scientists and early careers to discuss the role of non-Arctic Member States in developing a European Arctic policy and roadmap; contributing to the action of the European Union as a unitarian actor. The initiative has focused on several key issues related to the influence and commitment of the European Union in the Arctic, mainly sustainable development and governance, security and the protection and promotion of lifestyle of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>The congress has been developed on the basis of a call for papers focused on five key issues and a set of round table discussions has been coordinated by outstanding international lecturers and mediators, following the presentations of the accepted abstracts.</p> <p>The call was open to all early careers, researchers and senior scientists whose contribution could have enriched the reflection on the topic. We received contributions from early careers and academics of over 10 different nationalities, coming from non- Arctic European states and Arctic countries as well.</p> <p>As follow-up activity, the proceedings from this congress will be published shortly and made available online.</p>
<i>Organizers</i>	Elena Conde Pérez Marzia Scopelliti
<i>Date and place</i>	10 th June, 2016. Centro Superior de Estudios para la Defensa Nacional (CESEDEN), Madrid (Spain)
<i>Participants</i>	18 participants, 10 panellists and 8 early careers from 10 different nationalities

Topics

The European Union decision-making power and influence in a changing Arctic
(including the discussion of its Arctic strategy and scientific research plans, the obtainment of the status of Accredited Observer at the AC, the role of the EU vis-à-vis the strengthening of the Arctic Council's decision-making power).

The European Union and the protection of Arctic Indigenous Peoples
(including the relationship with Greenland, the potential overlap between European legislation and the one developed by Arctic states in Indigenous affairs or in matter related to fisheries and environment).

Sustainable development of the Arctic: The European Commitment
(including the European Union compromise in the fight to climate change, especially the Paris Agreement; its role in developing and supporting Arctic scientific research and economic activities, but also the Arctic security dimension).

Accepted papers

- **Standing in the gap: The European Union and the Arctic Maritime Search and Rescue**
Corine Wood-Donnelly. Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge (UK)
- **Legitimate the EU on the Arctic stage? Policy and interests**
Zhaklin Yaneva. Complutense University (Spain)
- **Italian strategy for the Arctic**
Maria Lagutina, University of Saint Petersburg (Russia)
- **Reconciliation through relationship: the intersection of people, priorities and policies in the Arctic**
Julie Bull. University of Toronto, University of Victoria (Canada)
- **Greenland and European Union relations. Is it time for Greenland return to EU?**
Victor Pascual Planchuelo. Complutense University (Spain)
- **The Arctic Securization and the crisis of multilateralism: A European approach**
Diego Badell-Sánchez. ESADE Lull University (Spain)
- **The Barents Sea region within the EU-Russia relation, space of conflict or cooperation?**
Adrian Alvarado. University of Lyon II, SciencePo Lyon (France)
- **Cross-impact analysis. A stochastic decision model forecasting the economic development in the Arctic region with a focus on Iceland.**
Thordur Vikingur Fridgeirsson, Hera Grimsdottir and Sigurdur Valur Gudmundsson. Reykjavik University (Iceland)

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

Main scope The congress main scope was the creation of debate among scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders on issues that constitute the structure of a comprehensive and integrated European Arctic Policy.

Therefore, the initiative was structured as an opportunity to discuss the perspectives, proposals and interests of all European Non- Arctic countries in the region, favoring the development of an integrated vision.

Moreover, the congress was aimed at promoting the participation of early career scientists through the presentation of their contributions, giving an insight on innovative proposals on Arctic matters and European related policies.

Therefore, it has encouraged the involvement of young scientists and the exchange of ideas among academics from different areas of knowledge, trying to outline a structured and complete vision of the addressed topic.

Afterwards, the publication of the proceedings from the conference will favour the diffusion of achieved results and information, as well as accomplish a purpose of scientific dissemination.

Others

- To analyse the most recent European political agenda on Arctic related issues
- To enhance the collaboration between different European countries and European research centres
- To exchange information over on- going projects and initiatives concerning the Arctic region, especially in the field of scientific research.
- To foster the active participation of early careers through the call for papers, creating a space for new and innovative proposals on Arctic matters and European Arctic policies.
- To favour the blossoming of long- lasting collaborations among non- Arctic European countries and researchers on Arctic and polar issues.

OUTCOMES

The initiative counts with several achievements and a general positive evaluation. Indeed, it has fundamentally reached all set objectives and it has especially made possible the creation of a debate on the address topics, as well as encouraged the involvement of young Arctic scientists and the networking of international early careers, among the call for papers main goals.

Scientific highlights

- The interdisciplinary character of the congress, it allowed a significant contribution to the general understanding of the European Arctic policy
- The analysis of the recently released document *An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic*
- The distribution of knowledge around the brand-new project EU-PolarNet, a consortium of European polar research institutions aimed at the development of an integrated EU Polar research programme.
- The dissemination of received contributions through a scientific publication
- The congress represented a continuum with previous scientific activities organized within the research project “The race for the Arctic: International Law issues considering climate change” (MEC, Ref. Num. DER2012-36026).

Evaluation

The activity can be positively evaluated because it has reached most of the pre-set goals in a cost-effective manner.

Especially, it has succeeded in creating an informal dialogue among participants on issue that will be key for the European Union in the years to come, as the organization and its Member States become progressively more involved into Arctic politics, scientific research and polar affairs.

Most importantly, the initiatives have succeeded in hosting and bringing into contact experts and young scientists from different fields, as reflected in the budget allocation; most of which has been used to fund early careers’ travels and accommodation.

Moreover, we have received positive feedback from all participants, with whom we are currently in contact to organize the proceedings and the SYbIL publications.

DISSEMINATION

- SYbIL publication, for the most representative participants' contributions
- Congress proceedings
- Online, through the research project website:
<https://www.ucm.es/lacarreraporelartico>

BUDGET

Partners

- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC): 4'000€
- Research project "The race for the Arctic: International Law issues considering climate change", (MEC, Ref. Num. DER2012-36026)
- The Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (ieee): venue provider

Allocation

- Participants travel and accommodation: 2'190€
- Coffee break, lunch and dinner: 77,60€; 347,20€; 56,00€
- Congress material (posters and brochures): 14,40€
- Congress proceedings publication: *pending*

Other institutions

- The Royal Embassy of Norway in Spain
- The Canadian Embassy in Madrid