

CSR in the Arctic – way forward

In the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Report to Ministers, Nuuk, Greenland 2011, it was recommended that Ministers: *“Take note of the incoming Swedish Chairmanship’s intention to propose [...] how business can contribute to sustainable development in the Arctic”* (p. 28). The Swedish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council has, as a result, identified Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a priority for its work in the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG).

A first workshop on *CSR in the Arctic* was held in Stockholm, 26-27 January 2012, see separate report.

One of the main points raised at this workshop was that the existing frameworks and guidelines on CSR: the OECD guidelines, the UN Global Compact and in the reporting standard from the Global Reporting Initiative, are good and sufficient tools that merit to be further highlighted, followed and respected by operators in the Arctic.

In modelling different options for the next steps, Sweden has come to the conclusion that it is a question of communication and implementation of already agreed guidelines, rather than setting up a new and specific framework for *CSR in the Arctic*.

With this in mind and looking forward, Sweden has proposed the following points at the SDWG meeting in Reykjavik, 18-19 September, which are now for consideration for the SAO meeting in November.

Proposal:

- The overall idea is that the SDWG will be in charge and develop an information tool on *CSR in the Arctic*. Since it is about communication, this work could be seen as a part of the SDWG communication strategy.
- A workshop with representatives from all Arctic states, Permanent Participants and working groups will take place in Stockholm, 28-29 November.
- The workshop will discuss and develop a draft information tool on *CSR in the Arctic* for the Arctic Council and SDWG web, doing so in close co-operation with the Arctic Council Secretariat.
- The draft work shall be presented to the SDWG and finally to SAO’s, before being published on the web. If endorsed, publication of this information tool will be done no later than 15 May, 2013.
- *CSR in the Arctic* shall thereafter continue to be an integral part of the work of the SDWG, the web shall be monitored and updated by the SDWG.