



Gustaf Lind  
Chair, Senior Arctic Officials

4 March 2013

Dear Ambassador Lind,

**Subject: Consultation on the Election of Chairperson for the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument Committee (PCOM)**

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The PSI Guidelines (2005) and its Rules of Procedure (PSI-RoP, 2008) have been established by the SAOs in accordance with the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure (AC-RoP, 1998). One of the remaining items for operationalizing of the PSI, expected to take place in the first half of 2013, is the election of the Chairperson of the PSI Committee (PCOM). According to the PSI-RoP, the PSI Committee is to elect one of its members to serve as a Chairperson commencing from its first meeting and the AC-RoP requires a consultation with the SAOs for selection of a chairperson and vice chairperson of an Arctic Council subsidiary body such as the PSI Committee.

During the 1st Meeting of the Preparatory PCOM (Helsinki, 6-7 June 2012) views were exchanged by the PSI Contributors on the matter of the PSI Committee's Chair and Vice-chair. It was inter alia considered that:

- a) The Chair of the PSI Committee would be elected and the following Chairs would be elected on the basis of the alphabetical order of the Contributing Arctic Council States;
- b) The Chair of the PCOM would be rotated on a one year basis between the Contributing Arctic Council States; and
- c) To facilitate continuity and a smooth functioning of the incoming Chair(s), NEFCO might, during the pilot phase years, act as permanent Vice-chair of the PSI Committee or at least have secretarial functions to this effect.

In the context of consultations for election of the first Chairperson of the PSI Committee, NEFCO proposed to the PSI Contributors on the 15th of February 2013 that the Russian Federation is elected as the incoming Chair of the PCOM. It pleases me to inform you that NEFCO has received endorsement of its proposal and shares with you the Contributors' considerations in § a)- c) above and of the development that the PSI Contributors have agreed to elect the Russian Federation to serve as Chair of the PSI Committee for one year beginning from the first meeting of the PSI Committee.

The above information and development are accordingly incorporated in the attached revised NEFCO's Update on the PSI (addendum 2013.03.04) including the proposal for a SAO decision (Action) to acknowledge the election of the Russian Federation to serve as Chair of the PSI Committee for one year beginning from the first meeting of the PSI Committee, for consideration at the upcoming SAO Meeting scheduled for 20-21 March 2013 in Stockholm.

Thanking you for our continued cooperation,

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Attached: Update on the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI) Addendum 2013.03.04