

**MEETING OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
(CSOs) OF THE FOUR REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE NORTHERN REGION**

OSLO, 14 SEPTEMBER 2001

Summary

Non-Paper

- Co-ordination and information sharing should first and foremost take place in capitals among the Government units responsible for regional Council matters. Each country needs to ensure effective national political and administrative co-ordination in and between its Council representatives.
- The existing constructive dialogue between the Councils on a direct Council-to-Council basis can be strengthened, but contacts involving all four Councils are most often not required.
- No new mechanisms for co-ordination between the Councils are considered necessary, but additional meetings between the chairmanships of the Councils could be useful if and when they so decide.
- The multilateral character of the Councils must be sustained.
- The Councils should be open to joint project and programme co-operation.
- The Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) does by principle review all project and programme proposals in a commensurate manner. In addition, the NCM will initiate a process to consider a possible policy for co-financing with other regional bodies. NCM should be given due credit when co-financing activities with other actors.
- The activities of the Councils should spring from long-term and overall political priorities in order to promote consistency and accountability.
- The Councils should stay closely in touch with affected and relevant local and regional authorities and indigenous peoples as the case may be when preparing projects and programmes.
- The important role of the European Union is recognised, and an effective dialogue should be maintained with the European Commission by and in the Councils as appropriate.

1 November 2001