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***FUTURE VISIONS OF THE EU'S
NORTHERN DIMENSION***
Esa Stenberg

International Seminar

SCANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Origin, Challenges and Implementation

- ***From a Finnish Initiative to an EU Action Plan***
- ***Aim: to develop the EU's external and regional co-operation, through...***
- ***a more coordinated policy, with explicit priorities, for the ND region***
- ***supportive of the enlargement process and cooperation with Russia***
- ***first on the agenda of the EU at the Luxembourg European Council in December 1997-Vienna in December 1998-Helsinki in December 1999***
- ***endorsed in June 2000 at the Feira Council***



The Geographical Extent of the ND





Challenges

- ***The Environment***
- ***Nuclear Safety***
- ***Energy***
- ***Human and Scientific Resources***
- ***Health***
- ***Fight against Crime***
- ***Removal of barriers to trade and investments***
- ***Kaliningrad***



Implementation

- ***The Action Plan is: A political recommendation, which can be taken into account, as appropriate, in various situations.***
- ***The Action Plan is to be carried out within the framework of the existing contractual relationships, financial instruments and organizations***
- ***The projects and programmes are implemented by the Commission, Member states of the European Union, and the ND partner countries (Russia, Norway, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland) and Northern European regional organizations***



Sectoral Programmes: *Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, NDEP*

- ***Support Fund established in July 2002***
- ***EBRD, EU Commission, NIB, EIB, Russia, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands contributed EUR 124 million, of which EUR 74,5 million earmarked for nuclear safety projects***
 - ***Twelve priority projects, the ‘leading’ one:***
Wastewater treatment plant in St. Petersburg
Capacity: all wastewater of 700 000 people, meets the HELCOM standards, estimated total cost EUR 189 million , Donors: EU (24), Finland (10), Sweden (11), NDEP (5,8), Loans: NIB (45), EBRD (36), EIB (6), Finnfund (3,6), Swefund (3,6)



Nuclear Safety Projects

- ***The NDEP fund (74,5) conditional upon signature of the Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Programme, MNEPR, was signed in May 2003***
- ***the PMs of Barents countries (Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark) agreed on the issue in January 2003***
- ***about a dozen project discussed in the context of nuclear waste cleaning in Murmansk region***
- ***one of the main tasks the transport of highly radioactive waste, generated by nuclear-powered vessels, to the Majak (in S. Urals) treatment plant***



Northern eDimension Action Plan, NeDAP

- ***Adopted in Sept. 2001 by PMs of Baltic Sea c.***
- ***based on eEurope and eEurope+ programmes***
- ***time frame 2002-2004; seven lines of action/resp.***
 - ***research networks (top-speed search networks) and sophisticated broad-band applications/Norw.***
 - ***E-skills/Finland and Germany***
 - ***Data security/Estonia***
 - ***E-commerce/Russia***
 - ***E-government/Sweden***
 - ***Indicators/Denmark***
 - ***E-environment/Grid Arendal (UNEP)***



ND Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing

- ***Health risks caused by the spread of HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis, illegal drugs***



FUTURE VISIONS 1: Wider Europe - Neighbourhood

- **Copenhagen European Council (Dec 2002) confirmed EU's determination to avoid new dividing lines in Europe and to promote stability and prosperity within and beyond the new borders of the Union**
- **Commission Communication, March 2003**
 - **New situation after 1 May 2004**
 - **EU's relations with new southern and eastern neighbours on the basis of shared values (democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law)**
 - **membership as as EU's foreign policy instrument not sustainable**



- **Prodi Dec. 2002:**
 - EU as a *global player*
 - Enlargement's contribution to *sustainable stability and security on the European continent*
 - Debate on *the limits of Europe*
 - Geographical approach: *'Ring of friends', from Morocco to Russia and the Black Sea*
 - Political approach: *More than partnership and less than membership*
 - > *Proximity Policy*
 - >> *ND as one element of PP*
 - *Southern Dimension + Eastern Dimension (Poland)*
 - Differences between the Eastern and Southern neighbors as the basis of neighborhood policy
 - Country/regional strategic action plans in partnership with the neighboring countries



- **Regional Cooperation**
 - On the future *Eastern* external border, regional cooperation among the Western Newly Independent States (WNIS: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova) strong, oriented to trade and investments to and from Russia
 - The ND currently provides the only regional framework in which the EU participates with its Eastern partners to address transnational and cross-border issues
- **New initiatives to encourage regional cooperation between Russia and the WNIS might be considered. These could draw upon the ND concept to take a broader and more inclusive approach to dealing with neighborhood issues.**
- **(Commission Communication, March 11, 2003)**



FUTURE VISIONS 2: NEI and NDI cooperation

- **The Northern Europe Initiative of the U.S. and NDI introduced in September 1997 (Assistant Secretary of State Marc Grossman in Bergen, Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen in Rovaniemi, Fi)**
- **NEI originally concerned with traditional geopolitical security questions (in Baltic countries)**
- **Broad objectives very much similar: stability, security, prosperity in the region**
- **NDI: avoiding new dividing lines, NEI: “Europe whole and free”**



Implementation

- **Both initiatives executed within the framework of the existing contractual relationships, financial instruments and organizations**
- **Financing from multiple sources, co-financing from national governments, international financing institutions**
- **Regional approach to environmental challenges (nuclear and non-nuclear)**
- **Both fighting the same health risks in the region**



Cooperation

- **Dec 99: Joint U.S.-EU statement, Washington Summit:**
 - During Finnish presidency (Jul-Dec 99) intensive consultations on deepening the cooperation in Northern Europe;
 - U.S. and EU will continue their dialogue on N.Europe (under the aegis of the New Transatlantic Agenda, NTA)... by identifying joint or parallel activities within the framework of NEI and NDI.



Cooperation

- **June 2001, U.S. Government Press Release:**
 - Since 1999 the U.S. and EU have identified and begun to implement a number of cooperative activities within the framework of the NEI and NDI.
 - Four common priority areas: Environment, Health (HIV/AIDS and TB), Law Enforcement and anti-corruption, civil society development
 - They are working together concretely on the environment and civil society development
- **Oct 2002, President Bush' Proclamation:**
 - Confirms his government's commitment to NEI and support for NDI
- **PM Lipponen: emphasises the U.S. role in Northern Europe and similarities of NEI, NDI**



FUTURE VISIONS 3: as Luxemburg Guidelines (Oct 2002), decision Dec -03

- **Key priorities:**
 - **Economy, Business, Infrastructure;**
 - **Human Resources, Education, Scientific Research and Health**
 - **Environment, Nuclear safety and Natural Resources**
 - **Cross-border Cooperation and Regional Development**
 - **Justice and Home Affairs**
 - **Cross-Cutting Themes. Kaliningrad, The Arctic**