



# PROGRAM DAY 1

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

- 11:00 **Registration opens**
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 13:00 **Opening**  
Guro Brandshaug, head of Kirkeneskonferansen
- 13:05 **Arctic Philharmonic, with former members from Kyiv Soloists**
- 13:20 **Welcoming remarks**  
Lena Norum Bergeng, mayor Sør-Varanger Municipality
- 13:25 **The Geopolitical Barents**  
Eivind Vad Petersson, State Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway  
Silje Karine Muotka, President of the Sami Parliament of Norway  
  
Pekka Haavisto, Foreign Minister Finland (digital)  
Tobias Billström, Foreign Minister Sweden (digital)
- 13:55 **Prospects of future cooperation with Russia?**  
Marc Nathanson, US Ambassador to Norway  
Audrone Perkauskiene, EU Deputy Director  
  
Jari Vilén, CSO Barents Euro Arctic Council 2021 - 2023  
Morten Høglund, Senior Arctic Official, Norway
- 14:25 **Experiences from 30 years of Barents cooperation**  
Julie Wilhelmsen, Senior Researcher NUPI  
  
Gøril Johansen, former diplomat and CSO Barents Euro Arctic Council 2019-2021  
Lars Georg Fordal, Head of Norwegian Barents Secretariat  
Daria Makhotina Gudnason, Head Barents Regional Youth Council  
Thomas Nilsen, editor BarentsObserver
- 15:00 **Refreshments and mingling**

**15:20 New defence alliances in the High North.**

Andreas Østhagen, senior researcher Fridtjof Nansen Institute

General Eirik Kristoffersen, Chief of defence, Norway

General Micael Bydén, Chief of defence, Sweden

Lt. General Vesa Virtanen, Chief Defence Comm., Vice Chief of Defence, Finland

Tormod Heier, Professor Norwegian Defence University College

**16:05 Effects of security policies on civil society**

Hedvig Moe, Deputy head of Norwegian Police Security Service (PST)

Guro Brandshaug, local politician Sør-Varanger Labour Party

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv, Professor UIT The Arctic University of Norway

**16:30 Refreshments and mingling****16:50 Hope for peace and democracy?**

Leonid Volkov, Chief of staff Alexey Navalny. Chairman Anti-Corruption Foundation

Marcela Douglas Aranibar, Head of Center for Peace Studies UIT

**17:20 Voices from behind the Iron Curtain**

Boris Bondarev, former employee at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia (via link)

Pavel Andreev, human rights activist Memorial, Nobel Peace Prize laureate 2022

Kirill Martynov, editor in chief Novaya Gazeta Europe

Evgeny Goman, producer Pikene på Broen

18:00 End day 1

**18:30 Concert: Arctic Philharmonic  
with former members from Kyiv Soloists**

Venue: Kirkenes Church

**20:00 Conference dinner**

Thorvald Stoltenberg Award 2023

Presented by Mathias Stoltenberg, Thorvald Stoltenberg's grandson.



# PROGRAM

## DAY 2

### THURSDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

09:00 **Opening reflections**

Anniken Huitfeldt, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

09:20 **High North policies – Limited to defence policy?**

Bjørnar Skjæran, Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy

Peggy Hessen Følsvik, President of Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions

Erlend Svardal Bøe, Member of Norwegian Parliament (Conservative party)

Bengt Rune Strifeldt, Member of Norwegian Parliament (Progress party)

Teemu Tanner, Finland's Ambassador to Norway

Ronald Wærnes, County chairman Troms and Finnmark County

Bente Haug, Vice rector UIT

Sigrid Ina Simonsen, Head of NHO Arctic

Maja Sojtaric, Columnist newspaper Nordlys

10:30 **Refreshments and mingling**

11:00 **How war impacts climate change and the environment**

Lan Marie Berg, Member of Parliament Green Party

Sigurd Enge, Senior Advisor Bellona

Merethe Dotterud Leiren, Research Director Cicero

11:25 **Global trade and international conflicts**

Berit Lindeman, General Secretary Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Henrik Stålhane Hiim, Associate Professor Norwegian Defence University College

Svein Ruud, CEO Norway King Crab (via link)

12:00 **Lunch**

- 13:00 **(Un)Balanced North?**  
Arne O. Holm, editor in chief High North News
- 13:10 **PART 1: Balancing energy needs. Crisis or competitive advantage?**  
Amund Vik, State Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of Norway
- Terje Skansen, CEO Varanger Kraft  
Åslaug Haga, CEO Energy Norway  
Berit Tennbakk, Partner PhD Thema
- Liv Monica Stubholt, Green Ammonia Berlevåg
- 13:40 Hilde Tonne, CEO Statnett  
Jussi Jyrinsalo, Senior Vice President Fingrid Oyj  
Peter Wigert, Deputy Director General Svenska Kraftnät
- Kjetil Lund, director Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)
- 14:30 **Refreshments and mingling**
- 14:50 **PART 2: Balancing land use. Protection vs Growth:**  
Kurt-Einar Karlsen, General director Lerøy Aurora
- Jan Olli, director FEFO  
Sigurd Rafaelsen, Mayor Lebesby Municipality  
Jan Iwár Smuk, leader of the Varanger Reindeer Herding Association
- 15:15 **PART 3: Balancing human resources. Multiple job opportunities.**  
Petri Saastaumoinen, Director of Sales Visit Inari
- Evilla Lumme, Political Science Student Rovaniemi
- Bård Gamnes, Managing Director Barel AS
- Wenche Pedersen, Chair of Eastern-Finnmark Council  
Rita Jørgensen, Finnmark Hospital Trust  
Svein Sundquist, Chair of board AS Oscar Sundquist and Sør-Varanger Utvikling
- Final remarks**
- 16:15 **End of conference**