



13:00

Opening

Guro Brandshaug, head of program committee Kirkeneskonferansen

13:05

Arctic Philharmonic, with former members from Kyiv Soloists

13:15

Welcoming remarks

Lena Norum Bergeng, mayor Sør-Varanger Municipality

13:20

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)

14:10

Prospects of future cooperation with Russia?

Eivind Vad Petersson, State Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway

Marc Nathanson, US Ambassador to Norway (TBC)

EU-representative. (TBC)

Jari Vilén, CSO Barents Euro Arctic Council 2021 - 2023

Morten Høglund, Senior Arctic Official, Norway

14:35

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

NATO-representative

General Eirik Kristoffersen, Chief of defence, Norway

General Micael Bydén, Chief of defence, Sweden

Lieutenant General Vesa Virtanen, Chief of Defence Command, Vice Chief of Defence, Finland

16:00

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

16.20

Refreshments and mingling

16.40

Hope for peace and democracy?

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

Tormod Heier, Professor Norwegian Defence University College

Marcela Douglas Aranibar, Head of Center for Peace Studies UIT The Arctic University of Norway

17:20

Voices from behind the Iron Curtain

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

Kirill Martynov, editor in chief Novaya Gazeta Europe

Alexey Kovalev, investigative journalist Meduza (TBC)

Evgeny Goman, producer Pikene på Broen

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

18.30

Concert: Arctic Philharmonic

with former members from Kyiv Soloists.

Venue: Kirkenes Church

20.00

Conference dinner

Thorvald Stoltenberg Award 2023

Presented by Emil Stoltenberg, Thorvald Stoltenberg's grandson.

09:00

Opening reflections

Anniken Huitfeldt, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

09:30

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

10:50

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

11:20

Global trade and international conflicts

Berit Lindeman, General Secretary Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Bjørnar Moxnes, Party Leader Rødt and Member of Parliament Norway

Henrik Stålhane Hiim, Associate Professor Norwegian Defence University College

Svein Ruud, CEO Norway King Crab

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

Hilde Tonne, CEO Statnett

Jussi Jyrinsalo, Senior Vice President Fingrid Oyj

Peter Wigert, assistant director Svenska Kraftnät

Kjetil Lund, director Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)

14:15

Refreshments and mingling

14:30

PART 2: Balancing land use. Protection vs Growth:

Jan Olli, director FEFO

Sigurd Rafaelsen, Mayor Lebesby Municipality

Jan Ivvár Smuk, leader of the Varanger Reindeer Herding Association

Kurt-Einar Karlsen, General director Lerøy Aurora

15:10

PART 3: Balancing human resources. Multiple job opportunities.

Kristin Røymo, Director NAV Troms and Finnmark County (TBC)

Wenche Pedersen, Chair of Eastern-Finnmark Council

Per Angermo, Head of Finnmark Hospital Trust

Svein Sundquist, Chair of board AS Oscar Sundquist and Sør-Varanger Utvikling

15:30

Still investing in the north?

Knut Nyborg, Aker Horizons (TBC)

Kurt-Einar Karlsen, General Director Lerøy Aurora

Petri Saastaumoinen, Director of Sales Visit Inari

Bård Gamnes, Managing Director Barel AS

LKAB

16:00

Final remarks