ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS:
INFRASTRUCTURE: MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

The AEC has established four Working Groups based on the selected business areas set by the Arctic business community. The AEC’s current Working Groups are Infrastructure: Maritime Transportation, Infrastructure: Telecommunications, Responsible Resource Development and Arctic Stewardship. The Working Groups consists of industry experts from across the Arctic. The Working Groups are open to all AEC members and invited external experts.

The way the Working Groups conduct their work:

- Analyze the current business climate in the Arctic
- Incorporate the five overarching themes of the AEC
- Define actionable recommendations and variables that will raise the standard of economic development in the Arctic
- Execute, Report, Review

The five overarching themes of the Arctic Economic Council are:
1. Establishing strong market connections between Arctic states
2. Promoting stable and predictable regulatory frameworks
3. Encouraging public-private partnerships for infrastructure investments
4. Facilitating knowledge and data exchange between industry and academia
5. Disseminating traditional indigenous knowledge, stewardship and focus on small businesses

Working Group on Infrastructure: Maritime Transportation

Chair: Mr. Mikko Niini, Finland

Mikko Niini is the Chairman of tanker shipping company Navidom Ltd. He is also member of the Board of Directors of dry bulk shipping company ESL Shipping Ltd, the newborn Rauma shipyard Rauma Marine Constructions (RMC) as well as Managing Director of his own Arctic & Maritime Consultancy Vientistrategit Oy. Mikko Niini has been elected Chairman of Finnish Maritime Association, the Oil & Gas Working Group of the Finnish-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic Cooperation and the Nordic
Committee of Lloyds Register of Shipping. He is a Board member of Center for High North Logistics (CHNL) in Bodø, Norway, the Finnish Sail Training Association and Finland-Canada Trade Association, member of the European Roundtable of Maritime Clusters, North European Committee of BV, Member of ABS, the Nordic Safety Committee of DNV GL, as well as member of SNAME, RINA and STG.

The Maritime Transportation Working Group's membership consists of representatives of the premier ship operators active in the Arctic, confederations of shipowners from across the Arctic, indigenous corporations and representatives of academia.

**The work plan for the Maritime Transportation Working Group:**

1. Information gathering on all the national Arctic traffic systems, preparation on guidelines for shipping and analysis for and preparation for possible transport scheme harmonization.
2. Status analysis on hydrographic mapping situation in the Arctic waters.
3. New and additional ongoing processes on environmental regulations related to navigation in the Arctic waters.
4. Further analysis of business cases for container shipping on the Northern Sea Route utilizing transshipment hubs.

**Upcoming activities:**
The Working Group on Maritime Transportation together with the Korean Ministry for Foreign Affairs will organize a joint event in Seoul, Korea on December 11, 2017. The event will focus on Arctic shipping and shipbuilding and the need for connectivity.

The AEC Working Group on Maritime Transportation is also going to be presented at the NaviGate fair in Turku, Finland in May 2018.

**Join the AEC:**
Information regarding AEC membership: [https://arcticeconomiccouncil.com/about-us/](https://arcticeconomiccouncil.com/about-us/)

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