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, Connectivity, 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:

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 and international Arctic navigation rules and regulations; their analysis and preparation for possible transport scheme harmonization.
2. Analysis of the status of hydrographic mapping in the Arctic waters and of the operators’ priorities.
3. New and additional ongoing processes on environmental regulations related to navigation in the Arctic waters.
4. Freedom of trade
5. Administration of the traffic management in the Arctic waters.

**Activities:**
The Working Group on Maritime Transportation together with the Korean Ministry for Foreign Affairs organized a joint event on Arctic shipping and connectivity in Seoul, Korea in December 2017.

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

Connectivity at Arctic Seas will be a theme at the AEC’s 3rd Top of the World Arctic Broadband Summit in Hokkaido, Japan on June 27-28, 2018. More information:
www.arcticeconomiccouncil.com

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