

# ARCTIC FUTURES SYMPOSIUM

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS  
AND MODERATORS



**Jarle Aarbakke**

*Deputy Mayor, City of Tromsø, Norway*

Jarle Aarbakke is a professor of pharmacology and Deputy Mayor of Tromsø. While being Rector of the UiT Arctic University of Norway he led the Stoltenberg government's expert committee on High North issues. Aarbakke has been a great influencer of Norway's Arctic policies throughout the last decade. The Deputy Mayor believes the future is blue and green with sustainable and thriving communities in the Arctic.

**Nils Andreassen**

*Executive Director, Institute of the North, USA*

Nils Andreassen has a degree in Peace and Development from the University of Bradford in England. His background in rural and international development, Alaska and Arctic policy issues fit well within the Institute's mission to inform public policy as it relates to natural resource development, and specifically to result in improved living and economic conditions for northern residents. The Institute has a legacy working on Arctic infrastructure priorities and policies that serve to strengthen and connect northern communities. The Institute serves as the Secretariat for the Alaska Arctic Council Host Committee and is host of the Arctic Energy Summit.

**Baron Philippe André Eugène Bodson**

Baron Philippe Bodson has had a long and distinguished career in international business and in government. A civil engineer by training, with an MBA from INSEAD (Fontainebleau, France), he has worked at many different multinational companies: McKinsey in Paris, Daus Bank in Germany and the United States, was CEO of Glaverbel (Asahi Glass), CEO of the IT company Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products, and CEO Tractebel Energy Group. He was on the board of directors of Fortis bank, is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Exmar, Chairman of the Board of the Floridienne, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hamom (air quality systems), and member of the Board of Cobepa/Cobehold. He is a member of the Board of the International Polar Foundation and the Belgian Polar Secretariat. He has also been a member of the think-tank the Coudenberg group. Philippe Bodson was a Senator in the Belgian Senate for the Mouvement réformateur party (MR).

**Henry Burgess**

*Head of the NERC Arctic Office, British Antarctic Survey, UK*

Henry Burgess is Head of the NERC Arctic Office, British Antarctic Survey, in the UK. He previously served as the Deputy Head of the Polar Regions Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His role involves both the Arctic and Antarctic where he represents the UK in environmental meetings of the Antarctic Treaty states. He plays a key role in coordinating UK policy in relation to the Arctic and in representing British interests. Burgess has previously worked across a range of Government departments, including the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Lorents Burman**

*Chairman of Skellefteå Municipal Board and the North Bothnia Line, Sweden*

Lorents Burman has been Chairman of Skellefteå Municipal Board since 2013 and the North Bothnia Line since 2014. A former chairman of the planning and building committee, he was responsible for community planning in the Municipality of Skellefteå. He has also been active and employed for many years in the union for forestry and wood industry.

**Alessia Clocchiatti**

*Policy Officer, DG MARE, European Commission*

Alessia Clocchiatti joined the European Commission (DG MARE) in 2014 and is a Policy Officer in the unit dealing with maritime policy in the Atlantic, Arctic and Outermost regions. Among the files she deals with, she is responsible for maritime skills and blue careers. Before joining the Commission, Alessia worked as a policy advisor and was dealing with education and workforce policies. Alessia holds a Master Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and a Post-Graduate Master in Interdisciplinary European Studies from the College of Europe.

**Ole Damsgaard**

*Head of Secretariat, Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme Secretariat, Denmark*

Ole Damsgaard has been Head of the Joint Secretariat for The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme since 2013. The programme is funded by the European Commission and nine partner countries. He was previously Director of NORDREGIO (2005 – 2013) in Stockholm. NORDREGIO is a research institute that serves the Scandinavian governments and regional authorities concerning regional development. From 1994 to 2005, Damsgaard was Director of the Danish Town Planning Institute. In addition, he is a lecturer of European Spatial Planning at the Technical University in Zurich and has been a member of numerous national and international expert groups concerning spatial planning and regional development.

**Damien Degeorges**

*Director, Degeorges Consulting, Iceland*

Damien Degeorges is the Director of Degeorges Consulting, a Reykjavík-based communication and strategy consultancy. He has followed EU Arctic affairs for nearly 15 years, was involved in Arctic issues during the 2008 French EU Presidency, and has for some years been working with a Danish regional consortium, the Arctic Consensus, with regards to EU Arctic Policy. A fluent Danish speaker, he graduated in political communication and Nordic studies and holds a doctoral degree in political science with his thesis research “The Role of Greenland in the Arctic”. Degeorges was auditioned on the EU and the Arctic at the French Senate in the framework of two parliamentary reports published in 2014 as well as one forthcoming.

**Rod Downie**

*Polar Policy and Programme Officer, WWF, UK*

Rod Downie is the Polar Policy and Programme Officer for WWF in the UK. He joined WWF in 2011, having previously spent 14 years with the British Antarctic Survey – including more than two-and-a-half years living and working in the Antarctic. He has attended the Antarctic Treaty Meeting on the UK delegation for more than a decade and has recently returned from a science and communications mission to investigate and document the rate of flow and melt of the Greenland ice sheet as a result of climate change. Rod writes a regular blog about polar policy and conservation issues at <http://blogs.wwf.org.uk/blog/author/rdownie/>

**Päivi Ekdahl**

*Development Director, Regional Council of Lapland*

Päivi Ekdahl has been Development Director at the Regional Council of Lapland since October 2013. She oversees programmes for regional development in Lapland including having the overall responsibility for the implementation of regional EU programmes as an intermediate body for the structural funds (ERDF), national responsibility on the implementation of Interreg VA North programme, national information point of Northern Periphery and the Arctic programme and overall responsibility as the Joint Managing Authority of Kolarctic CBC programme 2014-2020. As Development Director, she is actively involved in implementation and planning of the future of Lapland's Smart Specialisation Strategy (Lapland's Arctic Specialisation Programme) and on the development of synergies between national and international funding programmes. She is actively participating in the network within the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) and other networks around regional development and cohesion policy.

**Meinhard Eliassen**

*Senior Energy Advisor, Faroese Energy Department*

Meinhard Eliassen is Senior Energy Advisor at the Faroese Energy Department, now part of the Environment Agency of the Faroe Islands. He joined the department in 2000 and has since worked in a range of areas, nationally and internationally, related to both renewable energy as well as oil and gas exploration. These have included involvement in projects to assess the feasibility of a Subsea Power Cable from Iceland to the UK via the Faroes, as well as projects to improve energy efficiency in the fish harvesting sector. Eliassen has a Master's Degree in mechanical engineering and ocean technology from Denmark's Technical University.

**Bernhard Friess**

*Director, Atlantic, Arctic and Outermost Regions, DG MARE*

As of January 2017, Bernhard Friess will lead the Directorate for "Maritime Policy and the Blue Economy" within the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate-General. Bernhard studied Law at Munich University. His career with the European Commission included assignments in the areas of Internal Market Policy, Competition Policy, Maritime Policy and Fisheries, and Education and Training. He previously held positions as Head of Unit responsible for competition enforcement in banking, insurance, securities and financial services markets (as of 2002); as Head of Unit responsible for coordinating internal market policy (as of 2006); as Director for planning, personnel and communication (as of 2009); and as Director for maritime policy and fisheries in the areas of the Atlantic, Arctic, North Sea, Baltic Sea and the EU's outermost regions (as of 2011).

**Stephen D. Hart**

*Head, Copenhagen Office, European Investment Bank Group*

Stephen Hart is currently Head of Office for the EIB Group in Copenhagen, covering EIB institutional relations with Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. He has worked extensively on the development and financing of projects in the fields of environment, utilities and nature. He has significant experience with the design and implementation of trans-boundary and multi-country investment programmes from the Baltic Sea, the Danube, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, the Danube and Lake Victoria.

**Boris Iarochévitch**

*Head of Division, European External Action Service*

Boris Iarochévitch graduated in Engineering in Belgium, and later obtained a Master in International Business Management in Moscow. He holds a Diploma in Islamic Studies (University of Sarajevo) and Certificates in International Relations and Geopolitical Analysis (UCL Belgium). He joined the European Institutions in 1993. During his career, he served in Senegal, Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Georgia. He is currently Head of Division at the European External Action Service, dealing with the Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation and the OSCE.

**Lisbeth Iversen**

*Adjunct, Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC), Norway*

Lisbeth Iversen holds an adjunct position at the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, NERSC, in Bergen, Norway. She works with the socio-economic aspects of climate change and adaptation to climate change. Iversen is an architect and urban planner. She holds 2 master degrees; the first a Master of management from the Oslo Business School, BI, in strategic management, economy in leadership and consulting on the topic. The second is in region and regionalization processes from the University of Bergen. She also holds a partial Master of Management, from Lillehammer University College. Iversen is the elected and working leader of the Advisory Board of the Norwegian national pilot project and network “With a heart for Arendal”, which was launched in Arendal in August 2013 and is ongoing. Before this, she was a full time commissioner for different departments, in the local government in the Municipality of Bergen, from 2003-2013, after a term in the City Council of Bergen. Social Housing, local development, urban development and climate, sustainability and environment are recurring topics in her career.

**Mikael Janson**

*Managing Director, North Sweden European Office*

Mikael Janson has been Managing Director of the North Sweden European Office, the EU office for the two northernmost Counties of Sweden; Norrbotten and Västerbotten, since 2011. Before this he served as City Commissioner in the City of Gothenburg for six years. He has also been active for many years in politics. He has worked as an official in the municipal government and served as acting substitute in the Swedish Parliament. For several years he was responsible for the administration and marketing of a small entrepreneurial firm in electric power systems which became the leading firm in its niche in Sweden, delivering to global security companies. Janson studied technical engineering in electronics in high school and holds a Master of Science in Business Administration and Communication from the Universities of Gothenburg and Lund. His personal connection to the Arctic is being half Norwegian with roots from above the “Lofotveggen”.

**Ambassador Andrés Jato**

*SAO, Sweden*

Ambassador Andrés Jato has been Sweden's Senior Arctic Official at the Swedish Foreign Ministry since 2015. Before this he was Director of the Swedish Foreign Ministry coordination unit for Swedish foreign and security policy towards the EU. Among other positions he was First Secretary at the Swedish embassy in Sarajevo. He served as an expert in different committees and working groups. He was a lecturer at Uppsala University as part of the PhD programme in Peace and Conflict Research. He holds a Master of Science and International Political Economy from the London School of Economics.

**Áile Jávo**

*President, Saami Council*

Áile Jávo was elected as the president of the Saami Council in 2013. This council is a Saami NGO, founded in 1956, with Saami member organizations in Finland, Russia, Norway and Sweden. Jávo has a background in political science and has been working with indigenous and Saami issues for the last twenty years. This includes both internal Saami issues, indigenous and human rights issues within the UN and Arctic issues within the Arctic Council, where the Saami Council is one of six Permanent Participants.

**Halldór Jóhannsson**

*Executive Director, Arctic Portal, Iceland*

Halldór Jóhannsson is the Executive Director of the Arctic Portal, the Gateway to Arctic information and data. He holds a degree in design and planning from U of T in Toronto, Canada and has west Arctic and international experience in cooperation, communication, policy, planning and data management. He attended, presented and chaired at numerous international meetings, seminars and conferences on Arctic issues. He is a member of Arctic committees such as Sustaining Arctic Observation Networks - SAON, European Polar Board, International Permafrost Association, UArctic, and projects of relevance such as the Horizon 2020 projects EDU-Arctic, APPLICATE, EUPolarNet and INTAROS, Global Terrestrial Network on Permafrost - GTN-P, SDWG project Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas, the China-Iceland Aurora Observatory and the Arctic Business Directory.



**Margareta Johansson**

*Principal Investigator, INTERACT Project, University of Lund, Sweden*

Margareta Johansson is based at the Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science at Lund University in Sweden. Johansson has broad experience in Arctic research, ranging from glaciology/climatology to Arctic ecology. Over the last decade she has focused on permafrost in a changing climate in northern Sweden. Her research experience includes helping coordinate major environmental assessments such as a chapter in the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) ([www.acia.uaf.edu](http://www.acia.uaf.edu)) on terrestrial ecosystems. She is currently Coordinator for the EU Horizon2020 project INTERACT networking more than 75 research stations in the north ([www.eu-interact.org](http://www.eu-interact.org)). She was previously the Executive Secretary for a nordic top-level research initiative DEFROST ([www.ncoe-defrost.org](http://www.ncoe-defrost.org)) and was a co-coordinator of the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) between 2006-2008. She has recently co-led the terrestrial ecosystem chapter in the Arctic Freshwater Synthesis (<http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/activities/targeted/afs>). Johansson has a great interest in outreach.

**Anna Karlsdóttir**

*Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio, Sweden*

Anna Karlsdóttir has a PhD in social Sciences from Roskilde University, Denmark. She has been lecturer at human geography and tourism studies at the University of Iceland since 2002. She is now Senior Research fellow at Nordregio and coordinates the Nordic Arctic Working Group (2013-2016) and serves as administrator of the Arctic Cooperation Programme. She has conducted studies on various issues regarding telecommuting, shifts in primary industry occupations (fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture) in rural communities in North Atlantic region, employment diversification and tourism related occupations and links to regional development. She has been involved in North Atlantic, Nordic, European, US and Canadian research networks in the Arctic since 1996.

**Timo Koivurova**

*Director, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland*

Timo Koivurova is a Research Professor and Director of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland. As a researcher he has specialized in various aspects of law applicable in the Arctic and Antarctic region. Koivurova is leading and involved in many international research projects and acts in various editorial duties, for instance, as the editor-in-chief of the Brill's the Yearbook of Polar Law. He was Director of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law before he became the Director of the Arctic Centre. He has also been involved as an expert in several international processes globally and in the Arctic region.

**Peter Larsson**

*Swedish Lapland Chamber of Commerce*

Peter Larsson works at the Swedish Lapland Chamber of Commerce. His responsibilities include business development and project management. He has extensive business development experience acquired most recently from his job as Managing Director of Lulea Science Park, and also from his long experience since the early 90s working as a key account manager in the ICT industry.

**Felix Leinemann**

*Head of Unit, Maritime Policy Atlantic, Outermost Regions and Arctic, DG MARE, EU Commission*

Felix Leinemann has worked for the European Commission since 2003 in various fields including fisheries and maritime affairs, maritime transport and inland navigation, the EU's global navigation satellite system Galileo, intelligent transport systems, urban transport and passenger rights. Between 2012 and 2014, he worked as Transport Counsellor in the EU Delegation in Washington, DC. Before this, he was a member of the private office of European Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, after serving as Assistant to the Director General for Mobility and Transport since 2010. Leinemann holds a PhD from the University of Freiburg, Germany, following law studies in Germany and Italy. Before joining the Commission, he worked as a lawyer and advocacy officer in Germany, France and Belgium.

**Erica Mattson**

*CEO, Swedish Lapland Visitors Board*

Erica Mattson is the CEO of the Swedish Lapland Visitors Board (SLVB), the official representative for the hospitality industry in the northern most part of Sweden. Within the Interreg project, Visit Arctic Europe SLVB combines forces with Finish Lapland and North Norway to strengthen cross border cooperation between travel businesses in the Arctic area. Mattson has an MBA from the Stockholm School of Economics and helped put STF Abisko Mountain Station on the global aurora tourism map. She has served as CEO of destination Kiruna Lapland and has been a destination development strategist.

**Chris McDonald**

*Policy Analyst, Regional Development Policy Division, OECD*

Chris McDonald has 14 years of experience in a range of leadership roles in government and academia. This includes executive and management level roles in regional and rural development, planning and infrastructure policy with the State Government of Victoria. He currently works as a Policy Analyst in the Regional Development Policy Division at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Chris's undergraduate qualification is in urban planning and he has a PhD in regional development. He has published on these subjects in peer review journals and has undertaken teaching and lecturing roles in public policy, regional development and economic geography. McDonald also has experience as a consultant to the government and university sectors in Australia.

**Tómas Orri Ragnarsson**

*Counsellor of Arctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland*

Tómas Orri Ragnarsson is a Counsellor in the Arctic Affairs department of the Directorate of International and Security Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Iceland. He served as Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Iceland in Oslo in 2008-2013. He was a Political Advisor in the Icelandic Delegation to NATO, Brussels, from 2005-2008 and a First Secretary at the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2001-2005. Before joining the Icelandic Foreign Service Ragnarsson was a journalist at Morgunbladid, Business and Economy desk, 2000-2001. He was a researcher at the Institute for Business Research at the University of Iceland from 1997-1998. He studied at the undergraduate level at the University of Iceland and at the graduate level in Taiwan and at the University of Hong Kong.

**Urmas Paet**

*Member of the European Parliament*

Urmas Paet is a Member of the European Parliament and is mostly active in the Committee of Foreign Affairs and Budgets. He held the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs in Estonia nearly a decade before coming to Brussels and at the time he was the longest serving Foreign Minister in Europe. He is also a board member of the Estonian Reform Party and the President of the Estonian Paraolympics Committee. Paet is currently a rapporteur for a report on Arctic Policy and the European Defence Union. Furthermore he has held several seminars on cyber security, UN reform and the Defence Union.

**Bob Paquin**

*Head, Canadian International Arctic Centre, Canadian Embassy, Oslo, Norway*

Bob Paquin took up his current position as Head of the Oslo-based Canadian International Arctic Centre in 2015. Prior to this, Paquin was Deputy Director of the Human Rights Policy Division from 2013-15, Director of the Task Force on International Critical Incidents from 2011-13, Middle East Regional Policy Coordinator, 2009-11, and he undertook a temporary assignment as Political Director of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan in 2009. Before this he worked as Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister for Bilateral Relations from 2008-09. He also served as Senior Asia Regional Strategist from 2006-2007, and in the

International Crime and Terrorism Division from 2004-06. He spent three years in Singapore as the Political/Economic Relations and Public Affairs Program Manager in 2001-04, and served in the Southeast Asia Division from 1999-2001. Through 1998-99, he was the Program Coordinator with the newly-created Forum of Federations for the first International Conference on Federalism. Based in Singapore from 1993-98, Paquin undertook consulting work for the Canadian International Development Agency's Southeast Asia Regional Program. Prior to this, he worked in the private sector in the publishing industry.



**Greg Poelzer**

*Arctic Fulbright Scholar, University of Saskatchewan, Canada*

Greg Poelzer is a Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability (University of Saskatchewan) and Founding Director of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development. He is Lead of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, Energy Group scholar (May 2015 to October 2016) and leads the UArctic Northern Governance Thematic Network. His first book (co-authored), *Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North* (2008), was awarded the 2009 Donner Prize for excellence and innovation in Canadian public policy writing. His second book (co-authored), *From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation: A Road Map for All Canadians* was shortlisted for the 2016 Donner Prize, Dafoe Prize, J.W. Dafoe Prize, and Saskatchewan Book Award. He has served as an advisor and negotiator on Indigenous relations for the Government of Saskatchewan, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and SaskPower. His current research focuses on renewable energy, resource economies, and sustainable development in sub-Arctic regions.



### **Hon. Minister Vittus Qujaukitsoq**

*Minister for Industry, Labour, Trade, Energy and Foreign Affairs,  
Government of Greenland*

Hon. Minister Vittus Qujaukitsoq was appointed Minister for Industry, Labour, Trade and Foreign Affairs in December 2014. From November 2015 to February 2016, Minister Qujaukitsoq temporarily covered the portfolio of Finance, Mineral Resources and Foreign Affairs. In October 2016, Minister Qujaukitsoq's portfolio was enlarged to include Energy issues. His current portfolio now covers industrial matters, business, labour, trade, energy issues, tourism, foreign affairs and security policy. Minister Qujaukitsoq was elected as a Member of Greenland's Parliament in 2013. From 2013-2014 he was Minister of Finance and Domestic Affairs. Prior to taking his current role, Minister Qujaukitsoq was the second deputy chair of the Siumut Party – the largest political party in Greenland (since 2011), as well as a mining and resources adviser to SIK – the national labour union of Greenland (since 2010).

During his earlier career, Minister Qujaukitsoq had many important posts within politics as well as corporate posts in some of Greenland's largest corporations; including Royal Greenland, KNI and Greenland's national power company Nukissiorfiit. Minister Qujaukitsoq also served as private secretary to Ministers responsible for portfolios including Infrastructure, Housing, Environment and Mineral Resources; Culture, Education, Church and Research; Industry, Fishery, Hunting, Trade, Tourism and Settlements; and Social Affairs, Labour and Public Works. He has also served as private secretary to one of Greenland's two MPs in the Danish Parliament. From 1999 to 2000, Minister Qujaukitsoq served as the Siumut Party's Secretary General, responsible for running the party headquarters and secretary for the Parliament group, executive committee and the board of directors. Minister Qujaukitsoq was educated as a translator and interpreter from the Greenland Business School in 1993.

**Ambassador Anniken Ramberg Krutnes**

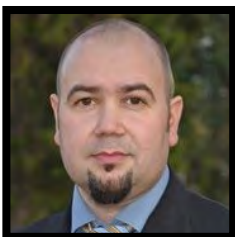
*SAO, Norway*

Ambassador Anniken Ramberg Krutnes is Norway's Ambassador for Arctic and Antarctic Affairs. She was previously Ambassador for Norway to the Netherlands and Luxembourg. During her career in the Foreign Service, she was also posted to Madrid and Strasbourg. She has held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo, such as Director General for Internal and External Services and Assistant Director General in the Legal Department, section for Law of the Sea and environmental law. She holds a Masters degree in Law from the University of Oslo and a Master of Science in Economics and Administration from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration (NHH), Bergen.

**Gunn-Britt Retter**

*Head of the Arctic Environment Unit, Saami Council, Norway*

Gunn-Britt Retter was born and raised in the coastal Saami community of Unjárga-Nesseby near Varangerfjord in north-eastern Norway. She is a teacher of training from Sámi University College (Guovdageaidnu - Kautokeino, Norway) and holds MA in Bilingual studies from University of Wales. Since 2001, She has worked on Arctic Environmental issues, first with the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) (Copenhagen, Denmark) and since 2005 in her current position as Head of Arctic and Environmental Unit of the Saami Council. Here, Retter mainly engages in questions on indigenous peoples and knowledge related to climate change, biodiversity, language, pollution and natural resource management.

**Mika Riipi**

*County Governor, Lapland, Finland*

Mika Riipi has been the County Governor of the Regional Council of Lapland since March 2013. The mission of the Regional Council of Lapland is to operate for the good of the region, its municipalities and inhabitants of Lapland in all issues regarding development, planning, research and representation of interests for the region. Previously, Riipi was Mayor in Posio, town secretary in Haapavesi and senior adviser in the Municipality department at the Ministry of the Interior. Riipi holds a Master's degree in Administrative Sciences, majoring in municipality jurisdiction. He graduated from the University of Tampere in 2002.

**Michael Sfraga**

*Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA*

Michael Sfraga earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a Master degree from Bowling Green State University, and UAF's first Ph.D. in Northern Studies and Geography in 1997. Sfraga has worked for UAF and the University of Alaska System since 1985 in a broad range of administrative, academic and executive positions. He oversees many programs and leads a number of Arctic-related initiatives: Co-Lead Scholar, Fulbright Arctic Initiative, Chair, Board of Directors, Institute of the North, Co-Director, University of the Arctic's Institute for Arctic Policy, and member of the Alaska Arctic Council.

**Pekka Shemeikka**

*Senior Adviser, SDWG Chair, Finland*

Pekka Shemeikka is Senior Adviser for Arctic issues at the Finnish Foreign Ministry. He will be chairing the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) during the Finnish chairmanship 2017-2019 and is responsible for the EU's Arctic policy at the Ministry in Helsinki. He was previously posted to Turkey as the Deputy Head of Mission. Before this he worked for the EU preparations for Rio+20 in Helsinki in 2010-2012 and as an Adviser for the UNSG's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP). Before this, Shemeikka has held various positions in Brussels including relations with the European Parliament of Finland and the EU HR/SG in 2001-2009. Shemeikka has also been posted to the Netherlands and Iran in the past. Shemeikka holds a Masters degree in International Economics from the University of Helsinki.

**Niklas Sirén**

*Deputy Mayor of Kiruna, Sweden*

Niklas Sirén is Deputy Mayor of Kiruna in Sweden. Born and raised in Kiruna, his studies include social sciences, public health and sports psychology. He has mainly worked in the field of education as well as audio technology. In politics his main assignments have been to serve as vice Mayor of Kiruna in 2003 and then from 2011, and since 2003 as a local political party leader. He has also been Vice Chairman of the regional board and served as a substitute in the national Swedish parliament. His interests include playing the guitar, sports of all kinds and exotic cars.



**Eirik Sivertsen**

*Head, Norwegian Parliament's Delegation for Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation*

Eirik Sivertsen is a Norwegian Member of Parliament representing the Labor Party and the County of Nordland. Sivertsen was elected to parliament the first time in 2009 and was re-elected in 2013. Since 2013, Sivertsen has been the Chair of the Norwegian Parliament's delegation to the Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation. Since 2014, he has also chaired the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, and was re-elected at the Arctic parliamentary conference in Russia in June 2016. In the Norwegian parliament he serves as the First Vice-Chair of the Committee on Transport and Communication.

**Peter Sköld**

*Professor at Umeå University, President of IASSA, Director of Arcum, Sweden*

Peter Sköld is a professor of history, Sami culture and society development at Umeå University, Sweden. He is Director of the Centre for Arctic Research (Arcum). Sköld's research profile includes historical demography, population statistics, indigenous health transitions and northern cultures. Peter keeps active engagement in Arctic research planning, stakeholder cooperation, and international collaboration. He is president of International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), vice chair for WG Human and Social Sciences in the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), and member of the Board of Governors of the University of the Arctic. He is also a member of the Arctic Council Culture, Economy and Geography Expert Group. In 2015, he was appointed Honorary Consul of Västerbotten to Latvia and this year he became official Climate Ambassador of Västerbotten. Between 2014-2018, Sköld is co-scientific leader of the 4,5 million Euro project: New Governance for Sustainable Development in the European Arctic, involving 35 researchers.

**Piet Steel**

*Member of the Board of the Polar Secretariat, Belgium*

Piet Steel commenced his professional career as a Belgian diplomat. Between 1975 and 1997 he held various diplomatic assignments including Chief Negotiator during the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round in Geneva, Ambassador to Vietnam and Consul General to Hong Kong. In 1997, he accepted responsibility for Public Affairs at the Solvay Group (Belgium), overseeing the chemical and pharmaceutical company's global government affairs activities. In 2005, he joined Toyota Motor Europe as Vice-President of External Affairs. In 2010, the Government of Japan appointed Mr Steel as its Honorary Consul General for the Flanders region. He is Chairman of the Belgium Hong Kong Society, President of the Board Special Olympics Belgium and Member of the Board of the Polar Secretariat. He was appointed "Distinguished Visiting Fellow" of the European Business School of Regent's University in London. Mr Steel is advisor on international affairs to various companies.

**Tim Stelzig**

*Federal Regulatory Attorney, General Communication, Inc., USA*

Tim Stelzig joined General Communications Inc. (GCI), the largest provider of Arctic telecommunications in the United States, as a federal regulatory attorney in the fall of 2015. Prior to this, he spent a decade working on telecommunications policy at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Previously, he worked as an associate for Arnold & Porter, a large law firm in Washington, D.C. Tim holds a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, a master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an undergraduate degree from the University of West Virginia.

**Jesper Stig Andersen**

*Senior Adviser, Arctic issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Denmark*

Jesper Stig Andersen is Senior Adviser on Arctic issues for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Denmark. He leads the ministry's team working on Arctic issues in support of the Arctic Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark. He also participates in the work of the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation of the Arctic Council. He has previously served on secondment to the Arctic Council Secretariat and has an international background which includes a secondment to the European External Action Service. He holds a Master's degree in law.



**Lise-Lotte Terp**  
*Director, Arctic Consensus*

Lise-Lotte Terp is Director of the Arctic Consensus and Chairman at the Greenlandic House in Aalborg. She has substantial experience with the Arctic and particularly, regional Greenlandic perspectives. Her professional experiences include working within the Greenland Home Rule Government, working as Chairman at Arctic Business Network representing more than 70 Greenlandic, Canadian and Danish businesses, and aiding in the founding of Arctic Education Network. Her experience furthermore includes acting as Head of Management Secretariat at the Port of Aalborg and consultant at the Mayor’s Office in the municipality of Aalborg, North Denmark.



**Svein Vigeland Rottem**  
*Director, Polar Programme, Firdtjof Nansen Institute, Norway*

Svein Vigeland Rottem is a Senior Researcher and Director of the Polar Programme at the Firdtjof Nansen Institute (FNI). His PhD was on the Norwegian defence establishment’s encounter with new post-cold war realities, emphasizing, among other things, security and safety in Arctic waters. In recent years, his main research focus has centred on Arctic governance, safety and security issues in the Arctic, and the Arctic Council, on which he has published widely.

