

# ARCTIC FUTURES SYMPOSIUM

Sustainable Economic  
Development in a  
Changing Arctic  
Landscape



December 2-3 2025

#ArcticFutures

16th Edition

EFTA House

Brussels - Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 19H

***Tuesday, December 2nd***

**13:30–14:00** ***Registration and coffee***

**14:00–14:10** **Welcome**

**Nicolas Van Hoecke** (Managing Director, International Polar Foundation)

**Piet Steel** (Vice-President, Belgian Polar Secretariat; Director, IPF Board;  
Former Belgian Ambassador to Vietnam)

**Patrick Renault** (Belgian Ambassador to the Poles)

**14:10–14:45** **Opening Keynotes**

**Speakers:** **Costas Kadis** (European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, European Commission (DG MARE))

**Minninguaq Kleist** (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greenland)

**Claude Véron-Réville** (EU Special Envoy for Arctic Matters)

**Sara Olsvig** (Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council)

**14:45-16:00    Sustainable Economic Development Priorities of the Kingdom of Denmark Arctic Council Chairship**

*The Arctic Council Chairship has a dedicated focus on the need for sustainable economic development in the Arctic, including the need for a North-to-North approach on collaborative efforts. It is important that sustainable economic development in the Arctic is conducted according to frameworks determined by the Peoples of the Arctic.*

*The panel will discuss how the specific needs for sustainable economic development in the Arctic can be advanced in a balanced manner with respect for different Arctic ways of life. The panel will also explore how to ensure that initiatives are being led by the Peoples of the Arctic for the benefit of all Arctic inhabitants, with a particular focus on Indigenous Peoples.*

**Moderator:**    **Patti Bruns** (Secretary General, Arctic Mayors Forum)

**Panellists:**    **Kenneth Høegh** (Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials (Arctic Council), Kingdom of Denmark)

**Claude Véron-Réville** (EU Special Envoy for Arctic Matters)

**Hans Ellefsen** (Associate Professor and Vice-Dean, Faculty of History and Social Sciences, University of the Faroe Islands)

**Camilla Aviaja Olsen** (Chair, Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group)

**Edward Alexander** (Co-Chair, Gwich'in Council International; Head of Delegation to the Senior Arctic Officials, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response working groups)

**16:00–16:30    *Coffee Break***

**16:30-16:45 Presentation of the Laurence Tr n Arctic Futures Award**

Given by the International Polar Foundation and the Tr n Family, the Laurence Tr n Arctic Futures Award is an annual award given to a young entrepreneur based in the Arctic to help them move their business forward.

**Presenters:** **Nicolas Van Hoecke** (Managing Director, International Polar Foundation)

**Piet Steel** (Vice-President, Belgian Polar Secretariat; Director, IPF Board; Former Belgian Ambassador to Vietnam)

**Mads Qvist Frederiksen** (Director, Arctic Economic Council)

**Johan Armstrong St ver** (CEO, Marine Spark X)

**Gustav Vestlie** (Chief Strategy Officer, Marine Spark X)

**16:45 - 18:00 Arctic Investments Scenarios towards 2040**

This panel will discuss the results of the Nord University scenarios workshop focusing on Arctic investment scenarios for the coming 10-15 years, putting them into context for local, national and EU policymakers.

**Moderator:** **Andreas Raspotnik** (Director, High North Centre, Nord University; Senior Researcher, Fridtjof Nansen Institute)

**Panellists:** **Andrey Mineev** (Researcher, Nord University Business School)

**Mads Qvist Frederiksen** (Director, Arctic Economic Council)

**Kalle Kankaanp  ** (Ambassador for Arctic Affairs and Senior Arctic Official, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland)

**Carina Sammeli** (Mayor of Lule , Sweden)

**Erika Tizya-Tramm** (Manager of Community Partnerships with Northern Energy Innovation, Yukon University; Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation)

**Larisa Lorinczi** (Policy Officer, European Commission (DG RTD))

**Gustav Vestlie** (Chief Strategy Officer, Marine Spark X)

**18:00-20:00 Cocktail hosted by Kingdom of Denmark**

**Wednesday, December 3rd**

**8:30 - 9:00**     **Registration and coffee**

**9:00 - 9:02**     **Welcome**

**Nicolas Van Hoecke** (Managing Director, International Polar Foundation)

**9:02 – 9:15**     **Keynotes**

**Speakers:**     **Jonas Andersson** (Chair for the Network of Northern Sparsely Populated Areas)

**Johan Armstrong Støver** (CEO, Marine Spark X)

**9:15–10:30**     **The Power of Culture in the Arctic's Future**

*Three Arctic European Capitals of Culture are presenting the importance and power of culture in the Arctic region and how culture brings regional development, tolerance and diversity.*

*Covered in this panel may include culture as a means to attract a skilled population to live in the Arctic, culture as a way to encourage entrepreneurship, culture as a way to reaffirm identity, and sustainable tourism.*

**Moderator:**     **Henrik Sand Dagfinrud** (Programme Manager, Bodø 2024)

**Panellists:**     **Piia Rantala-Korhonen** (CEO, Oulu Culture Foundation)

**Sofia Lagerlöf Määttä** (Cultural Strategist, Kiruna 2029)

**Maria Svonni** (Artistic Leader, Konstfrämjandet Norrbotten and Verdde)

**Anatoli Bourmistrov** (Professor, Nord University Business School)

**Elena Kavanagh** (Expert on Indigenous Rights, School of Law, University College Cork; Advisor, Arctic Youth Network)

**10:30-11:00**     **Coffee Break**

## **11:00–12:15 Cross-Border Collaboration on Renewable Energy**

The green transition in energy presents significant opportunities to society, but also challenges. We face numerous unresolved issues that must be addressed to reduce emissions and meet climate goals. For people residing in the Arctic, these challenges are particularly pressing, as climate changes are occurring rapidly and locally across the region. Actors in the Arctic – from local communities to businesses – have a vested interest in these developments. The Arctic Six aims to contribute to solving these issues, by uniting companies and universities in the Northern-Nordics Arctic to identify and initiate research and development projects that will accelerate value creation and social progress in our region.

**Moderator:** **Charlotta Söderberg** (Associate Professor, Political Science, Luleå University of Technology)

**Panellists:** **Anna Krook-Riekkola** (Professor, Energy Science, Luleå University of Technology)

**Antonio Calò** (University Lecturer, Water Energy and Environmental Engineering Research Unit, University of Oulu)

**Marit Magelssen Vambheim** (Cluster Manager, Energi i Nord)

**Erika Tizya-Tramm** (Manager of Community Partnerships with Northern Energy Innovation, Yukon University; Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation)

**Monica Paulsen** (Cluster Manager, Arctic Cluster)

## **12:15–13:30 Lunch**

## **13:30–14:45 Arctic Resources on Our Own Terms**

*The Arctic is a geopolitical hotspot. A region of natural resources and energy in a world of increasing demands. The EU is no exception for the interest in the Arctic assets, with its critical raw material act, net zero industry act and the clean industrial deal. This, in turn, increases tensions in the region.*

*The question is how the checks and balances are to be upheld? How to assure both the local and global needs? The Arctic is also a place where people live. The Arctic paradox is the lack of critical mass in the local communities to release the full growth potentials, at the same time as the return of the industrial investments in raw material facilities goes elsewhere.*

*This session will explore those imbalances and how the exploitation and investments to the gain of the EU and others can go hand in hand with local needs of investments and development opportunities, while respecting the local communities' interests and Indigenous Peoples rights, addressing the*

*different land-use interests and need of long-term sustainable local development.*

**Moderator:** **Mikael Janson** (Director, North Sweden European Office)

**Panellists:** **Kenneth Høegh** (Chair, Senior Arctic Officials, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greenland)

**Bjørn Olav Megard** (Director General of Department for Indigenous Peoples and National Minorities at the Ministry of Regional and Municipal Policy of Norway)

**Justin Langan** (Indigenous Canadian Activist, Social Entrepreneur and Policy Leader)

**Jonas Andersson** (Chair for the Network of Northern Sparsely Populated Areas)

**Andres Sanabria** (Coordinator, OECD Mining Regions and Cities Initiative)

**Maria Martisiute** (Policy Analyst on Europe in the World, European Policy Centre)

**14:45–15:30** ***Coffee Break***

**15:30 - 15:45** **Mohn Prize Keynote**

**Speakers:** **Dag Rune Olsen** (Rector, UiT - the Arctic University of Norway)

**Nils Christian Stenseth** (Director, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis, University of Oslo; Mohn Prize Scientific Committee)

**Mohn Prize winner** (video message)

**15:45 - 17:00** **Arctic Monitoring: Understanding Current and Future Challenges through Examining the Past**

*The topic in the Mohn prize panel will reflect the field of study of the 2026 winner of the Mohn Award.*

*The winner is renowned for his/her studies on historic variations in Arctic climate and environment which contributes to our understanding of current and future challenges related to climate change in the Arctic and beyond. Through multi-disciplinary and innovative assessment methods, the Mohn awardee has underscored the importance of knowledge of the past to better equip ourselves for the future - and that time and tempo matters.*

**Moderator:** **Dag Rune Olsen** (Rector, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway)

**Panellists:** **Guillaume Lamarche-Gagnon** (Researcher, IC3, UiT - the Arctic University of Norway)

**Maria Grigoratou** (Executive Secretary, European Polar Board)

**Edward Alexander** (Co-Chair, Gwich'in Council International; Head of Delegation to the Senior Arctic Officials, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response working groups)

**Nils Christian Stenseth** (Director, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis, University of Oslo; Mohn Prize Scientific Committee)

**17:00-17:20** **Summary and Closing Remarks**

**Marie-Anne Coninx** (Former EU Arctic Ambassador; Board Member, International Polar Foundation; Senior Fellow, Egmont Institute)

**17:30 - 19:30** **Mohn Prize Cocktail**

