



**Monday, December 2nd**

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

**14:00-14:05** **Lighting of Qulliq**

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

**Aaju-Peter** (Inuk Lawyer)

**14:05–14:10** **Welcome from the organisers**

**Alain Hubert** (Founder and President, International Polar Foundation)

**14:10–14:45** **Opening Keynotes**

**Speakers:** **Stefano Sannino** (Secretary General, European External Action Service)

**Charlina Vitcheva** (Director General, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)

**Maria Varteressian** (State Secretary of Norway)

**Sara Olsvig** (Chair ICC International)

**14:45-16:00** **Building on Progress: Reflections and Aspirations from the Norwegian and Kingdom of Denmark Arctic Council Chairships**

*This panel will highlight what the Norwegian Arctic Council Chairship has been able to achieve in spite of the current geopolitical situation and what the Kingdom of Denmark Chairship will carry on when it takes over in 2025.*

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

**Panellists:** **Morten Høglund** (Norway's Ambassador for the Arctic; Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council)

**Tobias Elling Rehfeild** (Ambassador, Senior Arctic Official for the Kingdom of Denmark, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

**Sara Olsvig** (Chair ICC International)

**Naja-Theresia Høegh** (Law student at the University of Copenhagen; Member of OCT Youth; Former Special Advisor on Youth to Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen)

**16:00–16:30** ***Coffee Break***

**16:30-18:00** **Transatlantic Cooperation in the Arctic in 2025 and Beyond**

*Changing political dynamics between Arctic states and within Arctic states have the potential to accelerate the transformation of the Arctic from an area apart from geopolitical tension to an area of geopolitical competition. All Arctic Council states apart from Russia are now NATO members, and these Arctic 7 must grapple with increasingly challenging ties to Russia and China. Although current points of tension do not stem from the Arctic, this does not preclude heightened tensions from being expressed in the European High North, North Atlantic, or the North American Arctic.*

*Climate change is opening new opportunities for trans-Arctic trade, drawing interests from both Arctic and non-Arctic States. During the summer months, the Northern Sea Route may be more accessible than the Northwest Passage, allowing Russia to be more competitive on the shipping front. Increasingly, Arctic states will have to address geopolitical concerns while also not losing sight or losing ground on priorities that have underpinned earlier eras of Arctic exceptionalism: ongoing work is essential on environmental protection, indigenous population rights and needs, climate change, and sustainable economic development.*

**Moderator:** **Ian Lesser** (Distinguished Fellow and Adviser to the President, Head of Brussels Office, German Marshall Fund of the United States)

**Part 1: Transatlantic Cooperation Priorities : What will be new in 2025 and after**

**Panellists:** **Claude Véron-Réville** (Head of Division for Western Europe and Special Envoy for Arctic Matters, EEAS)

**Kristine Berzina** (Managing Director, Geostrategy North, German Marshall Fund of the United States)

**Johanna Ikävalko** (Director of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland)

-----

**Part 2: Transatlantic Cooperation on the Ground: How Transatlantic Cooperation Can Deliver**

**Panellists:** **Bergdís Ellertsdóttir** (Senior Arctic Official; Ambassador, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland)

**Willfred Nordlund** (Member of Norwegian Parliament for Nordland 2021-2025; Chair, the Standing Committee on Business and Industry)

**Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio** (Mayor of Rovaniemi, Finland)

**18:00**      **End of Day 1**

**Tuesday, December 3rd**

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

**9:00 - 9:02**    **Welcome from the organisers**

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

**9:02 – 9:15**    **Keynote**

**Speakers:**    **Høgne Hoydal** (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign affairs, Industry and Trade, Faroe Islands)

**Aaju-Peter** (Inuk Lawyer)

**9:15–10:30**    **The Current Security and Geopolitical Status of the Arctic**

*This panel will examine the current European and North American security landscape with regard to the Arctic. Developments in Total Defence acknowledge the complexities of security which involves both civil and military engagement, and responsibilities. The panel will discuss measures that promote continued low tension in the region, in light of the current geopolitical situation. Increased civil-military attention along the new NATO-Russia border, as well as across the entire Arctic region, implies new thinking around civil-military preparedness and cooperation.*

**Moderator:**    **Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørvi** (Professor in Security and Geopolitics (Critical Peace and Conflict Studies) and Arctic Six Chair in Security Studies, UiT, The Arctic University of Norway)

**Panellists:**    **Rolf Folland** (Lt Gen, Norwegian Military Representative to NATO)

**Anita Parlow** (Author, International Strategic Advisor, A.L. Parlow & Associates, LLC)

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

**Tuukka Karjalainen** (Senior Advisor, City of Rovaniemi, Finland)

**Jonas Andersson** (Chair for Region Jämtland Härjedalen, Sweden)

**10:30-11:00** *Coffee Break*

**11:00–12:15** **Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Regional Collaboration to Meet Arctic Challenges Sustainably**

This panel will look at labour, social acceptance, energy, investments and other key elements needed in building a culture of sustainable entrepreneurship in the High North.

**Moderator:** **Linda Solstrand Dahlberg** (Senior Adviser and the Brussels Representative for the University of Tromsø - the Arctic University of Norway)

**Panellists:** **Tânia Frazão Nunes** (Legal and Policy Adviser, Small and Medium Enterprises, DG GROW)

**Helga Kristín Friðjónsdóttir** (Founder and CEO, Iceland Unwrapped)

**Sabrina Suikki** (International Affairs and Regional Export Cooperation, Norbotten Chamber of Commerce)

**Ernst Olsen** (Advisor, North Atlantic Cooperation (NORA))

**Aina Elise Fagereng** (Project Manager, Bodø International School; BRUS - Developing the Bodø Region)

**12:15–12:30** **Presentation of the Laurence Trân Arctic Futures Award**

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

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

**Patti Bruns** (Secretary-General, Arctic Mayors Forum)

**12:30-13:30** **Lunch**

**13:30–14:45 Building and Maintaining an Arctic Workforce and Resilient Arctic Communities**

*This panel will highlight key challenges and smart initiatives that allow the High North to build and maintain a well-trained Arctic workforce and resilient communities. The panel will in particular discuss the situation for young people across the Arctic, the role of education and skills, health and wellbeing, and what the EU can do to support Arctic communities.*

**Moderator:** **Johan Sandström** (Professor, Luleå University of Technology, Arctic Six Chair)  
**Lena Abrahamsson** (Professor and Head of Subject, Chaired Professor, Human Work Sciences, Luleå University of Technology)

**Panellists:** **Glenn Berggård** (Commissioner for regional development in Region Norrbotten) .

**Riitta Rissanen** (Rector, Lapland University of Applied Sciences)

**Pavel Tkach** (Junior Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland (Finland); Acting Managing Director, Arctic Youth Network (Canada))

**Pilo Sameulsen** (Project Manager, Siu-Tsiu)

**Magni Mohr**, (Dean, University of the Faroe Islands)

**14:45–15:15 *Coffee Break***

**15:15-16:30 Critical Raw Materials and Resource Supply Chains: Tensions and Trade-offs**

*This panel will ask: What can the EU do to promote responsible mining in the Arctic? What is the EU willing to invest to get the CRM it needs?*

*With the Arctic warming up to seven percent faster than the rest of the planet, nowhere else is the need to address climate change more urgently. The key to mitigating its effects lies in the energy transition, which is inextricably linked to the mining of critical raw materials. The European Arctic offers enormous potential for mining CRMs, confirmed most recently by the new rare earths deposit adjacent to the existing Kiruna mine in northern Sweden. The European Arctic is also home to the Saami, Europe's only indigenous*

*peoples, a non-indigenous rural population that struggles with out-migration and extraordinary natural landscapes important for mitigating climate change while also providing business opportunities in tourism and forestry. Europe has long been at the vanguard of the sustainability movement and European policy-makers insist it can remain so as mining can and will be done responsibly. But what is responsible mining in the European context and can mining be responsible if there are communities in opposition? Who wins and who loses? And should those most directly affected have the right to say no?*

**Moderator:** **Pamela Lesser** (Doctoral Researcher, Faculty of Social Sciences, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland)

**Panellists:** **Sara Olsvig** (Chair, ICC International)

**Willfred Nordlund** (Member of Norwegian Parliament for Nordland 2021-2025; Chair, The Standing Committee on Business and Industry)

**Ellen Marie Jensen** (Independent scholar, educator, author, and affiliate of the APRI research group on social and cultural systems; Member of the Co-Create initiative)

**Pertti Lamberg** (CEO & Project Manager, Sakatti, Anglo American)

**Killian Charles** (President and CEO, Brunswick Exploration)

**16:30**      **Summary and Closing Remarks**

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

**Michael Sfraga** (Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs, United States)

**17:00**      **End of Symposium**