

9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



EU Arctic policy

Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States..

Priorities

As climate change and economic development accelerate in the Arctic region, the European Union intends to step up its engagement with its Arctic partners to jointly meet the challenge of safeguarding the environment while ensuring the sustainable development of the Arctic region.

The Commission and High Representative Catherine Ashton are proposing to focus further development of the EU's policy towards the Arctic on three key areas:

- **Supporting research and channeling knowledge to address the challenges of environmental and climate changes in the Arctic;**
- **Acting with responsibility to contribute to ensuring economic development in the Arctic is based on sustainable use of resources and environmental expertise;**
- **Intensifying its constructive engagement and dialogue with Arctic States, indigenous peoples and other partners.**

Top 3 Facts

The EU has provided over €1.14 billion to develop the economic, social and environmental potential of the Arctic regions of the EU and neighbouring areas for 2007-2013.

The EU, through the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), has contributed around €200 million of EU funds to international research activities in the Arctic.

Three EU Member States — Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), Finland and Sweden — have territories in the Arctic.

Did you know?

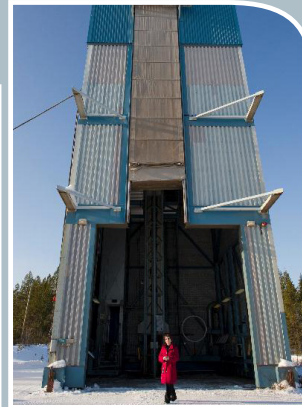
The Arctic Ocean is projected to become nearly ice-free summer within the next **30 to 40 years**.

Extending from Europe to Asia, the Northern Sea Route could shorten the time taken by cargo vessels to travel between the Pacific and the Atlantic by about one third.

For instance, the Yokohama-London route via the Suez Canal is **11,447 nautical miles and would be around 7,474 nautical miles** via the Northern Sea Route.

According to the US Geological Survey (2009), **the Arctic holds 13% of undiscovered oil and 30% of undiscovered gas supplies.**

Visit of Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the EC, to Norway:
Jonas Gahr Støre, on the right, and Catherine Ashton.



Visit of Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the EC, to Sweden:
Catherine Ashton, in front of the Maxus rocket sheltered in the Esrang launch building.

Visit of Stephen Harper, Canadian Prime Minister, to the EC:
Discussion between Stephen Harper and José Manuel Barroso (in the foreground, from left to right).



Visit of Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the EC, to Finland:
Klemetti Näkkäläjärvi, 2d from the right, and Catherine Ashton, on the right.

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Main links:

General Links:

http://eeas.europa.eu/arctic_region/index_en.htm;

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea_basins/arctic_ocean/index_en.htm;

The EU Arctic Footprint and Policy Assessment Project:

<http://arctic-footprint.eu/>

Transatlantic Policy Options for Supporting Adaptation in the Marine Arctic Project:

<http://arctic-transform.org/>

Northern Periphery Programme:

<http://www.northernperiphery.eu/en/projects/main/>

Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society (FP7 project):

www.access-eu.org