## FINAL AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10:00 – 10:30 | **1. Opening Session**<br>1.1 Opening remarks by Ms Sari Nurro (Oulu Region)<br>1.2 Tour de table (All participants are invited to briefly share Arctic related information - projects, investments, policies, events...)
| 10:30-10:55   | **2.BSC Arctic Task Force upcoming activities**<br>2.1 Presentation of suggested upcoming activities of the BSC Arctic Task Force, by Ms Lucille Ehrhart, BSC Executive Secretary (see background note on page 2)<br>2.2 Reaction by Members of the Arctic Task Force |
| 10:55 – 11:00 | **Conclusions**<br>Ms Sari Nurro (Oulu Region) |
BACKGROUND NOTE

Proposal of lobbying and cooperation actions of the BSC Arctic Task Force for 2024 – to be discussed with Member Regions

Context
- Renewal of the European Parliament in June 2024;
- Still no publication of the Council conclusions on the EU Arctic Policy;
- Appointment of a new College of EU Commissioners in November 2024;
- Intensification of the debate on the EU future budget for post 2027;
- Growing importance of Arctic issues;
- EU Arctic Forum, 14-15 May 2024 in Brussels.

BSC Arctic Task Force Action Plan for 2023-2024 serves as a roadmap of actions for 3 identified priorities:
- Sustainable economic and territorial development of the European Arctic Regions;
- Maintain European Arctic Regions as low tension areas through increased multilevel cooperation;
- Sustainable social development and attractive communities in Arctic regions.

BSC Arctic Task Force - What to lobby for during 2024?

- The BSC Arctic Task Force should act during 2024 to ensure that Arctic issues are high on the EU institutions’ agenda, renewed European Parliament, the new European Commission’s Work Programme post-2024, and that Arctic issues are well considered in the EU budget post-2027.

- The BSC Arctic Task Force should promote further Arctic issues in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The revision of the EUSBSR Action Plan in 2024-2025 represents a good opportunity.

BSC Arctic Task Force - How, When, Who to lobby during 2024?

➢ Suggestion to elaborate a new Position Paper addressed to the EU institutions by March 2023
  o What should be the content? Scope? Main messages? (For your information, the latest BSC Position Paper on Arctic issues can be found here).

➢ The BSC Arctic Task Force Members should be represented during relevant Arctic events. e.g., EU Arctic Forum in May 2024.

➢ Suggestion to organise a meeting with Finnish parliamentarians of the Arctic Parliamentary Conference at the Finnish Parliament (and invitation to the European External Action Service and European Commission, Secretary General of Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR)), the Swedish Arctic Ambassador. Spring 2024

➢ Suggestion to organise a thematic Arctic seminar in Brussels with new MEPs. Autumn 2024

➢ Suggestion to organise an Arctic seminar during the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2024 on Gotland.
Reminder:

**Objectives of the Arctic Task Force**

- Offer strategic support and provide regional evidence to the EU institutions during the revision process of the EU Arctic Policy post-2020 and ensure involvement of regional authorities in the implementation of the policy;
- Showcase the extensive potential of smart solutions in the Arctic to lead the green transition;
- Stand as a partner for dialogue and cooperation with the European institutions, and Arctic stakeholders and promote multi-level governance;
- Promote Arctic issues on the European agenda and more synergies with Baltic Sea issues.

**Key messages of the Arctic Task Force**

- The sustainable development of the Arctic must be based on territorial strengths. It is crucial to recognise and support the enormous potential of green growth in the European Arctic, based on the unique know-how of its people and natural resources;
- The focus of the European Arctic must be on investments in people and human capital;
- The development of sustainable transport modes and infrastructures, effective connections, ICT networks, is an essential condition to further connect the Arctic also together with the rest of the EU;
- Regional and local authorities must be fully involved in the implementation of the new EU Arctic Policy;
- The new EU funding instruments, and programmes post-2020 are essential for the development of the Arctic and must be adapted to specific territorial Arctic needs;
- There is a mutual benefit to connect the Arctic more with Baltic Sea issues.