NSPA Forum 29–30 October

Mustaparta Hotels, Hallituskatu 6
Tornio, Finland

Thursday 29 October

PRE-ACTIVITIES

9:30-11:30	Study visit to The Museum of Torne Valley, Torikatu 4, Tornio
10:30-11:00	*The Native Kven People: A Thousand Years on the North Calotte: The History, Culture and Enduring Legacy of a Northern People* Sigbjørn Rønbeck, *Foreningen Norden, Tromsø*

THE FORUM

12:00 *Lunch at Mustaparta Hotels, Hallituskatu 6*

A. Welcome to the NSPA Forum

13:00 Hannu Takkula, *Regional Governor, Lapland*
Jonas Andersson, *Chair NSPA network, Region Jämtland Härjedalen*

B. Update on the New Arctic Strategy from NSPA perspective

13:30 **Keynote on the New Arctic Strategy: Commission's perspective** *(video message)*
Raphaël Goulet, *Head of Unit, DG MARE*

Keynote on the New Arctic Strategy: Focus on Arctic cooperation *(video message)*
Kalle Kankaanpää, *Arctic Ambassador, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland*

NSPA Views on the New Arctic Strategy
Päivi Ekdahl, *Regional Development Director, Regional Council of Lapland, Finland*

14:30 *Coffee break*

C. Panel discussion: Advancing green transition and sustainable development in the European Arctic

15:10 **Panel discussion**
Jaana Sorvali, *Research Manager, Associate Professor, FIN Natural Resources Institute*
Kirsi Johansson, *Senior Manager, Environmental Projects and Biodiversity, Outokumpu*
Rickard Carstedt, *Chair of the Regional Development Board, Region Västerbotten*
Ritva Isomäki, *Manager of Environment and Natural Resources, Council of Oulu Region*
Moderator: Tiina Paakkari, *Senior Advisor, East and North Finland EU Office*

D. Presentation: Northern Cross-Regional Collaboration (NCRC) project

16:10 **Presentation**
Markus Lundgren, *Project Manager, Region Norrbotten*

16:35 Interactive exercise: Alias game with NSPA Acronyms

E. Update on the State of Play on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) discussions

17:00	**Update on the National and Regional Partnership Plan negotiations** Elsi Katainen, MEP, AGRI Committee Rapporteur for NRPPs
17:30	**Update on the State of Play on the MFF; NSPA perspective** Hanna Honkamäkilä, *General Secretary, East and North Finland* Kari Aalto, *Director, East and North Finland EU Office*
17:50	**European Competitiveness Fund and its possibilities for NSPA region** Unna Löppönen, Senior Advisor, East and North Finland EU Office

18:10 *End of the Day*

19:00 *Dinner at the Mustaparta Hotels, Hallituskatu 6*

Friday 30 October

PRE-ACTIVITIES

8:00	NSPA Steering Committee Meeting for SC members *Mustaparta Hotels, Hallituskatu 6*

9:00 Welcome and opening the second day of the Forum

F. Security, resilience, and changing geopolitics in the European Arctic

9:10	**Presentation** Johannes Puukki, *Policy Officer, NATO (video message)* Tanja Joona, *Professor in Arctic Sustainability Science, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland*

G. Reflections from EU projects: ACCESS – Aurora Cross-border Coalition for Eastern Strategy and Solutions & Experimentation Journey: Achieving Circularity

9:55	**Presentation** Vilma Ohrankämmen, *Project Manager, Local Federation of East Lapland* Unna Löppönen, *Senior Advisor, East and North Finland EU Office*

H. The Arctic Six University Alliance: Collaboration with the NSPA and the way forward

10:30	**Presentation** Kirsi Latola, *Co-Director of The Arctic Six*

I. Views and best practices from Oulu, European Cultural Capital 2026

10:50	**Presentation** Piia Rantala-Korhonen, *Chief Executive Director of Oulu Culture Foundation*

J. Summing up and welcome to the next Forum

11:15	Jukka Kujala, *Mayor, City of Tornio* Nils Sørheim Nilsen, *Director, North Norway European Office*

11:40 *Closing the Forum and networking*
12:00 *Lunch at Mustaparta Hotels, Hallituskatu 6*