

26 be better addressed through regional or multilateral cooperation. The EU acts
27 in the Arctic for instance with funding and programs.

28

29 **Acknowledging that:**

- 30 • The Arctic could be the next focal point of geopolitical competition. The role of
31 the Arctic increases as the interest in Arctic resources and transport routes
32 intensifies⁷.
- 33 • The Russian invasion of Ukraine on the 24th of February 2022 has changed
34 the geopolitical situation of Europe. Russia is perceived as a more relevant
35 threat to the security of Europe than before the Russian full-scale operation.
- 36 • The expansion of NATO to the Nordic countries of Finland and Sweden is a
37 shift in the geopolitical setting of the region⁸.
- 38 • Further cooperation between Russia and the People's Republic of China in
39 the Arctic could challenge the EU's interests in the region.
- 40 • The ever-changing geopolitical situation, both inside and outside of the Arctic,
41 requires continuous efforts by the EU to secure its interests in the area.

42

43 **YEPP calls on:**

44

- 45 • The EU to update its Arctic Policy to answer to the geopolitical movements that
46 have taken place.
- 47 • The EU to assess its Arctic Policy in relation to NATO's Arctic Policy and to
48 recognize the different responsibilities between the actors.
- 49 • The EU to secure its interests of peace, protecting the environment, and
50 ensuring the rights of the indigenous population in the Arctic.
- 51 • The EU to support innovative technologies, research programmes and Arctic
52 mobility projects to guarantee its competitiveness in the region.

⁷ European Commission, A stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic:
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2_en_act_part1_v7.pdf

⁸ .The European Parliamentary Research Service, Russia's war on Ukraine: Implications for the Arctic:
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/fi/document/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)754604](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/fi/document/EPRS_BRI(2024)754604)