

## **Protecting European Interests in the Arctic Region**

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*Presented by MUF (Sweden), KNL (Finland), KU (Denmark)*

*Supported by KDN (Finland), Jong CD&V (Belgium), UH (Norway), Junge ÖVP (Austria)*

### **Recognizing:**

- The increasing geopolitical significance of the Arctic region due to its vast natural resources, emerging trade routes, and strategic importance.
- The Arctic region has been undergoing significant geopolitical changes over the long term due to climate change and more acutely due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The role of the Arctic Council as a vital forum for regional cooperation and dialogue.
- Denmark's, Finland's, and Sweden's particular position as Arctic MS and significant role in EU-Arctic relations.
- The unique position of Greenland within the Kingdom of Denmark and the importance of maintaining stability and cooperation with transatlantic partners, including the United States.

### **Acknowledging:**

- The European Union's (EU) commitment to upholding international law, fostering multilateral cooperation, and promoting sustainable development in the Arctic region.
- The critical importance of securing the Arctic region while adhering to international law and avoiding militarization or unilateral actions that could undermine regional stability.
- The need to ensure that indigenous peoples' rights and knowledge are respected in all Arctic policies.

### **YEPP calls on:**

1. The European Council to take on a larger role in Arctic governance. Advocate for a greater voice and representation of European interests in the Arctic Council, ensuring that the EU's strategic and environmental priorities are reflected in Arctic policies.
2. The EU to protect the status of Greenland. Reaffirm the EU's commitment to supporting Greenland's autonomy within the Kingdom of Denmark, while respecting existing agreements and the strategic partnership with the United States in the region.
3. The EU member states to affirm their commitment to protecting the territorial integrity of every member state in accordance with Article 42 (7) of the Treaty on European Union and, where applicable, Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, explicitly including the autonomous territories thereof.
4. The EU to uphold international law. Promote adherence to international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to resolve disputes and ensure peaceful and cooperative governance of the Arctic region.
5. All stakeholders to foster sustainable development:  
Support initiatives aimed at sustainable economic growth in the Arctic, including

investments in green technologies, responsible resource extraction, and the development of environmentally friendly trade routes.

6. The EU to enhance security and stability in the Arctic. Advocate for dialogue and collaboration among Arctic stakeholders to prevent the militarization of the region, address emerging security challenges, and ensure the protection of critical infrastructure.
7. The EU to support Arctic-focused research initiatives, particularly in climate change adaptation, sustainable resource management, and renewable energy technologies, to ensure the region's long-term stability.
8. The EU to promote transatlantic cooperation. Work with transatlantic partners, particularly the United States, to balance European and American interests in the Arctic region and strengthen mutual commitments to the region's security and prosperity.