

Policy Hub: Partners or Rivals? Norway and the European Union in the Arctic

Brussels, 19 February 2018

10:00 - 11:30

Room: A5G365

The concept:

Policy Hubs are forums for dialogue and debate between EP internal experts and the external think tank community. The discussions focus on topical issues on the agenda of Parliament's political bodies. To facilitate broad participation and to encourage open exchanges, the meetings are short and informal (under the Chatham House Rule). Policy Hubs are open to all staff working on the subject, the external think tank community, staff from the political groups and assistants.

The issues:

Since the European Union became engaged in Arctic affairs, its relationship with Norway – as its immediate northern neighbour – can be characterised as paradoxical. Although both Norway (as a state) and North Norway (as a region) have worked to get the EU involved in Arctic issues, both levels have been sceptical of the steps taken by the EU, since the European Commission's first Communication on Arctic issues back in 2008. Norway's relationship with the EU can generally be characterised as not 'in', but neither really 'out'. Although Norway is not an EU member state, it is politically and economically closely connected to the Union via a broad range of agreements and other forms of cooperation. And yet, in Norway, the EU is often portrayed as something far removed from its political processes, separated in the domain of foreign policy. This policy hub will discuss the Arctic relationship between the EU and Norway, especially with regard to the country's most northern region: North Norway.

Guest speaker:

Dr Andreas RASPOTNIK

Senior Research Fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Oslo and a Senior Fellow at The Arctic Institute in Washington, D.C.

Andreas ØSTHAGEN

Research fellow at Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Oslo

Discussant:

Fernando GARCÉS DE LOS FAYOS

Administrator, Policy Department, DG External Policies

Moderator:

Pekka HAKALA

Head of Unit, Policy Department, DG External Policies, EP