Three Dimensions of Legal Presence

The EU has a strong legal presence in the Arctic, with many of its legal competences being influential in policy fields that are important to the Arctic. The EU’s legal influence is clear in its Arctic Member States, Greenland, and Iceland, and as such, its influence is defined in both its European Economic Area (EEA) partnerships and bilateral/multilateral agreements.

**Influential in...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Areas of Influence</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Internal</strong></td>
<td>Over EU’s Arctic Member States (Spain, Sweden and Finland, Denmark, and Russia)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Circumpolar</strong></td>
<td>Over the EEA partners (Iceland and mainland Norway) and Greenland</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>External</strong></td>
<td>Over the Arctic Circumpolar Region and its neighboring countries</td>
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</table>

**In the Internal Dimension: The European Union (EU) holds a strong legal presence in the Arctic, with many of its legal competences being influential in policy fields that are important to the Arctic. The EU’s legal influence is clear in its Arctic Member States, Greenland, and Iceland.**

**In the Circumpolar Dimension: The EU is party to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Thus, it is not subject to the acquis communautaire**. **Greenland is linked to the EU through the association of Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT). Therefore, it is not subject to the acquis communautaire**. While they are both within the Danish Realm, they are self-governing and are not part of the EU.

**In the External Dimension: The EU holds legal influence in the Arctic.**

**Key points include:**

- **The EU has a strong legal presence in the Arctic, with many of its legal competences being influential in policy fields that are important to the Arctic.**
- **The EU is party to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Thus, it is not subject to the acquis communautaire**. **Greenland is linked to the EU through the association of Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT). Therefore, it is not subject to the acquis communautaire**. While they are both within the Danish Realm, they are self-governing and are not part of the EU.

**Complementary competences**

- May fall under the supervision of Member States only, with allowance for the EU to apply its usual competences.
- May be exercised in the context of EU internal and external policies.
- May be an element of new agreements or an updating of current agreements.

**External competences**

- These are essentially based on the EU’s external competences.
- May be exercised in the context of EU internal and external policies.
- May be an element of new agreements or an updating of current agreements.

**References & Further Information**


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