

*In cooperation with the Finnish Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council*

The Barents Secretariat  
&  
the Port of Kirkenes invites to a  
Side event to the Kirkenes Conference

AGENDA

*Adapting to a new reality - Finland & Norway*

COOPERATION

SECURITY OF SUPPLY

GLOBAL TRADE & SHIPPING

LOGISTICS & CHINA?

INFRASTRUCTURE & TOURISM



Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes  
1st March 2023

10.00 - 12.40

Registration

*Scann QR-code with camera or use link below*

<https://forms.gle/23hFssNDnGwU5NZG6>



# BACKGROUND

International development and cooperation in the Barents Region face complicated challenges due to the war in Ukraine. Conditions for the civil society and community development in Europe has dramatically changed. Probably more predominately so in Finland and the eastern part of Northern Norway than elsewhere. These regions face similar challenges and there are numerous common issues to be addressed

The Port of Kirkenes has adopted a new strategy identifying sustainability, international transport of goods, and cruise-tourism as new key priorities.

- Sustainability as it is fundamentally necessary
- International transport of goods because the potential to operate as a port serving the (total) Finnish market and also the European market is regarded as substantial. The new security situation in Northern/Eastern Europe calls for more robust solutions both for civilian and military purposes. Furthermore, the western port on the Northern Sea Route (NSR) will not be Murmansk as many have assumed. Chinese operators now point towards Kirkenes.
- Cruise tourism because the business potential is regarded as favourable, especially in the Arctic. This will create new opportunities and open the possibility to merge the norwegian tourism market with the successful Finnish Lapland to create a combined tourism-content unparalleled anywhere in the world.

Together with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the Port of Kirkenes invites Kirkenes Conference participants and others with an interest in topics on the agenda to a pre-conference meeting for an open discussion on mutually relevant topics related to a potentially increased cross-border cooperation.

# PROGRAM

- 10.00 - 10.05 Welcome by moderator Jenny Spring, Barents Secretariat
- 10.05 - 10.20 Development of new markets in Kirkenes  
by Terje Jørgensen, Director, Port of Kirkenes (PoK)
- 10.20 - 10.35 Ambitious plans with PoK and more  
by Pål Lund-Roland, CEO, High North Development Group
- 10.35 - 10.50 Current development activities  
by Niels Røine, CEO, Kirkenes Chamber of Commerce
- 10.50 - 11.00 Hydrogen for green transport in Kirkenes  
by Kåre Nerem, Technical Director, Norwegian Hydrogen
- 11.00 - 11.20 Lunch break & mingling
- 11.20 - 11.35 Kirkenes - a preferred Northern Searoute port  
by Cosco (TBC)
- 11.35 - 11.55 The realistic potential of NRS and the Arctic Corridor  
by Sverre B. Svenning, Senior Adviser, Fearnley
- 11.55 - 12.05 A new reality and different era of cooperation  
by Jari Vilén, Finlands Barents Ambassador
- 12.05 - 12.35 Round table conversation
- 12.35 - 12.40 Closing remarks
- 13.00 Official opening of the Kirkenes Conference at Thon Hotel

*Welcome to our event!*



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