

# Public Consultation on the 2026 Update of the EU Arctic Policy

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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The EU's Arctic policy has been updated regularly since it was first outlined in 2008. The EU's current Arctic policy is set out in a Joint Communication from 2021. The EU is partly in the Arctic through Member States as well as associated countries (OCT, EEA).

The President of the European Commission announced a review of the EU Arctic Policy on 17 July 2025. While climate change remains the greatest threat for the region, there is a need to address geopolitical changes.

Arctic matters cover a wide range of issues, including climate change; receding sea ice and its many implications at sea and on land; emerging trade routes and infrastructure damage; increased environmental pressure; socio-economic challenges and opportunities; economic security; challenges of intra-Arctic digital and physical connectivity and connectivity with non-Arctic regions and players; safety and security issues. Many of these issues are interrelated, and the number of actors and decision-makers in the Arctic has increased over the years.

It is therefore important to assess the role that the EU plays in this complex policy area, which affects a wide range of partners, both directly (e.g. local communities) and indirectly (e.g. EU citizens outside the Arctic, consumers, industry etc.), also in light of the European Commission's priorities including on sustainable prosperity and competitiveness, defence, security and resilience.

While key elements and objectives of the 2021 Joint Communication remain valid, this public consultation aims to collect inputs on how the EU's Arctic Policy can be updated to strengthen its relevance in the current context.

When answering the questions, it should be kept in mind that EU competences in the Arctic depend on the policy area. Some policy areas fall under shared (e.g. environment, transport) or exclusive EU competences (e.g. conservation of marine biological resources), whereas in other areas the EU has supporting competences (e.g. tourism, health, defence and security).

The reply to the questions should take 10 minutes. At the end of the questionnaire, you have the possibility to upload documents in word or pdf format up to 1 MB.

## About You

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### \* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

### \* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

**\* First name**

The Bioenergy Association

**\* Surname**

of Finland

**\* Email (this won't be published)**

info@bioenergia.fi

**\* Organisation name**

*255 character(s) maximum*

Bioenergia ry - the Bioenergy Association of Finland

**\* Organisation size**

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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## \*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

*This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.*

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| <input type="radio"/> Algeria             | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador            | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg       | <input type="radio"/> Samoa                            |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa      | <input type="radio"/> Egypt              | <input type="radio"/> Macau            | <input type="radio"/> San Marino                       |
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| <input type="radio"/> Bolivia                                | <input type="radio"/> Grenada                              | <input type="radio"/> Namibia                     | <input type="radio"/> Sweden                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Bonaire Saint<br>Eustatius and<br>Saba | <input type="radio"/> Guadeloupe                           | <input type="radio"/> Nauru                       | <input type="radio"/> Switzerland                  |
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| <input type="radio"/> Cambodia                               | <input type="radio"/> Hungary                              | <input type="radio"/> North Korea                 | <input type="radio"/> Trinidad and<br>Tobago       |

- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- 
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn Islands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena  
Ascension and  
Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Kitts and  
Nevis
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and  
Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab  
Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States  
Minor Outlying  
Islands
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and  
Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Democratic

Republic of the

Congo

Denmark

Liberia

Saint Lucia

### \* **Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

**Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

**Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

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### **CURRENT PRIORITIES**

To begin, we seek to assess the continued relevance of the three-pillar structure of the 2021 Joint Communication, as described below. Additionally, we are looking to assess the scope of EU involvement in Arctic matters and identify any possible gaps.

The EU Arctic policy (2021 Joint Communication) aims to:

- **contribute to maintaining peaceful and constructive dialogue and cooperation in a changing geopolitical landscape;**

- **address the ecological, social, economic and political challenges arising as a consequence of climate change and taking strong action to tackle climate change and environmental degradation;**
- **support the inclusive and sustainable development of the Arctic region to the benefit of its inhabitants and future generations.**

**Question 1:** To what extent are these priorities still relevant?

**Priority area 1 (International cooperation on safety and security):** rate on a scale from 1-5

5

Please explain your choice:

*500 character(s) maximum*

The EU has been - and still is - for peace, but there is no real peace anymore. The EU faces e.g. constant cyberattacks from its adversaries. Nevertheless, all the previous objectives are still valid. Maintaining security, including cybersecurity, in the Arctic has become ever more important.

**Priority area 2 (Environmental protection and mitigation and adaptation to climate change):** rate on a scale from 1-5

5

Please explain your choice:

*500 character(s) maximum*

Climate change has not disappeared, but advanced rapidly, and this calls for emphasis on adaptation. Also: as global climate change mitigation is slow and targets are missed, adaptation has become ever more important - to the extent it is possible.

**Priority area 3 (Inclusive and sustainable Arctic development to the benefit of Arctic inhabitants):** rate on a scale from 1-5

5

Please explain your choice:

*500 character(s) maximum*

Any Arctic strategy needs to keep the people living in the area in focus.

**Question 2:** Taking into consideration developments since 2021, should the EU address additional issues and if so which ones and why?

*700 character(s) maximum*

The world is now more divided than in 2021. This needs to be clearly addressed in EU's strategy.

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## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The EU's interest in the Arctic stems both from how the EU impacts the region as well as impacts that a warming Arctic has on the EU. Recognising its partial responsibility for changes in the Arctic climate and environment, the EU seeks to minimise these changes and support mitigation and adaptation strategies and actions, including measures against the weakening of infrastructure built on permafrost.

The Arctic is experiencing accelerated climate change, with the region warming up to four times faster than the rest of the planet. The Arctic is of paramount importance to the Earth's climate system, influencing major oceanic and atmospheric circulation patterns, while thawing permafrost will release harmful toxins and greenhouse gases. The crossing of several climate tipping points in the Arctic could cause large-scale and abrupt irreversible changes that, in addition to global environmental impacts, might heavily affect local communities physically, economically and socially. Arctic atmosphere, ocean and land are threatened by remote sources of pollution such as plastics/marine litter, black carbon, chemicals, and transport emissions.

**Question 3:** What measures can be implemented at the EU level and/or through its external relations and partnerships to help monitor and protect the Arctic environment, including the Arctic Ocean?

*500 character(s) maximum*

The negative loop in security environment needs to be stopped and turned around.

**Question 4:** Taking the EU's climate law and current efforts as a starting point, what else could the EU do to enhance its efforts to combat climate change in the European Arctic?

*500 character(s) maximum*

The EU could open a financing window for Arctic adaptation, as the region suffers clearly more due to climate change than Europe on average. The only European indigenous peoples - the sami people - are living in the Arctic, and their traditional way of life is strongly affected by climate change.

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## **SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Promoting sustainable development in and across the Arctic is important, as it enhances the economic, social, and environmental resilience of Arctic societies. The sustainable development of the Arctic can also provide

opportunities for closer economic cooperation between the EU and extra-Arctic States, including the integration of the EU's and Arctic States' value chains. It is critical that economic development is low-carbon and climate resilient, in line with the precautionary principle to remain sustainable in the long term.

Sustainable development in the Arctic must consider the traditional livelihoods of those living in the region and be attuned to the demographic changes and challenges. The Arctic is home to several Indigenous Peoples, including within EU Member States. Even though certain issues in relation to Indigenous Peoples fall under the competence of individual Member States, the protection of persons belonging to minorities is a fundamental principle under the EU Treaties. The EU seeks to integrate human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, into its external policies, consistently with its internal policy.

**Question 5:** In your view, what are the three main economic areas with the most potential for sustainable development and/or economic diversification in the Arctic?

*Between 1 and 3 selections*

- Tourism
- Sustainable resource exploitation
- Renewable energy
- Cultural businesses (e.g. Indigenous arts and crafts)
- Maritime transportation and infrastructure
- Scientific research and innovation
- Telecommunications and digital services
- Other

If other, please explain.

*500 character(s) maximum*

**Question 6:** What are the most prominent socio-economic challenges in the Arctic and how can the EU support Arctic inhabitants in addressing those?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Climate change and environmental deterioration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education, training, and capacity-building	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Talent attractiveness and retention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sustainable tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raising awareness and citizen engagement in public and European affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation and connectivity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Migration and demographic changes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community resilience, prevention and preparedness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inclusivity and community integration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain how the EU can support addressing these challenges

700 character(s) maximum

Adaptation funding through a separate financing window. Promotion of the EU capital market e.g. in investments in sustainable tourism or Arctic renewable energy.

**Question 7:** How can the EU assist in ensuring that natural resources in the Arctic, such as land raw minerals, are mined in a sustainable and inclusive way that contributes to economic development and benefits local communities?

500 character(s) maximum

EU legislation applied where relevant + incentives through financing + strong inclusion of local communities in decision making to ensure that interests of indigenous groups and established businesses are taken into account.

**Question 8:** How can the EU make its policies more inclusive towards Arctic Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including for the principle of free, prior and informed consent? Please provide specific examples.

500 character(s) maximum

**Question 9:** To what extent should the EU support the potential development of Arctic maritime trade routes taking into account the potential benefits or drawbacks?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The EU should support the potential development of Arctic maritime trade routes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The related economic opportunities are considerable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The environmental and climate risks are considerable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The cultural impacts are considerable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The geopolitical developments portray the need to develop maritime trade routes in the Arctic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The related safety concerns (e.g. search and rescue operations) are considerable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there any other drawbacks or benefits related to the development of Arctic maritime trade routes to take into account?

*500 character(s) maximum*

In the Arctic maritime safety concerns should be driving the development. Arctic capabilities should be key requirements for ships, and emerging new fuels priority as low carbon methanol, methane and ammonia fuels pose smaller risk to nature than conventional fossil alternatives.

## SECURITY AND DEFENCE

We have seen considerable shifts in geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics since the publication of the 2021 Joint Communication. While these do not originate from within the Arctic, they have implications for the regional dynamic, such as increased military presence and hybrid activities, and a growing interest in minerals and possible trade routes, including from actors outside the Arctic.

**Question 10:** What are the main security challenges in the Arctic ? Please rank the following security challenges from least important (at the bottom) to most important (at the top).

*Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or accept the initial order.*

⋮	Critical Infrastructure vulnerabilities
⋮	Military tensions and geopolitical developments
⋮	Economic competition and resource management
⋮	Maritime security
⋮	Climate change and environmental security
⋮	Search and rescue challenges
⋮	Human security and human rights
⋮	Other

If other, please name it and explain.

*500 character(s) maximum*

**Question 11:** What could the EU do to support Arctic States, in particular EU Arctic States, regarding enhancing defence capabilities and security, such as procurement of defence-related capabilities, protection of critical infrastructure, dual-use transport infrastructure, supply chains? Please choose two priority actions.

*Between 1 and 2 selections*

- Support investments in defence companies
- Develop new technologies
- Promote relevant training and capacity building
- Enhance cooperation with international partners
- Assist in building and maintaining infrastructures
- Other

If other, please explain.

*500 character(s) maximum*

**Question 12:** Which emergency and crisis response domains should the EU prioritise to strengthen capacities and capabilities in the Arctic context, in particular in the European Arctic?

Please rank the following domains from least important (at the bottom) to most important (at the top).

*Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or accept the initial order.*

☰ Security and law enforcement
☰ Prevention and preparedness
☰ Continuity of operations and business continuity
☰ Wildfires
☰ Humanitarian assistance and relief operations
☰ Search and rescue operations
☰ Public health
☰ Communication and information management
☰ Other

If other, please explain.

*500 character(s) maximum*

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## **RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

One of the major contributions of the EU to the Arctic is through its investments in technology (e.g. space capacities), science and research, which support the EU Arctic Policy along its main areas of focus.

**Question 13:** What areas of research, science and technology development should be prioritised to better understand and address Arctic challenges? Please choose maximum three answers

*Between 1 and 3 selections*

- Energy and Environment
- Life sciences/Physical sciences
- Social sciences
- Digital technologies (e.g. cybersecurity, AI, data sciences)
- Telecommunications
-

Defence and security

Earth observation and space technologies

Other

If other, please explain.

*500 character(s) maximum*

**Question 14:** What initiatives can the EU support to enhance digital connectivity in the Arctic?

*700 character(s) maximum*

In case you think a relevant topic has not been covered by any of the above questions, please upload your file (max. 1 MB).

Only files of the type pdf,doc,docx, are allowed

## Contact

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