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Nordic Council

*Speakers of
The Council of Federation of the Russian Federation
The State Duma of the Russian Federation*

*Speakers of regional parliaments of
Arkhangelsk
Kaliningrad
Karelia
Komi
Leningrad region
Murmansk
Nenets Autonomous Okrug
Novgorod
Pskov
St. Petersburg
Vologda*

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8 December 2014

Invitation to
The Nordic Council Parliamentary Exchange
Program:
Parliamentary Cooperation in Northern Europe
9 – 12 February 2015 in Finland

Invitation

The Nordic Council hereby invites you to propose candidates for the Nordic Council Parliamentary Exchange Program in February 2015. The invitation is extended to members of the Russian State Duma and the Russian Council of Federation, as well as to members of regional parliaments of Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad, Karelia, Komi, Leningrad region, Murmansk, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Novgorod, Pskov, St Petersburg, Vologda and the Parliamentary Association of North-West Russia.

The total number of participants of the program is limited to 20. The Nordic Council would like to give preference to parliamentarians who have not earlier participated in the exchange programs.

Objective

The parliamentary exchange program was launched in 1992 in order to promote parliamentary exchange and co-operation in the adjacent areas to the Nordic region.

The objective of the program is to provide opportunities for participants to deepen their insights into pertinent issues in the region of Northern Europe, to promote exchange of ideas and views between Nordic and Russian parliamentarians, and to foster inter-parliamentary cooperation in the region.

Program

The length of the spring program is four days. Participants will arrive in Helsinki 9 February and the program ends 12 February. The participants will visit Helsinki, the capital of Finland, as well as the cities of Loviisa, Kotka and Porvoo. Transport and energy will be some of the topics of the program.

Application

Candidates should fill out the attached application form and send it (e-mailed or faxed) **no later than 6 January 2015** to

Marjaana Mäkelä

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Practical Planning of the Exchange Program

A draft program will be distributed to participants in January 2015.

The programme will include visits and discussions with national parliamentarians, Nordic Council members and official offices and institutions.

Nordic Council covers travel and accommodation expenses related to the programme for parliamentarians.

Best regards,
Nordic Council

Torkil Sørensen
International Advisor

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Encl.: Application form

cc: *Embassy of Russia in Finland*
Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in St Petersburg
Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in Kaliningrad
Nordic Council of Ministers, Secretariat in Copenhagen
Nordic embassies and consulates in Russia