

# *At the frontline of climate change*

## *Key changes in the Polar Regions that call for European action*

Science for Policy-Making

Hosted by:

**Christel Schaldemose MEP**

Chair of the “Polar Regions” Working Group of the EP Intergroup on  
“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

**Wednesday 26th September 2018**

**15:30 – 17:30**

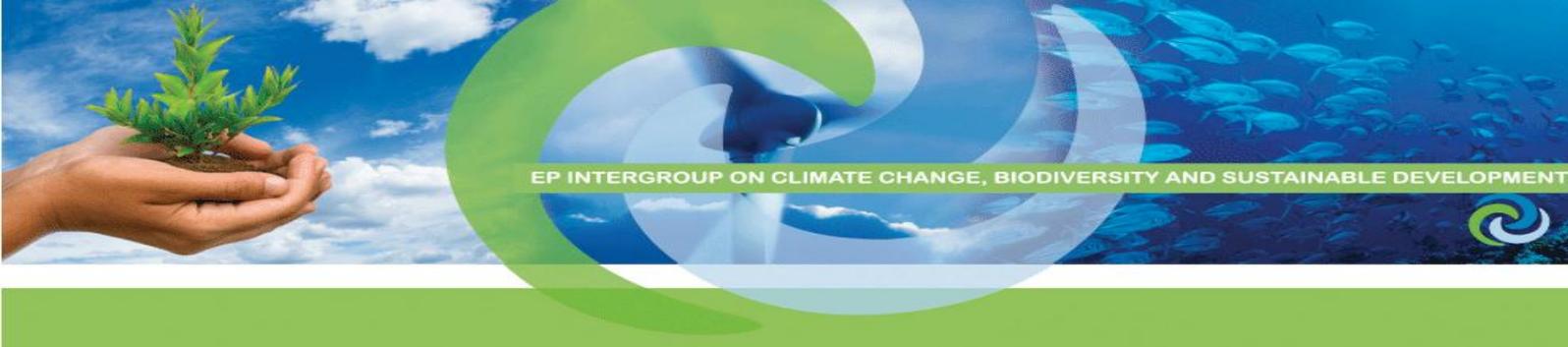
**ASP 5G 305**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

### AGENDA

In the Arctic and Antarctic, dramatic physical changes have become emblems of climate change. However, other subtle changes are also becoming apparent, and may disrupt established structures, patterns and practices in ecosystems, communities and economic sectors. Across the Arctic, many diverse human communities and activities will need to respond to altered ecosystem services on which they currently rely. In both Polar Regions, our ability to benefit safely and sustainably from natural resources, and to preserve and conserve the natural capital, their unique biodiversity and wilderness, may be tested. The changes occurring in the Polar Regions are not just regional in impact. European weather for example is influenced by Arctic sea ice, and ice lost from Antarctica and Greenland contributes to rising global sea-levels.

This policy briefing aims at highlighting areas of polar change that have profound societal, environmental, economic and political impacts – both locally and for Europe at large – that need urgent attention from both European scientists and policy makers. These insights are retrieved from five recently published White Papers, which have been developed on behalf of EU-PolarNet with a team of multidisciplinary polar experts, stake- and right holders.



- 15:00-15:30 Light networking coffee
- 15:30-15:35 Welcoming words by the Chair **MEP Christel Schaldemose**
- 15:35-16:00 **Key changes in the Polar Regions that call for European action** by **Antje Boetius** (Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research)
- Key insights from the EU-PolarNet White Papers** by **Antonio Quesada** (Executive secretary of the Spanish Polar Committee)
- 16:00-17:00 **Roundtable discussion with stakeholders moderated by Antje Boetius**
- **Terkel Petersen, Senior Expert (Arctic), European External Action Service**
  - **Mininnguaq Kleist, Head of Greenland Representation to the EU**– *reports from a changing home*
  - **Marie-Hélène Tusseau-Vuillemin, Scientific Director of the Environment, Geoscience and Astronomy Department at the French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation** – *how polar change affects national policy making and investments*
  - **Nils Arne Johnsen, Director Regional Business Development, Troms County Council** – *sustainable development and industry climate action*
  - **Katarina Gårdfeldt, Director of the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat**
  - **Jean-Louis Etienne, IUCN Ambassador for Polar regions and the Oceans**– *sustainable development and conservation*
- 17:00-17:25 **Questions and discussion with the participants**
- 17:25-17:30 **Concluding remarks by MEP Jørn Dohrmann**



In cooperation with

EU-PolarNet is the world's largest consortium of expertise and infrastructure for polar research. Seventeen countries are represented by 22 of Europe's internationally-respected multi-disciplinary research institutions. From 2015-2020, EU-PolarNet will develop and deliver a strategic framework and mechanisms to prioritise science, advise the European Commission on polar issues, optimise the use of polar infrastructure, and broker new partnerships that will lead to the co-design of polar research projects that deliver tangible benefits for society. By adopting a higher degree of coordination of polar research and operations than has existed previously the consortium engages in closer cooperation with all relevant actors on an international level.