

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4249

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 2000

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To foster cross-border cooperation and environmental cleanup
in Northern Europe.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cross-Border Coopera-
3 tion and Environmental Safety in Northern Europe Act
4 of 2000”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Northern Europe is an increasingly vital
8 part of Europe and one that offers great opportuni-
9 ties for United States investment.

10 (2) Northern Europe offers an excellent oppor-
11 tunity to make progress toward the United States vi-
12 sion of a secure, prosperous, and stable Europe, in
13 part because of—

14 (A) historical tradition of regional coopera-
15 tion;

16 (B) the opportunity to engage Russia in
17 positive, cooperative activities with its neighbors
18 to the west;

19 (C) commitment by the Baltic states to re-
20 gional cooperation and integration into western
21 institutions; and

22 (D) longstanding, strong ties with the
23 United States.

24 (3) The United States Northern Europe Initia-
25 tive (NEI) provides the conceptual and operational
26 framework for United States policy in the region, fo-

1 cused on developing a regional network of coopera-
2 tion in the important areas of business and trade
3 promotion, law enforcement, the environment, en-
4 ergy, civil society, and public health.

5 (4) A central objective of the United States
6 Northern Europe Initiative is to promote cross-bor-
7 der cooperation among the countries in the region.

8 (5) A wide variety of regional and cross-border
9 projects have been initiated under the United States
10 Northern Europe Initiative since the Initiative was
11 established in 1997, including the following:

12 (A) A United States-Lithuanian training
13 program for entrepreneurs from Belarus and
14 Kaliningrad.

15 (B) The Great Lakes-Baltic Sea Partner-
16 ship program that is being implemented by the
17 Environmental Protection Agency.

18 (C) A Center of Excellence for Treatment
19 of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Riga,
20 Latvia.

21 (D) A regional HIV/AIDS strategy being
22 developed under United States and Finnish
23 leadership.

1 (E) Multiple efforts to combat organized
2 crime, including regional seminars for police of-
3 ficers and prosecutors.

4 (F) Programs to encourage reform of the
5 Baltic electricity market and encourage United
6 States investment in such market.

7 (G) Language and job training programs
8 for Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia and
9 Estonia to promote social integration in those
10 countries.

11 (H) A mentoring partnership program for
12 woman entrepreneurs in the northwest region of
13 Russia and the Baltic states, as part of broader
14 efforts to promote women's participation in po-
15 litical and economic life.

16 (6) Norway, Sweden, and Finland have made
17 considerable efforts to provide assistance to the
18 newly independent Baltic states and to the North-
19 west region of Russia. In particular, the United
20 States notes the request placed before the European
21 Union by Finland in 1999 for the creation and ex-
22 tensive funding by the European Union of a "North-
23 ern Dimension" Initiative to substantially address
24 the problems that now exist in Northern Europe
25 with regard to economic development, protection of

1 the environment, the safety and containment of nu-
2 clear materials, and other issues.

3 (7) The United States commends the endorse-
4 ment of the “Northern Dimension” Initiative by the
5 European Council at its meeting in Helsinki, Fin-
6 land in December 1999 and calls on the European
7 Union to act on that endorsement through the provi-
8 sion of substantial funding for the Initiative.

9 (8) While the European Union, its member
10 states, and other European countries should clearly
11 take the lead in addressing the challenges posed in
12 Northern Europe, in particular through appropriate
13 yet substantial assistance provided by the European
14 Union, the United States-Northern Europe Initia-
15 tive, and this Act are intended to supplement such
16 efforts and build on the considerable assistance that
17 the United States has already provided to the Baltic
18 states and the Russian Federation. Partnership with
19 other countries in the region means modest United
20 States investment can have significant impact.

21 (9) The United States Northern Europe Initia-
22 tive’s focus on regional environmental challenges is
23 particularly important. Northern Europe is home to
24 significant environmental problems, particularly the

1 threat posed by nuclear waste from Russian sub-
2 marines, icebreakers, and nuclear reactors.

3 (10) In particular, 21,000 spent fuel assemblies
4 from Russian submarines are lying exposed near
5 Andreyeva Bay, nearly 60 dangerously decrepit nu-
6 clear submarines, many in danger of sinking, are
7 languishing in the Murmansk area of Northwest
8 Russia, whole reactors and radioactive liquid waste
9 are stored on unsafe floating barges, and there are
10 significant risks of marine and atmospheric contami-
11 nation from accidents arising from loss of electricity
12 or fire on deteriorating, poorly monitored nuclear
13 submarines.

14 (11) This waste poses a threat to the safety
15 and stability of Northern Europe and to countries of
16 the Eurasian continent.

17 (12)(A) In addition, the Environmental Protec-
18 tion Agency has facilitated the expansion and up-
19 grading of a facility for the treatment of low-level
20 liquid radioactive waste from the decommissioning of
21 nuclear submarines docked at naval facilities in the
22 Arctic region of Russia.

23 (B) The Environmental Protection Agency has
24 also initiated a project to construct an 80-ton proto-
25 type cask for the storage and transport of civilian-

1 controlled spent nuclear fuel, much of it damaged
2 and currently stored onboard an aging vessel an-
3 chored in Murmansk Harbor. Currently in the de-
4 sign phase, this project is scheduled for completion
5 in 2000.

6 (13) Working with the countries in the region
7 to address these environmental problems remains
8 vital to the long-term national interest of the United
9 States.

10 (14) The United States and other countries are
11 currently negotiating a number of agreements with
12 Russia which will provide internationally accepted
13 legal protections for the United States and other
14 countries that provide nuclear waste management
15 assistance to Russia. Regrettably, it has not yet been
16 possible to resolve remaining differences over liabil-
17 ity, taxation of assistance, privileges and immunities
18 for foreign contractors, and audit rights.

19 (15) Concluding these agreements is vital to the
20 continued provision of such assistance and to the
21 possible development of new programs.

22 (16) With the election of Russian President
23 Vladimir Putin, the opportunity presents itself to
24 surmount these problems, to conclude these out-

1 standing agreements, and to allow assistance pro-
2 grams to move forward to alleviate this problem.

3 (17) The United States Government is cur-
4 rently studying whether dismantlement of multi-pur-
5 pose submarines is in the national interest.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to dem-
7 onstrate concrete support for continued cross-border co-
8 operation in Northern Europe and immediate efforts to
9 assist in the clean up of nuclear waste in that region.

10 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

11 It is the sense of the Congress that—

12 (1) the United States Northern Europe Initia-
13 tive is a sound framework for future United States
14 involvement in Northern Europe;

15 (2) the European Union should move expedi-
16 tiously to authorize and fund the proposed “North-
17 ern Dimension” Initiative at appropriate yet sub-
18 stantial levels of assistance;

19 (3) the United States should continue to sup-
20 port a wide-ranging strengthening of democratic and
21 civic institutions on a regional basis to provide a
22 foundation for political stability and investment op-
23 portunities, including cross-border exchanges, in
24 Northern Europe;

1 (4) the United States should demonstrate con-
2 tinued commitment to address environmental secu-
3 rity challenges in Northwest Russia, in cooperation
4 with partners in the region;

5 (5) recently-elected Russian President Vladamir
6 Putin should rapidly conclude pending nuclear waste
7 management agreements to enable assistance pro-
8 grams to go forward; and

9 (6) assistance to Russia on nuclear waste man-
10 agement should only be provided after issues related
11 to liability, taxation of assistance, privileges and im-
12 munities for foreign contractors, and audit rights
13 have been resolved.

14 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES NORTHERN EUROPE**
15 **INITIATIVE PROJECTS.**

16 (a) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FROM EAST EURO-
17 PEAN AND THE BALTIC STATES ASSISTANCE.—Of the
18 amounts available for fiscal year 2001 to carry out the
19 provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the
20 Support for Eastern European Democracy (SEED) Act
21 of 1989 for assistance and for related programs for East-
22 ern Europe and the Baltic States, not less than
23 \$2,000,000 shall be used for projects described in sub-
24 section (c).

1 (b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FROM INDE-
2 PENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AS-
3 SISTANCE.—Of the amounts available for fiscal year 2001
4 to carry out the provisions of chapter 11 of part I of the
5 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Freedom for Rus-
6 sia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Mar-
7 kets Support Act of 1992 for assistance for the inde-
8 pendent states of the former Soviet Union and related pro-
9 grams, not less than \$2,000,000 shall be used for the
10 projects described in subsection (c).

11 (c) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—The projects described
12 in this subsection are United States Northern Europe Ini-
13 tiative projects relating to environmental cleanup, law en-
14 forcement, public health, energy, business and trade pro-
15 motion, and civil society.

16 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation
19 with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments
20 and agencies, shall prepare and submit to the Congress
21 a report on—

22 (1) the threat to the environmental security of
23 the countries of Northern Europe and other coun-
24 tries of Europe and Asia presented by Russian ma-
25 rine nuclear reactors, waste, and contamination; and

1 (2) identifying the possibilities for new and ex-
2 panded United States and multilateral assistance
3 programs for environmental clean-up in Northwest
4 Russia, including technical exchanges and private-
5 public partnerships.

6 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **NORTHERN EUROPE.**—The term “Northern
9 Europe” means the northwest region of the Russian
10 Federation (including Kaliningrad), the Republic of
11 Belarus, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of
12 Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Kingdom of
13 Denmark, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of
14 Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of
15 Poland, and the Kingdom of Sweden.

16 (2) **UNITED STATES NORTHERN EUROPE INI-**
17 **TIATIVE.**—The term “United States Northern Eu-
18 rope Initiative” means the framework agreement es-
19 tablished in 1997 between the United States and the
20 countries of Northern Europe to promote stability in
21 the Baltic Sea region and to strengthen key institu-
22 tions and security structures of the United States
23 and the countries of Northern Europe.

Passed the House of Representatives May 15, 2000.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.