Draft Work Programme Options Paper

1. Following the agreed expansion of NORPEC to include several new members by the end of 2004, attention now turns to establishing a framework of forthcoming NORPEC events and work programme priorities.

2. Outlined below are suggested areas for the work programme and a look ahead at the next twelve months for NORPEC. **Members are asked to discuss the list of events and agree a list of work programme priorities from the suggestions outlined in ANNEX A.**

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1. **ANNEX A**

### NORPEC WORK PROGRAMME 2004-2005 - EVENTS

**March 8-9 2004** - First meeting proper of NORPEC held in Barcelona. Priority discussions centred on the expansion of the Network, and agreeing the constitutional sub-Member-State nations/regions to be invited in the 'first wave'. Work Programme also to be agreed for 2004-2005.

**April/May 2004** – Publication of Issue 2 of 'NORPEC News', the Network’s news bulletin. The issue will give all details of the NORPEC meeting in Barcelona in March 2004, including news of the enlargement of the Network, and the Edinburgh conference. There will also be the usual update on the Committees, detailing the changes in the Catalan Committee post-election and recent events in the Scottish Committee.

**Oct 2004** – NORPEC to host a Conference in the Scottish Parliament, which invites selected Chairs/officials from candidate NORPEC countries, as agreed at the NORPEC meeting in Barcelona in February/March 2004. The details of this Conference are also to be discussed at the NORPEC meeting in Barcelona. The Conference will seek to officially confirm the expansion of NORPEC from two members to 6-10 members. The Conference will also be the first NORPEC event of this size and provide an excellent opportunity for members and prospective members alike to meet and share experiences and ideas.

**November 2004** – Publication of Issue 3 of 'NORPEC News', the Network’s news bulletin. This issue will give all details of the Edinburgh Conference, including introductions to all the new members, as well as plans for the future of NORPEC.

**March 2005** – The next Meeting of NORPEC is to be held in a location to be confirmed. This meeting will be the first to include the new members of the Network and fully discuss a coherent work programme. There will also be a need to discuss whether there is a need to invite any other members to join the Network.

*In addition, the NORPEC website will be updated as and when it is necessary to reflect the events above. Also, Committee reports and agenda’s will be circulated between members of NORPEC, coordinated by the Scottish Parliament, together with one representative official from each member.*
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<tr>
<th>NORPEC WORK PROGRAMME 2004-2005- OPTIONS/IDEAS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Common research paper into challenges of Enlargement: Founding members of NORPEC to launch a common research paper into Enlargement as the accession of 10 new members of the EU approaches. This ties in with the Commission’s number one priority for 2004 and gives NORPEC an opportunity to produce a joint paper on the subject that addresses the key issues of Enlargement and identifies the areas in which NORPEC and the three founding Parliaments can lead the way from a Regional perspective.</td>
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<td>2. Discussions resulting in a joint paper into Structural Funds post 2006 debate.</td>
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<td>3. Joint research paper into the options for increased effectiveness of scrutiny and early intelligence gathering.</td>
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<td>4. Brussels Offices – Examination of the benefit of Brussels Offices and how to make best use of them.</td>
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<td>5. Discussions resulting in a joint research paper into working with central Government.</td>
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