

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001392/26
to the Commission
Joachim Streit (Renew)
(7 April 2026)**

Subject: EU-Canada cooperation regarding the Arctic

The policy paper ‘A stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic’ of 13 October 2021 (JOIN(2021) 27 final) ⁽¹⁾ puts the focus of EU Arctic policy on sustainability and multilateral cooperation. However, in its recommendation of 26 November 2025 on the EU’s diplomatic strategy and geopolitical cooperation in the Arctic ⁽²⁾ and its recommendation of 11 March 2026 on enhanced EU-Canada cooperation ⁽³⁾, the European Parliament noted that this approach no longer meets current geopolitical and security requirements. The European Parliament calls for a stronger focus on security, infrastructure and resilience issues, especially in light of Russia’s expansion of military infrastructure and China’s growing strategic presence, as well as the growing importance of critical infrastructure.

1. How does the Commission plan to revise the EU Arctic Strategy in the light of the evolving security situation, in particular with regard to stronger security measures and strategic competition from China and Russia?
2. How does the Commission view the long-term role of Canada as a strategic partner of the EU in the Arctic, what concrete measures and timelines are envisaged for structural integration, and what legal or political obstacles currently impede this process?
3. Amidst the heightened focus on security and economic issues, what concrete measures does the Commission plan to adopt to ensure the continued protection of indigenous communities and the environment in the Arctic?

Submitted: 7.4.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)**

The EU Arctic Policy ⁽¹⁾ and objectives to ensure a safe, stable, sustainable, prosperous Arctic remain the foundation of the EU’s engagement in the region.

The upcoming update to the policy will aim to set out the EU’s response to the evolving geopolitical and geo-economic developments in the region.

It will reaffirm the EU’s commitment to cooperation with like-minded partners and place emphasis on strengthening resilience and addressing security risks through an integrated approach.

In this context, the longstanding partnership with Canada on Arctic matters was strengthened at the EU-Canada Summit in June 2025 as reflected in the Joint Statement ⁽²⁾.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement ⁽³⁾ and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement ⁽⁴⁾ with Canada continue to provide a strong legal basis for enhanced cooperation on the Arctic across thematic areas.

The Commission Special Envoy for the EU-Canada Partnership, the High Representative’s Special Envoy/Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, and the Special Adviser for EU-Arctic relations will further assist Arctic cooperation with Canada.

The EU is committed to the full respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of indigenous peoples, including in the Arctic. This commitment is reflected both in the EU’s policies and in its external action, notably through human rights and political dialogues with partner countries.

In view of this, the EU Arctic Forum, Indigenous Peoples’ Dialogue, and Arctic Youth Dialogue ⁽⁵⁾ remain key instruments under the EU Arctic Policy.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021JC0027>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0298_EN.pdf

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2026-0078_EN.pdf

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52021JC0027>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/u5fbf15b/st10671en25-eu-canada-joint-summit-statement.pdf>.

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/node/13529_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2017/37/oj/eng.

⁽⁵⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-arctic-forum-indigenous-peoples-dialogue-and-arctic-youth-dialogue-2026-09-01_en.

As part of the review of the EU Arctic Policy, indigenous peoples' organisations were consulted, and their views will be duly taken into account in the preparation of the new Joint Communication.
