

Bjørnar Moxnes

MP and leader of the Red party

January 2021. Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize:

The people-to-people cooperation, represented by the *Kirkenes Puckers* ice hockey team and the *Barents Ice hockey League*.

MOTIVATION:

While the military build-up of Russian and NATO forces in the Arctic are fueling a new Cold War, the cross-border people-to-people cooperation across the Norwegian-Russian border, shows that ordinary people can create trust and mutual confidence, constructing peace from below - even when governments on both sides fail.

The people-to-people cooperation in the Barents region has existed in its present and formal state since the end of the cold war, although initial contact was established across the border by civilians decades before – they came to be known as border breakers. Today, the cooperation involves municipalities, schools, sports and music associations, vocational training institutions, environmental NGOs and other civil society actors. The Barents secretariat supports a grant scheme which support between 200 and 300 such projects annually, and according to a 2020 evaluation conducted by the Oslo Metropolitan University, this cooperation has deepened and mutual trust has been strengthened in the last ten years – in spite of the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea.

As representatives of the people-to-people cooperation I would like to nominate The Norwegian Kirkenes Puckers ice hockey team and the Barents Ice hockey League consisting of teams from Russia, Finland and Norway. They are some of the foremost bearers of this centuries-old tradition of peace and confidence building that is still contributing to keep the peace in a region where nuclear armed forces of NATO powers and Russia stand face to face in a situation of ever-increasing tensions.

We wish to award these people from both sides of the border who stubbornly stick to this tradition and refuse to play the game of conflict played by governments in Washington, Oslo and Moscow.

If only governments would follow the example of the cross-border people-to-people cooperation and Barents ice hockey league and look for common ground and everyday cooperation, millions of lives would be saved and incredible amounts of resources wasted on arms races and destructive wars could be freed to solve the real problems of our time, such as poverty, rising inequality, pandemics and the climate crisis.

Bjørnar Moxnes

Leader of Rødt

MP for Oslo

COMMENT 1. February 2021, from NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WATCH:

While the nomination is about local co-operation, it gets Nobel relevance by a clear goal being to counteract and reject the geopolitical conflict fanned by the governments, politicians and media of the US, Norway and Russia. The nomination does not point to any individuals who are dedicated to and will communicate the Nobel purpose of a global co-operation to abolish weapons and Nobel's transformative idea of a "fellowship of nations".