

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1026

To foster cross-border cooperation in Northern Europe.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself and Mr. MCCOTTER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To foster cross-border cooperation 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cross-Border Coopera-
5 tion in Northern Europe Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Northern Europe is a vital part of Europe
9 and one that offers continuing opportunities for
10 United States investment.

11 (2) Northern Europe offers an excellent oppor-
12 tunity to continue to implement the United States

1 vision of a secure, prosperous, and stable Europe, in
2 part because of—

3 (A) historical tradition of regional coopera-
4 tion;

5 (B) the opportunity to engage the Russian
6 Federation in positive, cooperative activities
7 with its neighbors to the west;

8 (C) commitment by the Nordic and Baltic
9 states to regional cooperation and integration
10 into western institutions; and

11 (D) long-standing, strong ties with the
12 United States.

13 (3) In 1997, the United States established the
14 Northern Europe Initiative (NEI) which provided a
15 conceptual and operational framework for United
16 States policy in the region, focused on developing a
17 regional network of cooperation in the important
18 areas of business and trade promotion, law enforce-
19 ment, the environment, energy, civil society, and
20 public health.

21 (4) Since then the United States Northern Eu-
22 rope Initiative has sponsored a wide variety of re-
23 gional and cross-border projects, including the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (A) A United States-Lithuanian training
2 program for entrepreneurs from Belarus and
3 Kaliningrad.

4 (B) The Great Lakes-Baltic Sea Partner-
5 ship program implemented by the Environ-
6 mental Protection Agency.

7 (C) A Center of Excellence for Treatment
8 of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Riga,
9 Latvia.

10 (D) A regional HIV/AIDS strategy devel-
11 oped under United States and Finnish leader-
12 ship.

13 (E) Multiple efforts to combat organized
14 crime, including regional seminars for police of-
15 ficers and prosecutors.

16 (F) Programs to encourage reform of the
17 Baltic electricity market and encourage United
18 States investment in such market.

19 (G) Language and job training programs
20 for Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia and
21 Estonia to promote social integration in those
22 countries.

23 (H) A mentoring partnership program for
24 women entrepreneurs in the northwest region of
25 Russia and the Baltic states, as part of broader

1 efforts to promote women’s participation in po-
2 litical and economic life.

3 (5)(A) With the then pending accession of Esto-
4 nia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the European Union
5 (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
6 (NATO), the United States recognized the need for
7 new policy approaches to Northern Europe. In 2003,
8 the United States established the Enhanced Partner-
9 ship in Northern Europe (e-PINE).

10 (B) The United States Enhanced Partnership
11 in Northern Europe provides the conceptual and
12 operational framework for United States policy in
13 the region, focused on developing a regional network
14 of collaboration between Nordic and Baltic countries
15 and the United States in promoting cooperative se-
16 curity, vibrant economies, and healthy societies with-
17 in Northern Europe and beyond its borders.

18 (C) Much of the focus of the Enhanced Part-
19 nership in Northern Europe has been on collabo-
20 ratively extending the lessons learned from the suc-
21 cess of Baltic states to other countries in the region.

22 (D) Though primarily policy-oriented in focus,
23 the Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe has
24 also sponsored projects and initiatives in the region,
25 including the following:

1 (i) Several joint projects between the
2 United States and Latvia and Lithuania fo-
3 cused on democracy promotion and institution
4 building in Belarus.

5 (ii) A mentoring partnership program for
6 women entrepreneurs in the northwest region of
7 the Russian Federation, Finland, the Baltic
8 states, Belarus, and Ukraine, as part of broader
9 efforts to promote women’s participation in po-
10 litical and economic life.

11 (iii) An outreach program to bring parlia-
12 mentarians in the Baltic states to the United
13 States.

14 (6) The United States commends European
15 Union efforts in Northern Europe associated with
16 the EU’s “Northern Dimension” which is designed
17 to address challenges in Northern Europe with re-
18 gard to economic development, protection of the en-
19 vironment, the safety and containment of nuclear
20 materials, and other issues.

21 (7) While the European Union, its member
22 states, and other European countries should clearly
23 take the lead in addressing the challenges posed in
24 Northern Europe and the wider region, in particular
25 through appropriate yet substantial assistance pro-

1 vided by the European Union, the United States En-
2 hanced Partnership in Northern Europe, and this
3 Act are intended to supplement such efforts and
4 build on the considerable assistance that the United
5 States has already provided to the Baltic states and
6 the Russian Federation. Partnership with other
7 countries in the region means modest United States
8 investment can have significant impact.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to dem-
10 onstrate concrete support for continued cross-border co-
11 operation in Northern Europe.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the United States Enhanced Partnership in
15 Northern Europe (e-PINE) is a sound framework
16 for future United States involvement in Northern
17 Europe;

18 (2) the European Union should continue to au-
19 thorize and fund the ‘Northern Dimension’ Initiative
20 at appropriate yet substantial levels of assistance
21 and that the United States and the European Union
22 should continue to work collaboratively on issues of
23 mutual interest; and

24 (3) the United States should continue to sup-
25 port a wide-ranging strengthening of democratic and

1 civic institutions on a regional basis to provide a
2 foundation for political stability and investment op-
3 portunities, including cross-border exchanges, in
4 Northern Europe and neighboring countries.

5 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES ENHANCED PART-**
6 **nership in Northern Europe (E-PINE)**
7 **PROJECTS.**

8 (a) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FROM EAST EURO-
9 PEAN AND THE BALTIC STATES ASSISTANCE.—Of the
10 amounts available for fiscal year 2006 to carry out the
11 provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
12 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) and the Support for Eastern Euro-
13 pean Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5401
14 et seq.) for assistance and for related programs for East-
15 ern Europe and the Baltic States, not more than
16 \$2,000,000 is authorized to be available for the projects
17 described in subsection (c).

18 (b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FROM INDE-
19 PENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.—Of
20 the amounts available for fiscal year 2006 to carry out
21 the provisions of chapter 11 of part I of the Foreign As-
22 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2295 et seq.) and the
23 Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies
24 and Open Markets Support Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5801
25 et seq.) for assistance for the independent states of the

1 former Soviet Union and related programs, such sums as
2 may be necessary are authorized to be available for the
3 projects described in subsection (c).

4 (c) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—The projects described
5 in this subsection are United States Enhanced Partner-
6 ship in Northern Europe (e-PINE) projects relating to,
7 but not exclusively, regional security, democracy pro-
8 motion, democratic institution building, economic growth,
9 environmental cleanup, law enforcement, public health, en-
10 ergy, business and trade promotion, and civil society.

11 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) NORTHERN EUROPE.—The term “Northern
14 Europe” means the Republic of Estonia, the Repub-
15 lic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the King-
16 dom of Denmark, the Republic of Finland, the Re-
17 public of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, and the
18 Kingdom of Sweden.

19 (2) UNITED STATES ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP
20 IN NORTHERN EUROPE (E-PINE).—The term “United
21 States Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe”
22 or “Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe”
23 (commonly referred to as “e-PINE”) means the
24 partnership formed in 2003 between the United
25 States and the countries of Northern Europe to pro-

1 mote security, economic growth, and healthy soci-
2 eties in the region and appropriate neighboring
3 countries through policy coordination and collabora-
4 tion.

5 (3) UNITED STATES NORTHERN EUROPE INI-
6 TIATIVE (NEI).—The term “United States Northern
7 European Initiative” or “Northern European Initia-
8 tive” (commonly referred to as “NEI”) means the
9 framework agreement established in 1997 between
10 the United States and the countries of Northern Eu-
11 rope (including the northwest region of the Russian
12 Federation (including Kaliningrad), the Republic of
13 Belarus, and the Republic of Poland) to promote
14 stability in the Baltic Sea region and to strengthen
15 key institutions and security structures of the
16 United States and the countries of Northern Eu-
17 rope.

18 **SEC. 6. REPEAL.**

19 The Cross-Border Cooperation and Environmental
20 Safety in Northern Europe Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–
21 255) is hereby repealed.

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