



EUROPEAN  
SMALL  
ISLANDS  
FEDERATION

## Minutes of E.S.I.N Board Meeting Dublin – 2010-03-23

### Participants :

- SULLIVAN Jackie – Comhdhail Oilean Na hEreain – *Ireland*
- ALMKVIST Bengt – Chairman of ESIN / Skargardarnas Riksförbund – *Sweeden*
- PLEIJEL Christian – Foretagsam Skargard – *Aland*
- LARSEN Henry – Association of Danish Small Islands – *Denmark*
- JENSEN Claus – Association of Danish Small Islands – *Denmark*
- JEAN Pierre-Philippe – Association les îles du Ponant – *France*
- BANNET Jean-Yves – Association les îles du Ponant – *France*
- THERAUD Manuela – secretary of ESIN / Association Les îles du Ponant – *france*

QUORUM: according to the statutes and because the half of the quorum is present, taken decisions are valid.

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### I – ESIN secretariat :

#### 1) *Elba Minutes*

The minutes from ESIN 9<sup>th</sup> AGM on ELBA was adopted.

#### 2) *ESIN Economy* :

- Status :

Results of the received contributions and the participations for the secretariat.

For 2008, Greece and Italy did not paid their contributions and participations for the secretariat, Estonia and Finland did not paid the participation for the secretariat. For 2009, Greece, Italy, Finland and Estonia paid neither their contributions nor their participation for the secretariat.

The President asks the question of the membership to ESIN in case the contribution is not paid. On one side, the membership is compulsory, on the other, ESIN needs participants' maximum. Pierre-Philippe JEAN suggests to demand at least the contributions so that they validate their membership to ESIN. Christian Pleijel approves. JY Bannet considers that it is necessary to distinguish the organizations which cannot pay because of their own financial situation bound to their institutional weakness of those who do not want or does not give to itself the means.

The President proposes:

- To make a reminder on the contributions
  - To make a reminder on the participations at the expense for the secretariat for 2009, to cancel reminders for 2008.
- ✓ Approved proposition.

✓ Budget :

Pierre-Philippe JEAN presents a detailed invoice for 2009. He considers that the amount (10 000 €) is a minimum, the previous forecasts was twice as it is.

The president reminds that the initial budget must be reduced considering the difficulties being paid. Christian Pleijel specifies that the municipalities of Åland agreed to pay their contributions for 2010. Pierre-Philippe JEAN presents the proposition of projected budget for 2010 reduced to the total amount of 25 000 €. The Irish representative asks to revise the criteria of contribution to ESIN (according to the number of islands, the island population) either to find funds from the European Union. The president reminds that this discussion has already taken place and that this formula of similar contribution was validated in the creation of ESIN.

Jean-Yves Bannet and Pierre-Philippe Jean underline that the situation must be stabilized, the Association of the Islands of Ponant which can not continue to support ESIN alone, as far as this contribution does not make the object of particular help of the Region Brittany as it was initially planned. They ask that this point have to be seriously examined during the next AGM.

✓ The projected budget is approved

### **3) Secretariat : Website, Newsletter...**

For the President, the website is very important. It is the image of ESIN for all our partners and members. It has to be the priority. It is necessary to update it by adding the reports. The homepage has to be in English (at the moment it appears in French). Furthermore, the president would wish a more attractive website so we need more contributions (put the links towards the newsletters of the members, have a contact in every country to have regular information). Christian Pleijel suggests to put the on-line reports rather than to send them by e-mail because it will oblige the members to go on the website. Moreover, it is necessary to observe closely the statistics.

For Claus Jensen it is necessary to constitute a mailing list for the Newsletter. The President wishes a more regular and shorter newsletter (without photos). Christian Pleijel suggests a simple plan for the Communication.

The objectives are thus:

- to make a Newsletter more regularly and in a simplified way.
- to improve the feature of the web site
- to obtain statistics on the web site

### **4) Preparation of AGM**

Denmark presents the proposition of calendar for the next Annual Assembly which will take place to Sejerø (island of President Henry Larsen) from 6 till 8 September 2010. They suggest prolonging these dates of AGM by combining them with a working stay on the theme of the sustainable development (visit of wind fields, power plants in the biogas) to Samsø. The President suggests inviting persons from September 8th and thus decomposing the week into 2 groups.

Claus Jensen indicates that a "accompanied" translation (without cabin) is planned for the Assembly considering the cost.

The President proposes in May / June, the widest first sending to the partners to invite them to the Annual Assembly.

✓ The calendar is approved.

#### **4) Youth Seminar**

Claus Jensen indicates that he had no returns on behalf of the members on the preparation of this seminar. He would wish that we help him to decide on the contents, on the program...

Christian Pleijel thinks that we should not play part of the decision and that it belongs to the young people to decide, it is just necessary to guide them. Claus Jensen does not know even the dates of these meetings (from 9 till 15 August?).

It is decided to make a preliminary program and to have an agreement for the dates.

#### **5) Vice President**

The President reminds that during the last one AG the office was authorized to appoint a Vice-president. The president proposes to Jean-Yves Bannet, representative of France to be Vice-president by thanking him for his regular participation to the Assemblies and by insisting on the importance of a representation of the "South in the North" of Europe.

- ✓ Jean-Yves Bannet is appointed Vice-president of ESIN.

#### **6) New Members**

Christian Pleijel informs about a contact with Croatia which would be very interested to join ESIN. The President reminds that there have been already in the past contacts which do not have succeeded (Germany, Norway). Do we have to have an active approach, what is the interest for the members to subscribe? For the members, it is a question of increasing the exchanges and the contacts, for ESIN, it is about increasing its representativeness.

Claus Jensen suggests inviting them to the next AGM so that they understand the functioning and so that ESIN will know better their organization.

On the other hand, Pierre-Philippe Jean suggests to think about a position of "member observer": paying a contribution minimum, does not participate financially in the secretariat, does not have no right to vote.

## **II - Lobbying**

#### **1) 174 Corporation**

Bengt Almkvist reminds that this group appears from a long process of lobbying. The article 174 of the Lisbon's treaty exists but it is now necessary to make it apply. Other participants are more important than ESIN (Euromontana, etc.) but it is important that ESIN is a member of this group in order not to forget the small islands. It is also necessary to take into account the changes within the European institutions (for example Dirk Ahner whom ESIN had met and who had shown a big interest does not work any more on the DG REGIO).

#### **2) Parliament Intergroup**

Two intergroups formed within the Parliament which interest ESIN:

- The group on the Article 174
- "Sea and Coastal Areas" a group of the coastal and maritime regions.

The President reminds that these groups have an official existence and have means to work. He proposes that ESIN follows as much as possible their works and the members of parliament who participate in it.

### 3) **ESPON**

Christian Pleijel reminds the principle of ESPON and the made study. At first, it was about 22 islands. The composed question was «what made an island an attractive place?»

The results showed several important problems:

- The cost of living is raised
- The accessibility is decreased
- lack of services (lawyers, etc.)

The President underlines the importance of this study because it brings arguments for our organization. He asks to the members to read this report and to make comments quickly.

## III - **Cooperation projects**

### 1) **Invitations**

ESIN receives numerous invitations on behalf of its partners, it is advisable, considering the costs led(inferred) to mutualize as much as possible the participations. For example, for the next AGM of the islands' commission of the CRPM, the Association the Islands of Ponant is invited there and could represent ESIN.

- ✓ Agreement with this proposition.

### 2) **Cooperation Projects**

The President evokes the possibility of organizing a program of exchanges, but it is long and expensive. Denmark indicates that it is more interesting to cooperate with a small number of partners, what allows to involve better the islanders, if it is necessary to go(take) up a program of exchange. He specifies that it asks of time and some money naturally ...

The current LEADING programs concerning islands: 1 in Denmark, 1 in Sweden, 1 in Ireland, 1 for Åland.

Themes to be approached? Ex: fishing, schools ...

Claus Jensen proposes "A job exchange in the seasonal jobs for the young people"

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