



The European Small Islands Federation

Board meeting DEC. 10th 2012, on Skype

- **With additional note from working group meeting held on Skype Dec. 13th.**

Host and Secretary for the meeting was Denmark

Participants:

Bengt Almkvist	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Anetté Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Camille Dressler	Scottish Island federation
John Walsh	Irish Island Association
Elle Puurmann	Association of Estonian Islands
Lise Thillemann Sørensen	Association of Danish Small Islands

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Approval of minutes from board meeting Nov. 6th 2012
3. Treasure report, Anetté Johansson
4. INULEAR meeting Nov. 29th . Report from John Walsh
5. ESIN working group 174. Report from meeting Nov. 19th , preparing MEP-meeting
6. European Focus Group for environmental services, ERDP
7. Agricultural Advisory Group. Possible for ESIN to request a post of Observer.
8. SMILEGOV “Enhancing effective implementation of sustainable energy action plans in European islands through reinforcement of smart multilevel governance”.
9. ESIN registration in the European Register of transparency.
10. Facebook group for ESIN Youth Network
11. Signing of statutes
12. Web site arrangements
13. Other issues
14. Meeting calendar for the coming year.

Minutes

1. The meeting was opened by Bengt Almkvist

2. Minutes from board meeting Nov. 6th 2012 was approved.

3. Treasure report, Anetté Johansson.

It was decided that ESIN will pay the last invoice of 3250 Euros to AIP (in result 1750 Euros: 3250 Euro with the deduction of 2012 membership and service fee for France, that has not been paid yet.)
Membership Fee for 2013 of 250 Euro will be sent out early 2013 to all members.

4. INSULEAR meeting Nov. 29th. Report from John Walsh.

John reported from the meeting in Brussels which he attended.

Article 174 was addresses: It should be written into the framework and the funding programmes. ***See attached report and PP-presentations***

John communicated with the CMPR, who aim at pushing the island issues at every presidency.

5. ESIN working group 174. Report from meeting Nov. 19th, preparing MEP-meeting.

After discussing the meeting on Nov. 29th, it was decided that ESIN should try to set up two meetings (i.e. push the meeting in January with Intergroup 174 a few months):

- first a meeting with Irish EU presidency, Irish agricultural people, CMPR and ESIN representatives in Ireland
- Later on in spring 2013 a meeting with intergroup 174 and MEPs from the membership countries in Brussels.

We should build a case for the meetings: Agricultural programme has the highest priority. Where does the agricultural programme NOT work for us? - And what can be done?

Then fisheries, structural funding etc. General rural development is pressed from all sides budget wise.

Every ESIN member state should give examples where 174 would help, where state aid rules are not working but are requested.

John will look into the calendar for the Irish presidency activities: are there one or two activities we want to feed into – in Brussels or in Dublin?

6. European Focus Group for environmental services, ERDP

Anna-Karin took part in network meetings in DG-AGRI. ***See attached report.***

7. Agricultural Advisory Group. Possible for ESIN to request a post of Observer.

Positive reactions – ESIN aims at finding ways to participate in these meetings.

8. SMILEGOV “Enhancing effective implementation of sustainable energy action plans in European islands through reinforcement of smart multilevel governance”.

Timetable: Alexis sent a new set of questions, that we need to look at now. The project will take off in April 2013. Bengt / Camille will answer SMILEGOV on Thursday 13th for the first coming set of questions.

ACTION POINT: ESIN should form clusters with members from France, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Estonia and Aaland. ESIN should identify all the island energy plans in existence in each membership country.

So: Each ESIN member must reflect on how in practical terms each member/ESIN can deliver this. Deadline is January 8th 2013 (next ESIN board meeting).

See attached report from Bengt and the SMILEGOV Annex #1 also attached

9. ESIN registration in the European Register of transparency.

Lise/Bengt are working on it - ESIN will be registered soon.

10. Facebook group for ESIN Youth Network has been established.

Noted. Good initiative. Please distribute the information to your national islands.

11. Signing of statutes

Bengt will sign it and send a copy to Anetté and Lise/the secretariat.

12. Web site arrangements

Bengt will once more ask AIP to close the old web site.

13. Other issues

- Bengt: news from Scilly Islands? No one has heard any news.
- We should make a list of meetings – and try to share the meetings between us.
- Make sure that there's reference to article 174 in all we do.
- Regarding minutes: Lise writes the minutes, send them to Bengt and Camille for comments within a week. Then they will be distributed to all members and can be put on the website with a note that they must be approved at the next board meeting.
- Lise will try and find a way to contact Italy?

14. Meeting calendar

Meeting calendar for the winter/spring 2013. SKYPE meetings.

- **January 8th at 14.00 GMT**
- **February 7th at 14.00 GMT**
- **March 7th at 14.00 GMT**

Lise S. Dec. 13th 2012

Additional note from working group meeting held on Skype Dec. 13th

ESIN working group 174: Report from meeting Dec. 13th.

ESIIN will focus on two meetings in the winter/spring 2013:

1. It was decided that ESIN should first focus on establishing a meeting in cooperation with CMPR in Ireland early 2013 with the Irish EU presidency officials, agricultural politicians, Alyn Smith and others. This meeting shall have a main focus on Islands and the agricultural programme, CAP, and will raise the issues in regards to article 174, especially regarding islands situation: A focus on islands, as a supplement to the existing focus on mountains.

John has been in touch with the Irish Islands Division and the Irish minister with island responsibilities. John will get more knowledge about dates, possibilities etc. in a meeting next week. John will try to get a calendar of events in the Irish presidency.

2. We shall then postpone the meeting between ESIN and the Intergroup 174 and Alyn Smith to early spring 2013, after the meeting in Ireland.

It is important to build a case around a few very specific issues

Suggestions are:

- Transport costs for island (farmers, businesses etc.)
- Severe depopulation
- Increase De Minimis for state aid to small islands

Other:

Also John informed that there will be a follow-up meeting to the INSULEAR meeting held on Nov. 29th that John attended. This second meeting will take place in May 2013. ESIN should prepare a declaration/proposal for this meeting. We should ask to be on the agenda and make a presentation on ESIN.

Lise S. Dec. 14th 2012