



## The European Small Islands Federation

### Minutes from the Board meeting 31.1.2012

Held on Skype, hosted by Denmark

At 13.00 GMT

#### Participants:

Bengt Almkvist	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Anette Larm Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Elle Puurmann	Association of Estonian Islands
Pia Prost	National Association of Finish Islands
John Walsh	Irish Island Association
Rhoda Twombly	Irish Island Association
Dorthe Winther	Association of Danish Small Islands
Lise Thillemann Sørensen	Association of Danish Small Islands
Sandy Brunton, shortly	Scottish Island federation

#### **1. Opening**

The meeting was opened by the chairman Bengt Almkvist

#### **2. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 were approved with the addition that Scotland would have liked to be present, but due to bad weather conditions it was not possible.

#### **3. Secretary for the meeting**

Lise Thillemann Sørensen, Denmark was elected.

#### **4. Treasure report, payment to AIP, budget 2012**

Annette summarized the financial situation. The agreement with AIP has not been finalized, and AIP has not yet sent an invoice to ESIN for 2011. Concerning ESINs debt to AIP for 2010, € 6 500, half the sum (€ 3 250) will be paid by ESIN now. The budget for 2012 may eventually be balancing at € 8 500.

The question of financing the annual general meeting, and a possible contribution from ESIN was discussed. The importance of deciding a maximum level of how much money ESIN can spend on the AGM was stressed. Bengt will make a proposal on this that can be discussed at next board meeting.

## **5. Secretariat agreement, proposal from Aaland**

Association Les Iles du Ponant, AIP, has by mail stated that they cannot do work for any other organization without charging money for it. This also concerns the work with the website.

Aaland has made a proposal to manage the secretariat for € 3 000 a year, including website management, calls to board meetings and writing minutes, prepare invitations and writing minutes for AGM.

AIP has previously had a much larger annual budget. But the work also included all communication (mail, post and telephone), managing a register for communication of relevant EU persons and organisations, collecting relevant information from the EU and publication of a newsletter.

As ESIN has no clear view of the budget so far for 2012, but just an indicated budget of € 8 500, it was agreed not make any new commitments before the AIP situation has been closed and we have a budget for 2012.

## **6. Web page**

AIP has to charge a sum for hosting the current webpage. A proposal for a new webpage has been launched by Christian (hosting this site costs 17 US\$ for three years).

It was agreed to close down the present website, as soon as Christian has all the information he needs for the new site.

## **7. 2012 AGM, Scotland**

The AGM will take place on the Isle of Mull.

Theme: Environmental issues and sustainable energy.

Dates not agreed upon. September 2012 is proposed.

## **8. Identifying EU contacts**

Rhoda has made a list of the contact persons for the EU.

Bengt informed on the Group 174 with cooperating organisations and also about the EU Parliament Interroup 174.

To influence all 27 member states of the EU the strategy for the islands is to cooperate with other geographic areas that need special attention, like sparsely populated areas and mountain regions across Europe. The article 174 in The Lisbon Treaty makes clear the principle of the need of a specific attention to regions with natural and geographic permanent handicap.

A proposal was made to invite some of the leading people from this group to our AGM 2012.

## **9. Youth representatives, contact list**

John has made a list of people. If they make up a group and hold a Skype meeting, ESIN can maybe help them to promote their ideas. John will be the ESIN contact person for the youth group. The youth group can have also post issues on the new website.

## **10. CPMR Islands Commission meeting**

On 8<sup>th</sup> February the CPMR Islands Commission organizes a meeting in Brussels on "How can the EU 2014-2020 cohesion policy integrate the EU's island dimension?"

Many members of Parliament are invited as well as other organizations. ESIN is invited and Bengt will participate.

The "Pact of Islands" was adopted by the EU Parliament on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.

#### **11. Political issues**

John proposes that ESIN shall promote a small island policy on the CAP, Common Agriculture Policy, learning from the progress the mountain regions have had.

The EU Commission proposal on the CAP is debated during winter and spring 2012.

Each ESIN member should propose issues for island policy on the CAP for the EU period 2014 -2020. ESIN will then collect these issues and formulate a small island policy on agriculture. Bengt and John will work with this.

Also on other sectorial policies like Maritime, Environment, Energy and Transport ESIN can work on a small island policy.

#### **12. Board members, contact list**

Christian is collecting contact information and is asked to distribute a list. It is complicated to make a complete list since some members are difficult to contact.

#### **13. Next board meetings 27.3 and 29.5**

Next board meeting is on March 27<sup>th</sup>, on Skype at 13.00 GMT. Host is Finland.

#### **14. Closing**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Minutes submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Lise Thillemann Sørensen

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Bengt Almkvist, chairman