



## EUROPEAN SMALL ISLANDS FEDERATION

7<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of the European Small Islands Federation  
at Hydra, Greece, 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2007

### Minutes

#### List of participants

Claus	Jensen	Association of Danish Small Islands	Denmark
Holger	Lundgaard	Association of Danish Small Islands	Denmark
Jorgen	Overgaard	Association of Danish Small Islands	Denmark
Klas	Nystrom	Region Aboland	Finland
Eelin	Hoffstrom	Finnish Islands Association FOSS	Finland
Pirjo	Hoffstrom	Finnish Islands Association FOSS	Finland
Magnus	Hoffstrom	Finnish Islands Association FOSS	Finland
Anne-Maija	Kivimäki	Finnish Islands Association FOSS	Finland
Petri	Rannikko	Finnish Islands Association FOSS	Finland
Outi	Tikkanen	Finnish Islands Association FOSS	Finland
Pirja	Peltomaki	The Village Action Association of Finland	Finland
Teija	Raninen	Turku Region Development Centre	Finland
Jean-Yves	Bannet	Iles-du-Ponant	France
Anne-Sophie	Brosseau	Iles-du-Ponant	France
Pierre-Philippe	Jean	Iles-du-Ponant	France
Eleftherios	Kechagiogluo	Hellenic Small Islands Network, Apollonios Poseidon	Greece
Dimitris	Skouteris	Hellenic Small Islands Network, Apollonios Poseidon	Greece
Georgias	Vassilpoulos	Mayor of Ithaka	Greece
Nikos	Karakonstantinos	Mayor of Nisyros	Greece
Eleftherios	Stavropoulos	Permanent Greek Representation to the EU	Greece
Maíre	Ui Mhaoláin	Irish Islands Federation	Ireland
Mikael	O'Conghale	Irish Islands Federation	Ireland
Mairéad	O'Reilly	Irish Islands Federation	Ireland
Catalina	Schezzini	Italian Association of Small Islands Municipalities	Italy
Gianpera	Usai	Italian Association of Small Islands Municipalities	Italy
Mary Louise	MacQuarrie	Argyll and Bute Council	Scotland
Frank	Corcoran	Scottish Islands Federation	Scotland
Sandy	Brunton	Scottish Islands Federation	Scotland
Bengt	Almkvist	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Anne	Forslund	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Kristina	Mattson	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Karen	Alm	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Birgitta	Söderberg	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Eva	Widlund	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Jonas	Linell	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Bisse	Alm	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Monica	Green	Member of the Swedish Parliament	Sweden

**1. Welcome and opening of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

by Bengt Almkvist, chairman, who also gave a short activity report from last AGM at Idö, Sweden, and the conference on Islay, Scotland, in November 2006 when the results were presented from the Interreg-project that we have been working with since 2005. The conference was a great success and ESIN is more and more well-known. ESIN also organised a conference at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels last June which gave more opportunity to inform about ESIN and the Interreg project achievements. We can be very pleased with what we have reached during the last year.

**2. Election of secretary for the minutes of the AGM**

Anne Forslund was elected

**3. Election of member to check the minutes**

Claus Jensen was elected

**4. Adoption of the minutes from the annual general meeting 2006.**

The minutes from the AGM 2006 was adopted

**5. Treasurers report**

There was nothing to report as no membership fee was paid 2006.

**6. Membership application, change of member from Finland**

The ESIN statutes say that ESIN will have only one member from each country. In Finland the new "National Association of the Finnish Islands", FÖSS was established in 2007. The present ESIN member "The association of Pro Åboland Utskär" is now a part of that association.

A formal application of change of membership in ESIN, signed by both organisations, was presented to the ESIN annual general meeting. FÖSS application for membership of ESIN also included a contract from "the Association of Pro Åboland Utskär" saying that FÖSS now has taken over the national responsibility for the interests of the small islands from "Pro Åboland Utskär" in Finland.

**The AGM decided** to accept the application and welcome the "National Association of the Finnish Islands" as the member from Finland.

**7. Election of board members and substitutes.**

Each member is entitled to one board member and one nominated substitute.

**Board member**

Denmark: Henry Larsen  
Estonia: to be announced  
Finland: Pirjo Hoffström  
France: Jean Yves Bannet  
Greece: Eleftherios Kechagioglou  
Ireland: to be announced  
Italy: Catalina Schezzini  
Scotland: Jane Fowler  
Sweden: Bengt Almkvist

**Substitute**

Dorthe Winter  
to be announced  
Teija Raninen  
Jean Francois Masson  
Dimitri Skouteris  
to be announced  
Gianpera Usai  
Mary Louise Macquarrie  
Anne Forslund

## **8. Report from the Interreg project**

Maíre Uí Mhaoláin informed about the Interreg project. The project time has been prolonged until the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to cover the expenses. There are also a couple of reports that have to be accomplished. The booklet "Meeting the Challenges of Small Islands" is now printed and each member should decide how many copies they need for national distribution. Maíre will send each member the list of persons invited to the November conference and Brussels conference. ESIN will keep some copies for future promotion.

Every country within the Interreg project has to do an economic compilation by the 15<sup>th</sup> of September and send that to Maíre. Then an overlook of the financial situation can be done.

## **9. Establishing an ESIN secretariat**

Bengt Almkvist reported about the discussions on establishing an ESIN secretariat during the spring and the Brussels meeting. Two proposals have evolved, from France and Finland, the Finnish proposal also as a formal motion to the AGM.

Presentations were made from both parties by Pirjo Hoffström and Teija Raninen from Finland and Pierre Philippe Jean from France. The discussion afterwards showed that the ESIN members very much appreciated the two initiatives. The discussion also included several aspects about what activities a secretariat should focus on. Mentioned were the formal address for contact with ESIN, managing the website, a newsletter, keeping relevant lists for distribution of information, preparing project applications, follow the information relevant to small islands from various EU institutions, language issues, translations etc.

The proposals also included formal aspects as the need for registration of ESIN. The economic aspects for both proposals included part of the funding from a national source and part from an ESIN membership fee.

After a thorough discussion **the AGM decided** that

- ESIN appreciated the two proposals and will use the opportunity to establish a secretariat as soon as possible.
- The member organisations shall bring the information and discussion of the two proposals, from the AGM to their own boards
- The chairman Bengt Almkvist shall prepare a presentation of the two proposals, together with Finland and France, and send this to the board members of ESIN
- the ESIN board shall then take the decision of location of a secretariat, primary tasks for the secretariat, management of secretariat, budget and funding
- The aim is to complete the formation of a secretariat within a few months.

## **10. Annual membership fee.**

**The AGM decided** that the membership fee for 2007/08 is to be 100 EURO.

## **11. Election of president**

Bengt Almkvist was elected president of ESIN.

## **12. Election of treasurer**

Kristina Mattsson was elected treasurer.

### **13. Appointment of auditor**

Kristina Lövström and Agneta Pettersson, Sweden, were appointed auditors.

### **14. Economic authorization**

**The AGM decided** that the treasurer, Kristina Mattsson, is authorized to sign the economic matters for ESIN during 2007/08 until next AGM.

### **15. Annual general work plan**

The work plan is connected with the discussion and decisions about a secretariat.

**The AGM decided** to delegate the matter to the board.

### **16. Future project cooperation, project priority discussion**

The new Interreg IVC will be presented on September 20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup>. ESIN will probably have good opportunities to present a project idea developed from the good experiences in the present Interreg project.

Also a number of different project ideas were presented and shortly discussed at the AGM.

Islands exchange project II, developing from previous Interreg IIIC project  
The program Culture 2007-2013  
The theme year of European Islands 2010  
Data base of Islands Projects  
Blood bank and organ bank for islands

**The AGM decided** that ESIN shall try to get an invitation to go to the Cohesion Forum in Brussels on September 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **18. Next annual general meeting of ESIN**

Finland had invited ESIN to the next annual general meeting. It will probably take place in the southwest of Finland. A formal invitation will be sent later on.

**The AGM accepts** the invitation

### **17. Final statement from the 7<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting**

The ESIN members express their thanks to the "Hellenic Small islands Network" and the people of Hydra, for their hospitality in hosting this, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the European Small Islands Federation, ESIN.

### **19. Close of conference**

Chairman Bengt Almkvist closed the meeting.

Hydra the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2007

Anne Forslund  
Secretary

Claus Jensen  
Member to check the minutes

Bengt Almkvist  
Chairman at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting