



EUROPEAN
SMALL
ISLANDS
FEDERATION

9th Annual General Meeting
European Small Islands Federation
On Elba , Italy, 8th of September 2009

Minutes

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Henry Larsen	Association of Danish Small Islands	Denmark
Claus Jensen	Association of Danish Small Islands	Denmark
Dorthe Winther	Association of Danish Small Islands	Denmark
Tarmo Pikner	Association of Estonian Islands	Estonia
Pirjo Hoffstrom	National Association of Finnish Islands	Finland
Kristin Mattsson	National Association of Finnish Islands	Finland
Jean-Yves Bannet	Association « Les Iles du Ponant »	France
Henry Turbe	Association « Les Iles du Ponant »	France
Pierre-Philippe Jean	Association « Les Iles du Ponant »	France
Catalina Schezzini	Italian Association of Small Islands Municipalities	Italy
Christian Pleijel	Företagsamma Skärgårdar	Aland
Frank Corcoran	Scottish Islands Federation	Scotland
Bengt Almkvist	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Kristina Mattson	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Eva Widlund	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Inger Abrahamsson	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Kjell Björkqvist	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Anna-Karin Utbult Almkvist	National Association of the Swedish Archipelago	Sweden
Anne-Sophie Brosseau	European Small Islands Federation	France

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

By Bengt Almkvist, chairman of ESIN. Bengt Almkvist reviewed the agenda of the conference and explained some changes in the program.

2. Election of member to check the minutes

Claus Jensen was elected.

3. Adoption of the minutes from the annual general meeting 2008.

The minutes from ESIN 8th AGM on Kasnäs was adopted.

4. Chairman's report

Bengt Almkvist, chairman of ESIN, gave a short activity report on events since last agm and especially underlined some main events and actions. ESIN was invited to a second meeting with general director Dirk Ahner at DG Regio in december 2008. Four representatives from ESIN had the opportunity to describe the situation of the small islands and their need for better attention within the EU. We especially underlined the need for better general statistics about small islands. Also the problem of more and more large scale approach within the structural funds system that is a disadvantage for small isolated communities. We encouraged DG Regio to support the idea of forming an island interservice group within the Commission.

ESIN also cooperate with organisations within the « Group 158 » supporting the promotion of article 158 in the Lisbon Treaty regarding territories with permanent natural or demographic handicap. The cooperation is formed by an initiative from CPMR Islands Commission, and also includes ESIN, Euromontana and INSULEU. One objective is to encourage members of the new parliament 2009 to form a group for these issues. Group 158 was established at a meeting in Paris late 2008.

ESIN was invited to the CPMR Islands Commission annual meeting in may 2009 participated at Stornoway, Western Isles. Bengt Almkvist participated and spoke about recent ESIN activities and the position on the issue of territorial cohesion and small islands. At the conference was also a round table discussion where ESIN participated.

5. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Kristina Mattsson reported on the economic situation of ESIN. Due to difficulties in opening bank account invoices for membership and service fee for 2008, were sent late december 2008. The accounts for 2008 therefore include only a few members.

Kristina underlined the importance to gather the fees from all members. The service fee is supposed to cover ESIN's costs for the secretariat. This of course will affect the possibility for ESIN's outreach work. Also if ESIN contribution is reduced there is a risk for a decrease in the contribution from the region Brittany.

6. Secretary's report

Anne Sophie Brosseau, secretary of ESIN, gave a brief report on the secretariat's activity. On communication the website has been renewed and put on line in spring 2009. Still more information is needed from member organisations on the website. Three electronic newsletters have been edited.

Work has been focused on small scale fisheries in cooperation with John O'Brien from Ireland. Also preparation of meetings in Brussels and others, meetings with other islands fishermen and fishermen wives, etc. Also meeting with Jorgen Rasmussen who is writing a book on islands.

The secretariat was present at the meetings in Brussels with DG regio in december. Secretary General Mr Dirk Ahner would like to get a better view on small islands and European trend policies, e.g. climate change, population, energy and innovation. The contact with DG Regio shall be developed further to influence the discussion on the supportive system after 2013.

A meeting with the partners of group 158 was organised in Paris in december 2008. The fruitful cooperation with other territories meeting similar challenges is developed. All organisations shall keep each other informed on common issues and also coordinate activities. Main activities are connected with the development of the territorial cohesion concept.

The secretariat was also in Brussels at the meeting with ESPON and the Euroislands project in june, on Isle of Houat with european small island fishermen in june, at the Groix Film Festival with european small island fishermen and fishermen wives in august.

Anne-Sophie expressed her concern for more and regular information and contributions from the members to keep the secretariat updated. The information is also needed for the newsletter and website. The secretariat needs more regular contacts with chairman, board members and a contact person for each member association.

7. Budget for 2009 and 2010

The budget for 2010 was discussed based on the difficulties for several members to finance the service fee. Different ways to find basic funding for ESIN from the EU has been examined. There is no regular possibility for this. One possible way can be to apply for a specific study on basic island issues of interest for DG Regio. Also a support for ESIN can be found via an Interreg project. This is however a rather complicated way.

Mainly because of financial reasons several members have difficulties to pay the service fee. The general funding for the members are very different, and has been even more complicated during the economic depression. In some cases also members are looked upon as competitive to national agencies, and therefore have problems to get funding for their work. If it can be of assistance, the chairman offered assistance to member organisations at meetings to describe the support ESIN can give to the population of the small islands.

It was also reminded that costs for ESIN activities paid by member organisations shall be included in the ESIN accounts to show the actual costs for the activities. This could include travel costs for participants to specific meetings, translation and interpretation cost during agm etc.

The annual general meeting agreed to reduce the budget for 2009 from €19800, with a service fee of 2100 for each member, to 13500 with a service fee of €1400. The budget for 2010 was approved .

8. Annual membership fee 2010

The annual general meeting agreed that the membership fee for 2010 is €100.

9. Service fee 2010

The annual general meeting agreed that the service fee for 2010 is €1400.

10. Secretariat renewal of agreement for 2010

The ESIN annual general meeting agreed on the renewal of the secretariat for two years.

ESIN shall address a formal letter to Brittany Region.

11. Annual general work plan

A general working plan proposal for 2009/2010 was presented.

ESIN's two main objectives are to initiate and support contacts and exchange of information between the member organisations and to bring information and knowledge about the small islands to the EU institutions.

ESIN will promote development of an exchange projects based on the experiences from the Inter Island Exchange Project 2004-2007. For future cooperation both the Interreg system and the Leader system will be examined.

To encourage and inspire activity, a data bank of relevant projects performed on small islands shall be created and available on ESIN website.

In 2009 a new parliament was elected in the EU. ESIN shall try to establish contact with members that can be interested in islands issues.

Our relationships with the EU Commission have improved and our contacts with DG Regio, DG Mare and DG Agri will be developed further.

ESIN will be an active partner in the project « Euroisles » within ESPON. The fruitful cooperation with CPMR Islands Commission will be developed further. One example is joint activities within the cooperation « Group 158 ». The different actions undertaken with CPMR offer ESIN additional opportunities to reach Brussels and to be heard. But it also raised the argument that ESIN shall undertake actions on its own. The value of the small islands is a strong argument on its own.

ESIN will increase the work on information about relevant islands issues. The new website will be further developed and active. Also the electronic newsletter will be produced.

To carry through the 2009/2010 workplan the cooperation with Association des Illes du Ponant and region Brittany in France will continue.

It was decided that a board meeting in addition to the AGM is needed.

The working plan 2009/2010 was approved. The document is enclosed to the minutes.

12. Change of statutes § 6

The Association of Danish Small Islands had made a proposal on § 6 of the statutes. They want the sentence “No elected officers can hold the same position for more than four years” deleted from the statutes. They find this limit unnecessary since chairman is up for election at every AGM.

The proposal was discussed and approved by the board.

The Finnish member organisation, Föss, proposed that a vicepresident would be elected within the board. Two alternatives were suggested:

- 1) to change ESIN statutes in order to integrate the election of a vice-chair.
- 2) to allow the board to nominate a vice-chair.

The annual general meeting agreed on the second alternative.

13. Membership application, “Företagsamma Skärgårdar”, Åland

A membership application from the organisation Företagsamma Skärgårdar was presented. The organisation constitutes of the six small island based municipalities of the region Åland in southwest Finland. The region Åland has a special status with high degree of governance. The application has been accepted by the Finnish member FÖSS, representing small island communities connected to mainland Finland.

The annual general meeting accepted the application and welcomed Företagsamma Skärgårdar as the 10th member of ESIN. A presentation is enclosed the minutes.

ESIN has also been approached by three other different island organisations about membership : Formentera (Balearic Islands), Frisian Islands (Germany), Isles of Scilly (England).

14. Election of board members and substitutes

Each member is entitled to one board member and one nominated substitute. The following persons were elected ESIN board members for 2009/2010.

	Board member	Substitute
Denmark:	Henry Larsen	Dorthe Winter
Estonia:	Tarmo Pinker	to be announced
Finland:	Pirjo Hoffström	Kristin Mattsson
France:	Jean Yves Bannet	Pierre-Philippe Jean
Greece:	Eleftherios Kechagioglou	Georgious Vassilopoulos
Ireland:	Simon Murray	to be announced
Italy:	Catalina Schezzini	Gianpera Usai
Scotland:	Ian Gillies	Camille Dressler
Sweden:	Bengt Almkvist	Kristina Mattsson
Åland :	Christian Pleijel	to be announced

15. Election of chairman

Bengt Almkvist was elected chairman of ESIN for 2009/2010.

16. Appointment of auditor

Kristina Löfström and Agnetha Petersson were appointed.

17. Economic authorization

Kristina Mattsson, Sweden, was elected treasurer. The AGM decided that the treasurer, Kristina Mattsson, is authorized to sign the economic matters for ESIN.

19. Cooperation: Interreg/ Leader Projects

A number of different themes for cooperation were discussed. ESIN will have to find a lead partner amongst its members. A number of different themes for a project of cooperation project were suggested:

- “Green islands” project. Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Aland and Estonia are already involved in such projects.
- Euroislands II, focused on small islands.
- Garbage management
- Youth (“Youth in Action” program)

It was noted that the INTERREG system is not relevant for small islands. ESIN will have to convince the European Commission to adapt the system to geographic areas smaller than regions.

The ESIN members shall send a list of Leader groups including small islands. Also within the Fisheries program special similar areas are selected. Contact between these areas is especially relevant concerning the reform of the Common fisheries Policy, CFP.

20. Next annual general meeting of ESIN.

The Danish Islands Association kindly offered ESIN to host ESIN 10th AGM in a Danish island. The invitation was accepted.

21. Close of conference

Chairman Bengt Almkvist expresses a warm thank to ANCIM and Catalina for hosting the 9th annual general meeting of ESIN on Elba.

The chairman closes the formal annual ESIN board meeting.

Auray
Sept 30th 2009

Anne-Sophie Brosseau
Secretary

Bengt Almkvist
Chairman

Claus Jensen
Elected to check the minutes