

November, 25, 2014

Minister Alan Kelly
Irish Ministry of Environment

Dear Sir,

The European Small Islands Federation is a network of national islands organisations all over Europe, comprising 1,400 islands and 448,000 islanders. Among us, Ireland has been inspiration because of the enlightened way it has supported its islands. The decentralised Island Community Development Companies Offices stand out as a model of how to support small, vulnerable island societies.

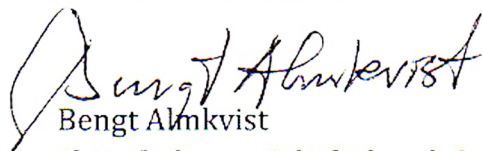
It has come to our attention that the crucial core funding for these offices may be removed from five of the islands, thus preventing them from continuing to function as enablers for their communities.

Island communities have permanent geographical handicaps as has been recognised by Article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty. They are fragile socially and economically and deserve all the support they can get from their national government at a time where it is harder than ever for them to compete equally with mainland communities.

We therefore urge the Irish government to reconsider this decision.



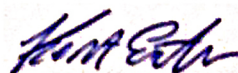
Dorthe Winter
Association of Small Danish Islands



Bengt Almkvist
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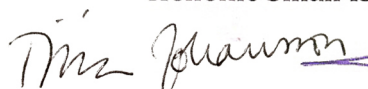
Kent Eriksson
Foretagsam Skargard, the Aland Islands

Eleftherios Kechagioglou
Hellenic Small Islands Network

ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ Σ. ΚΕΧΑΓΙΟΓΛΟΥ
ΕΠΙΘΕΛΑΡΟΣ Α.Σ.
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΔΙΚΤΥΟ ΜΙΚΡΩΝ ΝΗΣΙΩΝ



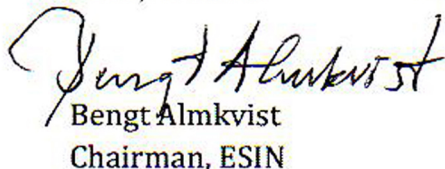
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Bengt Almkvist
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