



European Small Islands Federation

Board Meeting, No.20: 21 June 2019 9.00am Dublin time via Zoom

Participants:

Camille Dressler	Scottish Island federation
Kristian Packalén	Åland
Sten-Åke Persson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Anetté Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Lise Thilleman Sørensen	Danish Small Islands Association
Denis Bredin	AIP/France
Pia Prost	National Association of Finnish Islands

Attending:

Host & Secretary:

Rhoda Twombly Irish Islands Federation

Apologies:

Janita Andrijevskaia AEI, Estonia
John Walsh COE/Irish Federation

1. Minutes, Agenda and Matters Arising

The minutes of 28 May were approved as was the agenda for this meeting. One change is to be made in these minutes: Camille attended the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2019 (#EUSEW19), not an INSULAR meeting.

2. Finance

There is a balance of €7,300 after payment to Camille but has still to pay for Sten-Ake's trip and Camille's trip to Brussels. **ACTION:** Requested that Rhoda send the zoom renewal invoice to Anette as well as the names of those Federations who have sent in their documents for membership renewal.. **ACTION:** Anette to send out membership invoices as soon as possible.

3. Review of Action Points

- Membership documents have been received from Denmark, Croatia, France, Estonia, Ireland, Åland and Scotland. **ACTION:** Clarification re Croatia on documents sent: Camille to request full documentation for September AGM : remaining countries to send in required documents : Sweden, Italy, Greece.
- Islands Challenge Pledge to be sent to elected MEPs. **ACTION:** Agreed that Amend Pledge (CD & RT to distribute to the Board for sending out by members in September when the new

MPs addresses are known. Also research the SEARICA group and who is included apart from Tonino Piccula.

- Clean Energy Island 3rd Forum: Camille organised that the literature from the Clean Energy Secretariat be sent to Lise in Danish.
- Camille and Denis met with Jorg Singer, the mayor of the German island of Helgoland who would be interested in joining us for our AGM in Sweden. See Greening the island conference on Helgoland in April 25-26 2019. – [www. greenicon.de](http://www.greenicon.de)
- There hasn't been a chance as yet to discuss the presentation at the ERP meeting in Spain however Camille and John will attend with both their expenses paid by ERP.
- Camille spoke with Brendan Devlin concerning the failure of the consortium to win the contract: his opinion was that the FEDARENE Consortium was not considered by the jury to have the necessary financial infrastructure and reporting facility to handle such a large grant. It was noted that we were disappointed as our plan would have given more money to the islands rather than operational costs. Brendan stressed that the way forward to ensure money would continue to be awarded to the islands without going through a selection process was to go through the Island convention. Camille understood from Kostas that this would be discussed with FEDARENE and the Croatia government in order to be tabled during the Croatian presidency.

4. Report from the Chair

Most of the Chair report is included above. Camille and Denis also met with the CPMR secretary, Giuseppe Scaccia in Brussels, who confirmed his interest in attending the Agm in Sweden in order to consolidate the links between ESIN and CPMR in order to ensure the smaller islands' needs are taken into account in the CPMR Island Commission.

Camille requested that this e-mail from Dr Julje Domac of FEDARENE be included in the minutes:

Dear Julje

On behalf of ESIN, I would like to thank you for your warm welcome and for your proposal to use these two forthcoming events to put forward island concerns and priorities.

We do have worries that island issues are not always well understood at EU levels, and the forthcoming Croatian presidency of the Council would indeed be an ideal opportunity to put the islands at the fore to create more opportunities for island targeted support.

ESIN represents the smaller European islands and in their case, there is even more reduced capacity locally and more need for technical assistance to mature projects than for the larger islands. They are often dependent of mainland regional authorities and this creates another barrier to existing EU technical assistance programmes, whose thresholds are high and already very difficult to reach for island-scale projects.

For all these reasons, it would make sense and a better use of resources to have a dedicated scheme and dedicated financial instruments specifically set up for islands.

The **Clean Energy EU Islands initiative** has shown how positive steps can be taken, but much remains to be done as energy is only part of the story for the islands. Transport, waste, water, governance, IT, sustainable tourism, protection of the fragile island environment, economic diversification are the other important components that need to be addressed to ensure our islands can thrive and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

These preoccupations are at the core of the **Smart Island Initiative** which was launched in a Declaration adopted by hundreds of European Islands (including the 11 small islands Federation ESIN represents) at the European Parliament in 2017, with the support of 12 MEPs including Tonino Picula who has so constantly supported the islands, and Dominique Ristori, Director General of DG ENER.

The Croatia Presidency could provide an ideal opportunity to look at **supporting and resourcing the Smart Islands Initiative**, with its broad scope and its work spanning several DGs of the European Commission.

High level meetings during the presidency could provide the opportunity to discuss how **dedicated financial instrument for islands** would enable the initiative to provide an integrated approach to the management of key infrastructures, including transport, waste and water, and how combined investment tools could unlock islands' potential for integrated territorial development.

This would be a fitting response to the priorities of the new cohesion policy and specifically the axis 5 “a Europe closer to its citizens” which seeks to create dedicated funding streams for areas facing territorial disparities (islands, mountainous zones, etc.), drawing synergies with initiatives such as the “Clean Energy for EU islands”, “Circular economy on islands,” and others.

In particular, ESIN would welcome the adoption of island-specific criteria in cohesion funding, so that the local economy of the islands and their challenges because of insular conditions (e.g. local GDP, Human Development Index, Social Development Index) are more pertinently described. We feel this would finally allow the smaller islands' situation to be adequately taken into account.

ESIN would also welcome the provision of financing support for community-based investments for the islands' clean energy transition and other Community Lead Local Development Smart Islands goals.

EGTCs such as the Mediterranean EGTC ArchImed have also shown the benefits of islands working together to achieve more and it would be useful to explore further during the Croatian Presidency how a **Charter for the European Islands** as proposed by ANCIM, our Italian member, and the **Islands Convention** as already suggested by some can ensure better and long lasting targeting of resources to the islands,

Finally, with Climate Change putting all our EU islands – large or small - at risk, a high-level event on **climate change and island governance** might also be very timely. This would resonate well with the initiatives on Clean Energy and Smart islands mentioned above and the focus on climate change and oceans that the Chilean presidency of the coming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties has already announced.

The focus on **island governance** by Croatia with its new island specific laws would be very useful, especially in comparison to other island-specific legislation such as the new Italian island legislative framework and the work currently undertaken by the Scottish Government on their National islands Plan.

Best regards,

Camille Dressler
Chair
European Small islands Federation

On Saturday, 8 June 2019, 05:26:46 BST, Julije Domac <jdomac@regea.org> wrote:

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are all well – once again, let me welcome all new FEDARENE members from islands, I am looking forward to working together in the future.

This is a short note to ask for your opinion and support in two upcoming occasions (and I am sorry for such short notice):

On Tuesday, 11 June, I am meeting with Croatian Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds (also in charge for islands). Islands will be one of the highest priorities of upcoming Croatian EU presidency and I will be in position to suggest topics and some activities. **Could you preliminary send me some suggestions or at least indicative ideas on the activities which should be supported/initiated by Croatian Ministry?** Something like:

- better interaction or position of islands in the CoM?
- dedicated financial mechanisms in addition to existing ones?
- organizing high-level policy event during Croatian presidency?
- ...

Of course, the idea of the meeting on 11 June is not to deliver a detailed or final list but only to illustrate that the FEDARENE Island Colleague can provide such support. If/once the Ministry agrees that they would like to use our knowledge and capacity, we could work together on something concrete and elaborated.

On Monday, 17 June, I will speak at the ministerial panel on a high level event organized by EIB and Croatian Government. Please see more at: <https://www.fedarene.org/events/eib-smart-cities-islands-investment-platforms-conference> Such events are always a good opportunity to launch some ideas and trigger some interesting follow-ups. **Could you send me some (speaking) points which you think it should be emphasized on behalf of the FEDARENE Island Colleague?**

- Last but not least, does anybody have an update on progress of the upcoming EU Island Convention? I would be grateful for this.

Looking forward to hear from you,

Julije

- Camille had a discussion with Giuseppe Sciacca (?) of CPMR: He would like to attend the ESIN AGM and work more closely with ESIN.
- Convention of Islands is being debated: This needs to be strongly supported as it is “now or never” according to B. Devlin. However, we need to know more about the particulars of this convention.

5. Work Plan

AGM

ACTION Investigate the remuneration requirement for each speaker.

ACTION: Ensure interested participants are contacted with invitation and details. For example, the Nordic Research Council.

- €2,000 from the Swedish government for AGM facilitators and speakers
- Must finalise speakers list (numbering 7) and their payment requirements, if any
- “Smart Islands Strategy” as theme and title

ACTION: Rhoda to contact Seamus Bonner regarding his talk.

- 2nd Day AGM: “Catch-up” day: **ACTION:** Add to work plan: Target MEPs and Formalise CPMY relationship

- Need one facilitator for the work groups but the groups *could* work on their own: the group notes would then go into the plenary

- **ACTION:** Rhoda to send out information outlined by Sten-Ake - invitation, timetable and agenda. This is also to be posted on our Facebook page and website.
- In the AGM call, note should be made of the nominations to the Board by the member Federations.
- Booking form: €530 (maximum) for a single room, all-in. €450 for shared accommodation. This includes 3 nights accommodation, ferry, bus, excursion, food: Travel is not included.
- Total of €3,000 for external speakers (ESIN €1,000 Sweden €2,000)
- Deadline of 15 August for booking. Money is to be sent to the ESIN account
- **ACTION:** Sten-Ake to check on price for a shorter stay

More work to be done on content of Internal Day but so far there is:

- Targeting MEPs: Lise
- Funding: Sten-Ake and Kristian
- Smart Islands: Pia (John & Camille): this should represent the results of their LEADER exchange Scotland/Clare island
- CPMR: Camille

6. Calendar

11th OTIE International Conference on Island Tourism in Lesvos, Greece 5-6th Sept 2019

9th Annual meeting of the EGTC Platform Hotel Gran Meliá Victoria, Avinguda de Joan Miró 21, Palma, Spain 27 September 2019

The 4th European Rural Parliament will take place in Asturias in Spain on November 6-9, 2019.

Meeting dates: 11 July 9am Dublin time ESIN Board

14 Aug: AGM Working Group Meeting 10am Irish Time