



## European Small Islands Federation

### Board Meeting, No.26: 20 April 2020 9.00am Dublin time via Zoom

#### Participants:

John Walsh	COE/Irish Federation
Camille Dressler	Scottish Island federation
Anetté Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Denis Bredin	AIP/France
Riina Kaljulaid	AEI (Estonia)
Sten-Åke Persson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Lise Thilleman Sørensen	Danish Small Islands Association
Kristian Packalén	Åland
Pia Prost	National Association of Finnish Islands
Dorthe Winther	Danish Small Islands Association

#### Attending:

#### Host & Secretary:

Rhoda Twombly Irish Islands Federation

#### Apologies:

#### **1. Minutes, Agenda and Matters Arising**

John Walsh opened the meeting. The minutes of 23 March 2020 were approved (Pro: Camille Second: Pia) as was the agenda for this meeting. There were no matters arising.

#### **2. Finance**

- Annette has sent out Membership invoices. The AGM 2019 approved an increase to €300/annum. There is a balance of apx €2,500.
- If all members pay there will be a gain of €3,850. **ACTION:** Update draft budget to reflect cost of AGM when this is known
- Queries as to the payment of membership to Fedarene by ESIN have been cleared up – it has been paid.

#### **3. Review of Action Points & Conferences**

1. Discussion on Budget 2020 (draft with estimates) & AGM Budget (prices etc.: report of AGM working group): **ACTION:** Rhoda to send out updated budget with minutes when information on costs of AGM are known.
2. Covid-19: European Island Actions:

🇬🇧 Scotland: Unclear as to what will happen when restrictions lifted

- ✚ Denmark: has started gradual re-opening (lower schools, hair salons; will be asking for free ferries to the small islands)
- ✚ France: gradual re-opening but date unknown for bars, restaurants etc. All festivals cancelled
- ✚ Ireland: no re-opening as yet: 5<sup>th</sup> May for announcement. No bars, restaurants or festivals.
- ✚ Aland: probably will not reopen soon
- ✚ Sweden: different effects/actions in different areas; some problems with summer homes, increased ferry routes.
- ✚ Finland: schools closed, many people going to their cottages
- ✚ Estonia: all islands closed: once a person is in their summer cottage they must stay there; every other restriction in place
- ✚ Ireland: schools closed, 2k travel from home only, over-70s “cocooning,” travel for necessary shopping only or doctor appt.

Discussion on the possible positives from Covid-19: ex – fishing: reaching out to local markets, on-line sales. Supports for European small fishers with each country to outline the needs of small fishers. Local products could gain by organising small producers. Highlights problems created by over-reliance on tourists/ people traveling from abroad.

### 3. Working Groups Reports

- AGM Group: Sten-Ake proposed that ESIN look for funding (funding groups are 3 year grants so can only apply for 2021).
  - ✚ Dates: From Pia: Thanks to the help of Jeppe Jensen, I was today contacted by Ana Laca, Head of cabinet to MEP Tonino Picula.
  - ✚ She wanted us to know that she will be happy to help us arrange a meeting with Picula and other “island MEPs”, since she is now in charge of arranging all Searica events and meetings. Before Corona, they had planned to arrange a bigger seminar on island matters - now however, no one knows when bigger events like this can be arranged next time.
  - ✚ But Ana Laca said she can arrange smaller meetings on quite a short notice, we shall only let her know when we would like to come. She recommended pink or purple sections in the EU agenda.
  - ✚ This means week 44 or 47: waiting for T. Picula to reply.
- Minutes from working groups to be put in Google Docs (drive) with separate folders: Send main points to RT to include in minutes
- Energy Group: **ACTION**: Renew contacts with DG Energy & work with the Secretariat. For the long-term, invite Alexis to join the group.
  - ✚ Discussed NESOI and the need for them to recognise and fund small islands. Most already work with Fedarene and have contacts there. There are issues with the information sent out for dissemination by NESOI: docs are in English which many Islands do not read & NESOI will not translate. Also, queries to the office go unanswered. Alexis has given of his time to explain the rather complicated process.

🚦 Denis & John have invited Alexis to join them in a meeting with the Commission on energy concerns.

- Policy Group: (CW, LS, DW,TMP, DB): look into the work of, for example, CPMR. Lise to send on the group's terms to the Board.
  - Culture Group: Pia, Riina and Seamus – Questionnaire on intangible cultural heritage has been sent out to the Board for dissemination. The group would like to see what intangible heritage to European Islands have in common, if any
  - Funding and Branding groups have not yet met.
4. RIPEET request for support letter: **ACTION**: John will fill in the template and send.
5. Definition of "Small" Island: Wide range of populations amongst the islands: Majority of members would agree the <5,000: Islands with any fixed link to the mainland are not included as islands. **ACTION**: Make a statement on the ESIN parameters and definition of "Small Island." Details with specific Islands can be discussed as need arises. **ACTION**: CW will arrange a zoom meeting with Terry (DG Regio) with John and Lise.
- **ACTION**: Make representation to EC to be included in meetings via one of the conference platforms: this would be a lot more inclusive and avoid high travel costs and use of time.

#### 4. AOB

- NEXT MEETING: 18 May 2020, 9am Irish time
- Blog: Send RT a paragraph on how your island has been affected by C-19 with perhaps a photo.
- Sten-Ake presented information concerning the benefits of Google Suite if validated as a non-profit organisation. Agreed to change our domain to esin.info for this purpose.  
Approved: Sten-Ake to sign ESIN up to Google suite and apply for esin.info domain.

#### 6. Calendar

Due to Covid-19, most meetings and conferences in the near future have been cancelled or postponed.