



## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### European Small Islands Federation

18 November 2020 10.30 am (CET)

Held via zoom

### MINUTES

#### Participants:

John Walsh	COE/Irish Federation
Camille Dressler	Scottish Islands Federation
Pia Prost	National Association of Finnish Islands
Anetté Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Sten-Åke Persson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Lise Thilleman Sørensen	Danish Small Islands Association
Dorthe Winther	Danish Small Islands Association
Riina Kaljulaid	AEI (Estonia)
Mairtin OMealoid	COE/Irish Islands Federation
Terry Hegarty	CoDel, Scotland
Anna Franzen	Finland
Marija Kuljeric	Croatian Islands
Jacques Bathiat	AIP/France
Tomás MacPháidin	COE&ERTB Ireland
Denis Bredin	AIP/France

#### Attending:

<u>Host &amp; Secretary:</u>	
Rhoda Twombly	Irish Islands Federation

#### Apologies:

1/Election of member to check the minutes: Lise Thilleman Sørensen nominated, seconded by Camille Dressler and agreed unanimously.

2/ Approval of Agenda: passed with no additions

3/ Adoption of minutes of the AGM 2019: proposed by Tomas MacPháidin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Camille Dressler and agreed unanimously.

4/ Welcome and Chair report

John Walsh welcomed all to the 20<sup>th</sup> ESIN AGM. His own 2020 was quite eventful: he managed to attend the 2019 AGM in Hven with a broken leg which made travel difficult: John greatly appreciated all the assistance he received from the Board in travel and at the meeting. He was

delighted to be elected Chairperson at the AGM and went on to represent ESIN at the Palermo meeting of Greening the Islands and, with Camille Dressler, to the ERP meeting in Spain. Sadly, John had to leave this meeting early upon receiving news of the death of his father.

The start of 2020 saw the Brussels meeting of Smart Villages, also attended by Camille. Noted that there may be some role/ benefits for ESIN. Also, the offer of monthly meetings with MEP Tonino Picula was welcomed.

The spread of Covid-19 meant the end to all face-to-face meetings: the lack of travel a mixed blessing as more time spent in discussion, less time and expense on travel.

Thanks were offered to Sten-Åke Persson for all his time setting up the Google suite: members were urged to increase their expertise on Meet and use this system more. John also noted the huge support given by Camille as well as the work she has done which is now coming to fruition. Rhoda Twombly in her role as secretary was thanked for her part in the running of the organisation.

#### 5/ Treasurer's Report

Anetté Johansson shared and reviewed the financial report with the Board. The balance sheet for 2019 showed a closing balance of €11,179.41. The largest expense of 2019 was the AGM on Hven: €15,000. The total costs to ESIN for 2019 was €16,738.81 while the sum of operating income was €16,600 leaving a deficit of €138.81. A digital copy of the accounts will be made available.

Anetté noted that there needed to be discussion on membership debt. It was proposed that John, Rhoda and Anetté discuss this issue to come to a resolution. Proposed: Rhoda Twombly 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tomás MacPháidin and agreed unanimously.

#### 6/ Auditor's Report: This was approved by the annual general meeting

7/ Liability for the past year's management: Adopting the accounts as given. proposed: Mairtin OMealoid 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tomás MacPháidin. This was agreed unanimously.

8/ Annual Membership fee: Proposed an annual fee of €300 Proposed: Rhoda Twombly 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sten-Åke Persson This was agreed unanimously.

9/ Budget 2021: To be discussed at meeting of Rhoda, John and Anetté. The proposed budget will then be brought to the Board for approval.

#### 10/ Proposal of changes to ESIN's statutes:

##### Add to section 1:

ESIN aims to work for better all-year lives for small islands in Europe with no permanent land connection and less than 5000 inhabitants. *ESIN accepts that individual ESIN member association's definition of their member islands may differ from this definition.*

##### Add in Section 2:

Associate membership is available to individual islands or organisations representing a group of islands provided they meet ESIN criteria and aims, having a population of less than 5000 and no permanent connection to the mainland. Associate membership is available to individual islands or organisations representing a group of islands in cases where there is no national/autonomous region island federation. It is preferable for a group of Islands from the same country to join together to form a Federation. Admitting Associate members will be at the discretion of the ESIN Board.

Associate members will not have voting rights and will pay half the fee of full members.

There was a discussion on Associate membership

The changes of statutes are to be confirmed at an Extraordinary General Meeting, to be organised at least 5 weeks after the AGM.

## 11/Annual General Work Plan: Summary

### I. Policy Working Group: Leader – Lise Sorenson

- Green Deal: Focus on Sustainable mobility & Just Transition
- Effects of Covid-19: Recovery on Islands
- ERP 2021
- Retaining populations on the Islands

### II. Island Culture Group: Leader -Pia Prost

- Identify cultural & heritage projects important for islands
- Evaluate if different EU projects on culture are relevant for ESIN
- Ongoing: What cultural heritage unifies islanders around Europe?
- Project idea: Develop an oral archive of islands, alternatively in cooperation with the local schools.

### III. Finance Working Group: Leader – Sten-Ake Persson

- Further investigate Operational Funding however a) need more members//associates//co-operation with other national island groups to apply b) unknown what changes in funding will be in place post-Covid
- Other possibilities for fund-raising:
  - Crowd-funding
  - Private donations
  - Erasmus+
  - Keep an eye on the funding portals
- Could also approach academic institutions for interest in project work or research
- Possibility of re-visiting INTERREG or LEADER
- Horizon 2020 – operational funding?

### IV. Energy Working Group

- Explore pathways to transition – whether within Secretariat or not
- Energy transition planning
- Some presentation of examples by Alexis Chatzimpiros: (from plan to concrete works and achievements (to be confirmed)
  - Samsø
  - and Greek islands
- Live plan for Kokar

### V. Branding working group

- Continue researching/discussing existing Island branding
- Define benefits of “buying Island” ie local – financial and cultural benefits
- How to brand on small islands: groups of islands? Singular? Inter-national?
- Examine setting up or a portal or portals dedicated to selling Island products

- Related: the issue of Island slaughter and sale of Island animals

#### Discussion Points:

- Sten-Åke has been exploring funding through Citizens for Europe
- Youth Organisation: Very expensive to join the official youth organisation and difficult to go forward without being a member. It has been very difficult to attract teenagers and each Federation needs to work on this within their own country.
- In his letter following our conference, Alexis Chatzimpiros pointed out that ESIN needs to update its profile on the EC portal. John, Camille and Rhoda will do this.
- Emphasis should be placed on housing as this is a key challenge across the islands.
- The general challenge of retaining populations to be looked at in the Policy working group in 2021

#### 12/ ESIN Secretariat agreement

Proposed that the costs of running the Secretariat from the secretary's home office be examined with a remuneration proposal brought to the Boards (John, Camille and Rhoda)

#### 13/ Representative and Proxy to ESIN by country

Country	Representative	Proxy
France	Denis Bredin	Jacques Bathiat (To be confirmed)
Ireland	John Walsh	Cathy Ni Goill (To be confirmed)
Scotland	Camille Dressler	Terry Hegarty
Sweden	Sten-Åke Persson	Anetté Johansson (Tres)
Åland	Agneta Wackström	Björn Rönnlöf
Denmark	Dorthe Winther	Ove Axelsen
	Lise Thilleman Sørensen	
Finland	Pia Prost	Jan M Koivurinta
Estonia	Riina Kaljulaid	To be confirmed
Croatia	Marija Kuljeric	To be confirmed
Greece	Eleftherios Kechagioglou	To be confirmed

#### 14/ Election of President and Vice-Presidents

Chairperson/President John Walsh was elected chair of ESIN

Vice Chairs: Pia Prost & Camille Dressler (Vice-Chair from Southern region (To be confirmed)

Appointed: Treasurer: Anetté Johansson      Secretary: Rhoda Twombly

#### 15/ Appointment of Auditor

Kristina Mattsson: Proposed: Rhoda Twombly 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sten-Åke Persson - Agreed unanimously

#### 16/ Adoption of ESIN AGM Press release

- The press release as written by Camille was viewed and edited via shared screen. It was agreed that further edits be made (Tomas and Rhoda) and released to social media and Board members.

17/ AGM 2021

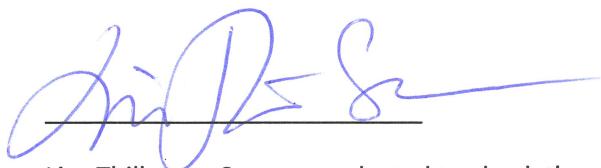
- To coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AIP, it was agreed to hold AGM 2021 in France (Brittany): this is to be confirmed in Feb-Mar 21.
- Proposed to hold AGM 2022 in Ireland – however the Board also needs to discuss a meeting in Brussels.

18/ Close of Annual General Meeting



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John Walsh, Chairman



Lise Thilleman Sørensen, elected to check the minutes



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Rhoda Twombly, Secretary