



8th Annual General Meeting
European Small Islands Federation
at Kasnäs, Finland, 10th of September 2008

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
Laine Tarvis	Association of Estonian Islands	Estonia
Pirjo Hoffstrom	National Association of Finnish Islands	Finland
Kristin Mattsson	National Association of Finnish Islands	Finland
Brigitta Bröckl	National Association of Finnish Islands	Finland
Jean-Yves Bannet	Association « Les Iles du Ponant »	France
Pierre-Philippe Jean	Association « Les Iles du Ponant »	France
Eleftherios Kechagioglou	Hellenic Small Islands Federation	Greece
Dimitris Skouteris	Hellenic Small Islands Federattion	Greece
Anastasios Aliferis	Hellenic Small Islands Federattion	Greece
Majella Ni Chriochain	Irish Islands Federation	Ireland
Catalina Schezzini	Italian Association of Small Islands Municipalities	Italy
Gianpera Usai	Italian Association of Small Islands Municipalities	Italy
Camille Dressler	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

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

By Bengt Almkvist, chairman of ESIN

2. Election of secretary for the minutes of the AGM

Anne Sophie Brosseau, as secretary of ESIN, was elected.

3. Election of member to check the minutes

Majella Ni Chriocháin was elected.

4. Adoption of the minutes from the annual general meeting 2006.

The minutes from ESIN 7th AGM on Hydra was adopted.

5. Chairman's report

Bengt Almkvist, chairman of ESIN, gave a short activity report for 2008 and especially underlined some main events. The conference « Great European Small Islands » on Elba in May, initiated by ANCIM. A proposal for a « Charter for European Small Islands » was first presented on this occasion.

In June the Greek government organised a conference on Kos on the theme « Territorial Cohesion and Insularity ». At this very useful meeting a contact was established with Mr Dirk Ahner, Director General of Regional Policy DG. This led to a meeting in July in Brussels at DG Regio to discuss the important issues in the development of the small islands of Europe.

ESIN has established a secretariat in an agreement with l'Association Les Iles du Ponant, thanks to a generous contribution from the Brittany region. The secretariat opened in April with Anne-Sophie Brosseau employed on a half time basis.

Through a Greek government initiative, « Euroislands », a study will be made on how the future EU cohesion policy can work better for the islands. ESIN was invited to participate in this study financed by ESPON and is now a stakeholder.

6. Treasurer's report

There was nothing to report as no membership fee was paid 2007.

7. Secretary's report

Anne Sophie Brosseau, secretary of ESIN, gave a brief report on the secretariat's activity since its creation in April 2008. In the field of communication the website, which is an essential tool for ESIN, will be transferred from the present Scottish company to a French company, updated and developed according to suggestions made during the Kasnäs conference (i.e creation of a data bank of projects, forum...). The first newsletter is prepared and will be distributed around the end of September.

The secretariat also participated and helped in organising events, including participation at the CPMR Islands Commission's AGM in Majorca and at the conference on Elba in May 2008, at the meeting in Brussels at DG Regio in July and co-organised ESIN's 8th AGM in Kasnäs.

8. Annual general work plan

A general work plan proposal for 2008/2009, dated September 3rd, was discussed. The working plan was adopted with the following additions.

- Creation of a data bank of projects on small islands: Camille Dressler proposed that the Scottish Island Federation takes responsibility for this and this was accepted by the AGM. Camille will report back to the Board within three months on whether or not funding has been secured for this project.
- MEP Ville Ittala suggested that the EU budget be amended to provide for economic support for ESIN. Anne Sophie, Pirjo and Bengt will check the formalities and deadline regarding amendments to the budget.
- Continuing cooperation with DG Regio. A second meeting is to be held in Brussels in early December 2008. DG Regio has asked for detailed information about small

islands. Anne Sophie and Bengt, and an elected working group with Claus, Catalina, Majella and Eleftherios, will make the necessary preparations for this meeting.

- New cooperation project. The AGM agreed to apply for a project within the framework of INTERREG IV, as a follow-up to the last INTERREG III c Inter-Islands Exchange Project. A number of different themes were suggested; enterprise and employment (Majella), climate change (Camille), youth and women (Camille and Majella). ESIN will have to find a lead partner amongst its members. The formalities will be checked by the secretariat so that an application can be made in 2009.
- Henry Larsen suggested ESIN organise a board meeting early in 2009. This board meeting could eventually be combined with a meeting at DG Regio in spring 2009. Gianpiera Usai kindly offered the facilities of the Tuscany Region in Brussels for this meeting.
- ESIN's board agreed to cooperate with "Group 158", together with the CPMR Islands commission, Association Européenne des Elus de Montagne, EUROMONTANA, Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR) and Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA). The group will monitor whether the provisions of article 158 of the Lisbon Treaty, regarding territories with permanent natural or demographic handicaps, are being satisfactorily implemented by the European Union. When necessary the Group 158 will also issue political statements and organise events.

9. Budget and annual fee

Anne Sophie presented the budget for 2008, as well as a proposal for the 2009 budget, based on the work plan. The budget income includes a membership fee, a service fee and a contribution from the Regional Council of Brittany.

Pirjo and Majella suggested ESIN try to get external funds for the secretariat, independent from project funding. Bengt and Eleftherios proposed that the framework for the "European Group for Territorial Cooperation" be investigated as a potential vehicle for funding.

The difficulties some members faced in sourcing funds to pay for membership and service fees was also discussed. It was agreed that there needed to be flexibility in terms of when invoices were sent out, in order to facilitate different financial years. Bengt reminded the AGM that it was essential that membership fees be paid.

The budget for 2008 was approved. The projected budget for 2009 was also approved.

The AGM agreed that the membership fee for 2008 is € 100.

The AGM agreed that the membership fee for 2009 is € 100.

The AGM agreed that the service fee for 2008 is € 1400.

The AGM agreed that the service fee for 2009 is € 2100.

The treasurer will issue invoices to members for these fees.

10. Proposal to change Statute § 6

The Association of Danish Small Islands proposed that the sentence in § 6 of ESIN's statutes, "No elected officers can hold the same position for more than four years" be deleted from the statutes. They find that this limit is unnecessary as the Chairman is up for election at every AGM.

The proposal for this motion was sent to the chairman and the secretariat on June 27th but was not disseminated to the board members until September 1st. According to Statute § 14, proposed changes to statutes must be sent to members at least eight weeks in advance of the

Annual General Meeting. Discussion on the Danish proposal was therefore postponed until the next meeting.

11. 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 2008/2009.

	Board member	Substitute
Denmark:	Henry Larsen	Dorthe Winter
Estonia:	Laine Tarvis	Katrin Koppel
Finland:	Pirjo Hoffström	Kristin Mattsson
France:	Jean Yves Bannet	Pierre-Philippe Jean
Greece:	Eleftherios Kechagioglou	Anastasios Aliferis
Ireland:	Simon Murray	Majella Ní Chríocháin
Italy:	Catalina Schezzini	Gianpera Usai
Scotland:	Ian Gillies	Camille Dressler
Sweden:	Bengt Almkvist	Kristina Mattsson

12. Election of president

Bengt Almkvist was elected president of ESIN for 2008/2009.

13. Appointment of auditor

Kristina Lövmström and Agnetha Petersson were appointed.

14. Economic authorization

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

15. Charter for European Small islands

Gianpiera Usai proposed that ESIN formulate a Charter for European Small Islands. This was based on an initiative at the conference on Elba in May 2008. The proposal was discussed during the workshops in the morning. The board showed great interest in the document but agreed that there was a need for some editing. A decision to approve the Charter in principle was taken. The secretariat will work on the editing and the final charter will be agreed by the board.

16. 2010 - EU year of the islands

Pirjo explained that 2010 was to be the European Year Against Poverty and that the proposal that it be the European Year of the Islands had failed to get sufficient support. Camille suggested that board members contact their respective MEPs to ensure that future proposals for a European Year of the Islands were supported.

17. Cooperation and project initiative

EUROISLANDS: ESIN as a participant in this ESPON project will follow the procedures outlined by Mr Vlachos, of Greek Ministry of Economy & Finance and Special Service for Strategy, Planning & Evaluation of Development Programs, the previous day.

INTERREG: As well as a new cooperation project (see p. 8 above), the following proposals were discussed:

- Association « Les Iles du Ponant » proposed a project on telemedicine. The board showed an interest in this.

- Association of Danish Small Islands proposed a project on islands school camps and networking. This is already being done in Denmark. The ESIN's website could be used to facilitate exchanges between schools.
- An island film festival in 2010. A suggestion made by Greame Robertson, Global Islands Network (GIN). The proposal was dropped as the "year of the islands" will not happen in 2010.
- Green Island projects: This suggestion made by Greame Robertson (GIN) attracted great interest and it was agreed that it be incorporated into ESIN's working plan.

18. Greek proposal on Transportation Equivalent

The Hellenic Small Islands Federation presented a proposal on "Transport Equivalent" on the Greek Islands. HSIN asked ESIN to support this initiative. The proposal was presented at a late stage during the AGM and member organisations had little time to discuss the matter. ESIN agreed to support the Greek proposal.

19. ESIN's next Annual General Meeting

ESIN had two offers, from Denmark and Italy, to host ESIN's 9th AGM. During a short discussion, it was agreed that it would be best to rotate the AGM around different parts of Europe. As 2009 is Catalina's last mandate as mayor, it was agreed that ESIN's next AGM would take place on Elba in September 2009. This would also coincide with the 2nd ANCIM conference on "Insulae: European Great Small Islands". Henry Larsen agreed to this and invited ESIN to Denmark for its AGM in 2010. Bengt thanked Catalina and Henry for their generosity in offering to host ESIN's forthcoming annual general meetings.

20. Close of conference

Chairman Bengt Almkvist gave a warm thanks to the National Association of Finnish Islands and its board, with chairman Pirjo Hoffström, for hosting the 8th annual general meeting of ESIN at Kasnäs. ESIN also thanked Minister Stefan Wallin for his contribution to the opening address to the meeting.

The chairman closed the formal annual ESIN board meeting.

Auray/Sankt Anna/Inis Oírr
October 2nd 2008

Anne-Sophie Brousseau
Secretary

Bengt Almkvist
Chairman

Majella Ni Chriocháin
Elected to check the minutes

Enclosed

ESIN secretariat activity report 2008
ESIN working plan 2008/2009
ESIN budget 2008
ESIN budget 2009