



(NEWS)LETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

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IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

1. Word of the president
2. Minutes mayors meetings of the Charter of European Rural Communities in Cashel.
3. Financial report
4. Plan of meetings in for 2013 and 2014.
5. Youngsters website
6. Upcoming meetings

1. WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear European Friends,

Our European summer has ended. I think we had a strange kind of summer in Europe. In spring, many of us had a beautiful, warm period. The summer it selves was, at least in our country, not so good as we would have liked. Most of us now returned to "normal life".

As you can see, after the nice meeting in Cashel, we are preparing for the next meetings and the next years. In this letter, you will read about it. Especially I ask your attention for the program of the next period (2013 and 2014). Lassee and Naestved will apply for it in Brussels. In those applications, the correct participating countries have to be mentioned. So please look very carefully at this planning and send any remarks or questions as soon as possible.

Like all of you, I notice the big problems we have in Europe regarding the economic crisis, especially the big difficulties our friends in Kolindros have. In my opinion, it is badly needed to stay together now and to help each other everywhere we can. In our Charter we do not work politically, but I hope our governments together find a solution that will unite us more and more!

I wish you a nice autumn and a better economic perspective.

*Frans Ronnes
President*



2. MINUTES MAYORS MEETINGS OF THE CHARTER OF EUROPEAN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CASHEL (IRELAND)

- Meeting on July 1st 2011 at 4.30 PM
All mayors or substitute mayors present except from Nagycenk (Hungary)
- Meeting on July 3rd 2011 at 4.00 PM
All mayors or substitute mayors present.
- Report: Helma.

1. Welcome.

The president welcomes everybody.

2. Minutes of the mayors meetings on June 11th and 13th 2010 in Strzyzow

DECISION:

The minutes are approved.

3. Accession to the presidium of Teresa Pedrosa.

The presidium reports that Teresa Pedrosa, mayor from Samuel, is from now a member of the presidium.

The mayors' meeting decides that Teresa Pedrosa becomes a member of the presidium and welcomes her.

4. Presidency of the Charter

The presidium announces that:

- a) During the summer meeting in Kandava 2012 Frans Ronnes (Haaren/Esch) hands over the presidency of the Charter to Karl Grammanitsch (Lassee).
- b) Valeria Flachbartova (Medzev) then becomes the vice president of the Charter (she is now the second vice-president).
- c) Teresa Pedrosa (Samuel) becomes then the second vice-president of the Charter and the treasurer of the Charter.
- d) The secretary of the Charter will be coupled to the president, so Sandra Hengl will be the secretary from then.

The mayors' meeting takes notice of the decision of the presidium regarding the presidency of the Charter.

5. Applications at the European Commission for 2013 / 2014.

a. Applicants.

The presidium agreed that Lassee will apply at the European Commission for the adults programme 2013 / 2014 and that Naestved will apply at the European

Commission for the youngsters programme.

b. Theme

Karl Grammanitsch and Jette Johnsen announce that the central theme of the Charter applications 2013 / 2014, both for youngsters as well as adults, will be the impact of climate change in rural areas and the measures that can be taken. Karl Grammanitsch suggests that in two groups the mayors meeting will discuss further about the theme. There are some doubts about the question if every member can show or present local best practices, because not every member has developed measures yet. The applicators say they will help. The two groups decide that the theme is agreed. More information about the theme members can soon be found on www.europeancharter.eu

c. Letter of intent

Those members who did not yet sign and stamp the letters of intent for the adults and the youngsters application 2013 / 2014, are asked to do so as soon as possible and send the letters for the adult application to Lasse and for the youngsters application to Naestved.

DECISION:

- a) Approval that Lasse and Naestved will do the applications 2013 / 2014
- b) Approval of the theme "the impact of climate change in rural areas and the measures that can be taken"
- c) More information will be put on www.europeancharter.eu
- d) Send the letters of intent to Lasse and Naestved

6. Meetings 2013 / 2014.

a. Annual meetings:

- o 2013: Samuel
- o 2014: Bièvre
- o At each meeting 4 youngsters and 6 adults per member can participate.
- o Because of the organisation and the costs, the mayor of Lefkara proposes to reduce the number of participants from 10 to 8 (2 officials, 3 adults and 3 youngsters). The proposal is rejected by the mayors. The majority wants to keep the number of participants on 10.
- o The president suggests involving the region when you have to organise a big meeting (like Stary Poddvorov did). They often can help with housing, organisation and money. He advises the organising members also to avoid expensive trips.
- o The representative from Naestved suggests that participants could pay for expensive trips. The other mayors think that that is not a good idea.
- o Another idea: make committees of experience, so that people who already organised a big meeting can advise the members who will organise a big meeting. This idea is accepted.
- o The president suggests that the mayors inform their participants well about the fact that guests stay in host families and not in a hotel. One of the important

aims of the Charter is to learn the way of living in the different countries. Therefore we stay in families.

b. Small meetings

- The idea for the next application is to organise 3 small meetings in 2 years and a closing conference.
- At the small meetings 9 members participate with each 4 participants. At the closing conference 26 members participate, each with 2 participants. So, like in the current programme for every country there are 2 annual meetings, 1 small meeting and 1 closing conference in two years.
- For the adult small meetings the candidates for organising are: Medzev, Zagare and Stary Poddvorov and the closing conference will be in Lasee.
- Agreed is that a proposal will be send to all members regarding the participation in the small meetings (who is going to attend which meeting).

c. Youngsters meetings

- The idea for the youngsters meetings in 2013 / 2014 is to organise 3 small meetings in 2 years and a closing conference.
- Each meeting 9 members can participate with each 4 youngsters. Also the youngsters' coordination team will participate in each meeting. At the closing conference 26 members participate with each 2 participants. The YCT (youngsters' coordination team) will also attend the closing conference.
- Candidates for organising the youngsters meetings are: Cissé, Ockelbo and Bienvenida. The closing conference will be organised by Naestved
- The youngsters make a list of holidays, so that there can be chosen for good dates for the meetings.

DECISION:

The structure for the meetings in 2013 and 2014 as mentioned here is approved.

7. Financial accountability of the multi annual project 2009 – 2010.

Frans Ronnes gives an explanation. Ben Murphy (Desborough) asks why Friends of Europe Esch did become money out of the organisation costs of the programme. The president says that this was money for services rendered. The Friends of Europe Esch did the financial administration of the project.

8. Financial accountability of the Charter.

Sandra Hengl explains the current state of the Charter finance. The audit committee approves the report. The figures will be included in the next newsletter.

DECISION:

- The financial report is approved.
- The figures will be included in the next newsletter.

9. European Movement International.

Frans Ronnes had contact with the secretary-general of EMI. Everyone has read the information of the secretary general of EMI. The profit of being a member of EMI is not very clear. Ben Murphy (Desborough) notes EMI is more a political group. The president concludes that the Charter will finish the membership of EMI from next year.

DECISION:

The membership of EMI will be finished from next year.

10. Ages of the youngsters (coordination team).

The presidium has decided to give no suggestions regarding this item to the mayors.

11. Representatives in the presidium.

The presidium has decided to give no suggestions regarding this item to the mayors.

12. Presentation of Kandava.

Kandava organises the big summer meeting 2012. The three representatives of Kandava give a (picture) presentation about their municipality.

13. Presentation www.europeancharter.eu

Gunther Brandstetter of the web team presents the new youngsters website:

www.europeancharter.eu/youth

After the presentation, Gunther asks all mayors to help him and the other members of the web team with keeping the site up to date and interesting.

DECISION:

Every member will help the web team to keep www.europeancharter.eu up to date and interesting.

14. Presentation of Desborough

From November 24th (arrival day) till 27th 2011, Desborough (UK) will organise the workshop "Friends of Europe". All charter members attend with 2 participants.

Ben Murphy prepared a presentation, but due to technical failures it could not be displayed.

Ben tells some things about the workshop, which will focus on Friends of Europe organisations special and volunteers' work in general in the context of demographic developments in rural areas. The presentation you can find on www.europeancharter.eu

3. FINANCE OF THE CHARTER

As agreed in the mayors meeting, hereby the financial report of the Charter.

Charter financial overview (29th of June 2011)

Balance 9 th of June 2010		<u>17.951,75</u>	
<u>Income</u>			
<u>13.932,33</u>	12.408,92		membership fees
	1.500,00		return payment
	23,41		interest
<u>Expenditure</u>			
<u>9.859,14</u>	118,69		account charges
	<u>5,86</u>		tax
	124,55		
	1.404,84		travel expenses - daily board
	<u>825,51</u>		mobile phone - president and secretary
	2.230,35		
	4.039,79		travel expenses - presidium
	<u>1.983,60</u>		hotel and meals - presidium
	6.023,39		
	198,00		travel expenses Brussels (European movement)
	<u>1.000,00</u>		membership fee - European movement
	1.198,00		
	146,00		food expenses - web-team
	<u>136,85</u>		web-fee
	282,85		
Balance 29 th June 2011		<u>22.024,94</u>	
Outstanding membership fees 2011:		<u>2.010,30</u>	

Sandra Hengl, treasurer.

4. PLAN OF MEETINGS IN 2013 AND 2014.

As agreed during the mayors meetings in Cashel last summer, Lassee (Austria) will apply in Brussels for grants for the Charter adults programme in the period 2013 / 2014. Naestved (Denmark) will do the same for the youngsters.

For the adults the organising members are: Medzev, Cissé and Stary Poddvorov and the closing conference will be in Lassee.

For the youth programme the organising members are: Ockelbo, Zagare and Bienvenida and the closing conference will be in Naestved.

According to exam dates and holidays, the youth meeting dates and participants can be arranged to be convenient. The adult meetings will be then fitted in between.

The intention is to have the same countries attending both adult and youth meetings so that within the communities comparison and discussion will be made easier.

This is the plan Lasse and Naestved made for the meetings in 2013 / 2014.
 Dates will be added later. If you have comments to the meetings you are asked to participate,
 you can send remarks about this to Lasse (youngsters@lasse.gv.at) or Naestved
 (jejoh@naestved.dk)

HOSTING MUNICIPALITY	1. SMALL MEETING	2. SMALL MEETING	3. SMALL MEETING	ANNUAL MEETING	CLOSING CONFERENCE
Ockelbo (Youngsters) Date: x/x 2013 Medzev (Adults) Date: x/x 2013	4 participants from: 1. Bienvenida 2. Stary Poddvorov 3. Nadur 4. Zagara 5. Moravce 6. Cisse 7. Troisvierges 8. Bucine 9. Esch				
Zagare (Youngsters) Date: x/x 2013 Cissé (Adults) Date: x/x 2013		4 participants from: 1. Kannus 2. Lefkara 3. Nagycenk 4. Hepstedt 5. Desborough 6. Ibanesti 7. Samuel 8. Bièvre 9. Lasse			
Bienvenida (Youngsters) Date: x/x 2014 Stary Poddvorov (Adults) Date: x/x 2014			4 participants from: 1. Ockelbo 2. Medzev 3. Maglish 4. Kolindros 5. Polva 6. Cashel 7. Strzyzow 8. Kandava 9. Næstved		
Samuel Date: x/x 2013				Summer 2013: 4 youngsters 6 adults from every municipality	
Bièvre Date: x/x 2014				Summer 2014: 4 youngsters 6 adults from every municipality	
Naestved (youngsters) Date: x/x 2014					November 2014 Participating: 2 youngsters from every municipality 5 youngsters from Naestved

Lassee (Adults) Date: x/x 2014					November 2014 Participating: 2 adults from every municipality 5 adults from Lassee
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Action 1

Send your comments about the meetings you are asked to participate to

- Lassee (youngsters@lassee.gv.at)
- or
- Naestved (jejoh@naestved.dk)

5. WEBSITE YOUNGSTERS



On June 25th this year the new website of the youngsters was launched!

The main goal of this website is to present the youngsters all the news regarding the projects and the upcoming events. The website is combined with a lot of social media platforms. You can use the "i like" button to share content of this website to all the friends on facebook, share content on twitter, or send it by mail. The designers also try to share many media on this website. Therefore, you can find some videos from our you tube-channel on this page.

Feedback is important! Every user is allowed to post comments on every page, Share your opinion!

Look at www.europeancharter.eu > youth. It is worth.

Action 2

Look at www.europeancharter.eu > youth

It is worth

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a. **Small meeting in Nadur (Malta) from September 22nd (arrival day) until September 25th 2011.**



Five participants from: Italy, Bucine; Cyprus, Lefkara; Slovenia, Moravce; Austria, Lasee and Czech Republic, Stary Poddvorov. Also the president and secretary will attend this meeting.

Unfortunately, Kolindros will not participate in the meeting because of the economic problems in Greece.

A small delegation from Nagycenk (Hungary) will also be in Nadur. Nagycenk is busy establishing a Friends of Europe organisation. This organisation will organise the small meeting in Nagycenk in the spring of 2012. That is why in Nadur they want to observe how such a meeting is set up.

- b. **Workshop in Desborough (UK) from Thursday November 24th until Sunday November 27th 2011.**

In Desborough from every member two participants are expected to attend the workshop about volunteers in general and volunteers in Friends of Europe organisations particularly. All this related to the central theme: demographic developments in European rural areas.

Ben Murphy has sent everyone an invitation and information about the travel possibilities. Please react to him as soon as possible, but certainly before the required date of October 14th 2011.



Action 3

**Send your delegate information for the workshop in Desborough to Ben Murphy as soon as possible, and no later than Friday 14th October 2011.
The address is: uk.charter@gmail.com**

Hope to see you soon, somewhere in Europe,
Helma,
September 20th 2011.