



REPORT MAYORS MEETING CISSÉ SATURDAY JUNE 24TH 2006.

Present: Bievre, Lefkara, Holmegaard, Hepstedt, Desborough, Polva, Kannus, Cissé, Kolindros, Nagyçenk, Cashel, Bucine, Kandava, Esch, Lassee, Strzyzow, Samuel, Medzev, Stary Poddvorov, Ockelbo, Troisvierges.

Absent: Falset, Nadur and Moravce.

ACTION

1. WELCOME.

The president of the Charter, Frans Ronnes, welcomes everybody.

2. OPENING MEETING.

The reports of:

- a) mayors meeting Esch (The Netherlands) May 7th 2005,
 - b) mayors meeting Nagyçenk (Hungary) September 24th 2005,
- are approved.

3. NEW MEMBERS.

A special word of welcome to the representatives of Kandava (Latvia), the new member of the Charter. Kandava is a village with 4.000 inhabitants and is located about 100 km from Riga.

The presidium is talking to a town called Kelme in Lithuania and hopes that we can welcome a Lithuanian village at the next meeting in Lassee.

Presidium

4. STRUCTURE OF THE CHARTER.

The first article of the official text of the agreement which the members of the Charter of European rural communities have signed, says:

"The co-operation is built on solidarity, communication, exchanging between adults and young people in order to stimulate the European integration process from the basis."

The stimulation of the European integration process therefore is the foundation of the Charter.

The structure of the Charter is a network, which gives the connected members the possibility to contribute to the integration of Europe. The network gives members the opportunity to reach the aim: "people meet people".

In order to reach that aim, there are several resources:

- a) Communication with each other.
- b) The annual meetings
- c) Bi-lateral contacts.

The members need to make appointments with each other about those

resources and there has to be money to realise the appointments.

a. Communication.

The communication between the members is not very accurate yet. In order to improve the communication it has been decided in Esch May 2005 that all members should appoint a communication officer. As we let every member know, the presidium decided in Brussels that every member of the presidium is a contact for the other members for affairs about the intention of the Charter. But the communication doesn't work well. Cissé also experienced that again when they were organizing the manifestation. It takes quite a while to get information from the different communities, there are a lot of changes and one doesn't realise that the right information should be sent on time to Brussels to get the financial support.

It's a golden rule: don't ever change names or dates.

Apparently the members need more instruments to keep good contact with each other.

1. One of the instruments for a better communication is a well updated and interactive Internet site of the Charter. During the mayors meeting in Nagyçenk, it was decided that Holmegaard and Nagyçenk should make a new start with the Charter Internet site. The president tells that may be the Dutch department of the European Committee will give financial support to build a good Internet site.
(When I make this report, it is clear that Bièvre (Belgium) has got money from their region to make an Internet site for the Charter; the name will be: www.europancharter.eu)
2. The booklet "The Charter of Rural Communities, people meet people" is a good communication instrument, but in order to reach the aim, it has to have a follow up. It's agreed that, when there is an Internet site, the text of the booklet will be used on the Internet. To complete the information, Kandava will write a short story about their community.
3. In order to make it easier to reach each other, all mayors and deputy mayors were insistently requested to bring visiting-cards to Cissé for all the fellow-mayors. The visiting cards are exchanged.
4. The president of the Charter asks all members to inform the person who picks up the phone in their community about the Charter, because he experiences that they often don't know what the Charter is.
5. All changes of names and addresses have to be reported to the president of the Charter and he will take care for the update to all members. During the meeting update forms are filled in. Later on changes can be reported to the president (with the cards that were distributed or by: h.van.drunen@haaren.nl)
6. The logo of the Charter has to be adapted to the enlargement. Lucien Majerus (Troisvierges) will do that.

All members

All mayors

All members

Lucien Majerus

b. The Annual Meetings.

The annual meetings, with their themes and their invited specialists, are certainly making a contribution to the aim of the Charter. The next meeting will be in Lasseë (Austria) from 6th – 10th June 2007. The theme will be: "Circulation Economy". The next meeting will be in Lasseë (Austria) from 6th – 10th June 2007. Karl Grammanitsch tells that Lasseë requires from each Charter member 10 to 15 drawings or paintings, made by children between the age of 9 and 13, to the theme "Greeting to Lasseë from the youth of Europe" The works of art should be in simple, clear and strong colours or in black and white. Ideally the works show traditional symbols representing the community or region, but it can also be pictures of people, flowers, animals etc. One of the pictures of each community will be transferred on to a glass window and will be situated in an open air gallery in a new park in Lasseë.

During the farewell dinner in Cissé on Sunday evening every member will get an information box about this action.

All members

c. Bi-lateral contacts.

1. Bi-lateral contacts are a very important part of the Charter purposes. To get an overview, it is good to make an administration of the several bi-lateral contacts. Until there's an Internet site that can be used to register, all bi-lateral contacts have to be reported to h.van.drunen@haaren.nl
2. The bilateral contacts should be stimulated. A good example is the initiative of Ockelbo. The enterprises of the Swedish community contacted their colleagues in the other member villages, with the aim to work together in European business. It's the duty of the mayors to inform their own enterprises about this kind of initiatives and to translate it to its own community scale.
3. One important way of bi-lateral contacts that the Charter can realise is to give young people the opportunity to take a course in another European country. The communities of the Charter can mediate between parents, schools and enterprises. *(In September 2006 Kannus, Finland has developed a project and send it to a number of Charter members)*

All members

All mayors

All members

d. Mayors meeting.

Nadur (Malta) has displaced the Mayors meeting from August to September 2006. Therefore the people, who planned to go, have to cancel. Again: golden rule: never change a date. The president will inform Mr Chris Said, the mayor of Nadur.

5. FINANCE.

a. European Union Brussels.

The president of the Charter, Frans Ronnes reports about a visit of the presidium of the Charter to Brussels:

1. The presidium of the Charter has been to Brussels on February 2nd 2006 to meet some members of the European Parliament and the European Commission of Education and Culture. The presidium showed them a presentation of the Charter and asked for their attention and (financial) support.
 - The presidium asked Brussels to increase their funding after the enlargement of the EU by 10 new member states.
 - Mr Pavel Tychtl, officer of the department Culture and Education sector town-twinning, advised the presidium to add "twinning" to her name to improve the identification. So it would become: "European Twinning Charter of Rural Communities".
2. The European Parliament has decided about a new program for 2007 – 2013: "the European citizenship". It's a programme to bring Europe closer to its citizens. The programme will also cover town twinning and it offers more space to get grants for structural projects. The president of the Charter and the other members of the presidium will examine the new possibilities. Beside the new elements, this program gives (same as in the past) a financial support to the organization of the annual event of the Charter. The community which organizes the annual event has to apply for the grant.
3. Mrs Wallström, EC Vice-President (EP Committee on Constitutional Affairs) launched the idea of a Plan D for "democracy, dialogue and debate". The main idea is to help member states to organise debates on the future of the Union. It is possibly worth it to examine if at any way the Charter can get a contribution from plan D.

All members

**Frans Ronnes/
Presidium**

**Frans Ronnes/
Presidium**

b. European Committee on local level.

The president of the Charter also visited the Dutch representation of the European Committee in The Hague and the governance of the region to tell them about the Charter of European rural communities. He will tell about the opportunities for each member of the Charter for local (both regional and national) (financial) support. A list of the e-mail addresses of the National European Committees is added to this appendix.

On national level, the possibilities are:

1. European Committee Agriculture: rural development (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm) can support activities about a theme concerning rural development.
2. Committee of the Regions (<http://www.cor.europa.eu/en/index.htm>)
3. Plan D "democracy, dialogue and debate", possibilities to organise activities in your own country for the Charter (consult your National European Committee).
4. INTERREG is designed to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting cross-border co-operation. It allows regions without joint borders to work together in common

projects and develop networks of co-operation. The INTERREG IIIC programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund, as part of the Structural Funds, and co-financed by national project partners

(http://www.interreg3c.net/web/home_en)

Karl Grammanitsch (Lasse) remarks that the interreg projects give a lot of work, that it's hard to fill in the forms and that it's always just for one year.

5. Town twinning program: point 5a.3. The president recommends the members to make contact with their National European Committees to learn more about their possibilities to give a financial support to the Charter.

All members

c. Financial business of the Charter.

1. Financial situation of the Charter. Explanation by Mrs. Annette Savin (Cissé)
2. Payment of annual fee of € 400, -- for membership of the Charter. Many members have to pay the fee for 2006; some of them also for 2005. Annette asks the members in question to pay the fee as soon as possible.
3. For the organization of mayors meetings in addition to the regular, annual meeting, there will be financial support from the Charter (conform agreements made during the mayors meeting in Nagyöcnk). Is okay.
4. Proposal conditions for fees of the Charter to bi-lateral contacts:
 - It has to be a contact that both villages approve as a real bi-lateral contact in order to improve mutual understandings.
 - It has to have a theme / subject: at any case no tourist exchange.
 - The presidium has to be involved in advance to approve the conditions.
 - There has to be made a report of the bi-lateral contact afterwards.
5. Annette Savin underlines the importance of filling in very accurate the forms for Brussels. If the forms aren't filled in correctly, you don't get the payment. Mrs Savin also asks the member to give Cissé the right information and the right bank account, so Cissé can pay the travel costs they get from Brussels.

To whom it concerns

All members

All members

6. LOCAL SET UP OF COMMITTEES "FRIENDS OF EUROPE".

Jette Johnson (Holmegaard) pleads for "Friends of Europe" in all communities, because such an organisation offers more continuity.

All members

A municipality is more depending from political choices.

Mrs Johnson tells that the Danish committee will travel (on own expenses) to several Charter communities to get to know the other villages of the Charter.

Until now, the following communities have a "Friends of Europe" committee: Bievre, Cisse, Esch, Hepstedt, Desborough and

Holmegaard.

Lefkara wants information about how to set up a committee. Esch will send the information to Lefkara.

7. NEW BI-LATERAL PROJECTS.

- a) Esch has contact with Holmegaard about exchanges between football clubs and tree-nurseries.
- b) Hepstedt is organizing exchanges with children from Holmegaard and Ockelbo.

8. NEXT MEETINGS.

Annual European Meeting:

- **2007:** Lassee – Austria.
- **2008:** Lefkara – Cyprus.

The mayor of Lefkara has recently become minister of Justice. Frans Ronnes will try to find if that has an effect on the organisation of the meeting in Lefkara in 2008. The president will contact the former mayor of Lefkara.

- **2009:** Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic) wants to organise the annual meeting of 2009.
- **2010:** Desborough (Great Britain) thinks about organising the annual meeting of 2010/

**Lassee
Lefkara**

Frans Ronnes

Stary Poddvorov

Desborough

9. PREPARING THE ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE.

The conference in Cissé on June 24th in the afternoon is only for mayors.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

a. The Charter signed.

The text of the Charter is officially signed again in Cissé, also by Kandava (Latvia). With that, Kandava became member of the Charter of European Rural Communities.

b. Conference in Brussels.

The president announces that there will be a conference of mayors of town twinnings on September 28th and 29th. All Charter mayors will become an invitation from Brussels.

All members

c. Medal of honour.

The mayor of Nagycenk (Hungary), Mrs. Imréné Udvardi, will next week in Budapest get a medal of honour for the work she did for Europe. Congratulations of all Charter members.

d. Rules European Commission.

The mayor of Stary Poddvorov, Mr. Strycek, says that the

rules of the EU have a lot of influence on the developing of the countryside in Czech Republic. The president of the Charter answers that the Charter agreed not to talk about such political problems. He suggests Mr Strycek to talk about the problems with the political parties in Czech Republic.

e. Secondary schools.

Mr. Stan Delbridge (Desborough) would like to have contact with secondary schools in the Charter communities. It concerns schoolboys- and girls between the age of 11 and 18.

All members

11. Closing of the meeting.

The president closes the meeting at 12.00 PM.

Helma van Drunen,
October 10th 2006.