

## MINUTES MAYORS MEETING LEFKARA

**Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2008, afternoon and Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2008, evening.**

Present: President Frans Ronnes; representatives of Lefkara, Badajoz, Bièvre, Bucine, Cashel, Cissé, Desborough, Esch (Haaren), Hepstedt, Holmegaard (Naestved), Ibanesti, Kandava, Kannus, Kolindros, Lassee, Medzev, Moravce, Nadur; Nagycenk, Ockelbo, Polva, Samuel, Stary Poddvorov, Strzyzow, Troisvierges, Zagare (Joniskis), Sandra Hengl, Helma van Drunen.

Minutes: Helma van Drunen

### 1. WELCOME.

For the first time all 26 members of the Charter are represented at the big summer network meeting. That is a happy milestone in the history of the Charter.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S MEETING IN LASSEE JUNE 2007

#### DECISION 1:

The mayor's meeting decides to approve the minutes.

### 3. REPORT AND POINTS TO DISCUSS FROM THE PRESIDIUM MEETING

The presidium had a meeting during lunchtime on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The president reports from this meeting:

- a. The presidium has made a new dividing of her tasks.
  1. The daily organisation of the Charter will from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 rest at the president and vice president, assisted by their employees, Helma van Drunen and Sandra Hengl. Frans Ronnes is responsible for the presidency and secretary. Karl Grammanitsch is responsible for the vice presidency and the treasury.
  2. The presidium controls the president and vice-president and gives them feedback.
  3. Valeria Flachbartova from Medzev becomes second vice-president; she will fulfil this task when Frans Ronnes or Karl Grammanitsch by circumstances can no longer carry out their task.
- b. The invoices of the fee for 2007 have not been sent. Those members who did not pay the annual fee for 2007 (and the years before) will still become an invoice. The invoices for 2008 will be distributed during the Lefkara meeting.

- c. The financial overview of the Charter is attached at these minutes.
- d. Lefkara did not get grants from Brussels for the big summer network meeting. The presidium thinks that Lefkara itself is responsible for the application in Brussels and suggests that Lefkara pays for the organisation costs. The Charter will pay the travel costs of the delegations that normally are paid by the European Commission. Sandra Hengl and Helma van Drunen will make a list of the participants per country and ask the mayors to sign this list. Sandra will take care of the payment.

#### DECISION 2:

The mayor's meeting decides

- 1) To approve that the Charter will pay the travel costs of the Lefkara meeting that normally are paid by the grants of the European Commission.
- 2) That the Charter will not pay the organisation costs for the meeting in Lefkara. These costs are for Lefkara itself.

#### ACTION 1

- Sandra Hengl (Lasseo – Austria) will take care of the payment of the travel costs.

#### **4. MULTI ANNUAL PROJECT FROM THE “EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAM” OF THE EU**

The multi annual project is a part of the Europe for Citizens program of Brussels. It offers twinnings with more than five members the opportunity to apply for grants in Brussels for activities during a period of two years. For the Charter the president and Helma van Drunen have prepared the application for 2009/2010. They give a presentation. The application has to be in Brussels before June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008; results will be known at the latest at December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

All representatives get a copy of the application. Everyone is asked to study the application and to decide about participation at an extra mayors meeting in Lefkara on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>.

If the mayors approve, every member of the Charter has to sign a letter of intent and put a stamp of its own municipality on it

### DECISION 3:

After the presentation on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2008, the mayor's meeting decides in an extra meeting on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>:

- 1) That all representatives of the Charter communities will participate in the multi –annual project.
- 2) That all representatives will in Lefkara sign and put a stamp of their municipality at the letter of commitment, belonging at the application for the multi-annual project.

### ACTION 2:

- The president and Helma van Drunen will apply for the multi-annual project before June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

## 5. COMMITMENT TO THE CHARTER

Being a member of the Charter does not only offer possibilities to participate in all kinds of meetings, it also gives obligations to take part in those meetings and to communicate with each other. Experience learns that people sometimes easily cancel appointments. The president accentuates the importance of commitment. That is necessary to make the Charter more professional, it's necessary for the multi-annual project and for connections in Brussels.

### DECISION 4:

The mayor's meeting decides: being a member of the Charter gives obligations; it is not without engagement.

## 6. OFFICIAL STATUS OF THE CHARTER

To become support for the Charter from associations such as "European Movement" and to be able to apply for projects as the multi annual projects, it is necessary the official status of the Charter is updated.

#### DECISION 5:

The mayor's meeting decides:

- 1) To update the official status of the Charter.
- 2) That the main office of the Charter will stay in Cissé, where the Charter was founded.

#### ACTION 3:

The president works out the update of the official status of the Charter

### 7. COMMUNICATION

To have a good communication, it's important that there is a list with the right addresses of all Charter members. Therefore every representative gets a paper to update his address and to complete the bank details with the IBAN number and BIC code. Sandra Hengl and Helma van Drunen will distribute and collect those papers.

#### ACTION 4:

- Sandra Hengl and Helma van Drunen distribute and collect the papers for the addresses and bank details.
- Sandra Hengl will make a new list of Charter addresses

### 8. YOUTH

The president has spoken with the young Charter representatives in an informal way on the square of Lefkara. There is a separate report of this youth meeting, which will be sent to every Charter member.

### 9. FINANCE OF THE CHARTER

Appointments are made at point 3 of this mayors meeting. The financial overview is attached.

### 10. MEMBERSHIP OF IBANESTI – ROMANIA

A special word of welcome from the president to the delegation of Ibanesti. Last year the mayor of Ibanesti visited the manifestation in Lasee. The president and vice president and their communication officers have visited Ibanesti in April 2008. There is a delegation of Ibanesti present in the mayors meeting. Ibanesti wants to become the Romanian member of the Charter.

#### DECISION 6:

The mayor's meeting decides that Ibanesti will be the Romanian member of the Charter. There's a warm welcome from the president to the representatives of Ibanesti and a big applause from the mayors meeting.

### 11. MEMBER FROM BULGARIA

The only EU-member missing in the Charter now is Bulgaria. The president has asked the mayor of Kolindros to search for a Charter member across the Greek border. He has approved. The Bulgarian embassy in Vienna is also making efforts to find a Bulgarian member.

#### DECISION 7

The mayor's meeting decides:

- 1) It is important to have on the short notice a Bulgarian member in the Charter.
- 2) To wait for the results of the mayor of Kolindros and the Bulgarian embassy in Vienna.

### 12. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITIES OR REGIONS

Falset has finished its membership of the Charter. After the elections the municipality did get a new council and a new mayor who didn't recognize the importance of the Charter membership. This shows again the importance of a "Friends of Europe" organisation, which functions outside politics.

Badajoz, a region in Spain, present in Lefkara, is very much interested in the Charter. They want to know if it is possible that a region becomes a member.

The mayors meeting thinks the rule is that a community is the Charter member, not a region. So, regions can not be the member, but of course the region can support the village that will become member of the Charter.

The representatives of Badajoz thank the Charter for the invitation and the opportunity to participate in the Lefkara meeting. They want to join the Charter and understand the opinion of the mayors meeting that a community can become a member. They are not sure which village will become a member. They will talk about that in Spain and let the president know the decision within a week from now.

#### DECISION 8:

The mayor's meeting decides:

Only communities can become a member of the Charter.

**ACTION 5:**

Badajoz will let the president know, which village of their region will become a member of the Charter.

**13. PROJECTS**

No report of projects.

**14. SUMMER MEETINGS**

- a) In 2009 Stary Poddvorov will organise the summer meeting from June 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. The mayor of Stary Poddvorov already has a concept program. Everyone gets a copy.
- b) Following years:
  - 2010: Strzyzow;
  - 2011: Cashel;
  - 2012: Kandava

**DECISION 9:**

The summer meeting in Stary Poddvorov will be organised from June 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**15. SMALL MEETINGS**

- a) Terttu Korte, the mayor of Kannus, tells about the small meeting in Kannus in March 2008. She thinks it's valuable to talk about the Charter and Charter members in a smaller group. Moreover, she believes it is a good opportunity to involve the citizens of the host village at the Charter.
- b) Teresa Pedrosa of Samuel tells about the small meeting in Samuel in April 2008. It was a very good meeting and very useful. At first the meeting would take place in February, but had to be moved because two participating Charter villages cancelled. Then there was again a cancellation for the April meeting. That was very regrettable and has to do with point 5 of this mayor's meeting.
- c) Valeria Flachbartova tells about the small meeting in Medzev (Slovakia) from September 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2008. It is a bigger meeting, more delegations of Charter members are invited. Those who did not accede to this meeting yet, and want to participate are asked to report this to Medzev as soon as possible.
- d) From September 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a small meeting in Bièvre (Belgium). Dominique Lejeune tells that the theme will be tourism. More Charter participants are welcome. Please report as soon as possible to Dominique.

**ACTION 6:**

1. You want to participate in the small meeting in Medzev (18-21 September 2008)?  
React to: [ballasch@medzev.sk](mailto:ballasch@medzev.sk)
2. You want to participate in the small meeting in Bièvre (26-28 September 2008)?  
React to: [pierrelejeune@skynet.be](mailto:pierrelejeune@skynet.be)

**16. BI-LATERAL MEETINGS**

No report of bilateral meetings.

**17. OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS**

Thanks to Helma van Drunen for the efforts concerning the multi-annual application.

Helma van Drunen,  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 2008