

## MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S MEETING OF THE CHARTER OF EUROPEAN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

**Saturday March 24 th 2007 ; Nadur – Malta.**

Present: Frans Ronnes (Charter, president), Jette Johnson (Holmegaard), Karl Grammanitsch (Lassee), Lucien Majerus (Troisvierges), Theo Douma (Esch), Sandra Hengl (Lassee), Iveta Piese (Kandava), Valeria Flachbartova (Medzev), Andreas and Anastasia Shoshilos (Lefkara), Chris Said (Nadur), Camilla Sawicki (Bucine) Helma van Drunen (Charter).

Minutes: Helma van Drunen.

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>FROM TWINNING TO NETWORK FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES.</b>	
	Several meetings and contacts in Brussels during the past few years have made a development clear: twinnings become more and more a network. The annual meetings of the Charter provide the basis for a network that gives the Charter members the opportunity to set up all kinds of joint projects, with a few, more or all member communities.	<b>Frans Ronnes/</b> <b>Helma van Drunen:</b> <i>From twinning to network for substantive meetings and exchanges on the agenda for the mayor's meeting in Lassee.</i>
	How to organise such projects to get grants from Brussels is a special competence. Brussels always requires that there are several European partners. The Charter must exploit that advantage: the Charter members don't have to search for partners; they have already 25 potential partners.	<b>Frans Ronnes:</b> <i>Invitation Daniele Fantechi</i>
	Andreas Shoshilos thinks that it would be easier if regional groups apply. He suggests that smaller groups could develop projects through the year and then invite all members.	<b>Frans Ronnes:</b> <i>Apply again for the elderly project.</i>
	Jette Johnsen thinks the projects should not be	<b>All members:</b> <i>Registration of bi-lateral and</i>

	<p>regional only.</p> <p>Chris Said believes that regional meetings are okay, but emphasises that if the Charter submit with all the members to a project it will be much stronger. The more partners, the more acceptance in Brussels.</p> <p>What we have learned from the contacts is that you have to prepare projects, because there is always a very short time between the announcement and the deadline. So it's really very important to improve the communication between Charter members, because it's always needed to react quickly to Brussels.</p> <p>It seems that Brussels gives primacy gives to the new countries. If that is correct, the Charter must anticipate on that. It requires a certain competence to fill in the forms from Brussels. It is worth it to examine if Brussels can give support for these kinds of things. Daniele Fantechi from Nadur knows a lot about the applications for Brussels, for this reason he will be invited to give a presentation during the mayor's meeting in Lassee.</p> <p>Karl Grammanitsch regrets that the elderly project has not been remunerated by Brussels. Perhaps it can be submitted again?</p> <p>From twinning to substantive meetings is a development which the people present welcome. But moreover bi-lateral meetings remain important; to answer to the aim "people meet people". Bi-lateral contacts must be registered by means of the Internet site of the Charter</p>	<p><i>other meeting on</i> <u><a href="http://www.europeancharter.eu">www.europeancharter.eu</a></u></p>
<p><b>2. FINANCE OF THE CHARTER.</b></p>	<p>Because there is no overview available, the finance of the Charter will be item on the</p>	<p><b><i>Frans Ronnes:</i></b></p>

	agenda of the mayor's meeting in Lassee.	<i>Finance on agenda mayor's meeting</i>
<b>3.</b>	<b>COMMUNICATION.</b>  The communication has to be improved. It's very important that every community has a communication officer. The communication officer has to react quickly. If someone receives a mail, the communication officer has to confirm that he or she received the mail and give an answer as soon as possible. Improvement of the communication is important for the projects from Brussels, but also for the development from twinning to network.	<b>All members:</b>  <i>Appoint a communication officer/  attention to communication</i>
<b>4.</b>	<b>WEBSITE <u>WWW.EUROPEANCHARTER.EU.</u></b>  The president underlines the importance of sending all information (bi-lateral contacts, pictures, projects etc.) to the webmaster. It's also important to make a link between the own Internet site of a community and the Charter site.	<b>All members:</b>  <i>Send all information about the Charter to the webmaster.</i>
<b>5.</b>	<b>SMALL MEETINGS</b>  Until now there have been three small meetings: Kandava ( Latvia), Nadur ( Malta) and Falset ( Spain). The experiences are very positive. There is plenty of time to talk with each other about the intention of the Charter and about the way the Charter works. A proposal about organising 4 or 5 small meetings a year will be on the agenda of the mayor's meeting in Lassee. Everyone who wants to organise a meeting can submit an application.  The starting point of all this kinds of meetings is that every participant has something to tell and something to ask. The small meetings are meant to make the network stronger, not just to party together. The president or the vice president will participate in the small meetings and the presidium member responsible for the	<b>Frans Ronnes/ Helma van Drunen:</b>  <i>Make a proposal about small meetings for the mayor's meeting in Lassee</i>

	<p>area can choose to participate.</p> <p>Karl Grammanitsch thinks it will be good to organise small meetings for regions, because they often have the same problems.</p> <p>The president will make a proposal for the mayor's meeting in Lassee.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>NEW MEMBER: ZAGARE. LITHUANIA.</b></p> <p>By means of a twinning between a town in the neighbourhood of Esch and a town in Lithuania, we've found the village of Zagere in Lithuania. Representatives of Zagare have visited the small meeting in Kandava. They were very enthusiastic and will meet the members of the Charter during the summer meeting in Lassee.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>MEMBERSHIP NEW EU COUNTRIES BULGARIA AND ROMANIA.</b></p> <p>Frans Ronnes and Karl Grammanitsch will, by means of their national association of communities, make efforts to approach villages in Bulgaria and Romania. It is agreed to approach several villages and then make a choice. If other members have suggestions about villages in Bulgaria or Romania, they can mention it to the president.</p>	<p><b>Frans Ronnes/ Karl Grammanitsch</b></p> <p><b>All members:</b></p> <p><i>Villages from Romania and Bulgaria.</i></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>SUMMER MEETINGS</b></p> <p>? 2007: Lassee. Some communities want to come to Lassee with a delegation of more than 10 persons. That's not the intention. The delegations are max. 10 persons. The delegations are expected on Wednesday June 6 th in the afternoon or the early evening. Departure on Sunday</p>	<p><b>All members:</b></p> <p><i>Send the required information to Lassee.</i></p> <p><b>Andreas Shoshilos:</b></p> <p><i>More information about the</i></p>

	<p>June 10 th after 3.00 pm.</p> <p>? 2008: Lefkara. In Lassee the mayor of Lefkara will give more information about the summer meeting in Lefkara.</p> <p>? 2009: Stary Poddvorov</p> <p>? 2010: Desborough can not organise the big meeting in 2010; so during the mayor's meeting of Lassee other communities can apply for it.</p> <p>? 2011: in Lassee the candidacy for 2011 is also opened.</p>	<p><i>summer meeting in Lefkara in 2008.</i></p> <p><b>Frans Ronnes/ Helma van Drunen:</b></p> <p><i>Put 2010 and 2011 on the agenda of the mayor's meeting</i></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Agriculture and tourism .</b> Nadur wants to organise a meeting for those who are responsible for agriculture and tourism in rural communities. Chris Said will give more information during the meeting in Lassee. The conference will be in November 2007.</li> <li>2. <b>Youth.</b> Reminders for the project Youth that Nadur wants to organise end 2007/early 2008. Those who are interested have to react to Daniele Fantechi.</li> <li>3. <b>Bi-lateral.</b> Camilla Sawicki announces that Bucine and Cissé are organising a bi-lateral meeting. The president asks Camilla to send the information to the webmaster, so she can put it on the Internet site.</li> <li>4. <b>Football tournament.</b> In Helvoirt, one of the other villages of the municipality of Haaren, is a football tournament at Pentecost. 5 Charter members will participate in this tournament.</li> <li>5. <b>Bridge</b> Lefkara is thinking about organising a tournament for bridge players. They will put information on the Internet site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Chris Said:</b></p> <p><i>More information in Lassee about the conference agriculture and tourism.</i></p> <p><b>All members:</b></p> <p><i>React on the youth project of Nadur</i></p> <p><b>Bucine:</b></p> <p><i>Information on the Internet site about the bi-lateral contact with Cissé.</i></p> <p><b>Lefkara:</b></p> <p><i>Information about the bridge tournament on the Internet site.</i></p>

	Those who are interested can react.	
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Helma, April 3 rd 2007.