

MINUTES PRESIDIUM MEETING CHARTER OF EUROPEAN RURAL COMMUNITIES DECEMBER 7th – 9th 2007 in Troisvierges (Luxemburg)

Present:	Troisvierges:	Lucien Marjerus
	Cissé	Annette Savin
	Holmegaard (Naestved)	Jette Johnsen
	Medzev	Valeria Flachbartova
	Desborough	June Ryan
		Stan Delbridge
	Lasee	Karl Grammanitsch
		Sandra Hengl
	Esch (Haaren)	Frans Ronnes
		Theo Douma
		Arno Leermakers
		Helma van Drunen

1. Opening and welcome.

A special word of welcome to the host of this meeting, Lucien Majerus. And a special word of welcome to Valeria Flachbartova, Arno Leermakers and June Ryan who are present in the presidium for the first time. They introduce themselves. Valeria Flachbartova is the mayor of Medzev (Slovakia). During the mayor's meeting in Lasee, she was chosen in the presidium. Arno Leermakers is the successor of Theo Douma, the president of the Esch committee friends of Europe. June Ryan is from the twinning committee of Desborough. She and Stan are going to work together for the Charter.

2. Minutes of the meeting of the presidium of June 7th 2007 (Lasee).

Page 6: the name of the Internet site has to be: www.europeancharter.eu.
Some presents say they can't open the Internet site.
Frans and Helma will talk to the webmaster about that.
Minutes are approved.

FR/HD

3. Report of the meeting of young people of the Charter in Esch from November 16th till November 18th.

The youngsters have made proposals for the presidium. Some of those proposals will have influence on the new Charter text.

The meant proposals are:

- *The young participants have made proposals to spread information about the Charter.* The presidium agrees with these proposals. The presidium also suggests appointing young "European ambassadors" who can tell other young people about the Charter and the benefit for youngsters.
- *The youngsters in majority judge that young people can participate in meetings of the Charter if they are in the age between 18 and 26.*
The presidium discusses about the age of the youngsters. The thoughts about it are different. The conclusion is: young people can participate if they are in the year of the event in the age between 18 and 26.
If they are accompanied by and under responsibility of by adults, people younger than 18 years can take part in certain activities of the Charter. For example at bilateral exchanges of associations.
- *Every municipality or/and Friends of Europe foundation has to install a special youth representative.*
The presidium advices municipalities and / or foundations "Friends of Europe" to invest in the young people of their community and to make them part of their organisation.
- *There should be an annual meeting for all young representatives.*
The presidium thinks it would be good if there is, parallel to the mayor's meeting during the annual event, a meeting of young representatives.

The president will ask the organisation committee of Lefkara to organise such a meeting during their event.

- *There has to be found a structural way of contact between young people and presidium.*

One or two representatives of the presidium will be present at the annual meeting of the young people.

- *There has to be a more serious theme for the youth during the annual meeting.*

The presidium agrees with this proposal. The theme could be the same as for the adults.

FR/HD

In the newsletter the president and Helma will give attention to the proposals of the youth.

4. Adaptation text Charter.

The president and Helma prepared a text with objectives and the accomplishment. This proposal is presented to the presidium with a new substantive text and new rules for organisation and regulations.

There are a few remarks about the accomplishment:

- Page 3, point J 1: add: in the year of the meeting.
- Page 3, point J: the second point will be: if they are accompanied by adults, people younger than 18 years can take part in certain activities of the Charter. For example at bilateral exchanges of associations
- Page 4, point J 4: will be changed in "the charter has a presidium of 7 members, chosen by the mayors meeting for a period of 4 years with the possibility of reappointment.

FR/HD

The president and Helma will consider if the text also has to be adapted as a result of the remarks concerning the youth proposals and after that put the text on the Internet site and in the newsletter.

5. Communication

- List of addresses. What has become of the appointment that everyone should appoint a communication officer and pass on the address and phone number of the secretary of the mayor? The list is not complete and up to date yet. Attention for the list will again be asked in the next newsletter and during the mayor's meeting in Lefkara

FR/HD

- Internet site: how can we stimulate Charter members to send more information to www.europeancharter.eu.

PRESIDIUM

The members of the presidium will spread the cards of the Internet site. And further it seems good to repeat everywhere that there is a site.

- Brochure of the Charter: the municipality of Haaren (Esch) will initiate a leaflet about the Charter.

FR/HD

Suggestion: we can also make a collection of postcards about all charter villages, with photographs of the same theme in every village or with photograph's of a typical way of living in the different villages. Lassee will look if that's a possibility.

KG/SH

VF

Medzev could take care of cheap printing. Another idea is a Charter calendar. We could also put a Charter Calendar on www.Europeancharter.eu

6. Small meetings.

During the mayor's meeting in Lassee appointments are made about small meetings in 2008.

- Samuel: the meeting will be from February 2nd until February 5th 2008. Applications so far: Moravce, Polva and the vice-president Karl Grammanitsch and Sandra Hengl.

- Kannus: the meeting will be from March 13th until March 15th 2008. Applications so far: only the president Frans Ronnes and Helma van Drunen.
- Medzev organises a meeting from September 18th until September 21st 2008. No applications until now. The vice-president and Sandra will go to Medzev.
- Bièvre organises a meeting from September 26th until September 28th 2008. No applications until now. The president and Helma will go to Bièvre.
- Ockelbo: has decided not to organise a small meeting in 2008, because they already have a bilateral meeting with Esch.

It is the intention that every charter member once a year participates in a small meeting.

FR/HD

That will once more be communicated in the next newsletter.

FR/KG

If that doesn't give enough results, the president and the vice-president will call the members.

7. Projects.

- CAP conference Nadur, was a big success and will be organised again next year. From the Charter Kandava, Bucine, Troisvierges en Haaren (Esch) were represented.
- Regional Village Day in Haaren (Esch) on February 25th 2008. It's a day for all small villages in the region of Esch. The intention is to involve Charter members, who can tell something special about a project in their village, which is useful for other small villages. Jette will come and give a presentation about multipurpose facilities. Karl and Sandra will give a presentation about energy supplies.
- Youth Project Bucine from June 12th till 15th 2008. In the newsletter Frans and Helma will ask again the attention of the Charter members for this initiative of Bucine.
- Elderly Project. Lasse will set up the elderly project again. At first they will look what Brussels offers and then they will make a program and ask charter members to put up the project together.
- Exchange of students, organised by Kannus. Because Charter members didn't react, Kannus searched and found other partners. Remark: a lot of Charter villages don't have secondary schools, so it's hard for them to organise exchanges.

JJ

KG/SH

FR/HD

KG/SH

8. Manifestation on Cyprus

The theme of the big summer meeting in Lefkara (Cyprus) is "Participative democracy". The members of the presidium wonder if Lefkara expects anything from the delegations concerning the theme.

HD

Helma will ask Andreas Shosilos to give more information about the theme and ask him if the youth has the same theme.

HD

Helma will also put the invitation of Lefkara in the newsletter.

9. Bilateral Meetings.

- Entrepreneurs from Haaren (Esch) visit Ockelbo in May 2008.
- Desborough meets Bièvre in May 2008.

It's a pity some bilateral meetings are not on the Internet site.

FR/HD

In the newsletter everyone will be asked to send information about bilateral meetings to www.europeancharter.eu.

10. Membership of Spain.

FR Falset has a new mayor. On Monday December 10th the president will talk on the phone with the mayor of Falset about the Charter.

11. New members

- Romania. Karl has contact with Ibanesti, one of two villages that visited Lasee. Ibanesti is very interested in the Charter. They've send a DVD with a presentation of their village and a letter to the presidium. The presidium thinks the village has to be accessible, so there has to be an airport in the region. If there is, Ibanesti is very welcome to join the Charter.

FR/HD The president will send a letter to the mayor of Ibanesti. He will also ask Lefkara to invite a small delegation of Ibanesti for the summer meeting.

KG Karl will visit Ibanesti in March.

- Karl visited Bulgaria and gave a letter to the organisation of municipalities. At this moment there are elections in Bulgaria. After the elections Karl will try again to make contact.

12. Contacts / memberships

- "European Movement" is an international organisation open to all political, social and cultural trends in civil society. Its objective is to contribute to the establishment of a united federal Europe founded on the respect for basic human rights, peace principles, and democratic principles of liberty and solidarity and citizens participation. European Movement organises, among others, all kinds of European projects. Members of this organisation can connect at those projects. It would be good for the Charter to become a member.

FR/HD Frans and Helma will ask for the conditions.

- European Rural Platform.

Frans has been approached by mr. Rob Maessen of the Dutch Province Noord Brabant about a Rural European Platform. An organisation founded by a Dutch and Norwegian research institute in July 2004. A platform to exchange ideas on the rural development in Europe, providing examples that convince and policies that work.

FR/HD It seems very interesting, also for the Charter members. Frans and Helma will keep in touch with them.

- Mr. Rob Maessen also talked about a project called Lifescape, yor landscape. Fourteen partners in five European countries work together and share experiences to come to new approaches for long-term preservation of their landscapes. There is a book and a DVD from the project. The Charter members will receive those.

13. Other matters to discuss.

- Jette asks if it's possible to buy a sample of the glass art from the park in Lasee. Karl says it's possible. The costs are € 250,00, but it's hard to transport. If it could be done by car, it's much easier.
- Karl informs the presidium members about a soil project. He would like to make a soil monolith from every charter member and put those next to the glass pictures in the park in Lasee. Each member could also get a copy for the own village.

KG/SH Karl will ask Brussels to support the project which costs € 350.000,00. He will need a letter of intend from the Charter. Sandra will make a proposal and send it to Helma.

FR/HD c) The president and Helma will look in Brussels at the possibilities of grants for the small meetings

Helma, December 13th 2008.