



MINUTES OF THE PRESIDIUM MEETING OF THE CHARTER OF EUROPEAN RURAL COMMUNITIES.
Friday March 23th 2007; Nadur – Malta.

Present: Frans Ronnes (Charter, president), Jette Johnson (Holmegaard), Karl Grammanitsch (Lassee), Lucien Majerus (Troisvierges), Theo Douma (Esch), Sandra Hengl (Lassee), Helma van Drunen (Charter).
Absent: Annette Savin (Cissé), Stan Delbridge (Desborough).
Minutes: Helma van Drunen.

ACTION

0. OPENING

In the opening the president mentions that although Stan Delbridge can not be present at this meeting, he has sent his remarks about the items on the agenda. Those remarks will be taken along at the separate items on the agenda.

1. COMPOSITION OF THE PRESIDIUM.

The members present at this meeting suggest that the presidium should be enlarged from 6 to 7 members. One of the new member countries will be invited to join the presidium. If one of the current members of the presidium wishes to resign, then two new member states are invited join the presidium. This proposal will be presented at the mayor's meeting in June in Lassee

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen:**
*proposal for the
mayor's meeting
in Lassee*

2. THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHARTER.

The president receives many compliments for the way he has conducted the chairmanship in the past three years. There are also compliments for the way the support was done. The members present at this meeting suggest that Esch, in the person of Frans Ronnes, will be president for another three years. This proposal will be presented to the complete presidium at the presidium meeting in June in Lassee.

Theo Douma announces that he will, because of his age, somewhere in 2007 stop with the work for the Charter and the Esch friends of Europe.
Karl Grammanitsch will, as the vice-president, do more work for the Charter

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen::**
*proposal for the
presidium
meeting in
Lassee.*

3. FROM TWINNING TO NETWORK FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES.

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. How to organise such projects to get grants from Brussels is a special competence. The presidium decides to ask Daniele Fantechi to organise a presentation about this item during the mayor's meeting in Lassee (on Saturday morning from 9.00 till 12.00). The Charter will, ,pay Daniele the travel costs (if he is not a member of the Maltese or Italian delegation). Besides stimulate the different projects, the Charter also has to stimulate the bi-lateral exchanges, the initiatives of individuals, where "people meet people". The bi-lateral exchanges should be recorded. During the mayor's meeting this will be communicate with the mayors.

Frans Ronnes:
*invitation
Daniele.*

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen::**
*recording
projects and bi-
laterals on
agenda Lassee*

4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE CHARTER.

The members present at this meeting, want three proposals to be presented to the presidium and mayor's meeting in Lassee:

- a. The Charter must put a budget available for the administrative support. This means that the people present believe that there should be a budget for costs of telephone, copies, travelling etc. of Helma.
- b. The presidium has to meet each other several times a year, to arrange things and to monitor developments and progress. The travel costs for these meetings should be paid by the Charter. The same as we have done the last 2 years. The organising village is paying for the stay.
- c. Because the rules of Brussels have changed, the Charter will no longer give money for bi-lateral contacts. People who want to organise a bi-lateral contact can apply for money from Brussels at the programme "Europe for Citizens".

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen:**
*Three proposals
for the
presidium and
mayor's meeting
in Lassee*

5. COMMUNICATION.

The communication has approved, but there are still a few Charter members who hardly ever respond to a message or a question. The organisation of the summer meeting of Lassee has also experienced that it is very difficult to get the right information on time.

During the presidium meeting in Brussels in February 2006, every member of the presidium was made responsible for a part of the communication. The presidium then decided to the following division:
Karl: Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Latvia.

Lucien: Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

Frans: The Netherlands, Cyprus, Greece, Spain and Lithuania

Jette: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Slovenia and Sweden.

Presidium:
*contact in
Lassee*

Annette: France, Italy, Malta and Portugal.

Stan: Great Britain and Ireland.

The people present decide on the basis of this division to make contact in Lassee, talk with the delegation leaders, make sure that everything is clear etc. Moreover it seems a good idea to suggest in Lassee to let the communities which always are reacting barely organise a small meeting themselves.

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen:**
*proposal on
agenda mayor's
meeting*

6. WEBSITE WWW.EUROPEANCHARTER.EU.

Everyone is very happy with the website, but it would be nice if the guestbook was a bit more friendly for the users. The president underlines the importance of sending all information to the webmaster.

**Helma van
Drunen:** *ask the
webmaster to
change the
guestbook.*
Everyone: *send
information to
the webmaster.*

7. FINANCE OF THE CHARTER

The overview of the payment of the contribution is not available at the moment. Stan asks for a complete financial report for all members. The president will ask Annette to send it to him, so he can add it to the agenda of the mayor's meeting. He will also ask Annette to send the contribution bills to all members before the mayor's meeting.

Frans Ronnes:
*contact with
Annette Savin.*

8. SMALL MEETINGS.

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. It becomes more clearly for people and they get more involved at the Charter. So the small meetings are a good instrument to make the network stronger. It is necessary that the small meetings are organised in different regions. During the mayor's meeting in Lassee it will be asked who wants to organise a small meeting and it will be free where everyone wants to participate. 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 area can choose to participate. The president will make a proposal for the mayor's meeting in Lassee.

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen:**
*Make a proposal
for the mayor's
meeting in
Lassee*

9. NEW MEMBER: ZAGARE. LITHUANIA.

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 sign the Charter during the summer meeting in Lassee.

10. MEMBERSHIP NEW EU COUNTRIES BULGARIA AND ROMANIA.

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.

**Frans Ronnes/
Karl
Grammanitsch:**
*Villages from
Romania and
Bulgaria.*

11. SUMMER MEETINGS

2007: Lassee.

2008: Lefkara

2009: Stary Poddvorov

2010: ?? Desborough can not organise the big meeting in 2010; so during the mayor's meeting of Lassee other communities can apply for it.

**Frans Ronnes/
Helma van
Drunen:**
*Put 2010 on the
agenda of the
mayor's meeting*

12. OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS

Helma has made a concept brochure, which can be used to inform people about the Charter. Later on a more professional version will follow.

Helma, March 30th 2007.