

MINUTES PRESIDIUM MEETING LEFKARA

Thursday May 15th 2008, 1.00 pm

Present: Frans Ronnes (president), Karl Grammanitsch (vice-president), Lucien Majerus, Jette Johnsen, Stan Delbridge, Valeria Flachbartova, Dominique Garnier (for Annette Savin), Sandra Hengl and Helma van Drunen.

Report: Helma van Drunen.

1. MINUTES OF THE PRESIDIUM MEETING IN TROISVIERGES, DECEMBER 2007

DECISION 1:

The minutes are approved by the members of the presidium.

2. PARTITIONING OF TASKS

A number of experiences in the last year have proved the necessity to make new, more formal appointments concerning the partitioning of tasks in the presidium:

- a) To be able to connect at existing organisations in Europe, there has to be a frequent contact between the daily board of the Charter and the organisations.
- b) In practice it appears that president and secretary have the most of the contacts with the members; members appeal more often to a support of the president or his employee.
- c) It has been agreed before that president or vice president is present at each small meeting. For this reason, they must have intensive contact with each other concerning substantive, organisational and financial maintain aspects
- d) If the Charter chooses for the multi annual project or other European Union projects, it means that there has to be a frequently and intensive financial justification to Brussels

For this reason, it seems better to lay the daily organisation of the Charter in the hands of the President and Vice-President, assisted by their employees. The presidium will have the task to control and give feedback. That would mean that de president will be president and secretary and that the vice-president will be vice-president and treasurer. Valeria Flachbartova is appointed as second vice president in case Frans or Karl by circumstances cannot carry out their tasks.

DECISION 2:

The presidium decides:

- a) The daily organisation of the Charter will from September 1st 2008 rest at the president and vice president, assisted by their employees. Frans Ronnes is responsible for the presidency and secretary. Karl Grammanitsch is responsible for the vice presidency and the treasury.
- b) The presidium controls the president and vice-president and gives them feedback.
- c) Valeria Flachbartova from Medzev becomes second vice-president; she will fulfill this task when Frans Ronnes or Karl Grammanitsch by circumstances can no longer carry out their task.
- d) The mayors will be informed about these changes in the presidium in the mayors meeting of Lefkara.

ACTION 1

- Lucien Majerus will inform Annette Savin about the changes in the organisation of the presidium.
- Frans Ronnes, Karl, Grammanitsch and their assistants will make an appointment to accomplish the changes.

3. 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 1st 2008; results will be known at the latest at December 1st 2008.

DECISION 3

The presidium decides:

- a) In the mayors meeting of Thursday, May 15th all representatives will get a copy of the application.
- b) Everyone is asked to study the application and to decide about participation at an extra mayors meeting on Saturday May 17th.
- c) The presidium will advise the mayors meeting to apply for a multi annual project from January 1st 2009 – November 30th 2010.
- d) If the mayors approve, every member of the Charter has to sign a letter of intent and put a stamp of its own community on it.

ACTION 2

- If approved by the mayors meeting, the president will apply for the multi annual project in Brussels before June 1st 2008

4. 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.

DECISION 4

The presidium decides:

- a) To underline at the mayors meeting the importance of commitment to the Charter. They will point out that being a member of the Charter gives obligations and is not without engagement.

5. 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 presidium decides:

- a) To propose to the mayors meeting to update the official status of the Charter.
- b) If the mayors meeting agree, the president will work out the update.
- c) 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

6. YOUTH

The intention was that on Friday night June 16th during the evening activity mayors and young ones talk to one another about the involvement of the youth in the Charter. However, the youth has asked the president to talk with them more informal at another time.

DECISION 6

The presidium decides:

- a) That the president in consultation with the youth will choose for a time on which they can talk with each other about the involvement of young ones at the Charter.

ACTION:

- 1) The president will, in cooperation with the young ones, make appointments about the involvement of the youth at the Charter

7. FINANCE OF THE CHARTER

The invoices of the fee for 2007 have not been sent. Those members who did not pay the annual fee for 2007 must still become an invoice. The invoices for 2008 will be distributed.

It is important when the Charter becomes a structural organisation, the finances are very well organized, in accordance with the partitioning as agreed at point 2.

Because the application of Lefkara for grants from Brussels was not approved, the Charter will pay for the travel costs of the delegations that normally are paid by the European Commission. Sandra and Helma 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 7

The presidium decides:

- a) The invoices for the fee of 2007 will be sent to those members who have not paid yet.⁴
- b) The invoices for the fee of 2008 will be distributed in Lefkara
- c) The Charter will pay the amount of travel costs that normally are paid by the European Commission to the delegations.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF IBANESTI – ROMANIA

Last year the mayor of Ibanesti visited the manifestation in Lasse. 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.

The presidium likes to welcome Ibanesti as the Romanian member of the Charter.

DECISION 8

The presidium decides:

- a) To advise the mayors meeting to appoint Ibanesti as the Romanian member of the Charter.

9. 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 9

The presidium decides:

- a) It is important to have on the short notice a Bulgarian member in the Charter.
- b) To wait for the results of the mayor of Kolindros and the Bulgarian embassy in Vienna. 5

10. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITIES OR REGIONS

Badajoz, a region in Spain, present in Lefkara, wants to know if it is possible that a region becomes a member of the Charter. The presidium believes that a community should be the member of the Charter. That does not mean that that municipality at its membership could get support could of the region.

DECISION 10

The presidium decides:

- a) To advise the mayors meeting that only communities can become a member of the Charter.

11. OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS

- a. Stan Delbridge announces that he will withdraw from the presidium. But he ensures that the follow up is well organised in Desborough
- b. At the end of 2008 / early 2009 there will be a meeting of the presidium. Among other things the presidium has to organise everything about the multi annual project (if approved!). Lucien Majerus offers to be the host.

ACTION:

- 1) The presidium has to organise a presidium meeting at the end of 2008 / early 2009

Helma van Drunen,
June 1st 2008