

**ISLENET**  
European Islands Network on Energy & Environment

## Seminar 3rd of June 2014, Brussels

### FINAL DECLARATION

1. In many respects islands represent societies at the extreme and the issues of energy and environment are of paramount importance. The importance of energy to island development and survival is vital for further development. Innovation and public initiatives often comes from members of island communities. It is also considered that in many respects island regions are especially suited to the demonstration of sustainable, integrated solutions for energy and environment. Many islands have indigenous (often renewable) energy resources which are presently underutilised or not utilised at all. Valorisation of these resources would reduce external dependency and also lead to the development of stronger, more self sufficient and self-sustaining, local economies.
2. **Long term goals for an Energy and Environment Charter for European Islands have been identified.**
  - Greater local control of energy and the environment.
  - A greater role for islands in a more rational management of energy.
  - Development of indigenous resources.
  - Development of an island strategy for energy and environment.
  - Safeguarding measures for island economies.
3. **ISLENET membership issues and Economic issues**

Full consideration needs to be given to eligibility for Membership of ISLENET. There is clearly merit in restricting FULL membership to democratically elected local or regional bodies or organisations representing the region, but not more than one full member per Island. However, recognition also needs to be taken the different representative systems across the European Community and furthermore the benefits in having individual islands as FULL members of ISLENET, even though these individual islands may come under a higher democratic authority in some instances.

As a starting point it is suggested that membership should be open to all signatories of the Pact of Islands. At present there are 64 signatories to the Pact of Islands.

A second category of ISLENET Membership is ASSOCIATE Membership. This includes, for example, educational institutes sited on islands.

How islands and other organizations can apply for membership will be an issue to solve for the technical committee.

The network will for the moment not charge membership fees. This will be discussed later if necessary.

#### **Core members and Technical committee**

Three antennas will act as core islands and together work with the strengthening of the network. The three antennas represent three geographical regions of Europe. The Core members are proposed to be the FULL members of Dafni/Sardinia/Cyprus in south Europe, Canary Islands/Madeira in middle Europe and Samsö/Gotland/Western Isles/ ESIN in north Europe.

#### **4. ISLENETS challenges**

To continue the work and establish the network as the primary lobby organization for coordinating the relation between European Island regions in energy related issues, and to contribute to mitigate existing barriers to improve the socioeconomic and political framework in islands that will enable to create favourable market conditions for the promotion of clean renewable energy projects and energy efficiency.

#### **5. Objectives**

Offer rapid response, good value services to European island institutions trying to promote RES and energy efficiency.

Offer support to European island institutions in its relation with the European Commission, on energy and environmental related issues.

To position itself as the leading voice of island regions and achieve the greatest possible recognition as the European instrument to promote low carbon economies in European islands.

To contribute to the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of European island regions by improving access to modern, reliable and affordable energy services, energy security and reduction of energy

related GHG emissions and climate change impacts on the energy system.

Contribute to the promotion of efficient island regional markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Contribute to the achievement of the goals of the European Commission's Directive 20-20-20 with regards to its application in European island regions for increase RES and energy efficiency, as the means reducing GHG emissions.

Signatures



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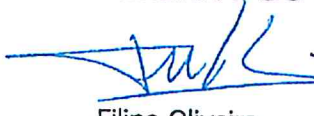
Bertil Klintbom

REGION GOTLAND



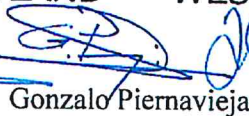
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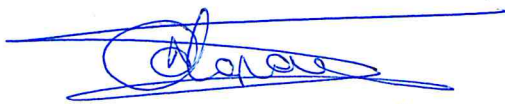


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