



ISLENET

European Islands Network on Energy & Environment



NEWSLETTER

July 2006

A word from the Manager

Dear Readers,

At the end of the successful conference last March it was agreed that ISLENET was to develop an Action Plan to be submitted for the endorsement of the Islands Commission of the CPMR.

A draft Action Plan was developed by the Management Committee of ISLENET in April and after internal consultation, it was submitted to the Annual Islands Commission meeting held in Crete on 11-12 May.

The Action Plan was endorsed by the Islands Commission during the meeting. Its President, Mr. Serafeim Tsokas, Secretary General of the Region of Crete and Mr. Jean Didier Hache, the Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission praised the efforts of our network to reinvigorate and strengthen itself.

Mr. Tsokas, together with the Convener of the Western Isles Mr. Alex MacDonald have sent early in July a letter to all island region presidents inviting them to re-affirm their commitment to ISLENET by formally renewing their membership in the network, and by participating in and supporting its work and its objectives.

This issue of our newsletter presents to you the ISLENET Action Plan 2006-2010, cordially invites you to join the network and contribute to our work.

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ISLENET is a campaign associate of
[Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008](#)

CPMR' ISLANDS COMMISSION endorsed ISLENET's ACTION PLAN

❖ ISLENET ACTION PLAN 2006-2010

Background

Whereas **ISLENET** is a network of European Island Authorities created in 1993. It is an initiative of the Islands Commission of the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions) and Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar (CNES - The Western Isles Council) in Scotland. The host region of Western Isles assures both the administrative and financial support of the network.

Whereas ISLENET members agree to adhere to the principles and the objectives of its Charter, the Energy and Environment Charter for European Islands, ratified by the Islands Commission in its 1993 meeting in the Isle of Wight (Annex 1)

ISLENET Accomplishments

Whereas, since its inception, ISLENET has been involved in a plethora of activities and projects in the areas of

- energy planning for island communities,
- renewable energies and energy research and innovation,
- advanced energy technologies, including hydrogen
- demand side management, including bioclimatic buildings and sustainable architecture,
- waste to energy systems,
- sustainable energy communities
- dissemination of best practice examples
- sustainable transport,
- information society

Whereas, one of the strengths of the network is its ability to disseminate information to its members through an active web site, an electronic newsletter, triptychs, brochures, posters and other printed material and through its active participation in various EU fora and activities, such as information

days of the various EU funded energy related programmes (FP6, FP7, IEE etc.)

Whereas ISLENET is a member in:

- The Managenergy Reflection Group
- The Sustainable Energy for Europe campaign (campaign associate)

Whereas the network cooperates frequently with other EU-level networks and organisations such as Energie-Cités, FEDARENE, EREC, EUFORES and others.

Whereas ISLENET has also been a member of the Steering Committee of the Energy Working Group of the CPMR since its inception in 2005 and provides policy analysis and technical expertise to the group.

ISLENET PROPOSES

A Renewed Mandate

The March 2006 ISLENET conference demonstrated a continuing interest in the network through the active participation of over twenty groups of European islands, as well as island energy agencies, institutes of technology, technical universities, consultants and other energy practitioners.

Many participants stressed that in an era of \$70 oil prices, and in the face of the recent energy initiatives in Brussels (the Green Paper on Energy Policy adopted by the European Commission on 8 March 2006 and the Declaration of the European Council of 24 March 2006) it is important to stay engaged with European initiatives in the areas of sustainable energy and environmental management.

Our Mission

TO OPERATE A STRONG EUROPEAN ISLANDS NETWORK FOR **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT**

Our Objectives

- Promote sustainable energy systems, energy efficiency and sustainable energy communities with the view to help islands become less dependent on exogenous sources of energy
- Facilitate information dissemination and strengthen inter-island cooperation in the areas of sustainable energy systems and environmental management.
- Act as a catalyst in building partnerships for the exchange of best practice experience and for the cooperation in the framework of EU funded initiatives and projects.

- Operate as a technical network providing expertise and advice to the members, to the Energy Working Group of the CPMR and the Islands Commission.

Proposed Management Structure

ISLENET is presently managed by its manager, Panos Coroyannakis. At the present, the network receives guidance and strategic direction by a **Management Committee** consisting of the Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission, Jean Didier Hache, the Head of Strategy (External) of CNES, Derek McKim and the manager of ISLENET.

It is proposed that, in addition to the existing Management Committee, A **Technical Committee** is established with the view to providing technical guidance and expertise to the network.

It is further proposed that the Technical Committee consists of five members and two substitute members with due attention paid to the even geographical representation. The four out of the five members of the TC and one out of its two substitute members will be full members of ISLENET and will be nominated/elected once a year. One member and one substitute member of the TC will be nominated by the associate members.

Legal Status

ISLENET has no status as a legal entity. For administration purposes it is the host region of the Western Isles based in Stornoway, Western Isles, Scotland that assumes contractual and other legal obligations.

Consideration was given to other legal options, but for the present time it is deemed that there are no advantages in changing the legal status of the network.

Financial Situation

ISLENET's revenues at the present come from the network's participation in EU funded projects.

ISLENET does not receive funding from the CPMR or the Islands Commission.

ISLENET at the present does not collect membership fees.

ISLENET Membership

Numerous conference participants expressed the desire to broaden membership in order to maximise the technical and technological exchange of experience, know-how and best practice, as well as to strengthen the network.

In order to broaden the network's membership to members other than island authorities, it is proposed that a two-tier membership structure is introduced

Tier One

Eligible full members: island regional authorities, – members of the Islands Commission, or the structures or agencies dealing with energy in their region, which are under their direct authority and designated by them to represent them within ISLENET

Tier two

Eligible associate members: other energy agencies, island development agencies, sustainable energy partnerships, technology institutes, universities, other public bodies – stakeholders interested in sustainable energy and environmental issues.

Decision-making process - Voting rights

All full members have full voting rights.

Associate members have no voting rights.

During the annual ISLENET meeting, at the request of a minimum of three full members, there may be a vote called on issues dealing with the structure, the operation and/or the strategic direction of the network.

Membership fees

It is proposed that ISLENET charges a modest amount in the form of annual membership fees.

Annual membership fees are to be structured in a manner proportional to the population of a particular island or islands regions.

It is proposed that four groups of islands regions are created for the purpose of collecting membership fees:

Group 1: islands or island regions with a population of less than 10.000

Group 2: islands or island regions with a population of between 10.000-100.000

Group 3: islands or island regions with a population of between 100.000-500.000.

Group 4: islands or island regions with a population of more than 500.000

It is proposed that membership fees are as follows:

Group 1: between 250-500€

Group 2: between 500-1.000€

Group 3: between 1.000-2.000€

Group 4: between 2.000-5.000€

Contributions from Members will be paid directly to the Western Isles Council, inasmuch as this authority agrees to act as managing authority for ISLENET.

Should the Western Isles Council relinquish this role, another island regional authority will be designated as managing authority for ISLENET”

Benefits to Membership & Services Offered

A) *increased inter-island cooperation through:*

- Annual ISLENET meeting and/or other ISLENET-organised events
- Working Groups, as mandated by the Management Committee to perform specific tasks
- Project work sharing information, experience and good practice
- Project implementation and facilitation
- Access to a network that acts as a catalyst in forming island partnerships and expressing islands energy needs

B) *Information through:*

- Web site
 - Islands Info
 - Projects Info
 - Renewable technologies
 - News – Events – Calls for proposals
 - Publications
 - Links
 - Contacts
- Electronic Newsletter + Electronic Newsflash
- Islands database
- Projects database

C) *Services offered*

- Advising and making recommendations to the Islands Commission and the CPMR, including the CPMR Energy Working Group regarding:
 - Sustainable energy expertise
 - Energy policy analysis
 - Energy efficiency issues
 - Electricity networks – access issues + TEN issues
 - Special tasks or studies assigned to the network by the IC, or the EWG of the CPMR

The Energy and Environment Charter

The Charter, adopted in 1993, established six long term goals. To achieve these goals, the Charter identified ten courses of action to be pursued by all signatories.

It is recommended that under the guidance of the Management Committee, a review of the Charter is conducted by ISLENET. The results of the review will be presented to the 27th Annual Conference of the CPMR Islands Commission in 2007 for approval and ratification.

ISLENET HAS A NEW e-mail ADDRESS

As of the beginning of July, you can also contact ISLENET at

info@islenet.net or at

mail@islenet.net

The old e-mail addresses islenet@skynet.be and pcoroyannakis@skynet.be will remain valid for six more months, after which we will only be using the new address

The web address remains the same:

Both www.islenet.net and www.europeanislands.net point to the same site.

FUTURE EVENTS

❖ 19-25 August 2006, Florence: The World Renewables Energy Congress Exhibition

ABITA Interuniversity Research Center University of Florence will host the IXth edition of World Renewable Energy Congress Exhibition and Awards. For more information: <http://www.wrec2006.com/>

❖ 16-22 September 2006, Mobility Week



On-line registration for the event is now open: <http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/>
From 16th to 22nd September 2006 European citizens will have the opportunity to enjoy a full week of events dedicated to sustainable mobility.

❖ 5-6 October 2006, Energy for the Periphery



**Gobierno
de Navarra**



The text of the Green Paper on Energy that the European Commission has asked to be discussed at every level and is the main focus of the CPMR Energy Working Group's present work.

After holding three major seminars since April 2005, in Truro (England), Stornoway (Scotland) and Leeuwarden (The Netherlands), the conclusions will be presented at a Conference entitled '**Energy for the Periphery**', that will take place in Pamplona on 5th and 6th October 2006.

The Conference will bring together personalities from CPMR member Regions as well as European Union representatives. It will provide an opportunity to establish a constructive and enriching debate on a

new model of energy, taking on board everyone's legitimate aspirations.

❖ 16 November 2006, Sustainable Tourism

Following the work initiated during the 26th Annual meeting of the CPMR Islands Commission, a seminar on Sustainable Tourism will take place in the Balearic Islands on 16 November 2006, further to the invitation of President Jaume MATAS PALOU.

Draft agenda :

<http://www.islandscommission.org/en/index.php?act=3,1,,9/>