

# B7 FACILITATOR'S NEWSLETTER



*Should EU's  
Draft  
Constitution be  
consigned to  
the rubbish bin?*



## EU Constitution - what happens next?

An EU constitution can improve the way the EU works, or it could be so handicapped by political compromise that "it is best consigned to the rubbish bin" as the Economist has stated.

We know that a draft treaty has been completed (<http://european-convention.eu.int/>) but what happens next?

### How will final negotiations on the treaty proceed?

Heads of government will head for Rome on October 4 for the Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC), where final negotiations on the future shape of the Europe Convention will take place.

The IGC is a bureaucratic term for rolling negotiations between the 15 current EU member states and the ten accession countries.

Italy is hoping to finish the negotiations by mid-December and wants the final negotiations to be at the very highest level, involving only Prime Ministers and Foreign Secretaries, in the hope that this will reduce the possibility of too much disagreement.

After October 4, the Prime Ministers will reconvene two weeks later in Brussels. Then there will be five of six meetings between Foreign Ministers lasting between half-a-day and two days, before a final meeting between Prime Ministers scheduled for mid-December in Brussels.

If EU members stick to the tight time schedule, it would afford Italy the kudos of calling the final agreement the Treaty of Rome. However,

some member states think it wrong to set an artificial deadline and believe that the negotiations could continue into next year.

Others argue that the deadline is only realistic if member states are prepared to use the draft treaty as their starting point as it was presented by Valerie Giscard d'Estaing at Thessalonika, Greece in June.

### What happens if no agreement is reached?

It is very unlikely that the member states will fail to agree on a treaty after negotiations have reached their conclusion. There is simply too much at stake. EU officials are concerned about how the public will view such a failure and think that better a poor agreement is reached than no agreement at all.

### What happens once a deal has been struck?

Once an agreement has been reached at the IGC, either by the end of this year or early in the next, the lawyers and linguists will move in and check that there are no problems with the text.

If all goes according to plan, the 25 countries will formally sign the treaty on 9 May 2004, which is Europe Day. By then the ten accession countries from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean will be full members of the EU, having joined on May 1.

It will probably take around a year-and-a-half for all 25 countries to ratify the treaty, which will take us through to 2005. The treaty will then pass into law in 2006 at the earliest, with some staggered parts of the agreement not due to take effect until 2009.

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## B7 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The B7 Annual Conference takes place on Hiiumaa on 4-5 December. This is where the politician of the B7 will agree the programme and focus of activities for the coming year.

The decision to rotate the Secretariat and Chairmanship, taken in 1999, has created a lot of positive interest on each island taking on the Chairmanship. Each has quite a different emphasis on what they want to do and how they

go about doing it.

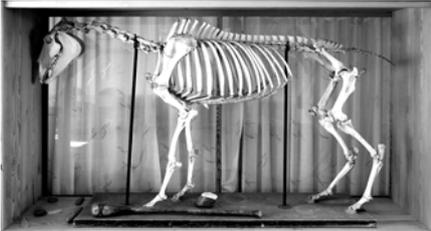
We have also seen that the flurry of activities in WGs is subsiding and being replaced by "Focus Groups". This needs discussion.

One fundamental change from next year is that all the islands will be members of the EU. Another is the pressure on island's budgets has increased the demand for relevance.

We live in exciting times!

## LILLY IS STILL ALIVE!

### Tracing history across the B7 islands



**Lilly at Ölands Folkhögskola**  
Not looking quite as well as her ancestors on  
Hiiumaa!

#### Lilly - the end of a breed?

Once upon the time on Öland there was a very special little horserace, the Ölandic horse, a small horse that had lived and grown up under hard conditions. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century farmers used the horses in the daily work, such as transporting wood from the mainland in wintertime over the ice on Kalmarsund. The small horses were very strong and useful.

On Öland the military forces have for a long time bred horses and after some centuries their need was bigger horses.

The Ölandic horse was only 140 cm high. The military started to breed and mix the small horse with much bigger races. The farmers did not like this project and kept some horses for themselves. But in the year 1925 the last one died. Lilly was here name and the remains of her, the skeleton, can today be seen at Ölands Folk High School. The story of the Ölandic breed was over.

#### Curious rumours.

At a conference in Riga some years ago there was a rumour that some farmers on Hiiumaa in Estonia had some small horses, quite similar to the ones we had on Öland almost a hundred years ago. I got very curious and started to investigate. The question was where to find the origin of the Ölandic horse.

#### My theory.

Most people thought that the breed had come to Sweden from the south. My theory was that the small horses on Öland came from the east during the Viking era or even earlier. There is evidence that people had contact with each other at this time in the history. We know for instance that slave trade from Estonia was big business at the time. Recently scientists have found a gene in some Gotlandic women. A gene that can only be found in women living in a Fenno-Ugric tribe behind the Ural Mountains in Russia. Horses and women slaves were sent out from the village Orjaku on Hiiumaa.

#### Tracking down the evidence.

I had to find out if my theory was right and I got the opportunity to check this during a B7 conference in Kärdla, Hiiumaa, in April 2003. Between the sessions and discussions I went out to the countryside of Hiiumaa. I had been in contact with a lady at Haapsalu Municipality and I had an address where to go. My fellow Patrik Holmberg and I went to Kassari and a farm I already visited towards the end of

2000. At the Ristitee talu we spoke to Linda Tikk and she told us that she owns sixteen horses of that small one we were looking for. Jackpot so far. She showed us pedigrees of her horses and she told us also that her grandfathers grandfather had sold these little horses to Gotland, Öland and to Åland.

Linda Tikk told us also that the German Knights during the 13-14 century were very interested in that small horse. They were much better at fighting than the big German horses. Especially in the swampy landscape of ancient Estonia.

#### Meeting Lilly's ancestors.

We wanted to see her horses but they were not on the farm. Her 14 year old son could take us to the place where the horses were feeding if we promised to bring him back. On a huge open field in the middle of Hiiumaa we could with our own eyes see a handful of that little horse we have been without for almost a hundred years on Öland. Lilly was still alive!

We took some samples from a few horses to make DNA-tests. I have DNA from Lilly and my hypothesis is that the horses on Hiiumaa are the origin of the Ölandic small horse. The Estonian pony is the origin and was taken over to Gotland and Öland by Vikings or even earlier in history. The conditions on Öland were much harder and during many years the Ölandic race developed in one way while the Estonian pony grow up with better conditions.



VAISA born at Kolchos Rahu 1980 with Taaret Tikk, 14, at Kassari  
Photo: Seppo Ekelund on Hiiumaa April 2003

#### The future of the breed.

In Estonia there is a programme to save that old race and on Öland there are people interested in re-introducing this small Ölandic horse again. We were quite lucky, just some years ago in Estonia there was only some hundred of these horses left. Today there are six hundred and there are great possibilities to bring some horses back to Öland and start to reconstruct the breed again.

*Seppo Ekelund. June 2003*

*"Seppo's hypothesis is that the horses on Hiiumaa are the origin of the Ölandic small horse"*



**Seppo Ekelund**  
Naturalist and historian

## KNUD ANDERSEN

Knud Andersen has been a part of the B7 since the beginning in 1989.

He is a man who as County Mayor of Bornholm had a **clear mission** to make a future for Bornholm within a re-united Baltic Sea Region.

He has worked actively to bring not only Estonia, but Latvia, Lithuania and Poland into the EU. He also worked, and still works, to make sure that an "iron curtain" is not moved east to become a "poverty curtain".

**Civil Status:** Born 1947, married to Dorte Andersen with two daughters

**Education:** Agriculture at Lyngby Agricultural College 1969

**Business:** Farmer. And owner of Jydegård in Hasle from 1972 and Brogård from 1988. The farm is 135 ha and has livestock, 155 sows

producing pig for fattening and slaughter .

### Political Career :

Chairman for Venstre's National Youth Organisation 72-74

Member of Hasle Municipal Council 78-90

Chairman for Culture Committee Hasle Municipality 78-90

Mayor of Hasle 86-90

Member of Bornholm County Council 1978 – 2003

County Mayor of Bornholm 1990-2003

### Awards:

The Estonian Order: "The IV class Order of the Cross of St. Mary's land"

Denmark Order of Chivalry for contribution to Eastern European Countries.



Knud Andersen

## Öland Art Exhibition starts culture & business days on Rügen

The art exhibition from Öland at the Town Museum in Bergen on Rügen started the yearly culture and business days "Rügana 2003". Thirteen artists and handicraft people presented their work between 4–21 September. The exhibition is a result of the cooperation between the Baltic Sea Seven Islands – through the initiative of WG People-to-People.

The Öland delegation was well taken care of by the Museum Chief Executive Martina Herfert who together with her staff assisted the delegation in setting up the exhibition.

The exhibition was opened on Thursday evening with an official ceremony with more than fifty specially invited guests in the reception room of the Museum.

At the opening speech the Landrätin, Kerstin Kassner, emphasized the importance of cultural exchanges around the Baltic Sea and the importance of cooperation and networking

organisations such as the B7 to find new contacts and new areas of common interest.

The Öland delegation:

Susanne Nyholm, Eva Finder, Rudolf Overå, Gunnel Lindberg-Karlsson, Sven Håkansson, Göran Petersson, Annika Liepa, Carl-Olof Damm, Annika Petersson och Tony Garrett (also represented at the exhibition are Ella Nilsson, Jan Printz and Let Pettersson).



Landrätin, Kerstin Kassner, opening culture & business days on Rügen

*Knud Andersen works to make sure that an "iron curtain" is not moved east to become a "poverty curtain"*

## WWW.B7.ORG

**Hiiumaa, Rügen Saaremaa and Öland** are actively using the B7 website to promote their islands.

**WG Environment**, although it has called a timeout is still updating its page.

**WG PtP** has no mention of the B7 Games 2004 and the latest contact meeting.

**The Hiiumaa Chairmanship** has a lot of photographs on the site but they are somewhat hidden at the bottom of the page "Calendar 2003)

**A new page** will appear on the website in October entitled "B7 in the World". The purpose of the page is to give friends of B7 feedback on B7 activities relating to EU Enlargement, the Convention of Europe, Political Lobby work, and future EU funding after 2006.

**WWW.B7.ORG** is the **record of B7's history**. We know that the site receives many "hits" from outside the islands and that recently a very professional Master's Thesis was completed with much of the information coming from the website.



**B7 Islands Co-operation Network**

The Facilitator's Newsletter  
Ullasvej 17  
DK-3700 Rønne  
Bornholm  
Denmark

Phone: +45 5692 1304  
Fax: +45 5692 2468  
Email: [David.Hunt@brk.dk](mailto:David.Hunt@brk.dk)



Contact Group on Saaremaa  
August 03



Contact Meeting  
Anna giving instructions

**B7 is on the web at [www.b7.org](http://www.b7.org)**

## RECENT EVENTS

What is happening around the Baltic in the coming months?

If you want to place an article in this newsletter please contact David Hunt at [David.Hunt@brk.dk](mailto:David.Hunt@brk.dk)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN B7'S WORLD

### Anna Lindh

A visionary light has gone out in Sweden. When we see politicians from other EU countries, with diametrically opposed political views, speaking with admiration and respect, then we know we have lost a power for positive change on our cynical political stage.

### Referendums

Since our the last newsletter, Estonians have said that they foresee a better future within the EU by voting "yes" on September 14. Swedes have said that they are not sure that a Brussels view of a future EU is quite what they want by voting "no" to the Euro on September 14.

One thing is for sure - and that is an EU of 25 makes for a very exciting future.

### Lobby work.

B7 politicians and representatives have been in Brussels 17-18 June lobbying for a Future Structural Funds programme after 2006 that takes into account islands and the permanent constraints that islands face.

This can particularly effect future programmes for Bornholm, Öland, Gotland and Åland.

The discipline of Structural Funds has promoted a strategic, long-term, approach to regional and island development, not only for accession countries but also for existing members.

### Documents and Letters

To help in this work the following documents have been produced by the B7's Political Lobby Group to inform, promote and lobby:

**B7 Strategy for the Future** now available in English, Estonian, German and Swedish.

### B7 Position Papers:

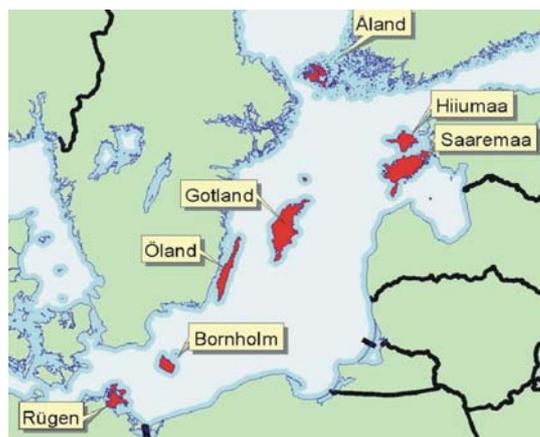
Part 1 - Key Political Issues

Part 2 - Positions for Internal Discussions

### Success with EU Investments:

### Letters sent out:

- To CBSS giving the B7's comments regarding the Commission's proposal for a NDAP II (Northern Dimension Action Plan).



Islands of the B7

- To Commissioner Barnier (May and Sept)
- To Commissioner Verheugen (Sept)  
Giving the B7 Islands' position on a future Structural Funds Programme.

The B7 now has the status of **Special Participant** in the CBSS. ([www.cbss.st](http://www.cbss.st))

### CPMR Annual Conference in St Malo

CPMR Islands Commission has a powerful influence on EU islands policy, where B7 and the individual islands seek to influence the debate. (10-12 September. [www.cpmr.org](http://www.cpmr.org))

### WG People-to-People (WG PtP).

The **Contact Project** visited Saaremaa at the end of August. Besides tourist attractions, the group visited the Airport, new spa hotel, Ostrich Farm and Koguva Village. Participants from Öland, Hiiumaa and Rügen were met by colleagues from Saaremaa to exchange project ideas. One idea was an exchange of art exhibitions.

### B7 Games 2004:

A preparation meeting was held on Gotland at the beginning of August. The preparations look good, however we need to do some work to get funding for participant travel.

### WGE Environment (WGE):

A "time-out" has been called on WGE's activities. Although this comes at a time when maritime security is a key issue in the Baltic Sea Region, the islands seem to be suffering from burn-out. We look forward to a short time-out as we need them and they have done magnificent work over the years.

### Debate on future WG PtP activities:

The WG has asked to have a debate with the B7 Board on B7's expectations and key future activities.

This meeting will be held on 31 October at the Board meeting on Bornholm in order that the conclusions can be incorporated in B7's plans for 2004.