

EUROPEAN DELEGATES MEETING

Edm_na@yahoo.com

Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, French Speaking Swiss, German Speaking, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Quebec, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK.

Monday, January 13, 2003

**To: Teis, Regional Chairperson
Inland Region Denmark**

Dear Inland Region in Denmark,

Following the two phone conversations that took place between you, Inland Region Chairperson, and the EDM chair Francoise, and after receiving a copy of your mail addressed to Lars, RD of the RSC NADK, we feel it is an appropriate time to initiate clear and direct communication between the Steering Committee members of the EDM and the Inland Region.

The Steering Committee of the EDM is fully aware of the controversy and tensions existing between the two Danish communities. **It however is not our responsibility to take sides or get involved in anyway in this matter.**

If the Inland Region wishes to raise objections on any topic, or wishes to take part at the EDM Meeting, it has to be aware that procedures must be respected. We ask you to contact us by letter from the Regional committee, outlining any objections that the region has discussed on this matter, and agreed upon within a group conscience. We also ask that the mailings from individuals to the EDM cease, as the mailing list for the EDM is for delegates who attend the meeting, and is only used to communicate with each other, please respect this point and communicate through the Steering Committee. **It is imperative for EDM not to become involved in a dispute that will disrupt and deflect us from our primary purpose. We will not become mediators in a long standing dispute between committees in any community.**

We keep hoping that the ties that bind us together will be stronger than those that keep us apart, and that NA members will find it in their hearts to unite, the NA Way.

In loving fellowship

Francoise H. - Chair – Francis M. – vice-chair, Henrik E. – Treasurer, Peter H. – Secretary, EDM Steering Committee members.

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Monday, January 13, 2003

To: All EDM Delegates
From: Steering Committee
Topic: Danish NA Communities

Dear friends,

There has been intense activity on the net concerning the Danish Communities. The Steering Committee has been disturbed by communications it has received from supporters of the Inland Denmark NA Region, opposing the European Convention to be held in Denmark, and has decided to write to the Inland Region and keep you informed on developments at hand.

We see this as an ***extremely sensitive issue***. If the Inland Denmark NA Region wishes to raise objections on any issue, they must follow established procedure and behave in a reasonable way. We cannot accept them turning up at the last minute at our Meeting and expecting to be heard.

The Steering Committee feel that the only defence we have against becoming enmeshed in a dispute that will disrupt and deflect us from our primary purpose is an informed group conscience. We are setting out below all the details we have and offer some simple proposals for discussion. *We need immediate feedback and the full support and participation of all delegates.*

Background

As was clearly presented during our Meeting in Bellaria, Denmark does not have a unified service body. There are two Regions – the RSK NADK and the Inland Denmark NA Region. The RSK NADK Danish Community (RSK Denmark) presented proposals to host the ECCNA Convention for the summer 2004. The Inland Denmark NA Region did not attend the EDM at Bellaria. In the middle of the RSK Denmark presentation an individual supporter of the Inland Denmark NA Region (who was attending the Convention not the EDM) wished to raise objections to this bid. He was angry and the Steering Committee felt this would not be appropriate.

After Bellaria the Steering Committee was contacted by individuals from the Inland Denmark NA Region (see attached letter from Uffe H). The Steering Committee were placed in a very difficult position. We were disturbed that there was no formal contact from the Inland Denmark NA Region. However we share a common recovery culture, which encourages us to be respectful and sensitive to

each other. We first felt that we couldn't initiate correspondence with the Inland Denmark NA Region but we assumed that any reply to Uffe H. would find its way to their Service Committee. In order to clarify the role of the EDM we replied to the letter from Uffe H. wishing to avoid misunderstandings and to promote NA Unity. However, almost immediately the Chair of the Steering Committee received a telephone call from an individual introducing himself as the chair of the Status Committee of the Inland Denmark Region. More mails were then circulated with copies addressed to all the delegates. We then decided to initiate direct official communication with the Inland Region. (Attached to this mail).

Where are we?

- We must prioritise the Fellowship development trip to Poland and ongoing EDM work. **We cannot mediate in this dispute at this time.**
- The RSK Denmark bid for the European Convention 2004 is on the EDM table.
- There has been no formal contact from the Inland Denmark NA Region.
- If the Inland Denmark NA Region wishes to raise objections they must follow procedure and behave in a reasonable way. **We cannot accept them turning up at the last minute and expecting to be heard.**

We need to reinforce our values and the principles set out in the Concepts of Service. The foundation for all effective service is Goodwill. Where that does not exist we must trust in a loving God and get out of the way.

Once again we must stress that this is an extremely sensitive issue and must be treated with discretion. This might be the time and place to point out the misuse done with our contact list and ask all of us not to forward this list to EDM outsiders.

Again, please send your input and sharing on the situation

In Loving Fellowship

Francoise H. – Chair, Francis M. – Vice-Chair, Henrik E. – Treasurer, Peter H. – Secretary, EDM Steering Committee.

**Attached: Letter to Status Committee – Inland Region
Communications with Uffe**

To: EDM delegates: Please find following a letter from a member from Denmark and response from EDM Steering Committee:

Thursday, December 19, 2002

Dear ... Françoise H.....

I'm an addict and my name is Uffe. I write to you as it has come to my attention (not by means of the official channels, but by "rumors" and "corridor-talk") that the EDM plans to have a winter meeting in Denmark and also that the Denmark RSK NADK has made a bid for the European NA convention in 2004. So far so good, but are you in the EDM forum aware of that we in Denmark have 2 NA fellowships? (mener du ikke regioner?)

The RSK NADK Region and The Inland Denmark NA Region. Both Fellowships are nation – wide. These two fellowships (or regions) are in conflict with each other, and this conflict has been going on for at least 7 years. It would be waste of your time to try to explain in this letter what this conflict is all about, but it concerns what is NA and what is not NA. Perhaps you have heard about Brazil and the conflict they had over there (Narcotics Anonymous vs. Junkies Anonymous), it's a bit like that - if you multiply by 5.

Did the RSK representatives, at the meeting in Rimini, inform the EDM delegates about situation in Denmark?

I know for a fact that the RSK did not inform the Inland Region NA that they intended to participate in EDM, nor have they informed The Inland Denmark NA Region that they would make a bid for the Convention and the EDM meeting.

Do You as Chair for the EDM think it is wise to continue with preparation for these events under the present circumstances? If you ask me, I think not.

But I would like to have your opinion about the issue.

With NA love

Uffe H

Denmark Adresses fore the two (regions)

inland@narcotics-anonymous.dk

formand@rsk-na.dk

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Friday, December 20, 2002

**To: Uffe H.
Denmark**

Dear Uffe,

I first want to thank you for taking the time to communicate with us and share your position concerning issues that have to do with the NA communities in Denmark.

Yes, we are aware of the fact that RSK-NADK does not represent all the areas of Denmark. However the EDM guide- lines about representation, at this stage, is quite simple. Qualification for EDM participation is defined as follows:

" Delegates and alternates elected by individual NA communities, regardless of level of local service structure (Attendance, right to speak, take part in Consensus process and vote)".

As you see, those guidelines differ from World Service Conference procedure of seating new Regions by vote. AT EDM, all we need is to make sure that proper representation procedures are involved when bringing a delegate to our floor. Also, a Region does not have to fit the geographical boundaries of a political entity: for example the "German Speaking Region" includes parts of other neighboring countries, "French Speaking Swiss" represents only part of NA communities of this country, "Quebec" – a state of Canada, has chosen to be part of EDM, etc.

For the time being, the only thing we can do is look at the 2 Danish communities as separate entities. One has chosen to send a representative to EDM and to present a bid for the European Convention. The other community has not yet officially liaised with us. If it chooses to do so, we shall respond.

The bid of RSK-NADK was presented to the delegates at our Summer Meeting and was taken back to the communities for discussion. The final decision will be made during our Winter Meeting in Krakow (March 20 – 23-2003).

As trusted servants on the Steering Committee of the EDM, we do not have opinions: our assignment is to carry through the decisions made by the EDM Conference, to the best of our ability, in the Spirit of the NA Traditions and in accordance to our guidelines. If the Convention is voted to take place in Copenhagen, our responsibility will be to make sure that the Convention is run according to our Convention guidelines and NA Traditions and that these Traditions are not violated.

The last thing we would want to do is get in the middle of a controversy between 2 communities and to side with any one of them.

We have a hard time, though, understanding why and how a European Convention in Denmark would hurt anyone. Conventions are celebrations of Recovery; they bring members together in a spirit of Unity, emphasizing our common bonds and leaving aside the differences. The EDM has made a commitment to help NA communities carry the message of Recovery. When recovering addicts come together in a celebration of our Recovery, there is a real **opportunity to carry the Message of Recovery, it does not have to be a competition between Regions.**

We keep hoping that the ties that bind us together will be stronger than those that keep us apart, and that NA members will find it in their hearts to unite, the NA Way.

In loving fellowship

Francoise H. - Chair – Francis M. – vice-chair, Henrik E. – Treasurer, Peter H. – Secretary, EDM Steering Committee members.