



SHORT NEWS February 2010

Apologies are extended to our membership for the late issuing of the Short News. This is due to extenuating personal circumstances on behalf of the General Secretary. We hope our members had a happy Christmas and the committee extends its best wishes for a peaceful and productive 2010.

The committee met last in Barcelona between the 6-8th November and were kindly hosted by Grup Tècnic. Thanks are extended to Grup Tècnic Delegate Agnès Gall Ortlik and Vice President Pau Maynés Tolosa for their hospitality. The meeting was busy and much ground was covered. Discussion remains focused on the activities of the CEN project, concern with the transposition and interpretation of the EU Directives, bringing the work of the Professional Competences to a conclusion and the further development of the website to provide an open forum for discussion.

CEN/TC 346

The CEN project continues to gain momentum and some Working Groups would appear to be concluding the Public Enquiry stage of their specific projects. Issues for E.C.C.O. to date have centred on obtaining a clear and informed insight into the work of each of the five Working Groups so as to allow E.C.C.O. form an opinion or take a position. Since late last year RN Delegate Jaap van der Burg has acted as liaison between the CEN/TC 346 project and E.C.C.O. He has attended several meetings and points out that although E.C.C.O. has no power of veto he is allowed to participate fully in all discussions which in effect does contribute to final outcomes. In this, Jaap van der Burg reports a generally positive experience of the CEN project.

FFCR Delegate David Aguilera Cueco is the French representative to the Working Group on Terminology. He echoed E.C.C.O.'s objections to the original proposal for 'Conservation' to be used as the umbrella term for the field of Conservation-Restoration. It appears that the latter term has now been accepted as a possible synonym in the Terminology List of General Terms proposed in the Working Group. David Aguilera Cueco also reports that a further revision of this Terminology List now locates decision-making specifically in 'Conservation Planning' and places Conservation-Planning hierarchically at the start of the Conservation-Restoration process which is subsequently followed by preventive, remedial or restorative action. It is a concern that identifying and isolating 'decision-making' as a particular point prior to any intervention reduces the actual Conservation-Restoration process to a technical exercise. It is E.C.C.O.'s view that professional Conservation-Restoration requires decision making to be integral to the processes themselves through an ongoing assessment and analysis of the cultural heritage during any type or level of intervention.

The voting system in CEN is weighted on a country by country basis. The countries with the greatest power of veto are France, Germany, Italy and the UK. Voting is carried out by each country's national standardisation organisation. Influencing this vote can only be achieved by the formation of national mirror groups composed of professional Conservator-Restorers who can meet formally with the respective representative from the national standardisation organisation. E.C.C.O. is aware that some countries have formed these mirror groups. It was hoped initially that there might have been a filtering of information back to E.C.C.O. via member organisations but this has not proved to be the case and it is recognised that participation of professionals from Conservation-Restoration is in fact very limited. E.C.C.O. continues to urge member organisations to be involved in CEN and any issues arising with which they may have difficulties can in turn be submitted to E.C.C.O. for discussion and consideration. For any further detailed information please feel free to contact our liaison on [j.vanderburg \(at\) helicon-cs.com](mailto:j.vanderburg@helicon-cs.com).

The Working Group for CEN and Terminology consists of Jaap van der Burg and David Aguilera Cueco.

EQF/ Professional Competences

The proposed competences that were ratified at the meeting in Sofia were brought to the Committee Meeting in Leuven in June. Further progress was made at this meeting but technical difficulties and the summer months hindered work. A very dynamic meeting of the Working Group subsequently took place on Monday 9th in Barcelona.

The Conservation-Restoration process and the actions arising were critically re-evaluated against the normative framework of learning that we propose, to ensure that the range and domains of knowledge required for access to the profession are interpreted consistently and logically. The conceptual model was then critically re-assessed against the *Description of Learning Outcomes for Level 7 EQF* and as they have been interpreted by E.C.C.O./ENCoRE for coherence both of language and respective knowledge domains.

This was an enormously useful exercise as the break from the document allowed a fresh take on the work. Some inconsistencies were amended and the generic *Descriptors for Levels 6 and 8 EQF* were analysed in light of the rationale of the normative framework applied to the proposed professional competences. It is expected that the Working Group will meet with ENCoRE to collaborate on these outstanding Descriptors.

Jaap van der Burg and David Aguilera Cueco will work on a glossary of terms which will coordinate both the terminology proposed in the E.C.C.O. Recommendations on Conservation-Restoration presented to the Council of Europe and that issuing from the CEN Working Group on Terminology.

Agnès Gall Ortlik has proposed to write a guide to the practical interpretation of the Conceptual Map for Level 7. Feedback from this work is scheduled for February and it is hoped to have the final document ready to be presented at the GA in April 2010.

The Working Group for Professional Competences consists of Susan Corr, Mechthild Noll Minor, Jeremy Hutchings, David Aguilera Cueco, Jaap van der Burg, Agnès Gall Ortlik and Sebastian Dobrusskin

Questionnaire on E.C.C.O. members

The final version of the analysis of the Questionnaire is ready to be sent out to all members together with a revised questionnaire to be completed and returned by the beginning of May. A reminder will be issued at the GA. The issues of insurance, liability and VAT are to be included in the new questionnaire. The Working Group consists of Rui Bordalo, Monica Martelli Castaldi, and David Aguilera Cueco.

ECROP: European Conservator-Restorers' Open Platform

Rui Bordalo has set up a room on the Forum to host ECROP and the process of developing this site is ongoing. It is hoped that the Platform will provide an individual page for each organisation where they will be able to promote themselves and that there will be links to the webpages of other member organisations. There will be a noticeboard with topics of common professional interest. Working Group projects and progress will be visible. The work of member organisations can also be presented. Individual access to a Discussion Forum will be provided by passwords registered to member organisations, contractual or organisational guidelines will apply.

Outcomes which ECROP hope to achieve have been outlined but a moderator will have to be found who can manage the site and it is hoped that a moderator can be sought from outside the Committee.

The Working Group consists of Mechthild Noll Minor, Rui Bordalo, Suvi Leukumaavaara and Jeremy Hutchings.

EU Directives

On request by the Committee following the GA in Sofia, a written proposal in French has been submitted by Mr Negri to the Committee offering to develop guidelines for the transposition of the two EU Directives (*the Services Directive and the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications*) into national laws. There are incompatibilities between these two Directives and in suggesting ways in which they can be interpreted/transposed specific to the profession of Conservation-Restoration, Mr Negri suggests that national bodies will then have the tools to be able to argue for a specialist status for the profession within their own jurisdictions, particularly as the profession mostly operates in a legal vacuum.

In some countries these Directives have already been transposed and it is not clear to some of the Committee how the commissioning of such a report would be effective at this stage. It was argued that in the present political climate, self regulation through the advocacy of strong professional bodies appears to be a more successful route to professional determinism/status than tinkering around the blurred edges of EU Directives. Regulation of the profession exists in very few countries and the compensatory measures for the recognition of professional conservators as a result of these Directives has been transposed in approximately four countries.

It was suggested that a more effective study might be carried out in each country to see how the transposition of the Directives affects the practice of the Conservation-Restoration profession. Monica Martelli Castaldi will continue to liaise with Mr Negri to further clarify his proposals and to consider not only the transposition of the Directives but also as to how best engage in future actions on national laws and regulations systems.

Finally, the reality of professional associations actually fighting politically at national level for the transposition of these Directives specific to the profession is also questioned. On foot of discussions with regard to the *Services Directive*, it is suggested that E.C.C.O. determines

- 1) how countries who have regulatory laws governing conservation-restoration recognise professionals qualified and regulated in other countries
- 2) how they recognise professionals from non-regulated countries
- 3) how countries who regulate the profession are currently complying with the *European Service Directive and the Directive on Professional Qualifications*

European Recommendations on Conservation-Restoration

The Council of Europe Bureau of CDPATEP (*Steering Committee on Heritage and Landscape / Comité directeur de patrimoine et du paysage*) met in Strasbourg on the 8th of December. The Bureau's own Working Group on the Recommendations was to be set up to discuss the Recommendations submitted by E.C.C.O., and reach a conclusion to its deliberations hopefully in time for their presentation to the Council of Europe next Spring at the annual meeting of CDPATEP. E.C.C.O. encourages members to continue to lobby their national representatives to this Bureau, urging their support and participation in the Bureau Working Group. Monica Martelli Castaldi has met the General Director of ICCROM, Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, who is meeting this week with representatives of the Council of Europe to discuss a common action by the two organisations. ICCROM will propose to host and coordinate a Working Group on the Recommendations. Information about national representatives at the Council of Europe can be obtained from Monica Martelli Castaldi.

Next General Assembly

The next General Assembly is scheduled for Monday 26th April 2010 in Brussels. Further details will be made available in early 2010.

Susan Corr
E.C.C.O. General Secretary
January 2010