



E.C.C.O. Short News August 09

Apologies to all for the lengthy delay in updating news on current work. The intensity of the Presidents Meeting, the GA and work immediately arising depleted much energy and time in the last few months. An overdue thanks is extended to all who attended the meetings in Sofia. Presentations from Eastern European colleagues were excellent and subsequent discussions stimulating. There was a keen awareness that forging such contacts are critical to the growth of the conservation-restoration profession.

As a result when the committee subsequently reconvened in Leuven, Belgium between 5th-7th June, the necessity to develop a means of networking with conservator-restorers' organisations in the broader Council of Europe was at the top of the Agenda

ECROP

The website offers the most viable option for such contact and a platform specifically designated to allow this as part of the overall E.C.C.O. website was proposed. Entitled 'European Conservator-Restorers' Open Platform' ECROP, this platform will be visible to the public on the website. The initial page of the platform will explain its purpose providing an explanatory page itemising objectives, contacts, invitation to discuss topics such as Health and Safety; will include a common calendar of activities and conferences and will link to E.C.C.O. publications. Access to a discussion forum will be provided by a password which can be distributed to individual members of association on application by the conservation-restoration association. This password can be distributed to all members of these associations. Notification of this Platform will be sent out to all associations who attended the Sofia meeting.

A Working Group to set up the Platform was formed to consist of Mechthild Noll-Minor, Rui Bordalo and Suvi Leukumaavaara. The Referent for the Working Group is Mechthild Noll-Minor.

Recommendations

Monica Martelli Castaldi together with Mr Vincent Negri attended the CDEPATEP meeting in Strasbourg on the 12th May where E.C.C.O. got to make a very short presentation. A subsequent communication from Mr Thérond, President, Council of Europe suggested, that the presentation had been very successful. Surprise was expressed at the direct lobbying of CDEPATEP by members of the 'civil society' but that feedback was very positive and a Working Group was in the process of being set up in September 2009. Mr Negri is to be consulted to see how national delegates can continue to be lobbied and that a standard letter might be drawn up in consultation with Mr Negri and which can then be disseminated to all our delegates.

The next IIC conference is to take place in Istanbul in 2010. On 'Movable Heritage in the Middle East' there is no plan to send a committee member but a request will be put out on the forum in spring 2010 seeking a member who may be attending and would be willing to bring the E.C.C.O. poster. A small version of this poster will be placed on the Open Platform and an enlarged version on the E.C.C.O. members discussion forum.

Questionnaire

Results and analysis of the Questionnaire on Conservation-Restoration prompted a review of the E.C.C.O. membership that demonstrated the composition of member organisations. The results of this review are available to all members. It was agreed that the information gathered from the questionnaire was very useful and should be updated every three years. A new Questionnaire will be issued in 2010.

EQF/Professional Competences

Following the presentation of the proposed Professional Competences and their subsequent adoption at the GA, the committee returned to the finer detail on the concept map at the meeting in Leuven. A small change was made was in relation to conservation –restoration treatment choices. It was agreed to express such choices in terms of indirect and direct action expressed as preventive conservation, remedial conservation and restoration. This was prompted by the discussion during the presentation of the competences during the Presidents Meeting. The future publication of the competences and the work required to bring this about was discussed. A glossary of terms is to be drawn up and it is hope to have a final booklet produced by early 2010.

CEPLIS

Michael Van Gompel attended the CEPLIS GA in Malta at the end of May, much of the meeting dealt with the Health Directive. Of more specific interest to E.C.C.O. is the development of the Small Business Act, SBA.. This Act does not reflect the specificity of the liberal professions which are bound by strong professional codes of conduct. As a result CEPLIS is trying to get the Commission to establish an SBA for liberal professions and will try to build a platform for the liberal professions. This is difficult to do but CEPLIS believes the SBA for liberal professions is very important.

The DG for the Internal Market headed by Ms Pamela Brumter have reversed their decision on the professional card again and it is now to be included in the new version of the 'Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications'. To push this along the DG are looking for representative bodies to come forward for accreditation in order to distribute such a card. However it is not possible for E.C.C.O. to put themselves forward for such accreditation.

CEN

The work of the CEN TC/346 project was discussed in great detail at the GA and it was reported that E.C.C.O. now has Liaison Status. There are 5 Working Groups with representation from participating countries National Institutes for Standardisation. Voting is influenced by lobbying national members. E.C.C.O. is currently opposing the abbreviation of the professional title to Conservator as opposed to the European norm of Conservator-Restorer

Jaap van der Burg who is the referent for the CEN Working Group reported positively on our participation in CEN and that the recent Working Group meeting on Terminology in Milan 28th -29th May was interesting. The meeting focused on List of Damage/categories with reports from the two technical committees. By 15th July '09 all results from the General Terms Public Enquiry will have been collected, compiled and returned to Mirror Groups by August. A meeting will follow in Greece in October. The final vote on ratification will be delayed by nine months to take place in August 2010.

EU Directives

A discussion on the implications to the Conservation-Restoration profession of two recent EU Directives; the first dated to 2005 on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and the subsequent 2006 Directive on Services was led by Mr Negri at the GA. The ratification of these Directives means that States are obliged to transpose these Directives into national legislation and that there is some urgency on this as already infringement procedures are taking place. The transcript of Mr Negri's statement is available. Permission is to be sought from Mr Negri and Agnes Gall Ortlik to allow the transcript of Mr Negri's statement at the GA to be published on the website and in the National Reports.

Committee Members

The committee remains unchanged with the exception of our latest member Stefan Belishki from Bulgaria. A warm welcome is extended to Stefan and we look forward to many years fruitful collaboration.

The committee are as follows:

Monica Martelli Castaldi - President
Jaap van der Burg - Vice President
Mechthild Noll-Minor - -Vice President
Susan Corr - General Secretary
Jeremy Hutchings - Deputy Secretary
Michael Van Gampen - Treasurer
Sebastian Dobrusskin - Deputy Treasurer
David Aguilera Cueco - Committee member
Rui Bordalo - Committee member
Barbara Davidson - Committee member
Suvi Leukumavaaraa - Committee member
Stefan Belishki - Committee member
Natalie Ellwanger - Office Administrator

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will take place in Barcelona the begin of November.

Susan Corr
General Secretary.
Galway. 5th August 09.