

22nd of January 2008

Dear E.C.C.O. Members and Delegates,

In the past months there has been a lot of discussions about academic references in conservation and especially about the Bachelor in conservation. The Bachelor in conservation is just one of the diplomas that have recently developed in our field of conservation leading to a wide variety of names and descriptions for related employments and professions all over Europe.

Due to this discussions we were very close to a separation of VDR and ICON from E.C.C.O.. These organisations did/do no longer agree to the current E.C.C.O. policy about BA and MA Conservators. Due to positive circumstances VDR General Assembly in September 2007 did not vote about withdrawal (see as well Short News October 2007).

ICON however has announced to withdraw from E.C.C.O.. Most important reason given for this separation is the apparent incompatibility between their statutes and those of E.C.C.O. regarding full membership.

But not only VDR and ICON are talking about BA and MA degrees and about having other professions or professionals as members of their organisations. Other members as well have started these discussions and some organisations have already changed their statute to accept not only fully qualified conservator/restorers as members but also Bachelors in conservation restoration, scientists or art historians.

E.C.C.O. guidelines give very clear definition about the requirements for full membership, however some organisation have proposed to find regulations for non C/R professionals as members, E.C.C.O. will have to discuss if eventually create a special category with restricted rights.

How far this restrictions should have to go and if this might involve a change of E.C.C.O. statutes should be discussed at the coming General Assembly.

At the last General Assembly it was decided to start a membership review.

A questionnaire has been prepared with this aim, which you will receive in the next days. There you will find very general questions about your organisation that can help us updating the information we have about our confederation, but as well questions that might lead into the future.

We kindly ask you to fill in the questionnaire till latest 29th of February 2008 and send it back to:

Rui Bordalo
Committee Member
Rua Peixinho Júnior N° 9, 1º Direito
PT - 2770-136 Paço de Arcos
rmbordalo@gmail.com

It will help us to prepare the General Assembly discussions.

We are looking forward to meeting you, the Delegates, at the coming General Assembly and to continue the fruitful discussion we had at last year's Presidents Meeting and General Assembly.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Ellwanger
E.C.C.O. Vice-President