



Brussels, 31st of July 2008

Dear Board and members of ICOM-CC,

E.C.C.O. is writing to express our concern over your proposed changes to terminology for conservation recommended by the task force (created by ICOM-CC board in Los Angeles, October 2006) and which will be voted on at the 15th Triennial Conference in New Delhi, from 22th to 26th of September, this year.

Firstly the E.C.C.O. Committee would like to acknowledge the work done by the working group on the three sub-activities terms and their precise and unified definitions. These terms are appreciated and mostly used in the E.C.C.O. publications as The Guidelines (2003) and the Code of Ethics (1992).

E.C.C.O. acknowledge that the term curative conservation is seldom used in English and is open to misinterpretation. We therefore accept the proposal made by the task force to adopt the term remedial conservation in the English language but to retain conservation curative in French and conservaciòn curativa in Spanish.

E.C.C.O. does not however accept that the arguments put forward in the ICOM-CC Resolution on Terminology, for the adoption, of Conservation as the umbrella term in the English and Spanish version of the document, are sufficiently strong for the now accepted term of Conservation-Restoration to be abandoned. The latter has become and should remain the common umbrella term for the profession within Europe and is widely cited within E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE documentation as well as by national conservation organisations throughout Europe. It is a composite term that acknowledges the close relationship between conservation and restoration actions, which may in fact be carried out by the same person in different circumstances or in the same moment. The term unifies the different areas of both conservation and restoration under one title without making one subordinate to the other. In particular it soften and erases the differences in meaning between historical latin and anglo saxon use of conservation and restoration, which in some cases is contradictory and which can lead to misunderstandings, as it used to do before the 1984 resolution of ICOM-CC. Furthermore as an umbrella term conservation-restoration is trans-national in that it does not demand exceptions, which is the case for the proposed term: conservation.

Apart from this point, which is essential, E.C.C.O. agrees on the major content of the document.

However E.C.C.O. wishes to express its sadness that the working group did not feel it beneficial to consult with other organisations when proposing changes to terminology that will impact on the conservation-restoration profession as a whole. As E.C.C.O. represents a large proportion of national professional bodies within Europe (around 5000 professionals), we embody a significant conduit through which our member organisations are able to be represented. We feel that it is unfortunate that the opinion of our members as well as ourselves has not been officially heard during the work. The Committee of E.C.C.O. therefore requests that this letter is included in the delegate pack of the ICOM-CC conference 2008 and read out in the session before the resolution vote, to be reconsidered in the light of the above expressed considerations.

We wish to express this opinion without prejudice and with the view to both contribute to the debate on these important issues and improve communication between our organisations in the future.

In the name of the committee of E.C.C.O.

Yours Sincerely

Monica Martelli Castaldi
President of E.C.C.O.
European Confederation of Conservator Restorers' Organisations