

**E.C.C.O.**

European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations



# Greetings Note to ARP's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Susan Corr

President E.C.C.O.

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Dear Colleagues,

As President of E.C.C.O. I would like to wish the President of ARP, Rui Borges and his committee, every success with the forthcoming meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ARP.

E.C.C.O. congratulates your organisation for the work it has done to date in giving voice to the profession of the Conservator-Restorer in Portugal, in promoting and fighting for an appropriate education to ensure best practice, and in striving for political engagement as advocates for the proper care and conservation of your country's patrimony.

I hope that the meeting is fruitful, and that real progress is achieved in further consolidating the profession in Portugal and, by extension, its role in the care and understanding of cultural heritage.

In your delegate to E.C.C.O., Elis Marçal, ARP has an articulate and intelligent conduit who represents the issues of the profession in Portugal. These in turn are reflected back to ARP through the prism of E.C.C.O. where most of these self -same issues are considered and addressed at European level.

In 2013, E.C.C.O. was kindly hosted here in Lisbon where we had a wonderful GA and Presidents' meeting.

Many of the issues that will be addressed over the course of your meeting today; education, qualifications, regulation, were discussed and prioritised here in Lisbon during a crucial phase in the development of E.C.C.O.'s strategic plan.

This plan was finally launched at our GA in Bratislava in April earlier this year.

Key to the work of E.C.C.O. is coherency of purpose in achieving professional equivalence to support mutual recognition, both within the profession and by other professionals and actors working within the field of cultural heritage.

Recent work on developing competences for access to the profession has clearly described the levels and types of knowledge and skill that are to be delivered at Masters Degree equivalent to level 7 European Qualifications Framework.

This work has helped to deliver Learning Outcomes in many Universities where Conservation-Restoration is taught.

The work by ENCoRE, European Network of Conservation-Restoration Educators, on what constitutes practice within this learning environment seeks to ensure the appropriate balance between the academic and the practical application of skillsets.

Mutual recognition is also a political imperative of the EU.

Mobility of professional services is identified as a building block for an open and liberalised market within Europe.

Self-regulation is encouraged through the articulation of codes of conduct.

While E.C.C.O.'s Guidelines have become a standard in the field, supported by the professional competences, the fact that our work directly impacts on cultural heritage makes what we do a matter of general public interest.

This is true of Conservation-Restoration practised in every country throughout Europe even as cultural heritage is a matter of national sovereignty.

The principle of general public interest informs E.C.C.O.'s work to achieve legal recognition for Conservation-Restoration at EU level.

Cultural heritage has been identified as strategic to the economic and social wellbeing of Europe. \$

Any discussion about the value of Conservation-Restoration must take place within the broader discussion around cultural heritage.

In April of this year, E.C.C.O. was invited as an expert group to participate at the Council of Europe's 6<sup>th</sup> conference of Ministers of Heritage held in Namur, Belgium.

This gave E.C.C.O. a wonderful opportunity to offer its credentials, make visible the work that we do and support the work of the Council of Europe.

In our presentation to the CoE, E.C.C.O. stated that we see Conservation-Restoration as contributing to and being part of the critical dialogue on heritage values, authenticity, contested heritages, public participation, and heritage stewardship.

In this E.C.C.O. supports the Faro Convention.

Conservation-Restoration contextualises how society understands and values the resource that is cultural heritage which has a direct bearing on decisions made about its appropriate care and sustainable use.

ARP, through its membership of E.C.C.O. supports and mandates our work which gives voice to issues that are at once of national and European concern.

Thank you for your attention, again congratulations to all in ARP and best wishes to everyone present for successful meeting.

The committee of E.C.C.O.



Susan Cook  
President, E.C.C.O.