

## **E.C.C.O. A.I.S.B.L.**

*EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF CONSERVATOR-RESTORERS' ORGANISATION*

### **SHORT NEWS**

April 2007

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#### **Report from the Presidents' Meeting , General Assembly and Committee meetings. Brussels 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> April 2007**

##### **Report by the President**

To mark the 15th anniversary of E.C.C.O. since its inception in October 1991 it was felt timely and appropriate for E.C.C.O to reconnect with its member organisations in an inclusive and direct way, the better to define the range and focus of E.C.C.O'S resources and activities. As a result, a Presidents Meeting was organised to coincide with the General Assemble two weeks ago. Presidents of all the member organisations were invited to a forum where they could air their views and make proposals.

The Presidents Meeting took place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April followed by the General Assembly on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. Both days were attended by a full complement of Presidents and Delegates which generated much energetic discussion giving rise to some clear mandates. The Committee reconvened on Saturday with a renewed sense of purpose, a strong sense of direction and a slight feeling of exhaustion. Many thanks are extended to all the Presidents and Delegates for taking the time to attend, for their active participation and thoughtful contributions.

One of the recurring themes of the meeting was the emphasis on our cultural and educational diversity and the means by which we can find mutual professional recognition. This is a process which, to date, has been tied to the development of a Professional Profile articulated in terms of third level university education. Education is of fundamental importance to the professional status of the conservator-restorer but a log jam has occurred in the means of delivery of this education and in making comparable the means of assessment.

To this end, the language and structure of the European Qualifications Framework, (EQF), have given the process a clear set of reference points to which all educational routes in Europe must conform and which has the effect of placing into context educational qualifications and accreditation systems. The professional status of the conservator-restorer remains at Masters qualification level which is the equivalent of level 7 on the EQF.

It now remains the job of E.C.C.O. to work towards a new Professional Profile set within the context of the EQF, and crucially, to write the descriptors specific to our profession as they relate to the different levels of Learning Outcomes on the EQF regarding skills, knowledge and competences against which all qualifications are measured.

Both for historical reasons and as a consequence of the restructuring of the university systems following the Bologna Declaration, into a three year- two year cycle to Masters

qualification there exists a body of people working at Bachelor level, (level 6 on the EQF). While it was acknowledged that these people will need to be accommodated within the overall conservation profession, E.C.C.O. was clearly mandated to define the profession

- 1) in terms of the MA qualification or its equivalent.
- 2) to continue to develop a professional profile reflecting this position.
- 3) that a separate profile must be articulated for the Bachelor level.

### **Committee News**

Two members retired from the committee; Edith Touré, who has contributed so much over the last eight years and Cecilia Rönnerstam who has been a much valued General Secretary over the last two. Our warmest and sincerest thanks are extended to them both for all their work on the E.C.C.O. committee.

We would like to welcome Jaap van der Burg from Restauratoren Nederland who will become our new Deputy Treasurer and Chris Woods from ICON as committee member.

### **ECPL**

Monica Martelli Castaldi is to have a further meeting in Florence on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May with members of the ECPL project. Resolutions on the direction of the Professional Profile with regard to the EQF will be brought to the attention of the ECPL committee. ENCoRE will also have a representative attending the meeting.

### **CEN/TC 346**

In January E.C.C.O. again tried to establish an informal point of contact with the CEN project so as to stay in touch with developments and to disseminate information. Again our interest was actively welcomed but it was reiterated that such contact must be pursued through the formal mechanism of 'Liaison Status'. This offers participation but provides no voting rights. This position is not in E.C.C.O.'s interest and has already been declined. Monica Martelli Castaldi is in contact with ICOM-CC about CEN as they find themselves in a similar position and together are hoping to publish a joint opinion with regards to the project.

### **CEPLIS**

The committee met with Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas, Director, Senior Policy Advisor of CEPLIS on the Saturday following the GA.

CEPLIS represents the liberal professions in Europe. In the context of the deregulated market within which these professions practice, Dr. Koutroubas discussed the development of the European Professional Card (EPC) which can be likened to a professional Passport. A prototype card 'ENGCARD' has just been issued for engineers and the final date for deliverance of the EPC for each profession is scheduled for 2009.

The EPC will be issued to all members of professional bodies.

CEPLIS has been working on a 'Code of Ethics' which is to be included in the Directory of Services in the Internal Market to be officially published on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007. This code reflects a set of 8 values which are seen as universal and common to all the intellectual professions. The Code of Ethics is described as 'Soft Law' but will be binding on all liberal professions leading to a form of official recognition by virtue of compliance. Dr. Koutroubas strongly recommended that E.C.C.O. redraft their code of conduct for the conservation-restoration profession so as to include the 8 values.

Dr. Koutroubas also informed E.C.C.O. of the existence of National Interprofessional Associations who represent the liberal professions in each member state and for whom CEPLIS is the umbrella body. E.C.C.O. would ask each member organisation to make contact with the Director of their respective Interprofessional Association. Contact names will be obtained from CEPLIS and distributed shortly along with a copy of the Code of Ethics.

### **Working Groups**

A series of working groups have been established to focus on different issues. Each group has been assigned a coordinator who is to determine initial strategies and parameters of work.

#### **Access and Exercise of the Profession**

Coordinator: Mr Chris Woods.

#### **CEN Project**

Coordinator: Susan Corr

#### **Insurance:**

Coordinator: Proposal to be confirmed. Contact point: Monica Martelli Castaldi.

#### **Intellectual Property:**

Coordinator: Proposal to be confirmed. Contact point: Monica Martelli Castaldi.

#### **Legislation:**

Coordinator: Monica Martelli Castaldi

### **Condolences**

The Committee of E.C.C.O. would like to extend their sympathy to the family and friends of Agnes Ballestrem. Her death is sad news to the conservation profession. E.C.C.O. would like to note that Agnes was involved as redactor to the historical document from ICOM that produced the first definition of the conservator-restorer in 'The Conservator Restorer, a definition of the Profession. 1984'. In this document lay the foundations of E.C.C.O and as such we are in her debt.