



SHORT NEWS

April 2011

Dear Members

A very successful Presidents' Meeting and GA were held in the beautiful Pati Manning building in Barcelona 4th -5th April to celebrate the 20th anniversary meeting of E.C.C.O. The meeting was kindly opened by Mr. Joan Pluma from the Catalan Ministry of Culture. Founding members and past Presidents were invited and nearly all were able to make it. Those members who are no longer with us were fondly recalled.

It was a happy reunion which gave context to current themes and issues. These would appear not to have changed much on being shown an agenda from early meetings. Despite the similarity, much commitment and work has born fruit over twenty years to create a strongly developed sense of professional identity which is linked to more structured and transparent educational opportunities. That differences and difficulties remain in a cultural heritage landscape that has seen so many other types and levels of professionals evolve was acknowledged, but the meeting provided an opportunity to reflect, discuss and liaise. These discussions were prompted in particular by speakers who delivered short and very thought-provoking presentations.

Our professional identity remains linked to cultural and social norms reflecting national differences and from the energy and goodwill of those who attended, it became clear that E.C.C.O. remains strong and cohesive in articulating common ground and unity of purpose.

Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to Agnès Gall Ortlik and her colleagues in Grup Tècnic for their hard work and attention to detail which made this meeting so successful. We wish our Spanish colleagues well in their future discussions towards merger.

New Members

E.C.C.O. are delighted to welcome *Društvo Restavradorjev Slovenije* - the Conservator-Restorers' Society of Slovenia as Full Member of E.C.C.O. following the successful ratification of their application by the GA and who were represented by their colleague Jana Šubic Prislán. *MAPCoRe* - the Maltese Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers represented by their President James Licari are warmly welcomed as Associate Member.

New Members Sub Committee: Stefan Belishki, Barbara Davidson.

ACRACV

It was with great regret that we heard from Delegate Christabel Blackman, President of ACRACV, at the GA about the situation in Valencia and the closure of ACRACV, one of two Spanish organisations and a member of E.C.C.O. since 1995. We can only wish our colleagues well and hope they find a voice in any future negotiations for a professional body for Spain and are aware of how difficult this is.

Office Administrator

Natalie Ellwanger, former Delegate of SKR-SCR and Vice President of E.C.C.O., retired as Office Administrator at the General Assembly. The committee thanked Natalie for her many years of work both in the committee and as Office Administrator. The new Office Administrator is Suvi Leukumaavaara, former NKF-FI Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Member.

E.C.C.O. Reports and Special Edition Report

A special printed edition of the E.C.C.O. 20th Anniversary will be published towards the end of the year. Papers and other material to be included must be submitted by the end of September 2011. The editorial board is especially looking for photographs from the 20 years of E.C.C.O. Advertisements are sought and if anyone has business contacts who might be interested in advertising in this edition please contact the new Office Administrator Suvi Leukumaavaara at <info at ecco-eu.org> or <leukumaavaara.suvi at gmail.com>. The deadline for the E.C.C.O. Reports for 2010 is 30th April and Delegates are urged to submit their national reports and other material as soon as possible to Suvi Leukumaavaara.

Recommendations to the Council of Europe

A small delegation from the E.C.C.O. Committee including the President Monica Martelli Castaldi, Michaël van Gompén, David Aguilera Cueco, Sebastian Dobrusskin, Stefan Belishki and E.C.C.O. consultant Vincent Negri, Senior Expert on international heritage legislation, met with Daniel Théron, Secretary of CDPATEP, Steering Committee for Cultural heritage and Landscapes in the Council of Europe; Ms Erminia Sciacchitano from the Italian Ministry of Culture, Italian Delegate and member of the Bureau of CDPATEP; Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, Director General of ICCROM and Catherine Antomarchi, Unit Director, Collections unit of ICCROM and Ms Rosalia Varoli Piazza, Special Adviser to ICCROM Director General in Rome 12th April 2011. The meeting was held to agree a possible strategy to bring the proposal of the Recommendation which was presented by E.C.C.O. in 2009 to its possible adoption by the Council of Europe.

CDPATEP now has to appropriate the prepared work and amend it accordingly in order to evolve a Recommendation from the Council of Europe. A common document was finalised at the meeting which is to be presented to the next meeting of CDPATEP in Strasbourg 5th -6th May 2011. Dr Mounir Bouchenaki, Director General of ICCROM, offered to attend this meeting to support the document and to inform the members and delegates of CDPATEP about the importance of the contents of the Recommendation for the preservation of Cultural Heritage at European and international level.

A document will be distributed to the members of the Steering group during the meeting in Strasbourg which will present the booklet on the competences and highlight the work done by E.C.C.O. with ICCROM since the APEL project in promoting standards for the practice and education of the professional and for the preservation and promotion of Cultural Heritage. The Professional Competences publication was much appreciated by the representatives of CDPATEP in helping to define the learning outcomes for education in Conservation-Restoration in the context of the Bologna process. Some copies will be made available to the interested CDPATEP members.

CEN

During the meeting in Barcelona a short summary of the procedures in which CEN documents are circulated, commented on and voted was given. A matrix showing a clear

overview of the several workgroups and taskforces that are at work, the documents arising and their status was presented. E.C.C.O. only has liaison status which permits our official representative to work on the documents but not vote. For this members need to participate on a national level. It is hoped to have a part of the E.C.C.O. website dedicated to the CEN work and its documents by the summer.

Following the meeting in Barcelona, Jaap van der Burg, E.C.C.O. representative, and David Aguilera Cueco, French representative through AFNOR, attended the annual meeting of the Technical Group Committee 346/Conservation of Cultural Property in Copenhagen 7th -8th April. The meeting intended to follow up, examine and decide on the orientations of the standards projects going on across the different working groups. Some major decisions were taken for the renovation of governance and decision processes in this TC. Noticeably, this will allow a re-assessment of work done, the collection of comments and the working proposals from all the national standardisation bodies in order to establish a new business plan for the next few years.

Factually, the name of TC will shift to Conservation of Cultural Heritage and the general terminology list of main terms is due to be formally voted on within the next three months and hopefully adopted. Please check for this vote in your own country and support it.

Professional Competences for Access to the Profession of Conservation-Restoration

This publication which is the result of E.C.C.O.'s involvement with the European Qualifications Framework was launched at the Presidents' Meeting. It is currently available in English and Slovakian and will shortly be available in German, French, Italian and Spanish. Each organisation is entitled to approximately 25 free copies in the language of their choice. VDR have kindly offered to pay for the cost of the German translation in return for an agreed number of copies.

Further copies are available at a cost of 5 euros each plus post and packaging. As a final gesture of goodwill prior to her retirement as Office Administrator, Natalie Ellwanger will distribute the free copies to those organisations requiring an English version before the end of April. Please ensure you supply her with a correct shipping address and not a P.O.Box number.

Those involved in the original EQF Working Group wished to continue working on developing the competences and their application.

The EQF Working Group remains: Susan Corr, Jeremy Hutchings, Mechthild Noll Minor, Sebastian Dobruskin, Jaap van der Burg, Agnès Gall Ortlik, David Aguilera Cueco.

E.C.C.O. Committee 2011-2012

Monica Martelli Castaldi (President), Mechthild Noll Minor (Vice President), Jaap van der Burg (Vice President), Susan Corr (General Secretary), Jeremy Hutchings (Deputy Secretary), Michaël van Gompén (Treasurer), Sebastian Dobruskin (Vice Treasurer) and Committee Members Barbara Davidson, David Aguilera Cueco, Rui Bordalo, Stefan Belishki and Agnès Gall Ortlik.

Finally, the Committee take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy Easter.

Susan Corr
General Secretary E.C.C.O.