

E.C.C.O. A.I.S.B.L.
EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF CONSERVATOR-RESTORERS' ORGANISATIONS

SHORT NEWS
December 2006

Report from the E.C.C.O. Bureau and Committee meeting in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 10-12 November 2006

Report by the President

Having analysed the results from the Brainstorm session in January and the questionnaire leading up to it, the President, Monica Martelli Castaldi felt that the single most important issue identified was one of E.C.C.O. visibility. As a result the President has actively pursued contacts with ICCROM and within the EU, proposing greater collaboration with EU projects. Where it may not be possible or prudent for E.C.C.O. to be involved, it was agreed that E.C.C.O. should at least be a point of contact for the dissemination of information about EU projects, without necessarily endorsing them. Decisions to participate remain the remit of national associations.

The President attended the ICOM meeting in Croatia where contact was made with the head of ICOMOS, Mr Tomas Fejerdy.

The President, together with Vice President, Silke Beiner Büth and Deputy Treasurer, Barbara Davidson met with the EU Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism, Mr Ján Figel. The E.C.C.O. representatives sought the Commissioner's support in pursuing an amendment to the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications in order that the profession of conservation-restoration might be included. Mr Figel is deeply involved in the development of the European Qualifications Framework and suggested that E.C.C.O., as the representative body for conservators-restorers in Europe, should write the descriptors for the Learning Outcomes of the profession on the EQF. This is particularly important in the light of the Professional Profile which requires that a conservator-restorer be educated to the level of MA.

The President, together with Deputy Secretary, Susan Corr and committee member Michael Van Gompem attended the ENCoRE General Assembly in Maastricht 23rd-24th November. Monica Martelli Castaldi delivered the E.C.C.O. Statement on Education that issued from the committee meeting in Bratislava. This was welcomed by the chairman of ENCoRE, Mr René Larsen.

An initial exploratory meeting with committee members of the 'European Conservation Practitioners Licence' (ECPL) project was attended by the President in Copenhagen in September. René Larsen, ENCoRE, also attended. A further meeting took place in Athens in December.

Professional Profile

Work continues on the Professional Profile although reservations remain on the part of Verband der Restauratoren who strongly urge representation for the Bachelors within the context of the Masters profile. VDR propose that those people working in conservation-restoration with a BA may achieve full professional status on presentation of appropriate documentary evidence of relevant professional experience.

While it is agreed unanimously that the professional status of the conservator-restorer may only be acquired on obtaining a qualification to MA level or its recognised equivalent, a

statement was issued following the committee meeting in Bratislava reiterating this position but that the issue of the Masters qualification and the Bachelors qualification would be dealt with in two separate documents, a third document would deal with Accreditation systems. All three documents will deal with the issue of Acquired Rights.

A 'Professional Profile' document will be prepared for presentation at the GA.

European Conservation Practitioners Licence. ECPL

Funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme the ECPL project was set up and coordinated by five institutions in Europe in order to create a benchmark in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, so as to define minimum Common Standards of Competence within the area of conservation. The aim of the ECPL is to regulate levels of competence according to descriptors for Learning Outcomes on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) between levels 1-4. E.C.C.O. attended an exploratory meeting in Copenhagen in September which was also attended by René Larsen of ENCoRE. The Joint Statement on the Education of Conservators-Restorers was brought to the attention of the ECPL committee preparatory to any further involvement. The meeting was positive and it was agreed at the committee meeting in Bratislava that the President would attend a further meeting in Athens, to discuss the further direction of the project and levels of involvement.

From the meeting in Athens it was agreed that the title ECPL would change to ECRL:

European Conservator-Restorer's Licence and that the project would divide into 2 phases.

Phase 1 will concentrate on the Professional Profile as defined by level 7 and 8 on the EQF, and on Related Professions and Related Occupations relating to EQF levels other than those of the conservator-restorer.

In Phase 2 the project will look at those professionals who have been active in the profession for many years under the supervision of appointed governmental bodies without a formal qualification and how this qualification can be reached.

Both E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE are to be formally approached inviting their participation in the ECRL project.

Office Administrator

In November, Stevin Davidson, a professional translator in Bratislava, was appointed Office Administrator in a temporary capacity until such time as his position may be ratified by the General Assembly. A list of duties was drawn up and his appointment coincides with the provision of a room for archival storage in Bratislava. The committee is delighted to welcome Stevin and hopes that it will be a successful collaboration.

E.C.C.O. Reports.

It was formally agreed that the reports would be issued electronically and that a letter of thanks would be sent out to all our advertisers who helped support the publication of the report over the last number of years.

Web Site/Information Package

There has been much discontent expressed over the rigid format of the E.C.C.O. webpage. A new company has been approached to design a new domain which will become interactive and user friendly. It is hoped to have the new web site up and running by the General Assembly. In tandem with this development E.C.C.O. is working on an Information Pack which will contain promotional material on E.C.C.O. alongside the Statutes and Guidelines and all relevant or associated documentation. Material is interchangeable depending on the target recipient.

Presidents' Meeting

E.C.C.O. is reaching a crucial stage in the development of the Professional Profile, this combined with the real need to ensure that the work of E.C.C.O. remains relevant to its membership and to help articulate clearly where our efforts should be concentrated for the future, it was proposed that a Presidents' Meeting should take place prior to the GA. While an Agenda will be circulated it is hoped that the day will provide an open forum for discussion and debate.

Working Groups

The Legislation Working Group reported that a draft document on the Memorandum on Legislation will be circulated in December and that the final text should be ready in early January for official translation.

The working group on Education, Qualification and Practice/Professional Profile will finalise a draft version of the Profile to be circulated amongst committee members prior to presentation at the GA.

The next Committee meeting will take place in combination with the GA 2007 in Brussels.

21 December 2006

Susan Corr

Deputy General Secretary