

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

Short News
July 2008

Report from the Committee Meeting

The last committee meeting took place on Sunday evening, 6th July and Monday 7th July, in the offices of FFCR in Paris to coincide with a meeting of the Working Group on the EQF. Given the extended duration of these two meetings running sequentially, the Bureau meeting was cancelled on this occasion.

Breaking News

Proposed 'Recommendations on Conservation-Restoration'

Following changes to the proposed document as agreed and voted on at the GA, Monica Martelli-Castaldi and Mr Vincent Negri met with Mr Therond, President of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on the 15th May to present copies of the document in French and English. The outcome of the meeting was very satisfactory as Mr Therond expressed great interest in the level of work achieved in the document and accepted the document in its proposed format to present to the Council of Europe for consideration. At a certain point in the future it will be important for each organisation to lobby their relevant Members of the European Parliament to press for its ratification at Council level and delegates will be informed of this.

Proposed changes to Title in ICOMM-CC Terminology Document.

A working group on Terminology headed up by Gaël de Guichen in ICOM-CC have been exploring the terminology used in the conservation-restoration profession to initiate concordance and arrive at a standard for common usage. It is proposed that conservation-restoration is expressed simply as conservation.

This was reported to the delegates at the GA when working on the Recommendations. Such a proposed change was not supported and as a result was not reflected in the Recommendations document.

The proposed ICOM-CC document itself has come to the attention of the committee and was discussed extensively at the recent committee meeting. The committee are unanimous in their rejection of this change.

The term conservation-restoration is in common currency across Europe and is the language of the profession's founding texts and documents. Its use correctly encompasses an historical continuum between two paradigms which is reflected and informs the working practices of the conservator-restorer working in Europe today. Inclusive as the term is, it does not split conservation-restoration into separate disciplines with the distinct possibility of making one subordinate to the other.

It must also be pointed out that use of the term 'conservation-restoration' is not a political anachronism peculiar to France which reserves for France its continued currency, as is argued in the document, but that the term is politically sensitive and loaded for Germany and several other countries as well.

This only serves to reinforce the argument that the term should not and cannot be changed.

A letter has been sent to ICOM-CC expressing our position.

EQF Working Group

The Working Group is composed of the coordinator Susan Corr, Ireland, Jaap van der Burg, Netherlands, David Cueco-Aguilella, France, Jeremy Hutchings, Norway, Agnes Gall Ortlik, Spain and Mechthild Noll-Minor, Germany.

The Working Group for writing the Descriptors for the EQF has met twice to date. Both meetings were held kindly hosted by FFCR in Paris and collectively we feel that much progress has been made.

The results from these two meetings describing proposed levels of Knowledge, Skills and Competences to address levels 6, 7 and 8 of the EQF are currently been written up and will be circulated to Member Organisations via their E.C.C.O. delegates sometime around the beginning of September. Feed back will be sought over the coming months. In the meantime it is hoped to present a report of our work to the ENCoRE GA in Paris in October. A final document is to be prepared for circulation by January and it is hoped that the Descriptors for the profession will be ratified at the GA next March.

Proposed study on the economic impact of conservation-restoration activities.

A proposal to commission a study on the economic impact of conservation-restoration activities from a Heritage economist Mr Xavier Greffe has been followed up. Mr Greffe has submitted a draft outline of his work entitled 'Projet d'étude sur les métiers de la restauration, leur impact et leur devenir' and is currently under consideration.

Visibility

ICOM-CC Meeting, New Delhi

The President will travel to the ICOM-CC meeting in New Delhi where she will deliver a paper on Legislation as it affects the practice of conservation-restoration in Europe.

IIC Conference, London 15th-19th September.

Jeremy Hutchings will attend the IIC conference in London on the grounds that it is important to have a presence at such a meeting although there is little on the agenda of a political nature. The possibility of having a poster or banner at the conference is being explored.

Meeting in Bulgaria

To increase the profile of E.C.C.O. in eastern European countries and to promote the Recommendations it was suggested that an E.C.C.O. meeting should be held in Bulgaria particularly as they have recently joined E.C.C.O. A date in January has been proposed. Proposals for such a meeting will initially be handled by Monica Martelli Castaldi and Mechthild Noll-Minor.

With regard to new applicants from eastern Europe, the E.C.C.O. committee feel it would be very useful should any of our members have contacts with fellow conservator-

restorers in these countries, to make their contacts known to E.C.C.O. or to use these contacts in developing and encouraging interest in E.C.C.O.

CEN TC 346

E.C.C.O. is now in the process of establishing Liaison Status with CEN 346. David Cueco-Aguilella (DCA) has reported that there has been much change over the last month or two. In the beginning a condition of participation in CEN was the involvement of national agencies for standardisation or 'normalisation'. E.C.C.O. had previously sought participation but was granted no voting rights or power of veto and declined further involvement. DCA pointed out that ICOM-CC and IIC are now both involved.

EU Projects.

There is no further news to date on the proposed TREN and CHARISMA projects as reported in the previous Short News.

Presidents Meeting.

An outcome of the previous Presidents' Meeting was that similar meetings should be held every two years. As a result a proposed date for the next Presidents' meeting is Monday 30th March followed by the GA on Tuesday 31st March 2009. The focus of the meeting is to be the use of E.C.C.O. within Europe and any proposals or suggestions are warmly welcomed from respective members.

The Working Group for the meeting will comprise of Monica Martelli Castaldi, Michael Van Gompén and Office Administrator, Natalie Ellwanger.

Susan Corr

General Secretary.

Galway July 2008.

BREAKING NEWS – E.C.C.O. GUIDELINES TRANSLATED TO CHINESE

Mid July E.C.C.O. was contacted by Xian Hui of the China National Centre for Conservation of Ancient Books, with the request to permit translation of our Guidelines to Chinese.

Another sign that the fruits of E.C.C.O.'s work are growing and we are recognised world wide.

Best wishes Natalie Ellwanger, Office Administrator