

Short News – May 2013

Lisbon Meetings in April

From April 20th to April 23rd several E.C.C.O. meetings were hosted in Lisbon.

First and foremost E.C.C.O. wishes to thank the organizer of the meeting, our Portuguese member organisation ARP hospitality shown, and especially its representative Elis Marçal who's work was phenomenal.

Committee meeting

The Committee meeting on the Saturday dealt with the ongoing concerns of E.C.C.O. and focused on the preparation of the Presidents meeting and the General Assembly. The last of this session of meetings was the new Committee on the Tuesday.

Presidents meeting



Picture by D. Aguilera Cueco

The presidents meeting on the Sunday, chaired by Mechtild Noll-Minor and Sebastian Dobrusskin, began with a warm welcome voiced by Rui Borges, president of ARP, followed by a presentation by Gabriela Carvalho, Direcção Geral de Património Cultural.

The main topic of the meeting, E.C.C.O.'s strategy, began with a series of presentations by Verona Mumelter (VRKS-ARCA.– Italy), Grellan Rourke (ICHAWI – Ireland), Karin von Lerber (SKR-SCR – Switzerland), Amélie Méthivier (FFCR – France), Wolfgang Baatz (ENCoRE – Europe) and Jeremy Hutchings (NKF-N – Norway). Each tackled a topic sketching the periphery in which the Conservator-Restorer operates.

After an introduction by Mechtild Noll-Minor of the Strategic Plan draft as drawn up by the committee the floor was open for discussions.

Guided by the professional hand of Grellan Rourke, who moderated this session, the vision, mission, goals and actions were discussed, agreed on and prioritised. Everyone present contributed to these extensive, open and interesting discussions, culminating in a document that could be voted on at the GA the following day.

Saturday evening participants and partners were given a special guided tour through the Fado Museum, which was followed by a dinner.

General Assembly

The Monday General Assembly started with the official part in which tellers were elected, quorums were decided and the ongoing business of E.C.C.O. was discussed. The major aspects in these were:

- Our office administrator Suvi Leukumaavaara had stopped her work for E.C.C.O., which had left an organisational challenge that was only partly covered by the committee members.
- The expected loss of € 11.000 had not materialized. Instead a profit of € 600 was made in the year 2012. This was mainly due to the fact that some of the bigger expenses were postponed to 2013.

After the assembly accepted the results of 2012 the planning for 2013 and the future on a longer term were voted on. The GA agreed on the budget for 2013 that included the hiring of a new Office Administrator and expenses that were postponed from 2013. The total budgeted loss of € 18.000 can be covered out of the savings from earlier years, and was agreed on.

Also officially agreed was the E.C.C.O. strategy for the near and further future.

Our Vision is:

Cultural heritage safeguarded for society through high standards of professional conservation-restoration practice.

Our Mission will be:

To organize, develop and promote, on a practical, scientific and cultural level, the profession of Conservator-Restorer.

To set standards and regulate practice at European level and enhance communication between and mobility of professionals.

To strengthen the role and responsibilities of the Conservator-Restorers in relationship to others in safeguarding cultural heritage.

And prioritisation of our aims led to the following results:

1. Legislation
2. Mutual recognition
3. Visibility – website
4. Develop Competences – politically
5. European Recommendations
6. Relation to other actors
7. Explore Competences – equivalence
8. Professional Guidelines
9. Competences – internal
10. Mobility
11. Quality – common principles
12. Visual material

A more extensive version of the work on our strategy will be issued and circulated after the next committee meeting in Brussels.

After this official ending of 2012 it was time for a warm, and deserved THANK YOU to Monica Martelli Castaldi and Michael van Gompen who have contributed to E.C.C.O. for many, many years in a wide variety of functions. Both Monica and Michael had announced that they would not be part of the committee after the GA.

At the end of the day the new committee was established. Jaap van der Burg (RN – Netherlands) had finished his term but had indicated that he would stand for re-election.

Silvia Borghini (ARI – Italy), Peter de Groof (APROA-BRK – Belgium) and Martin Pittertschatscher (VRKS-ARCA – Italy) were candidating for a position in the committee. All four were elected which resulted in a new committee for 2013 of 12 representatives.

Committee Meeting

Tuesday 23rd started for the committee members with a meeting in the Hotel where the positions were decided. A very unanimous series of votes resulted in the following committee:

Susan Corr, President
Sebastian Dobrusskin, Vice President
Stefan Belishki, Vice President
Jaap van der Burg, General Secretary
Jeremy Hutchings, Deputy Secretary
Elis Marçal, Treasurer
Peter de Groof, Vice Treasurer
David Aguilera Cueco, official delegate for European and Legal affairs
Barbara Davidson, committee member
Jana Šubic, committee member
Mechthild Noll-Minor, committee member
Silvia Borghini, committee member
Martin Pittertschatscher, committee member

Though no longer a member of the committee, Michael van Gompen will remain our E.C.C.O. delegate within CEPLIS.

Starting from May 1st Tânia Teixeira will be our Office Administrator. She will be in touch with you very soon as one of her first activities will be the checking of all administrative data concerning address, contacts etc.

Jaap van der Burg
E.C.C.O. General Secretary