E.C.C.O. seeks to develop and promote, on a practical, scientific and cultural level, the profession of Conservator-Restorer of Cultural Heritage.

E.C.C.O. is a member of CEPLIS (Conseil Européen des Professions Libérales) and an associated member of ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property).

Contributions

E.C.C.O. welcomes all contributions of general interest for the profession of Conservator-Restorer to the Reports.

Editor

E.C.C.O. Reports Editor
Suvi Leukumaavaara
leukumaavaara.suvi@gmail.com

Disclaimer

E.C.C.O. has no responsibility for the content or opinions expressed in the E.C.C.O. Reports. Responsibility lies solely with the individual contributors.
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Dear Members,

Welcome to the 7th issue of E.C.C.O. Reports!

E.C.C.O. Committee apologises for the delay in issuing the Reports due to the late arrival of the material, but hopes you will enjoy this edition.

In 2009 E.C.C.O. organised the second Presidents’ Meeting, this time in Bulgaria with the goal of networking with Eastern European Conservator-Restorer organisations. The meeting was a success and will be followed by the third Presidents’ Meeting, organised in 2011.

In the 2009 General Assembly, two new member organisations joined E.C.C.O. when MRE, the Association of the Hungarian Restorers, was accepted as a Full Member, and AMG-KKR, the Czech Association of Museum and Galleries - Commission of Conservator-Restorers, was accepted as an Associated Member. Welcome MRE and AMG–KKR!

E.C.C.O. Committee and the Working Groups continued working for the profession and especially for increasing the visibility of E.C.C.O.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in this issue as well as in all the activities of E.C.C.O.

Suvi Leukumaavaara

Editor
E.C.C.O. Bureau and Committee 2009

Bureau

President  Monica Martelli Castaldi (ARI, Italy)
Vice President  Jaap van der Burg (RN, The Netherlands)
Vice President  Mechthild Noll-Minor (VDR, Germany)
General Secretary  Susan Corr (ICHAWI, Ireland)
Deputy Secretary  Jeremy Hutchings (NKF-N, Norway)
Treasurer  Michael van Gompen (APROA–BRK, Belgium)
Vice Treasurer  Sebastian Dobruskin (SKR/SCR, Switzerland)

Committee

E.C.C.O. Committee consists of E.C.C.O. Bureau and the following Committee Members:

Barbara Davidson  (KR, Slovak Republic)
Suvi Leukumaavaara  (NKF-FI, Finland)
Rui Bordalo  (ARP, Portugal)
David Aguilella Cueco  (FFCR, France)
Stefan Belishki  (ACB, Bulgaria)
The 2nd E.C.C.O. Presidents’ Meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, kindly hosted by the new E.C.C.O. member organisation ACB, Association of Conservator-Restorers in Bulgaria.

The theme of the second Presidents’ Meeting was *E.C.C.O. Meets Conservation-Restoration Professional Bodies of Eastern Europe*, with a goal of creating a stronger network amongst conservation-restoration professionals and their organisations.

Impressive presentations from eight representatives from Eastern Europe gave an overview of the state of conservation–restoration in their respective countries. The level of professional awareness combined with the need to engage with each other was palpable over the course of the day.

List of Participants:

**AUSTRIA:** Sigrid Eyb-Green, ÖRV Delegate  
**BELGIUM:** Michael Van Gompen, APROA–BRK Delegate and E.C.C.O. Treasurer  
**BULGARIA:** Grigori Grigorov, ACB President; Stefan Belishki, ACB Delegate  
**DENMARK:** Helle Strehle, NKF-dk Delegate  
**FINLAND:** Riitta Koskivirta, NKF-FI Chair  
**FRANCE:** David Aguilella Cueco, FFCR Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Member  
**GERMANY:** Volker Schaible, VDR President; Mechthild Noll-Minor, VDR Delegate and E.C.C.O. Vice President  
**IRELAND:** Grellan Rourke, ICHAWI President; Susan Corr, ICHAWI Delegate and E.C.C.O. General Secretary  
**ITALY:** Monica Martelli Castaldi, ARI Delegate and E.C.C.O. President; Brigitte Esser, VRS Delegate  
**THE NETHERLANDS:** Jaap van der Burg, RN Delegate and E.C.C.O. Vice President  
**NORWAY:** Inger Marie Egenberg, NKF-N Vice President; Jeremy Hutchings, NKF-N Delegate and E.C.C.O. Deputy Secretary  
**PORTUGAL:** Rui Bordalo, ARP Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Member  
**SLOVAK REPUBLIC:** Tomas Luptak, KR President; Barbara Davidson, KR Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Member  
**SPAIN:** Christabel Blackman, ACRACV Delegate; Pau Maynès Tolosa, GT Vice President; Agnès Gall-Ortlík, GT Delegate  
**SWEDEN:** Anna Fornäs, NKF-S Vice President; Carin Pettersson, NKF-S Delegate  
**SWITZERLAND:** Aurélie Rogalla v.Bieberstein, SKR/SCR Board Member; Sebastian Dobruskin, SKR/SCR Delegate and E.C.C.O. Vice Treasurer  

Vincent Negri, E.C.C.O. Legal Adviser  
Wolfgang Baatz, Secretary ENCoRE  

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN:** Dr. Rizvan Bayramov, Head of Cultural Heritage Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:** Emir Softic, Asso-
The President Monica Martelli Castaldi reported that her work has been informed by the Strategic Plan which falls into Long Term and Short Term targets of between 12-15 months and that she has worked to ensure that E.C.C.O. has a high level of visibility.

To this end the President briefly reported on the activities and the meetings and conferences she attended over the last 12 months:

- Chair of the Round Table discussion at the Grup Tècnic Conference in Barcelona
- Meetings at ICCROM with Mr Vincent Negri working on Legislation; submitting in Strasbourg the Recommendation and Charter on Conservation-Restoration to Mr Thérond, Head of the Cultural Heritage Division Council of Europe
- The first EQF Working Group meeting in Paris
- CHRESP – 8th EC Conference on Sustaining Europe’s Cultural Heritage, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- IIC Conference in London
- IIC Triennial Meeting in New Delhi, delivering a talk on E.C.C.O./ Legislation
- ENCoRE General Assembly in Paris
- Part of a delegation to ENCoRE in Copenhagen to finalise the Descriptors for Level 7 EQF

The President summed up the main issues over the last year as having been the delivery of the Recommendations, the work of the EQF and the professional competences, the pursuit of new members and the organisation of the Presidents’ Meeting.

**ECROP**

The website offers the most viable option for such contact and a platform specifically des-
ignated to allow this as part of the overall E.C.C.O. website was proposed.

Entitled *European Conservator-Restorers’ Open Platform ECROP*, this platform will be visible to the public on the website. The initial page of the platform will explain its purpose providing an explanatory page itemising objectives, contacts, invitation to discuss topics such as Health and Safety; will include a common calendar of activities and conferences and will link to E.C.C.O. publications.

Access to a discussion forum will be provided by a password which can be distributed to individual members of association on application by the conservation-restoration association. This password can be distributed to all members of these associations. Notification of this Platform will be sent out to all associations who attended the Sofia meeting.

**Recommendations**

Monica Martelli Castaldi together with Mr Vincent Negri attended the *CDPATEP (Comité Directeur du Patrimoine Culturel et du Paysage – Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape)* meeting in Strasbourg on the 12th May where E.C.C.O. got to make a very short presentation. A subsequent communication from Mr Théron, Head of the Cultural Heritage Division, Council of Europe, suggested that the presentation had been very successful.

Surprise was expressed at the direct lobbying of CDPATEP by members of the 'civil society' but that feedback was very positive and a Working Group was in the process of being set up in September 2009.

Mr Vincent Negri is to be consulted to see how national delegates can continue to be lobbied and that a standard letter might be drawn up in consultation with Mr Negri and which can then be disseminated to all our delegates.

**IIC Conference, Istanbul**

The next IIC conference is to take place in Istanbul in 2010. There is no plan to send a Committee Member but a request will be put out on the forum in spring 2010 seeking a member who may be attending and would be willing to bring the E.C.C.O. poster. A small version of this poster will be placed on the Open Platform and an enlarged version on the E.C.C.O. members’ discussion forum.

**Questionnaire**

Results and analysis of the Questionnaire on Conservation-Restoration prompted a review of the E.C.C.O. Membership that demonstrated the composition of member organisations. The results of this review are available to all members. It was agreed that the information gathered from the questionnaire was very useful and should be updated every three years.

**EQF / Professional Competences**

Following the presentation of the proposed *Professional Competences* and their subsequent adoption at the GA, the committee returned to the finer detail on the concept map at the meeting in Leuven. A small change was made was in relation to conservation–restoration treatment choices.
It was agreed to express such choices in terms of indirect and direct action expressed as preventive conservation, remedial conservation and restoration. This was prompted by the discussion during the presentation of the competences during the Presidents’ Meeting.

**CEPLIS**

Michael Van Gompen attended the CEPLIS General Assembly in Malta at the end of May. Much of the meeting dealt with the Health Directive. Of more specific interest to E.C.C.O. is the development of the *Small Business Act*, SBA. This Act does not reflect the specificity of the liberal professions which are bound by strong professional codes of conduct.

As a result, CEPLIS is trying to get the Commission to establish an SBA for liberal professions and will try to build a platform for the liberal professions. This is difficult to do but CEPLIS believes the SBA for liberal professions is very important.

The DG for the Internal Market headed by Ms Pamela Brumter have reversed their decision on the professional card again and it is now to be included in the new version of the *Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications*. To push this along, the DG are looking for representative bodies to come forward for accreditation in order to distribute such a card. However it is not possible for E.C.C.O. to put themselves forward for such accreditation.

**CEN**

The work of the *CEN TC/346* project was discussed in great detail at the GA and it was reported that E.C.C.O. now has Liaison Status. There are five Working Groups with representation from participating countries’ National Institutes for Standardisation. Voting is influenced by lobbying national members. E.C.C.O. is currently opposing the abbreviation of the professional title to Conservator as opposed to the European norm of Conservator-Restorer.

Jaap van der Burg who is the referent for the CEN Working Group reported positively on our participation in CEN and that the recent Working Group meeting on Terminology in Milan 28-29 May was interesting. The meeting focused on List of Damage / categories with reports from the two technical committees.

By 15th July 2009 all results from the General Terms Public Enquiry will have been collected, compiled and returned to Mirror Groups by August. A meeting will follow in Greece in October. The final vote on ratification will be delayed by nine months to take place in August 2010.

**EU Directives**

A discussion on the implications to the Conservation-Restoration profession of two recent EU Directives; the first dated to 2005 on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and the subsequent 2006 Directive on Services was led by Mr Negri at the GA.

The ratification of these Directives means that States are obliged to transpose these Directives into national legislation and that there is some urgency on this as already infringement procedures are taking place. The transcript of Mr Negri’s statement is available. Permission is to
be sought from Mr Negri and Agnès Gall Ortlik to allow the transcript of Mr Negri’s statement at the GA to be published on the website and in the National Reports.

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

Treasurer’s Report
General Assembly 2009

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

General Assembly
Tuesday 31 March 2009
Hotel «Crystal Palace»
14 Shipka Street, BG -1504 in Sofia, Bulgaria
9.00 am.

A RESULTS 2008
I Expenses
II Incomes

B BUDGET 2009
I Expenses
II Incomes

A RESULTS 2008

I Expenses

Office & Administration

Administration expenses have been less than expected mainly due to the very low charge of our new Office Administrator (and former Vice President) Ms Natalie Ellwanger.

During 2008, E.C.C.O. managed again to keep all office expenses extremely low, thanks to all Committee Members that do not ask for full refunding of their Telephone, Office Supplies and Postage expenses.
E.C.C.O. Reports

Costs are postponed to next year (2009) since no Reports were published in 2008.

Bureau & Committee meetings

Costs well under control and therefore less than expected but some Committee Members were not able to attend all meetings so the Budget was in fact realistic.

Membership fees

E.C.C.O. is a full member of CEPLIS (European Council for Liberal Professions). The 2008 Membership Fee has been paid in due course.

Other expenses

The travel costs of E.C.C.O. Delegates is lower than expected, still E.C.C.O. was present at many important events during last year (i.e. ICOM-CC Triennial Meeting, IIC Conference, ICCROM GA, etc.).

No Lobbying Action costs in 2008 (documents still in progress).

Working Groups costs are actually higher than reflected due to delay in reimbursement requests.

E.C.C.O.’s Solicitor / Legal Adviser Vincent Négri was invited to attend our 2008 GA.

The E.C.C.O. website had been changed in 2007, both the server and the whole website, but the related invoices had not been received in 2007 and are therefore in the 2008 Results.

E.C.C.O. Projects

Some administrative costs related to ECPL had still to be covered in 2008.


So far, the costs for the Recommendation to the Council of Europe are only related to meetings, the writing of the official document by Vincent Négri will be charged in 2009.

II Incomes

The 2008 E.C.C.O. Members Fees have decreased because of the resignation of ICON.

No other income except for the bank interest on our ING Business account.

The total result for the year 2008 is a gain of € 1,883,09.

B BUDGET 2009

I Expenses

Office & Administration

The administration expenses are supposed to cover the external professional accountant as well as the costs for the E.C.C.O. Office Administrator that may increase this year.
Translation costs budget has been reduced in accordance with results, the translations of documents related to specific projects are included in the Projects budget.

Office supplies, Telephone and Postage expenses budget are maintained as all the expenses were not covered in 2008.

**E.C.C.O. Reports**

Editing costs only for the Reports, but there will be two issues in 2009 as both the 2007 and 2008 Reports were much delayed and have to come out this year. The saving in printing costs and postage is now vital for E.C.C.O.

**Committee Meeting Expenses**

Budget is slightly increased mainly due to higher costs related to the 2009 GA.

**Membership Fees**

The CEPLIS Membership Fee for 2009 has been slightly raised according to inflation rate.

**Other expenses**

The budget for lobbying costs is maintained at last year’s level.

The budget for the Working Groups is maintained.

The costs for legal advices are not likely to be very high this year but we keep the provision.

The presentation of the official Recommendations to the Council of Europe (special event) will generate unusual high costs as shown in Budget.

The E.C.C.O. webhotel and website should not generate much costs this year.

**E.C.C.O. Projects**

Some expenses for the EQF finalisation are still expected for 2009.

The Consultant fees for the Recommendation to the Council of Europe document as well as some related expenses will have to be covered.

The participation to CEN Project TC346 meetings and activities will generate some costs.

**II Incomes**

The Membership Fees should remain stable for 2009.

The exceptional foreseen loss of €18,239.51 is covered by our previous year’s savings.

Michael van Gompen
Treasurer of E.C.C.O.
### Budget 2009

#### Office administration:
- **Expenses**
  - Administration exp.: 8,000.00
  - Translations: 2,500.00
  - Telephone expenses: 300.00
  - Postage expenses: 200.00
  - Swiss Credit Bank costs: 0.00
  - Deutsche Bank costs: 0.00
- **2008 Costs**
  - Administration exp.: 8,000.00
  - Translations: 276.95
  - Telephone expenses: 47.52
  - Postage expenses: 20.41
  - Deutsche Bank costs: 0.00
- **2009 Budget**
  - Administration exp.: 4,000.00
  - Translations: 0.00
  - Telephone expenses: 0.00
  - Postage expenses: 200.00
  - Deutsche Bank costs: 0.00

Total: 11,900.00

#### ECCO Reports:
- **Expenses**
  - Printing costs: 0.00
  - Editing costs: 1,500.00
  - Postage expenses: 0.00
- **2008 Costs**
  - Printing: 0.00
  - Editing: 0.00
- **2009 Budget**
  - Printing: 0.00
  - Editing: 4,000.00

Total: 1,500.00

#### Bureau/committee meeting expenses:
- **Expenses**
  - Travel costs: 7,000.00
  - Hotels: 8,000.00
  - Meeting room costs: 500.00
- **2008 Costs**
  - Travel: 5,253.10
  - Hotels: 5,249.50
- **2009 Budget**
  - Travel: 7,000.00
  - Hotels: 8,000.00

Total: 15,500.00

#### Membership fees:
- **Expenses**
  - CEPLIS: 3,110.09
  - Other Organizations: 0.00
- **2008 Costs**
  - CEPLIS: 3,110.09
- **2009 Budget**
  - CEPLIS: 3,239.51
  - Other Organizations: 0.00

Total: 3,110.09

#### Other expenses:
- **ECCO Delegates travel costs**
  - APEL- advertising: 100.00
  - APEL- Booklet reprint: 1,000.00
  - ECPL- Expenses: 1,702.01
  - EQF- Expenses: 1,500.00
  - Recommendation CoE: 1,713.30
  - CEN: 1,500.00
  - New Projects: 6,000.00
- **2008 Costs**
  - APEL- advertising: 0.00
  - APEL- Booklet reprint: 0.00
  - ECPL- Expenses: 1,546.44
- **2009 Budget**
  - APEL- advertising: 0.00
  - APEL- Booklet reprint: 0.00
  - ECPL- Expenses: 2,000.00

Total: 7,000.00

#### Others:
- **Expenses**
  - ICON: 2,925.21
  - Loss IPC & SSRC: 1,280.00
- **2008 Costs**
  - ICON: 0.00
- **2009 Budget**
  - ICON: 0.00

Total: 0.00

Total expenses: 53,510.09

#### Account Incomes:
- **Expenses**
  - Full members fees year: 33,500.00
  - Full members fees last year: 33,048.00
  - Advertising: 8,000.00
  - ECCO Reports: 8,000.00
  - Copies ECCO Reports: 1,000.00
  - Sale ECCO publications: 0.00
  - Sale APEL publications: 0.00
  - New Projects Incomes: 10,000.00
  - Bank interest: 428.07
- **2008 Costs**
  - Full members fees year: 33,048.00
  - Advertising: 8,000.00
  - Copies ECCO Reports: 0.00
  - Sale ECCO publications: 0.00
  - Sale APEL publications: 0.00
  - New Projects Incomes: 0.00
  - Bank interest: 0.00

Total income: 43,600.00

Result: -9,910.09

0.10 Transfer from last year: 78,047.42

Saldo: 68,137.33

#### BALANCE SHEET

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**Result:** -18,239.51

**Saldo:** 61,691.00
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<td>34,476.00</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5,431</td>
<td>35,584.00</td>
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### Associate Members

| IPC | | | | | | |
| SSCR | | | | | | |
| ICAH | | | | | | |

| **Total** | 5,296 | 34,476.00 | 46 | 5,431 | 35,584.00 | 46 | 5,565 | 35,487.00 | 46 | 5,533 | 36,058.00 | 47 | 6,943 | 43,748.00 | 49 |
BULGARIA

ACB –
Association of Conservator-Restorers in Bulgaria

In 2009, ACB activities were focused in two main directions: conservation projects and exhibitions, and legal regulation of the profession of conservator-restorer.

Conservation projects

The only major conservation project was the Conservation of medieval icons from the town of Nessebar. It started in 2008 and continued through 2009, to finish in 2010. In this project ACB was partner of the National Gallery in Sofia, the Byzantine Museum in Thessaloniki and A.G. Leventis Foundation. All the planned activities were fulfilled.

Exhibitions

The annual poster exhibition, accomplished with session of presentations and discussions, took place in the end of April in the Academia Gallery of the National Academy of Art in Sofia. Along with traditional partner, the Conservation Section of the Union of Bulgarian Artists, this time we extended our partnership to the Conservation Department of the Academy.

The exhibition was with international participation with colleagues from Slovenia, Greece and Romania who together with the posters made also PPT presentations.

Legal Issues

ACB continued with its policy for active contacts with official institutions such as the Ministry of Culture and the Parliament for the improvement of the status of conservator-restores in Bulgaria.

Experts of the Association took part in the Working Group for the draft of the new law on the Cultural Heritage in Bulgaria. Unfortunately, in spite of the well written draft, the final document was changed because of the interest of other parties (professionals) – chemists, architects etc. – and there is no proper regulation of professional practice in terms of ACB and E.C.C.O. principle. ACB has made two proposals for changes of the law, but without success so far.
Along with the text of the law experts, the Association took part in commissions for some further regulations in the Law on the Cultural Heritage. They also took part in commissions, organised by the Ministry, on the evaluation of conservation projects.

Standardisation

ACB experts started cooperation with the National standardisation committee on the CEN standards related with cultural heritage.

Our experts started active work on the standard on Main General Terms in Conservation. This is due to the collaboration of ACB and ICOMOS/Bulgaria.

International relations

ACB hosted E.C.C.O. Presidents' meeting in March 2009, held in Sofia. This was the most important international event for the Association, where of ACB was approved as member of E.C.C.O. The Bulgarian delegate was also elected member of the Committee.

Stefan Belishki
E.C.C.O. Delegate

CZECH REPUBLIC

AMG-KKR —
Czech Association of Museums and Galleries — Commission of Conservators-Restorers

One of the most important evenings in 2009 was the entry of KKR into the E.C.C.O. at the General Assembly of E.C.C.O. in Sofia on 31st March.

The Plenary session of KKR was joined with the Conference of Conservators-Restorers that was organised in cooperation with the Technical Museum in Brno and the Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové (8th – 10th September).

This Plenary session accepted associative membership of AMG-KKR in E.C.C.O. and also the final text of Czech Association of Museums and Galleries Document of Conservator-Restorer Profession Requirements for General Assembly of Czech Association of Museums and Galleries (AMG) that was placed at the beginning of October in Písek.

General Assembly of AMG did not adopt the Document and it was returned back to KKR for revision. Some directors and museologists added comments and specification. (This revision was finished during the first half of 2010 and the reviewed Document is now prepared for adoption by the Senate of AMG).

Another crucial event was also the international conference Museums, Monuments and Conservation 2009, organised in cooperation with
the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague and others at the National Archives in Prague in mid-May (AMG-KKR had financial patronage). From both conferences, proceedings with a selection of reviewed papers were published by Technical Museum in Brno.

Twelve regional sections prepare at least one meeting of members for discussion of current ethical and legislative questions.

AMG-KKR had three active Working Groups in 2009:

- **Metal** – The main topic for the last 5 years has been the preparation of a book called *Konzervování a restaurování kovu. Ochrana predmetu kulturního dedictví z kovu a jejich slitin. (Conservation and Restoration of Metals. Preservation of Cultural Heritage Objects and their Alloys)*, which will be published in autumn 2010 by Technical Museum in Brno. A half of the costs is covered through a project of the Czech Ministry of Culture.

  During the year 2009 the second review of the first six chapters and the first review of the seventh practical chapter proceeded. A documentation of conservation and restoration of metal objects collected by many conservators–restorers and institutions was also prepared. This material will be published on a CD/DVD together with the book.

- **Textile** – Established in 2008; during 2009 the WG prepared a set of lectures in museums in Prague and Brno. In April the WG organised a study trip to the Textile Museum in St. Gallen in Switzerland (Abegg-Stiftung).

  The AMG-KKR board 2009:

  Ivo Štpánek, President
  Jana Kaderábková, Vice President
  Ivan Berger, Secretary
  Estelle Ottenwelter, member
  Dana Modráčková, member

  Heads of WGs:

  Alena Havlínová – Metal
  Dana Modráčková – for preparing the Document of Conservator–Restorer profession
  Hana Tefal Juránková – Textile

  E.C.C.O. Delegate:
  Ivan Berger

  Ordinary Members: 218

  Ivan Berger
  E.C.C.O. Delegate
This report covers the period from January – December 2009.

Political agenda

The political agenda of our organisation is continuously to promote the professional and political interests of the conservator-restorer’s profession. The knowledge about our profession is being improved via collaboration with relevant organisations, partnership in decision-making, more visibility in the public arena and by promoting professional conferences, lifelong learning programmes and such.

NKF-dk was pleased to note that the two leading museums in Denmark, the National Museum (covering archaeology, cultural history and ethnography) and the State Museum of Fine Arts both featured special exhibitions focusing on conservation-restoration. In both cases the public was invited to meet our colleagues and to follow the professional work. These endeavours highlighted the importance of the “invisible” work of our profession.

Members’ participation and the raison d’être of NKF-dk

Although NKF-dk is privileged by a good percentage of conservator-restorers being members, the board has not been entirely comfortable with the low level of engagement in organisational matters and neither by the meagre participation in for instance our General Assembly. Furthermore, the board has over several years consisted of the same circle of active members beginning to fear that they could be regarded as too exclusive.

To investigate these issues, the board engaged a university student in the Organisation to study the nature of participation and members’ attitude towards the organisation. The report, based on a well–designed and well–answered net–based questionnaire, concluded that in general:

- Members are very content with the work that the NKF-dk board is doing

- Members acknowledge the importance of political work, and at the same time:

- Members are not themselves interested or attracted to political work

- Members are very dedicated to their profession

- Members like to participate in practical-professional arrangements initiated by NKF-dk

- Members would like NKF-dk to facilitate professional networking

- Members would like the NKF homepage to be the prime entrance to all organisational matter of interest to conservator-restorers: links to related organisations and colleagues, updates on conferences and courses, where to raise funds and so on
In order to meet the needs of the members, NKF-dk has started redesigning the homepage and developing a new content and layout of the newsletter. At the same time, a plan to "pension" the longest serving board members was initiated.

The board will continue to follow general political agenda hoping that new members will take interest in the actual work.

**General Assembly and constitutions**

The National Gallery of Denmark kindly hosted our general assembly in April 08. After the GA the board was constituted as follows:

Michael Højlund Rasmussen continues one more year as Chairman, Susan Ritterband serves as Vice Chairman. Susan, who has for a long time been editing our newsletter "Bulletin" will work together with the newly elected Karen Elise Henningsen aiming at handling over the post as Editor-in-Chief to her.

Karen Borchersen was appointed Treasurer and newly elected Maj Ryggaard will work as referee and together with Karen and Karen on the design of the new home page. Katja Storkholm continues as Arrangements Officer and is also responsible for raising advertisements for “Bulletin”. Further, Elisabetta Bosetti was elected for the board. Feliz Kuvvetli and Pernille Højmark are accountants.

**Congress**

NKF-dk hosted the triennial NKF-Nordic Congress in Copenhagen in 2009. The title was *Incredible Industry* and the theme was the keeping and conservation of industrially produced objects and site management of production plants. The conference was held in English and participants came from the Nordic Countries, Germany, UK, Switzerland, Austria, France, Canada and USA.

It was a highly praised arrangement with high quality pre-printed and peer reviewed papers, arrangements at major institutions in Copenhagen and a gigantic conference dinner and dance. After the conference a tour to major industrial sites in Denmark was arranged.

To manage the enormous work before, under and after the congress, Winnie Odder, Lars Brock Andersen and Morten Ryhl Svendsen generously joined skills with the organising committee.

**Political work**

The Organisation of Danish Museums – ODM –comprises the vast majority of cultural-historical, natural-historical and art museums in Denmark. Conservator-restorers have found their deserved way into this organisation. ODM has in recognition of the importance of the conservation-restoration issues set up a Network for Preservation where our president holds a seat in the board.

This gives us a platform for discussion among equal museum colleagues and enables us to promote conservation-restoration professional matters in a more powerful way. Thus, ODM has continued the series of meetings to discuss the future funding of the county conservation centres.
Publications

The congress publication *Incredible Industry – Preserving the Evidence of Industrial Society* is on sale through the board of NKF-dk.

Our newsletter “Bulletin” generated two issues. The newsletter is mainly of organisational content but it also ties together the Working Groups of NKF. We have WGs on:

- Archaeological conservation
- Painting frames
- Modern materials and contemporary art
- Furniture
- Textiles
- Sculpture
- Paper & photography
- Storage rooms, climate & transportation

Several new groups were initiated this year, others were slumbering. Each group is supported financially by NKF-dk when they submit a report for our newsletter.

The joint Nordic magazine *Meddelelser om Konservering* launched two issues with diverse news and peer reviewed articles. The articles appear in English or in one of the Nordic languages with an English summary.

For further information please visit:
www.nkf-dk.dk
www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org

November 2010

Helle Strehle
E.C.C.O. Delegate

FINLAND

**NKF-FI**

Pohjoismaisen konservaattoriliiton Suomen osasto ry –
Nordiska konservatorförbundets finländska sektion rf –
Nordic Association of Conservators –
Finnish Section ra

The NKF–FI Board met 10 times in 2009. The Board consisted of:

Riitta Koskivirta Chair
Päivi Ukkonen Vice Chair

Board Members: Ilkka Heikkinen
Anna Häkäri
Arja Koskinen
Taina Leppilahti
Tina Lindgren
Henni Reijonen

Päivi Allinniemi General Secretary
Anna Aalto nen Membership Secretary
Vuokko Ahlfors Treasurer
Liisa Valkeapää *Meddelelser om konservering* (MOK) Newsletter

Suvi Leukumaavaara E.C.C.O. Delegate

At the end of 2009, NKF–FI had 261 members, of which 144 full members, 34 associated members, 71 student members and 3 honorary members.

On 16 February NKF-FI organised a 3-day NKF seminar *Analyze This!* at Vantaa Metropolia University of Applied Sciences. Different methods of analysis were discussed, as well as cooperation between researchers and conservators.
Case studies included microscopy, colour measurements, chromatography and biodeterioration.

The 2009 Spring and Autumn Meetings took place on 3 April in Helsinki and 31 October in Heinävesi in Eastern Finland.

The Spring Meeting and seminar *Kolmiodraama* ("Drama Triangle") was organised in co-operation with museum pedagogical society Pedaali ry and Suomen Kuraattorit ry (The Finnish Society for Curators) at Kulttuuritehdas Korjaamo (Korjaamo Culture Factory) in Helsinki. At the seminar, conservators, museum pedagogues and curators discussed their profession with other museum professionals, university lecturers and journalists. Case studies of the three different professions were also included.

The Autumn Meeting was held at the Orthodox Monastery of New Valamo and its Icon Conservation Laboratory.

In 2009, the chair of NKF-FI took part at the E.C.C.O. Presidents’ Meeting and GA in Sofia. Tina Lindgren was contacted to give a presentation of NKF-FI in Tartu, Estonia. The chair, with Taina Leppilahti and Tina Lindgren also gave a presentation of NKF-FI to conservation students at the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences at Vantaa to encourage them to join as student members. The Vice Chair gave a similar presentation to conservation students of the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences.

The NKF-FI newsletter *Konservaattoriliiton lehti* was published four times in 2009. In co-operation with other NKF associations, NKF-FI also published the newsletter *MOK*.

In May, the chair of NKF Tina Lindgren attended the NKF Assembly and the MOK meeting in Copenhagen with Liisa Valkeapää.

NKF-FI annually issues grants to conservation students. Since 2008 a 50% discount on the NKF-FI membership fee is available upon request to retired NKF-FI members.

www.konservaattoriliitto.fi

Suvi Leukumaavaara
E.C.C.O. Delegate
FRANCE

FFCR — Fédération Française des professionnels de la Conservation-Restauration

2009 has been characterised by some communication strategy changes.

Inside the FFCR

FFCR has changed its name in an extraordinary General Assembly, but not its acronym… Now FFCR stands for Fédération Française des professionnels de la Conservation-Restauration.

Some other changes have occurred in the statutes to allow the membership of students, as associated members and without voting right, to follow the E.C.C.O. rules / requirements on individual membership limited to professionals only.

After the changes at the presidency of FFCR in 2008, the 2009 committee has concentrated its main activities on communication strategy, in order to benefit our members, and to display a better image of our profession in the public scene. So, system of communication have been revised and changed a bit.

Our logo has evolved and the general graphic line of our official documents has been made more precise in order to be disseminated outside the profession, and among our members.

A specific booklet, in the form of an alphabet list, an “abecedary” defining the main general terms has been written, edited and published for general and specialised public information. The website has been re-designed and the address changed:

http://www.ffcr.fr

Some general information has been placed in so called “technical files”, and references given for some explanations on how to organise / manage and/or answer to a public tendering procedure considering the Code des Marchés Publics (Public Tendering code), and the requirements to respect when placed simultaneously under the code du Patrimoine (“cultural heritage code”). All publications have been written and published using the new graphic line.

As planned, FFCR participated in the official annual 3–day “meeting of mayors in France” or salon des maires de France, where thousands of politicians came to discuss and compare their work and duties with professionals, companies and service providers. A lot of political or diplomatic contacts were made and the regional delegation of FFCR took the opportunity to renew or initiate some deeper contacts with their local technical or political referents in the field of culture, and Cultural Heritage.

Due to its renewed structure, for some years FFCR has focused a little more on its regional groups to listen to the “base voice”, trying to procure help and juridical advices when contacted in time – for example in erroneous or badly organised public tendering procedures.

It also appeared sometimes that Museum Law is not strictly respected and that the Historical Monuments have their own principles to recognise competence for our activity. This link
between “ground” and national delegates has become more permanent and helps to maintain a better representing system.

Life outside the FFCR

One of the major issues for the FFCR was the work on the implementation of the European directive on professional qualifications in the French “Museum Law”, and the terminology of conservation-restoration. All are matters that relate to recognition of qualifications, EQF work and E.C.C.O.’s general actions...

Museum law “convolutions” and implementation of Euro directives

The issues of this project were discussed in the 2008 Report and are still pending. No final answer has been given by Minister of Culture which has had a major change in its structure, supposed to improve efficiency, but practically felt as blocking more decisions – if there was any will or attempts to make some. In a crisis, Cultural Heritage is not considered as a first priority.

The terminology “link” not disconnected

Some French experts from FFCR were still trying to be efficient and active in the CEN process for “setting” a list of general terminology for the conservation-restoration of Cultural Heritage. After the first public enquiry at European level where some weaknesses have been strongly underlined, it has been considered that some interest could be found in pursuing this elaboration / compilation process a little farther, to improve the first copy.

Being involved at the national mirror group level, some of the FFCR delegates, funded by Ministry of Finance to participate, were allowed to represent the French work in all the meetings at European level: in Milan, Athens and Prague.

A new technical group has started a project of standard on “Condition report of movable cultural heritage”, trying to define what type, what objectives, why and in which context, the condition of an object is reported. This Working Group consists of two French convenors, one curator and one conservator-restorer. It is hoped this project will encounter the passion and interest for such a subject, at the root of any planning, any curative or preventive decision in our activity.

There are a lot of issues in making this terminology recognised and this explains why some FFCR members are still actively contributing to the CEN/TC 346 Working Group and the national groups of experts. Joint with other projects such as the Recognition of Competences for our field and the Recommendation by the Council of Europe, these could become altogether a shared and agreed common language through all Europe, a kind of soft law foundation for recognition of our activity, and our profession.

David Aguilella Cueco
E.C.C.O. Delegate
GERMANY

VDR – Verband der Restauratoren e. V. – Federation of Conservators-Restorers

The year 2009 may be seen as a period of financial and political consolidation of the association after a problematic financial situation and the loss of members in 2008 due to both raised membership fees and loss of confidence into the work and political aims of the association.

The activities in 2009 had several aims: to regain confidence of the members, to strengthen the political position of VDR and to improve internal communication and working structures. The implementation of a new database system and communication tool as well as the improvement of financial procedures was a necessary step towards effective work of the office of the association. VDR thanks the staff of the office and the new chief administrator Katharina Trifterer for their intensive work during this difficult phase of changes and all members of the board for their work.

At the GA in November 2009 the following board members resigned: Barbara Sommermeyer, Mechthild Noll-Minor, Ivo Mohrmann.

Board Members:
Volker Schaible President
Christian Leonhardt Vice President
Alexandra Schieweck Vice President and Treasurer
Helma Groll Committee Member
Renate Puggendorf Committee Member

Political issues

VDR decided to contract a lawyer and an independent institute for freelance profession to write a Survey and “Gutachten” with two parts: “The Conservator-restorer – a free profession” and a legal expertise about competition processes and legal conditions in the field of conservation-restoration (German title: Freiberuflichkeit und Auftragsvergabe bei Restauratoren).

This decision was a result of the request from the working group of freelance professionals within the association. The expertise should clearly describe the legal situation of the professionals with regard to competition processes.

The working group for employed professionals did contribute to the negotiations of the trade union with public authorities about the new German federal public service scale.

At the end of the year VDR did face an attempt to dispose the law that defines the title of the conservator-restorer in the federal state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern of Germany of October 13, 1999. Lawyers attested that this law is not in contradiction to the European Directive on services in the internal market. The final decision of the ministry was to keep the law.

For any further information please consult the website of VDR:

www.restauratoren.de

Mechthild Noll-Minor
E.C.C.O. Delegate
At the beginning of 2009, IADA launched its revamped publication *Journal of Paper Conservation*, which replaces *PapierRestaurierung*. After its first year, the magazine has generated numerous positive and constructive reactions. This is a great motivation to pursue IADA’s goal to internationalise as well as to fundamentally review our publication. The Editorial Board is especially involved and challenged by those changes.

In addition to the publication changes, IADA has launched its own web address. After having been hosted by Palimpsest.Stanford and Cool.Conservation-us, IADA can be accessed at:

http://www.iada-online.org/

During this year 2009, intense preparation and organisational work has been conducted for the IADA Symposium 2010 in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. The choice of Prague is the result of a strong demand from Eastern Europe for this type of professional exchange platform.

Colleagues in the Czech Republic as well as the three national Czech institutions the Na
tional Library, the National Archives and the National Museum have been very supportive and enthusiastic from the beginning of this project.

At the end of 2009, more than 550 associate, extraordinary and “in education” members from 26 countries are shaping IADA.

Andre Page
President of IADA
The diary for the year 2009 was filled with lots of activities, which were either organised by our Association Restorers-Conservators of South Tyrol or activities our members took part in.

From 12 to 14 February a conference was held in the central library of Trento about the Lombard art plasterers, which created numerous true masterpieces over the past centuries. Several members of our association attended this educational symposium.

From 30 to 31 March the E.C.C.O. General Assembly took place in Sofia, Bulgaria and our E.C.C.O. representative Ms Brigitte Esser went there on our behalf. Our own General Assembly was organised on 4 April and was attended by most of our members.

On 3 July several members attended a remarkable seminar about fighting the timber worm on wooden objects by applying microwaves. The participants were very interested in this fast, effective and gentle process.

The lecture was held in the beautifully restored Valer Castle in Val di Non in the Province of Trento. The event was organised by the owner of the castle, Count Spaur.

One of the lecturers was Mr Klaus Winkler, a qualified restorer and chemist who has been adapting this gentle method with great success for decades.

At the beginning of September another convention took place at the same castle in which a team of experts demonstrated the 3D take-up of entire rooms. This method of shooting all objects within the respective area is useful for surveying and mapping of all valuable art objects for different purposes such as insurances.

In order to gather the information, a 3D camera that keeps turning round in slow motion is placed in the middle of the room. On the computer screen all pictures can be edited and zoomed in.

On 18 September 2009 two of our members attended an advanced training course in Bergamo, province of Lombardy, organised by CESMAR7 – Centro per lo Studio dei Materiali per il Restauro (Centre for the Study of Materials for Restoration).

The theme of the training was cyclododecan (CCD) used to secure loose colour fragments in danger of becoming detached and to protect painted surfaces on a temporary basis e.g. dur-
ing transport. The training was organised by Prof. Michael Hangleiter.

On the same date we organised a Yemenite cultural evening on the castle Prösels nearby Bolzano. Reason for this was to deepen our relationship with the paper restorer and conservator Abdul Wahid Al Shami, who is originally from Yemen and now lives in South Tyrol.

Al Shami showed us slides about his native country and the capital Sana’a that was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1986. Traditional Yemenite food and drinks were served and enjoyed by the audience.

At this occasion we took the opportunity to welcome the former Head of Conservation in South Tyrol, Dr. Helmut Stamper as a honorary member within our organisation.

On 14 November a meeting was organised at the premises of the Chamber of Commerce in Bolzano with the attorney Dr. Pierfrancesco Ungari who is working closely with the Ministry of Culture and advising them regarding the registration and qualification of restorers.

Dr. Ungari updated the present assembly of restorers about the current legal situation regarding the professional status of restorers, the elaborated scheme, according to which restorers can register online by either filling in the forms on the Ministry of Culture’s website or by filling in card indexes enlisting all work activities carried out.

Celebrating our traditional low-key Christmas party closed the business year 2009. The social do is always appreciated and was attended by most of our members and by the present and the former Heads of Conservation in South Tyrol.

Brigitte Esser
E.C.C.O. Delegate
Mission
The mission for RN is to look after the interests of the occupational group and for the care for the preservation of the cultural heritage in general.

RN wants to promote the expertise of its members and professionalise the sector by setting up, among others, a system of quality control.

Finally RN wants to increase the public awareness and the professional and political awareness concerning the need of caretaking for our cultural heritage.

The year 2009/2010

In the GA held in autumn 2009 the board was elected. The board consisted of:

Liesbeth Keijser   President
Foekje Boersma   Vice President
Sabine Westerhuis  Treasurer
Nico Boeijink
Pol Bruijs
Regien Geerke
Erika Mösenbacher
Monica Schwarze
Thonis van der Weel
Jaap van der Burg   E.C.C.O. Delegate

In this period we started with the initial round of ‘accreditation’ (toelatingen). Using the criteria established by our committee ‘toelatingen’ (acceptance), the first 23 conservators were accepted as conservator members. This group will start with the review of the application forms submitted by the prospect conservator members for full conservator membership after the deadline for submission in October 2010.

In 2009 we received 85 new members and our total membership was 605, of which 450 prospect (‘aspirant’) conservator members.

In order to revive the professional magazine of RN (RN M@gazine), a 0-number was published for its members. From a review it was established that the members of RN valued a quarterly electronic magazine, which will start in the year 2010/2011.

RN established the criteria for a new website, including a web–based administration tool for its membership. The idea is to move to RN 2.0 with an interactive website with discussion fora and other web 2.0 utilities.

RN organised several workshops and courses, in particular a three–day course How to stay healthy in a green studio by Monona Rossol. This course was also announced within the E.C.C.O. network and there were several international participants.
NORWAY

NKF-N – Nordisk Konservatorforbund, den Norske Seksjonen

General Assembly

The General Assembly of NKF–N was held in Oslo on 25 April 2009 in connection with the spring meeting at Riksantikvaren in Oslo. The theme for this meeting was *What’s a conservator?* and questions regarding how we define ourselves, titles, working titles and qualifications were discussed.

Activities

The other member meetings planned and organised by the Board were the fall meeting, held in Oslo 15 October with Jørgen Solstad lecturing on the work that has been carried out at Oscarshall castle, and the NKF–N Christmas meeting on 17 December that was held at the Norwegian Folk museum as a meeting and a social event. Tine Frøysaker, Kathrine Scharffenberg, Miriam Liu and Karen Mengshoel also presented their documentation and conservation project on the Munch paintings from the University Aula.

NKF-N applied for economic support from the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABMU). The application for support regarding travelling was turned down since ABMU does not contribute with this type of economic support anymore. This has resulted in a weakened economy and travel funding for members is no longer possible. How NKF-N can deal with this in the future is a task that we need to look into and we need to investigate other means of raising money to this particular field.

There have been discussions regarding the use of a mailing list and regarding the use of the term “technical conservator” in a job advertisement. NKF-N did comment to the institution that the use of this term is incorrect regarding our title and profession. This was also a theme in the GA and there are continuous disagreements within different institutions regarding the title of our profession.

Our magazine *Norske Konserves* launched two issues during 2009 with diverse news and articles from various members on different themes. Since the printing of the magazine is one of the biggest expenses for NKF-N, the GA 2010 decided to end the printing and to start publishing the magazine electronically.

Memberships and members’ participation

As full members we presently accept graduates with the three–year Bachelor education plus at least one–year conservation-restoration work at a recognised institution.

Applicants are adopted at the NKF–N GA after an assessment by an evaluation committee appointed by the board of NKF–N. By the end of 2009 NKF-N had 135 full members, 20 associated members, 22 honorary members and 10 student members. Only full members may use the title “Conservator NKF–N”. Full members have voting and membership rights in NKF–N and E.C.C.O. All member categories can participate in events, seminars and meetings.
Future work

In 2010, NKF-N will have two main priorities. First we need to look into different possibilities in how our organisation can work for conservators all over Norway. There has been a tendency during the previous years that most of the work NKF-N has carried out has been located in Oslo i.e. member meetings and GA.

We have to look into different ways of how we can reach out, and we are currently working on developing local NKF-N groups in different places in Norway. During 2009, Anne Bjørke created NKF-N Hordaland. It is a local group that arranges meetings and seminars with great success.

Our second priority is to develop our web pages and to use them as an active and informative platform for our members. During 2009 the function “find a conservator” was developed with very good response.

The Board 2008- 2009:

Chair: Kristin Ramsholt
Vice Chair / Treasurer: Inger Marie Egenberg
Secretary: Christina Sparsuch / Ingrid Grytdal Matheson
Board Members: Anne Sommer Larsen
Deputy Members: Ingrid Grytdal Matheson

The Board from April 2009:

Chair: Kristin Ramsholt
Vice Chair / Treasurer: Inger Marie Egenberg
Secretary: Dagheid Berg
Board Members: Jeremy Hutchings
Deputy Members: Anne Håbu Helga Marie Stangeby

The Board held eight meetings in the period from the GA in April 2009 until the GA in April 2010.

Oslo, 16 August 2010

Ingrid Louise Flatval
Chair NKF-N
PORTUGAL

ARP —
Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

In 2009, ARP continued to promote the recognition of the profession as well as to divulge the role of its members and that of the association.

On political level, ARP’s actions were very profitable in 2009. After the assessment of the association, a new law was published concerning the protection of the national cultural heritage. Among other important regulations, the law contemplates the actual training of the profession establishing 5 years as the minimum duration of the training in Conservation-Restoration in recognised universities.

ARP has also integrated the section of Museums and Conservation-Restoration of the National Council of Culture (CNC), a recently established consultative body to the Ministry of Culture, intending to discuss actual matters of national interest.

With the objective of promoting and divulging the role of the association to conservation students, ARP organised public sessions of presentation in universities. The promotion of the profession was also continued, for example, on the occasion of a national radio debate concerning the “Preservation and Conservation of Heritage” as part of the initiative World Wonders of Portuguese Origin.

ARP has carried on with the publication of its journal, Conservar Património. The 9th issue contained selected articles presented in Colours 2008 – Bridging Science with Art, a conference dedicated to professionals from various disciplines that involve the study of colour, including art conservation, chemistry, archaeology and architecture.

Given the large success of the publication of its Directory of Conservator-Restorers in 2008, ARP published the second edition in 2009. Beside the list of members, this issue also included a chapter dedicated to the training in Conservation-Restoration. The Directory was distributed at national level to all those who have a direct contact to heritage and it was found to be a positive factor in the dissemination of the profession to the public.

The organisation and participation in national and international conferences is also an important objective of ARP. Based on the large success of the first meeting, ARP organised the second edition of its national meeting II Jornadas ARP - “A Prática da Teoria” in May 30-31, 2009. The main objective of the two–day meeting was to divulge and discuss theories, methodologies and treatments of conservation-restoration performed by 15 ARP members. The post–prints were published in digital format and were made freely available on its website.

ARP has also been an active member of the national organising commission of the 16th Triennial Conference which will take place in Lisbon in September 2011. This is a very important meeting in the field and ARP welcomes the opportunity to bring conservation-restoration to the national and international headlines. ARP
also participated with the Institute of Museums and Conservation and Fundação Oriente in the organisation of a workshop of conservation of oriental works of art on paper.

Upon invitation by the IIC Spanish Group (GEIIC), ARP was part of the Scientific Committee of their fourth congress “IV Congresso del IIC – La restauración en el siglo XXI. Función, estética e imagen” that took place in November 25-27, 2009 in Cáceres, Spain.

ARP’s new website, an improved, dynamic and easy to update version, was concluded substituting the older static version. Now, the website has the potentiality of not only being an active tool for the association management but also a meeting place for its members with public and private areas.

Rui Bordalo
E.C.C.O. Delegate

SPAIN

GT —
Grup Tècnic —
Conservators’ Association of Catalonia

The year 2009 begun with the election of a new Committee (see picture):

President Carla Puerto
Vice President Pau Maynés
Secretary Mireia Campuzano
Treasurer Ferran Mauriz
Committee Members: Agnès Gall
Marta Golobardes
Alex Massalles
Rosa Marina Ruiz

The Working Groups have been reorganised to be more efficient:

• Life long learning
• Conference organisation (Reunió tècnica)
• GT Newsletter (Full informatiu)
• Professional directory
• Glossary
• International relations
• Grants
• Public relations

Beside these regular activities, the big project of this year has been the preparation of a document proposing a modification of the law regarding Cultural Heritage and museums.

The figure of the conservator indeed does not appear in this law and it is neither specified who are the specialists that are responsible for the correct conservation of Cultural Heritage.
This situation leads to an “open space” and allows non-experts to work on Cultural Heritage.

We proposed two major changes:

- The redaction of a new decree describing who are the professionals that are allowed to intervene on the national and classified Cultural Heritage

- The creation of a professional accreditation system for conservators working in Catalonia.

This project has been presented in November 2009 to the Subdirector of Museums and approved orally.

In 2009 we also tried to close the issue related to the approval signature of the *Barcelona-Montcada document*. This document was the result of the meeting organised by the GT last year at the Barbier-Mueller Museum, and was written to defend the interests of Spanish Cultural Heritage and encourage the different parties in Spain concerned to work together.

The goal of the meeting was also to present E.C.C.O. organisation and actions to all Spanish associations. The President of E.C.C.O., Monica Martelli Castaldi was present, as well as 10 Spanish associations and 7 education centers. But one year later, just 2 entities have answered to our messages (the Conservation school of Galicia and the association of Asturias) and the document has not been ratified yet.

And finally, in November 2009 the GT was happy to be able to welcome the E.C.C.O. Committee for a weekend meeting. It is always good for our members to have a closer look to E.C.C.O. !

Agnès Gall-Ortlik
E.C.C.O. Delegate

*Grup Tècnic Committee Meeting 2009, from left to right: Marta Golobardes, Mireia Campuzano, Rosa Marina Formento, Agnès Gall, Ferran Mauriz, Alex Massalles and Carla Puerto.*
Meetings and gatherings

NKF-S annual meeting was held 24 April at the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. Colleagues at the museum presented the ongoing research on the degradation of the ship Vasa and the challenges ahead. We also got a tour of the ship and the storages.

NKF Federal Council meeting took place on 1 June at Studio Västsvensk Konservering in Gothenburg. The meeting was placed in connection with the NKF Paper Group Meeting when the previous meeting has been cancelled.

E.C.C.O. General Assembly was held in Sofia on 31 March. In the context of the organisation to move closer to our Eastern European colleagues, a meeting with the title ‘E.C.C.O. meets Professional Bodies and related Institutions devoted to the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Eastern Europe’ was held the day before. To this meeting, representatives from Conservator’s Federations from the Eastern European countries were invited also.

The autumn meeting was cancelled due to heavy workload of the organisers and the board. Therefore the members’ visit to the National Heritage Board in Visby, Gotland, to get a glimpse of their new mission and a tour of the new building, was postponed until the next autumn meeting.

Bothén’s Foundation

Resources from Martha, Gunnar and Arvid Bothén’s Foundation has been awarded to 24 full members. One seminar for full members was also awarded. The total dividend was approximately 280 000 SEK (28 000 Euro). Spe-
cial efforts have been made to support research in the preservation area. A trip to Iran had to be cancelled due to civil unrest.

The President has met with the fund manager at SEB Bank at the annual reconciliation meeting in the spring. It was noted that the economic slowdown in the world also affect our capital and that the fund now is closer to the action value again, after increasing for several years.

**Website and newspaper**

*Realia*, the members’ newspaper has made the move from print to digital form and can now be found on the NKF-S website.

*Meddelelser om Konservering* (the IIC Nordic Group journal) has been published two issues this year. Thomas Gütebier has represented NKF-S in Meddelelser’s editorial.

NKF-S website continues to evolve and information transmission is increasing in this forum, which means a faster flow of information between sender and receiver.

**Development work**

The Board appreciates the opportunities of digital communication means and works in several operations to switch to digital processing. Benefits include faster and more effective dissemination of information, together with reduced work with mailing. A new system for the registration of members has been investigated during the year and a proposed new arrangement will be presented at the annual meeting. This new solution for the membership file is intended to facilitate efforts to keep the registry updated.

A press group has been formed and work is proceeding to develop an information channel via the website. This press group has also completed training in communication with the help of money from Bothén’s Foundation.

The work on the archive continues albeit at a reduced rate due to the association’s weak economy.

Membership status in December 2009:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Members</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting institutions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carin Pettersson
E.C.C.O. Delegate
Attended by numerous participants that were also drawn from Europe, and accompanied by a publication, the 2009 Annual Convention on the subject Preventative conservation: Experience in the field of architectural heritage was held at the University of Freiburg. Organised outstandingly by Julian James, Elisabeth and Michel Muttner, Susanna Pesko and Olivier Guyot, the conference also offered scope for discussions and social get-togethers such as the evening meal in the old, tastefully restored Casino der Grande Société in the Old Town of Freiburg.

At the 2009 General Meeting, Egbert Moll-Thissen and Salome Guggenheimer were affirmed as the President and Vice President respectively. Manuel Hebeisen, the long-standing Treasurer, retired from his post. Ulrike Bürger will take over his role. Kristina Blaschke, Carmen Effner, Karin von Lerber and Benjamin Schäfer were newly appointed to the executive committee.

This means that, after an extended gap, all three linguistic regions will be represented again in the executive committee.

In March 2010 the sad news reached us that Egbert Moll-Thissen was terminally ill and would be retiring from his post with immediate effect. Heavily pregnant, Vice President Salome Guggenheimer was unable to take over his role and duties. Aurélie Rogalla von Bieberstein will fill the role of president until the next General Meeting.

The executive committee met for a whole-day closed meeting and for four half-day executive committee meetings. Further meetings took place within the sections. At the start of the year, the fields of responsibility were newly defined and assigned, based on the experience of previous years, to enable work to be carried out with greater efficiency.

Much work is involved with the redesign of the SKR website. This entails a total revision of the website with regard to structure, layout and content, as approved by the General Meeting. The homepage will also be published in three languages.

It is envisaged that association members will have additional benefits in that certain information will only be accessible within a login area. Also planned are a members’ database with a search and online update function, and the option to insert banner ads to generate additional income. We hope to be able to launch the new website in mid 2010.

It is proposed that the recruitment of new members should again be given greater attention in future. To this end a delegation from the executive committee presented the association at all universities and universities of applied sciences; this was met with interest from the students.

This year the Professional Development Fund was able to support a professional develop-
ment course in the technical field of paper with a shortfall guarantee. All in all, income from the course exceeded the expenses. A similar application in the technical field of textiles is currently under consideration.

In February 2010, the Grand Council of the Canton of Lucerne was presented with a cost-cutting bill which contained provisions for a 20% reduction in the preservation of monuments and historic buildings.

In collaboration with other interested groups, the SKR participated in a protest newspaper advertisement and wrote an explanatory letter to the politicians sitting on the Grand Council. In spite of extensive debate, the cost-cutting package was unfortunately passed by a majority of votes in 2011.

Regulations and statues need to be amended to accommodate the new membership category of Bachelor in Conservation. The executive committee has prepared the respective changes which are planned to be further refined by a working group and then presented to the General Meeting in 2011.

The technical groups were also gratifyingly active this year. Numerous information and professional development events were held which were very well attended. Sebastian Dobruskin will continue to represent our interests with great vigour at E.C.C.O.

Salomé Guggenheimer
Ulrike Bürger