



E.C.C.O.
European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations

E.C.C.O. reports

Nr. 4 / 2006



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



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E.C.C.O. is an international association who was established on the 14th October 1991 under the Belgian Law of 25th October 1919.

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).

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European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations
4 Rue Jacques de Lalaing
B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium

www.ecco-eu.info

Bureau

President: Monica Martelli Castaldi
Vice President: Silke Beiner-Büth
Vice President: Natalie Ellwanger
General Secretary: Cecilia Rönnerstam
Deputy Secretary: Susan Corr
Treasurer: Suvi Leukumaavaara
Vice Treasurer: Barbara Davidson

Committee

All of the above, plus: Rui Bordalo, David Cueco Aguilera, Michael van Gampen, Edith Touré

**Next General Assembly Brussels:
Friday, 20th April 2007**

Secretary

Cecilia Rönnerstam
Conservation Department/Portrait Miniatures
National Museum of Fine Arts
Box 161 76
SE-10324 Stockholm, Sweden
T: +46 8 5195 4319, F: +46 8 5195 4450
E: crm@nationalmuseum.se

Contributions

E.C.C.O. welcomes all contributions to the reports which are of general interest for the profession of Conservator-Restorer. Proposal papers should be submitted to E.C.C.O. by e-mail or on a disc with a paper copy sent to the following address:

Editorial Address

E.C.C.O. reports
Natalie Ellwanger
Vorarlberger Landesmuseum
Kornmarktplatz 1
AT-6900 Bregenz, Austria
T: +43 664 625 55 69 direct
E: natalie.ellwanger@googlemail.com

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Grafic Design

Mag^a. Gisela Scheubmayr/www.subgrafik.at
Seidengasse 25/7, A-1070 Wien, Austria
E: gs@subgrafik.at

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FULL MEMBERS

ACRACV – Asociación de Conservadores y Restauradores de Arte de la Comunidad Valenciana, Spain

APROA-BRK – Association Professionnelle des Conservateurs/Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art. Beroepsvereniging voor Conservators-Restaurateurs van Kunstvoorwerpen vzw., Belgium

ARI – Associazione Restauratori d'Italia, Italy

ARP – Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal, Portugal

FFCR – Fédération Française des Conservateurs/Restaurateurs, France

GTCRC – Grup Tècnic. Associació Professional dels Conservadors-Restauradors de Catalunya, Spain

IADA – Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv Bibliotheks- und Graphik Restauratoren, International

ICHAWI – Institute for the Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works in Ireland, Ireland

ICON – The Institute of Conservation, United Kingdom

KR – Komora Reštaurátorov, Slovak Republik

NKF-DK – Nordisk Konservatorforbund-Danmark, Danmark

NKF-FI – Pohjoismaisen Konservattoriliiton Suomen Osasto ry, Finland

NKF-N – Nordisk Konservatorforbund / den Norske Seksjon, Norway

NKF-S – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet / Svenska Sektioner, Sweden

ÖRV – Österreichischer Restauratorenverband, Austria

RN – Restauratoren Nederland, The Netherlands

SKR/SCR – Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung und Restaurierung/Association Suisse de Conservation et Restauration, Switzerland

VDR – Verband der Restauratoren e.V., Germany

VRS/ARA – Verband der Restauratoren-Konservatoren Südtirols/Associazione dei Restauratori-Conservatori Dell'Alto Adige, Italy



Editorial

Dear Readers,

This year you will find a new version of the **E.C.C.O.** reports!

It is the fourth issue, but the first one to be sent to you as an electronic version. It was a hard decision to make and to leave the printed matter, but when asking all the member bodies, an overwhelming amount voted in favour of an electronic file.

In this issue you will find a short report from a meeting between Ján Figel', EU commissioner for education, training and culture and a delegation of the **E.C.C.O.** committee, taking place in Bratislava in November 2006. I would also like to draw your attention to the reports of the newly merged Dutch Organisation 'Restauratoren Netherlands' (RN) and the British organisation 'Institute of Conservation' (ICON). Both organisations were welcomed as new **E.C.C.O.** members at the General Assembly in March 2006.

A novelty is the publication of the treasurer's report, in order to increase the transparency of **E.C.C.O.**, and to help individual members of our member organisations to understand what the **E.C.C.O.** fees are used for!

Last but not least we want to present **E.C.C.O.**'s most recent 'acquisition'; Stevin Davidson from Bratislava who currently works for **E.C.C.O.** as an office administrator.

I hope that you will find the reports – brought to you in this new form – interesting reading.

A warm thanks to all colleagues for supporting this edition by sending in their texts on time and to you the readers, this was my last edition of the **E.C.C.O.** reports.

Natalie Ellwanger

Editor

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Letter from the President

Dear colleagues,



The work that the Committee has to achieve every year is huge, and for this I warmly thank Michael Van Gompén, in his duty as former President, especially for the time and energy spent, and for the dedication and engagement always given to E.C.C.O. in so many years as Bureau member.

I want also to thank two members of the Bureau who left after several years of work, Sabine Kessler, French delegate and Vice-Treasurer, and Tanja Røskar Reed, Norwegian delegate and Vice President.

A particular thanks goes to Tanja for her last big effort in organising a meeting to analyse the structure of E.C.C.O. in order to improve work for the time coming. The well conducted *brainstorm meeting*, through which she guided us with gentle energy, produced several pieces of information which have been useful during this year. The needs of the Committee for the daily management of the Organisation, have been compared to the needs of the members, collected through two questionnaires sent out beforehand.

As a follow up of this review of E.C.C.O., we are now proposing a *Presidents Meeting*, where not only the delegates of the member countries are invited, but the leaders of each organisation. We want in this way, and for the future, to encourage a direct and more open dialogue and a personal involvement of the Organisations' boards in the life of the Confederation.

Among the main topics which are at present in debate at national level, we are particularly worried by the *Master and Bachelor* discussion which is taking a great amount of energy in long and sterile debates. In the meantime, at international level, some EU initiatives are facing the problem from the

point of view of professional qualification and recognition of titles for the free circulation of professions. E.C.C.O. needs to react in a rapid and efficient way, but our power is reduced by these discussions.

E.C.C.O. is presently, in common action with ENCoRE, in the Leonardo *ECPL project (European Conservation Practitioner's licence)* – which follows a proposal for a future directive to become active in 2009, *EQF (European Qualification Framework for lifelong learning)*. Two meetings were attended, in Copenhagen and Athens, and a document has been drafted to be approved by all the ECPL partners. If the document – in final discussion in these days – is agreed, E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE will become official joint partners of the project with the intention to bring it to final definitions in agreement with our statements. The name of the project and the licence will of course respect these changes.

It is very important that in E.C.C.O. all Organisations support a common position on the access to the profession (education and training) and its exercise, knowing that *transitory measures* will have to be foreseen to qualify existing professionals who work in the field but who do not entirely fulfil the E.C.C.O.-ENCoRE requirements.

We are aware that the European social and economic environment is continuously changing and developing, and that our organisation has to follow and possibly predict the new challenges, but it is of major importance that we do not lose those values that have brought our experience to be considered an important reference for many institutions at an international level, in Europe and abroad.

In 2007 E.C.C.O. has reached fifteen years of existence. It is a well recognised and respected organ-

isation, the only international body who at present represents our profession in Europe, but moreover, the only international body exclusively composed of conservator-restorers' organisations. This is the major richness of our Confederation, and constitutes its identity since the beginning. It is the duty of the board, and of each one of the Member Organisations, to strongly defend this specificity.

With these principles in mind, I accepted the election as President, and these are the issues I intended to develop in the first months of mandate: to implement the results of common reflections received by the members of E.C.C.O. and to improve, if possible, the daily management of the Organisation to face future changes.

The most requested topics to be pursued by E.C.C.O., those that found the complete agreement of all of the Member's Organisations, are three: *visibility*, *professional profile* and *legislation*. On the other hand the major problem that the Committee has to face in the daily conduction of the Organisation, is the difficulty in reaching *visible results in reasonable time*.

For this last problem, and being a member of the Committee for many years, I consider important that you take into account that time and results are linked to two factors:

- the number of members in the Committee does not allow easy nor quick decisions, but the harmonisation of eleven opinions is the guarantee of the respect of wishes of all Member's Associations.
- E.C.C.O. is an Organisation of professionals, actively working as conservator-restorers. For those who accept a charge in the Committee, the time to dedicate to E.C.C.O. has necessarily to be limited by the time destined to professional activity.

Nevertheless all different subjects that come to the attention of the Committee are treated in the most careful way, according to the mandate established by the General Assembly each year.

So said, I will briefly inform you about the main activities carried out by our Committee in this last year. For some of the described topics you have already received information with the Short News.

To improve the *daily conduction* of the Committee we have opened a temporary contract to Mr. Stevin Davidson as office administrator and assistant to the board. At the next General Assembly we will present the results of this trial period and we hope to confirm the contract.

The work on *Professional Profile* has continued. We are planning to discuss the paper with ENCoRE to compare it with their proposal, and to send it to all member's Organisations before the General Assembly. We will also analyse some documents produced in three countries: Germany, Italy and France, where this topic has already been improved and where the profile has been described in further detail.

To improve *legislation* issues, we have finished the first part of the work with the consultant Vincent Negri and we have started to use the results of his study in our contacts. A meeting with Daniel Theron Head of the Cultural Heritage Division Council of Europe is foreseen before the General Assembly. The document will be proposed to all member's Organisations to be ratified by the next General Assembly.

We have also improved the relationship with IC-CROM, lasting since the joined APEL project, by being invited to talk about the profession in some of their courses, and through a fruitful meeting with the new General Director Mounir Bouchenaki for possible future common strategies.

E.C.C.O. will have a four month research program for an internship on *Legislation for the conservation of cultural heritage*. The study will go on from March to June 2007 and will be tutored by Vincent Negri and Monica Martelli Castaldi. We hope, that as a result of this work we will be able to provide E.C.C.O. Member Organisations with a variety of documents to be used as a tool, and open a network of Universities working in the field.



To increase *visibility* we decided:

- to be present in meetings and discussions about the profession, as much as possible: we already attended two meetings in Prague and Ludbreg, Croatia and a next one will be attended in Cairo, Egypt.
- to disseminate E.C.C.O. publications: ICCROM has sold most of the materials in their deposits (APEL books and guidelines, Florence Congress, etc.) and we were able to sell some publications during congresses.
- to increase direct and focused contacts with specific persons and institutions: several meetings have been attended and new contacts have been made.
- to meet EU commissioners and persons responsible to propose our experience for a common strategy: a delegation of the E.C.C.O. Committee met Mr Ján Figel', EU Commissioner for Education, Training and Culture, in November in Bratislava. As a result of this very informative meeting contacts have been made with Mr Vladimír Šucha, Director for Culture and Communication at the General Directorate for Education and Culture, and with Mr. Michel Chapouis, responsible for cultural heritage issues at the General Direction for Research
- to be present in EU funded projects, establishing a strong dialogue with the different EU departments related to the field of conservation-restoration, becoming a EU reference body: ECCO has been approached by four possible partners for EU-fund projects but all of them contacted us in a very late phase of planning, too late for Committee Members to investigate properly about the content of the projects E.C.C.O. policy is to be involved from an early state of planning and to be a partner with decisional power.

Moreover:

The Croatian Association of Conservators-Restorers HRD has requested an official authorisation to translate *E.C.C.O.'s Official documents* into Croatian, and expressed the will to become member in the near future. We are enlarging to other possible *new members* visiting them or contacting them through Committee Member Edith Touré.

We are reopening contacts with the European Committee for Standardisation CEN and continuing the collaboration with Council of Liberal Professions CEPLIS (please remember that your organisation can demand for your members the delivery of the European Card of Conservator-Restorer to be requested through E.C.C.O.).

An interesting proposal came from Anna Valeria Jervis from the board of ARI (Associazione Restauratori d'Italia) for a *Study on Intellectual Property in Conservation-Restoration Interventions*. The Committee agreed but with some delay and the study has been postponed for the moment.

E.C.C.O. is mentioned on *Wikipedia*, and in the *Yearbook of International Organizations*.

Finally, I suggest some considerations about E.C.C.O.'s future policy for visibility and diffusion. To establish contacts with EU commissioners and persons responsible is an expensive work to be done, time, costs and energy to be dedicated are very high, and therefore our budget will have to allocate funds for this activity.

If E.C.C.O. wishes to be involved in EU projects it is clear that time and human resources are required in a dimension that can not be provided only by the Committee. External professional resources should be offered by member organisations interested in participating in new eventually to be proposed EU projects, working under the coordination of Committee members.

I need also to express my gratitude to each one and of the members of the Committee.

It has not been easy because many of us were new or still young in the charge, but I believe that we achieved most of the required results. To all of you a grateful thank you for having been efficient and patient.

Monica Martelli Castaldi

President of E.C.C.O.



E.C.C.O. General Assembly 2006

The General Assembly took place at the Comité Économique & Social Européen (CESE), Rue Béliard 99, B-1040 Brussels, at March 3 in 2006.

The President, Michael Van Gompel (APROA-BRK), welcomed everyone and opened the assembly by describing the past year in E.C.C.O. There have been changes and news in the internal management and an extra ordinary meeting, a 'brainstorm meeting' was held in Dinant 21–22 January 2006, on top of the three committee meetings which took place in Brussels and Naples. The extra ordinary meeting was based on a questionnaire to the member organisations where they were asked about the Professional Profile and E.C.C.O.'s current strategies and goals. Following the meeting an internal working document *The Past is Our Future* was drawn up. The main points for E.C.C.O. to focus on are visibility, recognition of the profession and regulation of the profession. Further, the results of the questionnaire showed clearly that the member associations agree with the current Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was found to be satisfying with only minor changes and was adopted by the General assembly. There has further been a joint meeting with ENCoRE to work on the Professional Profile.

Further discussions on the Professional Profile during the Assembly showed that some members find the rather bureaucratic text difficult to understand. Other issues discussed on the subject regarded levels of academic training as a consequence of the Bologna Process, non-consecutive training, and compensation for conservators or restorers with diplomas or degrees below MA level. Chris Woods (ICON) informed about the assessing of professionals (by law) in UK which makes it possible to accredit individuals. In responding, René Larsen (ENCoRE) stressed that UK is the on-

ly country in EU offering assessment of professionals, and that the Bologna Process will create a system of academic training across borders. C-r is an academic profession and ENCoRE works for recognition of the profession defined by levels of education. The basis must be defined on academic training, and there is no speciality that cannot be covered by academic training.

On the question of how to continue the project, the President suggested writing a less bureaucratic version of the document for circulation among the member associations. Since the Directive was closed in June 2005, the aim with the current document will be self-regulation, lobbying, and to put pressure on national educational institutions. It is still unclear what possibilities there are of approaching the Directive again. Possibilities of amendments and platforms were discussed, and it was agreed that platforms are not an option. In six years time, however, the Directive will be assessed, and there may be a new possibility for approaching the Professional Profile.

During the year, E.C.C.O. has also been represented at several other meetings and conferences. For example by Edith Touré (ÖRV) at a conference in Bardejov, Slovakia and by Monica Martelli Castaldi (ARI) at a meeting on European Training Centres in Torino, Italy. The memorandum on legislation is planned to be presented at the 7th European Conference SAUVEUR 'Safeguarded Cultural Heritage – Understanding and Viability for the Enlarged Europe' in Prague, Czech Republic on 29 May – 2 June 2006.

Martelli Castaldi further informed the meeting of the final work with a new law on legislation of the c-r profession coming up in Italy, which goes well with the aims of E.C.C.O.-ENCoRE collaboration. The law will state what cultural heritage is, describe the c-r profession, and state who is responsible for the protection of cultural heritage. All delegates and associations are asked to send information on legislation to E.C.C.O.

The booklet on E.C.C.O. documents is planned to be re-printed and distributed.

The sub-committee for New Members reported



that two new organisations have applied for full membership in E.C.C.O. The organisations are British *Institute of Conservation* (ICON) and Dutch *Restauratoren Nederland* (RN). Both organisations are newly founded and based on the merging of previous separate smaller organisations. The General Assembly voted unanimously in favour of RN becoming full member of E.C.C.O. The assembly also voted unanimously on ICON becoming a full member, but on the condition that ICON submits a written document clarifying their membership categories to be approved by the E.C.C.O. General Assembly 2007.

Suvi Leukumaavaara (NKF-Fi) has put great efforts into updating the information on the E.C.C.O. website. It is slowly taking form, but since there have been lots of technical problems it has been suggested that the new committee will work on an entirely new website and close down the old one. Barbara Davidson suggested moving the website to Slovak Republic, as it is less expensive to own and maintain a site there.

Cornelia Weyer (VDR) and Tanja Røskar Reed (NKF-N) resigned from the committee, while David Aguilera Cueco (FFCR), Rui Bordalo (ARP), Barbara Davidson (KR) and Silke Beiner-Büth (VDR) candidate as new committee members and were all elected into the committee which will now include the following delegates: David Aguilera Cueco (FFCR), Silke Beiner Büth (VDR), Rui Bordalo (ARP), Monica Martelli Castaldi (ARI), Susan Corr (ICHAWI), Barbara Davidson (KR), Natalie Ellwanger (SKR-SCR), Michael Van Gampen (APROA-BRK), Suvi Leukumaavaara (NKF-Fi), Cecilia Rönnerstam (NKF-S) and Edith Touré (ÖRV).

Following the General Assembly participants joined for a dinner with fare well to those leaving the committee and welcome to the new ones.

Cecilia Rönnerstam
E.C.C.O. General Secretary

Treasurer report

FOREWORD

The duty of E.C.C.O. Treasurer was taken over from Michael Van Gompen (APROA/BRK) by Suvi Leukumaavaara (NKF-FI) after the E.C.C.O. October 2005 Committee Meeting.

As in the previous years, the accounting of the year 2005 has been done by a Belgian professional accountant.

A RESULTS 2005

I Expenses

Office & Administration

Administration expenses were lower in 2005 as well as last year.

Since the E.C.C.O. Belgian bank account was inaccessible, it caused extra costs as the Swiss account had to be used. The Belgian account was re-activated in February 2006.

To reduce the bank charges in 2006 and in the future, the older E.C.C.O. bank accounts will be closed, as soon as the Belgian account has proved to be fully working.

E.C.C.O. Reports

No costs in 2005, as the printing of the E.C.C.O. Reports 2005 has been delayed to February 2006.

Bureau & Committee meetings

Costs within budget.

Costs will rise if there are more people in the committee in 2006.

Membership fees

E.C.C.O. is a full member of CEPLIS (European Council for Liberal Professions).

The 2005 membership fee has been paid in due course.

Other expenses

The costs for the travel of E.C.C.O. Delegates are within budget. Delegates have been taking part in

meetings with ENCoRE, ICCROM and ICOM-CC. For next year, the budget has been increased.

There were no Lobbying action costs in 2005.

In 2005 the Working Groups have been active and therefore the budget has been exceeded. The budget has been increased for the next year.

E.C.C.O. paid the professional reporter Ira Mazzoni for her article on conservation-restoration, and for the translation of it. The article has been distributed to all member associations and will hopefully be spread out to be published as widely as possible.

The budget for the publication of the new Statutes and the updated version of E.C.C.O. Guidelines has been transferred to 2006.

The ICOM-CC Trade Fair in The Hague did not cause expenses as participation was in the actual Fair was cancelled. E.C.C.O. was however represented in The Hague as some Committee Members took part in the ICOM-CC Congress and also distributed E.C.C.O. material.

The E.C.C.O. web site bill for the design of the web site has been fully paid, but unfortunately there are still some technical problems with the site, which are being worked on.

APEL

The follow-up of the APEL Project generated some costs for E.C.C.O. in 2005. These costs are quoted under the expenses of Working Groups.

A follow-up has been budgeted also for 2006, but the reprinting of the APEL booklet has been cancelled, due to its information currently being under revision.

II Incomes

The 2005 E.C.C.O. Full Members fee was kept the same as in 2004.

The total income for membership fees has slightly decreased in 2005, as four member associations ceased to exist / merged.

All full member associations (except SSCR) have been invoiced for 2005. One of the ceased associa-



tions paid the 2005 fee in full, and another paid for the time they remained a member (half a year). Five full member associations did not pay their fee within 2005. Two full member associations still have not paid as of March 2006.

Some copies of the 2004 E.C.C.O. Reports and other E.C.C.O. publications have been sold in 2005. Income from these sold E.C.C.O. Reports is in the section: Sale E.C.C.O. Publications.

The total result for 2005 is therefore a gain of: **18.169,79 euro.**

B BUDGET 2006

I Expenses

Office & Administration

The budget is maintained for 2006.

The administration expenses are supposed to cover the external professional accountant as well as some costs for a professional secretary for particular jobs.

The E.C.C.O. committee has also considered seeking external professional assistance. This will be evaluated by the new Committee and a proposal will be made.

E.C.C.O. Reports

Double expenses in 2006 for the E.C.C.O. Reports, as the printing of the 2005 Reports delayed to February 2006. Reports are being posted.

Committee Meeting Expenses

Budget has been increased for 2006.

Membership Fees

The CEPLIS Membership fee has proved to rise annually.

Other expenses

The travel costs budget for E.C.C.O. Delegates has been increased according to last year's results and as we still plan to send Delegates to Special Events.

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

The budget for the working groups has been increased for 2006.

The costs for legal advices are likely to rise this year.

Expenses for Public Relations material is budgeted.

The publishing of the new versions of all the updated Official Documents has been transferred for 2006.

The E.C.C.O. website www.ecco-eu.info is still not fully functioning, but work is still being carried on. The costs budgeted cover mainly the expenses for the webhotel.

II Incomes

The Full Members fee income is expected to decrease in 2006, however the resigned / ceased associations are likely to re-join E.C.C.O.

We still have to receive some late payments for 2005, but they have already been recorded in the 2005 balance.

The number of advertisers should remain the same, however there are two editions of the E.C.C.O. Reports to be printed in 2006.

We expect to sell more copies of the E.C.C.O. publications.

The foreseen loss of 20.794,18 Euro for 2006 is explained by the delayed printing of the E.C.C.O. Reports 2005, which causes double expenses when both 2005 and 2006 are printed, and by the fact that E.C.C.O. (temporarily) lost member associations. Also closing down the older bank accounts and transferring the funds will cause expenses.

Suvi Leukumaavaara

Treasurer of E.C.C.O.



Full Mem- bers	Number of Full Members 2003 (1.1.03)	Votes 2003 (GA 2004)	Number of Full Members 2004 (1.1.04)	Votes 2004 (GA 2005)	Number of Full Members 2005 (1.1.05)	Votes 2003 (GA 2004)	Number of Full Members 2006 (1.1.06)	Votes 2006 (GA 2007)
A.P.R.O.A.-B.R.K. (BE)	128	2	134	2	134	2	132	2
A.R.I. (IT)	60	1	78	1	52	1	46	1
ACRACV (ES)	54	1	60	1	80	1	70	1
ARP (PT)	86	2	89	2	106	2	109	2
FFCR (FR)	163	2	183	2	162	2	193	2
GT, APCR (ES)	119	2	127	2	120	2	120	2
IPC (UK)	176	2	185	2	185	2		
IADA (International)	376	3	364	3	359	3	356	3
ICHAWI (IE)			24	1	24	1	27	1
ICON (UK)							626	5
KR (SK)					174	2	174	2
NKF-DK (DK)	224	3	231	3	224	3	221	3
NKF-FI (FI)	88	2	88	1	143	2	139	2
NKF-N (NO)	120	2	133	2	136	2	124	2
NKF-S (SE)	132	2	127	2	128	2	145	2
RN (NL)							302	3
SKR/SCR (CH)	246	3	266	3	267	3	262	3
SSCR (UK)	85	2	88	2	88	2		
UKIC (UK)	405	4	415	4	415	4		
VeRes (NL)	290	3	285	3	276	3		
VDR (DE)	2.364	8	2.357	8	2.353	8	2.250	8
VRS (IT)			19	1	18	1	18	1
ÖRV (AT)	180	2	178	2	209	2	219	2
Total:	5.296	46	5.431	47	5.653	50	5.533	47

The E.C.C.O. Office Administrator



For some time already the E.C.C.O. committee was looking for professional help: Somebody experienced in administration work with English as mother tongue and somehow introduced to the work of restorers-conservators.

As sometimes wishes are fulfilled – if you just wait long enough or by miracle – we found the right person in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

Mr. Stevin John Davidson, 34, could be hired for a first contract on a part time basis for the next three months beginning 15th of November 2006 until the GA of E.C.C.O. in Brussels.

As a teacher of English as foreign language and translator, he is also experienced in administration work and on computers. He is married to a Slovak conservator-restorer.

His duties in E.C.C.O. will be mainly:

- the coordination of the work inside bureau and committee, watching over dates and deadlines.
- He will help with the organisation and the preparation of meetings.
- He will also be in charge of the information exchange between E.C.C.O. and its member organisations.
- the information exchange between E.C.C.O. and its external contacts.
- He will also do the proof-reading of the minutes, the short news, the E.C.C.O. Reports and other relevant texts.
- As webmaster he will be in charge of the actualisation of the website of E.C.C.O.

All this and more will be his contribution to a smoother work schedule.

Every member of the E.C.C.O. committee is delighted with this opportunity, since it will make our work easier and more effective, as we hope.

We think that in a short time the effects of this improvement will be tangible also for the member organisations.

The first real task, next to the day-to-day duties will be the preparation of the presidents meeting in spring in Brussels, where Mr. Davidson will be present as well.

We wish him success in his new work!

Edith Touré

E.C.C.O.-committee member

E.C.C.O. visits Ján Figel', EU commissioner for education, training and culture

The 10th November 2006, during the E.C.C.O. bureau meeting in Bratislava, Monica Martelli-Castaldi, (President) Barbara Davidson (Slovak delegate and Vice-Treasurer) and Silke Beiner-Büth (Vice-President) as delegates of E.C.C.O. took the opportunity to meet Ján Figel' at his Bratislava office.

In a warm and friendly atmosphere we presented the situation of conservator-restorers in Europe and the need of recognition of our profession to improve the protection of European cultural heritage.

Ján Figel' confirmed, that E.C.C.O. "is on the right track" and stated the fact that since Europe is full of cultural treasures, which have been created sharing traditional knowledge of different civilisations, culture becomes more and more important in Europe as a unifying medium.

He was very interested in E.C.C.O. and recommended, for more visibility, to cooperate with different institutions active in the field. He mentioned the new programme "*Europe for Culture*" starting with a call for proposals in February 2007, as well as the new *Leonardo da Vinci* project which will have more funds in the future. He presented some other useful contacts for E.C.C.O.:

Europa Nostra – Mr. Figel' suggested that E.C.C.O. could take part to the "European cultural heritage days" to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, in September 2007, in collaboration with the *Council of Europe*. *Centre Européen de Formation Professionnelle (CEDEF)* – this centre gives guidelines and counselling on lifelong professional learning. The director is Mrs. Aviana Bulgarelli.

European Training Foundation (ETF) – based in

Turin, operates as an agency of the European Union giving expertises on the processes of reform and restructuring of professional education programmes.

Mr. Figel' appreciated the examining of the legal framework E.C.C.O. had done by the APEL project and considered a useful step to present it at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, while, at the same time, the members of E.C.C.O. should try to work on the national legislation as well.

Ján Figel' is especially interested in the European Qualification Framework (EQF), which at the moment is on a general debate and will come to life in 2008. This project proposes that in the future individuals can be evaluated by their professional output and competences more than by their official qualification, which varies widely between the European countries. Mr. Figel' suggested that defining the "prescriptors" (the content) of the levels that, in the EQF range, correspond to the conservator-restorer professionals, can be an important task for E.C.C.O., since it represents the profession at European level, and should therefore influence, as a network body, the quality of accreditation standards.. Another task will be to develop criteria for "independent quality assurance bodies" to guarantee a high competence level by life-long learning programmes, Mr. Figel' named, as an example, the *European Quality Register* and the *European Research Council* (independent body to evaluate excellence in Research).

For future closer contact E.C.C.O. was advised to get in touch with Dr. Vladimír Šucha. Director for culture and communication at the General Directorate of the European Commission for Education and Culture, who could contribute to E.C.C.O.'s urge to turn our intentions into practical steps.

Silke Beiner-Büth
Barbara Davidson
Monica Martelli Castaldi



E.C.C.O. Member List

January 2007



BUREAU:

Monica Martelli Castaldi, Silke Beiner-Büth,
Natalie Ellwanger, Cecilia Rönnerstam,
Suvi Leukumaavaara, Susan Corr, Barbara
Davidson

COMMITTEE:

Monica Martelli Castaldi, Silke Beiner-Büth,
Natalie Ellwanger, Cecilia Rönnerstam,
Suvi Leukumaavaara, Susan Corr, Michael van
Gompen, Edith Touré, Barbara Davidson,
David Cueco-Aguilella, Rui Bordalo

E.C.C.O. ADDRESS:

E.C.C.O.
4 Rue Jacques de Lalaing
BE-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium

Full Member Organisations

DELEGATE	ORGANISATION
<p>Monica Martelli Castaldi (President) Via Marechiaro 101 IT - 80123 NAPOLI ITALY T: +39 081 769 19 07 F: +39 081 575 25 44 E: marechiaro@tin.it</p>	<p>Associazione Restauratori d'Italia (ARI) President: Carla Tomasi Via A.G Barrili 16 IT - 00152 ROMA ITALY T/F: +39 06 581 39 47 E: ari-restauro@libero.it www.ari-restauro.org</p>
<p>Silke Beiner-Büth (Vice President) Hamburgmuseum Holstenwall 24 DE - 20355 HAMBURG GERMANY T: + 49 40 428 132 23 75 F: + 49 40 428 132 31 03 E: silke.beiner-bueth@hamburgmuseum.de E: beiner-bueth@wt.net.de E: vizepraesident@restauratoren.de</p>	<p>Verband der Restauratoren e.V. (VDR) Dr. Sabina Fleitmann (Geschäftsführerin) Haus der Kultur Weberstraße 61 DE - 53113 BONN GERMANY T: +49 228 24 37 366 F: + 49 228 26 19 669 E: info@restauratoren.de www.restauratoren.de</p>

Natalie Ellwanger (Vice President)
c/o Vorarlberger Landesmuseum
Restaurierung
Kornmarktplatz 1
AT - 6900 BREGENZ
AUSTRIA
T: + 43 5574 460 505 30
E: natalie.ellwanger@googlemail.com

Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung und Restaurierung/Association Suisse de Conservation et Restauration (SKR/SCR)
Brunngasse 60
CH - 3011 BERN
SWITZERLAND
T: + 41 31 311 63 03
F: + 41 31 312 38 01
E: info@skr.ch
www.skr.ch

Cecilia Rönnerstam (General Secretary)
Conservation Department/Portrait miniatures
National Museum
Box 161 76
SE - 103 24 STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN
T: + 46 8 5195 4319
F: + 46 8 5195 4450
E: crm@nationalmuseum.se

Nordiska Konservatorförbundet/Svenska Sektionen (NKF-S)
Box 3071
SE - 103 61 STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN
E: sekreterare@nkf-s.se
www.nkf-s.se

Susan Corr (Deputy Secretary)
Annaghdown
Corrandulla
IE - Co. Galway
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
T: + 353 91 791070
E: cornewman@eircom.net

Institute for the Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works in Ireland (ICHAWI)
1 Lower Grand Canal St.
IE - DUBLIN 2
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
E: ichawi@eircom.net
www.irelandconservation.org

Suvi Leukumaavaara (Treasurer)
c/o Scientific Department
The National Gallery
Trafalgar Square
GB - LONDON WC2N 5DN
UNITED KINGDOM
E: suvileukumaavaara@yahoo.com

Pohjoismaisen Konservattoriliiton Suomen Osasto ry (NKF-FI)
c/o Suomen Museoliitto
Annankatu 16 B 50
FI - 00120 HELSINKI
FINLAND
E: katariina_johde@yahoo.com
E: pirjo.taipale@welho.com
www.konservattoriliitto.fi

Barbara Davidson (Deputy Treasurer)
Palisády 10
SK - 81106 BRATISLAVA
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
T: + 421 2 5441 8300
E: barbara@davidson.sk

Komora Reštaurátorov (KR)
President: Tomáš Lupták
Lermontovova 8
SK - 81105 BRATISLAVA
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
T/F: + 421 2 5441 9811
E: komora.restauratorov@restauro.sk
www.restauro.sk



Edith Touré (Committee)

Badgasse 1a
 AT - 2301 GROSS-ENZERSDORF
 AUSTRIA
 T/F: + 43 2249 28841
 E: atoure@aon.at

Österreichischer Restauratorenverband (ÖRV)

Postfach 576
 AT - 1011 WIEN
 AUSTRIA
 E: info@orv.at
 www.orv.at

**Michael Van Gompen (Committee)**

Rue Archimede 46
 BE - 1000 BRUSSELS
 BELGIUM
 T: + 32 2 230 7291
 F: + 32 2 280 1797
 E: m.vangompen@scarlet.be

**Association Professionnelle des Conservateurs/
 Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art.
 Beroepsvereniging voor Conservators-Restaurateurs
 van Kunstvoorwerpen vzw. (APROA/BRK)**

Leuvensesteenweg 12
 BE - 1970 WEZEMBEEK OPPEM.
 BELGIUM

Rui Bordalo (Committee)

Rua Felipe Taylor N° 8 Cave C
 PT - 2770-063 Paço de Arcos
 PORTUGAL
 T: + 351 96 41 00 376
 F: + 351 21 42 28 126
 E: rmbordalo@gmail.com

**Associação Profissional de Conservadores-
 Restauradores de Portugal (ARP)**

Rua Serpa Pinto N° 5 1°esq.Tardoz
 PT - 1200-442 LISBOA
 PORTUGAL
 T: + 351 96 00 44 910
 F: + 351 21 347 5918
 E: mail@arp.org.pt
 www.arp.org.pt

David Cueco Aguilera (Committee)

60 Rue Greneta
 FR - 75002 PARIS
 FRANCE
 T: + 33 1 42 36 73 21
 F: + 33 1 42 36 15 67
 E: d.cueco@easynet.fr

**Fédération Française des Conservateurs/
 Restaurateurs (FFCR)**

c/o David Aguilera Cueco (Vice-President)
 60 Rue Greneta
 FR - 75002 PARIS
 FRANCE
 T/F: + 33 1 42 02 34 81
 E: ffcfr@netcourrier.com
 www.ffcfr-fr.org

Tanja Røskar Reed

Aust-Agder Kulturhistoriske Senter
 Parkveien 16
 NO - 4838 ARENDAL
 NORWAY
 T: + 47 37 07 35 00/04
 F: + 47 37 07 35 01
 E: tanja.reed@aaks.no

**Nordisk Konservatorforbund/den Norske Seksjon
 (NKF-N)**

Chair: Solveig Schytz
 Langbakken 58
 NO - 1430 ÅS
 NORWAY
 T: +47 41 62 68 22
 E: solveig@schytz.no
 www.museumsnett.no/nkf-n

Helle Strehle

Konserveringsafdelingen
Møesgård Museum
DK - 8270 HØJBJERG
DENMARK
T: + 45 8942 4533
F: + 45 8627 2378
E: ecco@nkf-dk.dk

Nordisk Konservatorforbund-Danmark (NKF-DK)

Chairman: Michael Højlund Rasmussen
Konserveringscentret i Vejle
Maribovej 10
DK - 7100 VEJLE
DENMARK
T: + 45 7662 1155
E: formand@nkf-dk.dk
www.nkf-dk.dk

Monika Schneidereit-Gast

Schaberger Straße 87
DE - 42697 SOLINGEN
GERMANY
T/F: + 49 212 2604730
E: mail@papierrestauration.de

Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv Bibliotheks- und Graphik Restauratoren (IADA)

President: Markus Klasz
Niedersächsische Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek
Papendiek 14
DE - 37073 GÖTTINGEN
GERMANY
T: + 49 551 39 52 02
F: + 49 552 73 481
E: restaurierung@mail.sub.uni-goettingen.de
<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/iada/>

Jaap van der Burg

Helicon Conservation Support bv
Boer Haaveweg 9-11
NL - 2408 AD ALPHEN AAN DEN RIJN
THE NETHERLANDS
T: + 31 6222 48144
E: j.vandenburg@helicon-cs.com
www.helicon-cs.com

Restauratoren Nederland (RN)

President: Suzanne Maarschalkerweerd-Dechamps
Postbus 11503
NL - 1001 GM AMSTERDAM
THE NETHERLANDS
T: + 31 20 850 03 70
F: + 31 20 850 0390
E: info@restauratoren.nl
www.restauratoren.nl

Christabel Blackman

Calle Maestro Chueca 3
ES - 46901 Vedat de Torrent
VALENCIA
SPAIN
T: + 34 96 155 3456
E: christabel1@terra.es

Asociación de Conservadores y Restauradores de Arte de la Comunidad Valenciana (ACRACV)

Vice-President: Alicia Hernadnez Andrada
Zurradores, 2 bajo izquierda
ES - 46001 VALENCIA
SPAIN
T: + 34 96 315 2013 or + 34 65 1022 388
E: info@acracv.org
E: ACRACV@yahoo.es
www.acracv.org

Agnès Gall Ortlik

Conservació-Restauració del Patrimoni Ceràmica,
vidre i esmalts sobre metall.
Sant Eusebi 52
ES - 08006 BARCELONA
SPAIN
T: + 34 932 006570, + 34 610 901215
E: gallortlik@yahoo.fr

Grup Tècnic. Associació Professional dels Conservadors-Restauradors de Catalunya (GTCR)

Portaferissa 24, 1r 2^a
ES - 08002 BARCELONA
SPAIN
E: gruptecnic@gruptecnic.org
www.gruptecnic.org



Brigitte Esser
 Villenerweg 8
 IT - 39011 LANA (BZ)
 ITALY
 T: + 39 0473 56 10 13
 E: essbri@dnet.it

**Verband der Restauratoren-Konservatoren
 Südtirols/Associazione dei Restauratori-Conservatori
 Dell'Alto Adige (VRS/ARA)**
 c/o Verena Mumelter
 Waltherplatz 3
 IT - 39100 BOZEN/BOLZANO
 ITALY
 E: piwo@dnet.it
 E: valma@tin.it
 T: + 39 0471 97 43 93

Chris Woods
 Director of Collection & Programme Services
 Tate
 Millbank
 GB - LONDON SW1P 4RG
 UNITED KINGDOM
 E: chris.woods@tate.org.uk

ICON – The Institute of Conservation
 3rd Floor
 Downstream Building
 1 London Bridge
 GB - LONDON SE1 9BG
 UNITED KINGDOM
 T: + 44 207 7853807
www.icon.org.uk

Associate Member Organisations

D E L E G A T E

O R G A N I S A T I O N

*Please help to keep this list up to date by reporting any changes or mistakes to
Susan Corr, e-mail: cornnewman@eircom.net
 without delay! Please delete any older versions. Thank you.*

APROA-BRK

(Association Professionnelle de Conservateurs-Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art – Beroepsvereniging voor Conservators-Restaurateurs van Kunstvoorwerpen) – BELGIUM.

The life of our Association goes through some big moments of common activities such as the General Assemblies, study days and other activities (workshops, exhibitions, ...) that we try to spread within the year.

It is the duty of the Board to organise all these events and it is sometimes difficult to cope with it on the top of the everyday management of the Association and the important topics that need to be pushed forward at the same time.

Our annual activities started in March with a “workshop” dedicated to the use of gels in conservation-restoration. This activity met a great success. To make it more efficient, we had decided to create two different groups, one for the French speaking members and another one for the Dutch speaking members. Both groups enjoyed the two days of lectures and practice in studios that were given by two different professionals (one for each group). The big number of members attending this activity reflected a real success and all reactions were very positive.

We shall try again soon to organise such events as we see clearly the demand for activities and lectures linked directly to professional practice from our members. These “workshops” allow not only exchanging views and experiences between the lecturer and the audience but also between the people attending. It also allows putting the theory into practice after the formal lecture, which is an ideal way for practitioners.

The end of this year and the coming one are very important for us as the official recognition of our profession is in progress. An official regulation of

the profession is normally achieved through a “right to access” which is a very heavy procedure that is hardly applicable to a profession with few practitioners as ours. It would request far too much investment and would have very heavy functioning procedures. This has been understood by the Government and a new law has been adopted recently that allows the possibility for Intellectual Professions providing services to request the official protection of their title.

Of course, it will only regulate the use of the professional title and not of the practice in the whole sector but it is nevertheless, a significant advance for our profession in Belgium as some kind of official recognition will come with it. Further more, the requested conditions to obtain the protected title include an important issue related to the level of study and diploma.

We therefore found in this new law a way to push forward the recognition of our profession when the other routes of usual regulation were blocked for many years.

At the time of writing this report, the preliminary contacts with the Ministry have been made and have been very positive. A working group has been set up and is elaborating the details such as the exact title that we want to protect or the important part of our Guidelines and code of conduct within the framework of the new law. We are aware of the fact that it will still take a little while to go through the whole process of getting this official protection of the title (probably nearly a year from now), but we really hope to have good news to announce by the time of the next E.C.C.O. Reports.

This autumn is also a time for big improvements of our website. It is going to be much developed, especially to create more communication between the Members through exchange Forums of all sorts in close link to the profession. We try also to make it clearer and more “user-friendly” for the average consumer that looks for information on the profession or seeks for a Conservator-Restorer. To make this new website is in fact quite a huge task and it requires much more work from us than



we would have thought, but we believe that the result will be appreciated and we are waiting for reactions and comments from our Members and from E.C.C.O. Members too. The new address is: www.aproa-brk.org or www.brk-aproa.org



The year 2006 has seen a complete updating of our Internal Rules document as well as some other papers such as the application forms for membership and the annual Members List booklet. This Member List being an endless source of discussion related to the name of the specialities, the creation of some new specialities or the definition of what competences they shall comprise. These are for sure difficult problems for every Organisation.

In October 2007, our international Symposium will take place as every other year; the theme chosen is this time linked to authenticity, we want to call it “the myth of the return to origin” and it will deal with the space left to the Conservator-Restorer for interpretation in every speciality. We are currently organising this symposium and we start to receive confirmations from the lecturers with their projects of papers. Details will soon be available on our website and everyone is welcome to attend.

Happy New Year to everybody.

Etienne Costa

President of APROA-BRK

ARI Italy

General Assembly and new Council

General Assembly of the 20 June 2005 elected the new Directive Council, and then subsequently distributed the charges and the assignments:

President: Carla Tomasi

Vice-president and Treasurer: Michela Gottardo

Working group on the Legislation: Michela Gottardo, Antonella Docci, Maugeri Marina, Carla Tomasi

Working group E.C.C.O.: Monica Martelli Castaldi (referring) Roberto Borgogno, Anna Valeria Jervis (who recently resigned from the working group)

New registrations: Cristina Vazio

Web site: Marina Maugeri and Antonella Docci

Correspondence with the associates: Alessandra De Vita

Convention with assurances: Giuseppe Costantini, Antonella Docci, Alessandra De Vita

Councilmen: Pietro dalla Nave, Daniela Luzi.

The council continued the management of the financial emergency and tried to get new associates, with excellent results from the point of view of the visibility and fairly good as far as the new registrations are concerned. Some problems have been caused by a malfunctioning of the site web which has been recently solved.

The association still suffers for the loss of coherence inside the profession, caused by many years of irregularities and bad management of public contracts. This led the C/Rs to such a difficult economic and professional personal situation that they lost almost every willingness to remain united and sustain the ideal aims of the category, because they were too concentrated in making ends meet, without having residual energies neither believing that being a member of an association could be of some help.



The law in Italy and the job made by ARI to change the texts

During this intense year of activity in Italy, a series of norms were approved, which confirmed, specified and completed the important reforms of the last years concerning restoration and maintenance of the cultural heritage.

A long and capillary work with the institutions and the legislative office of the Minister of the Cultural Heritage was performed by the former councils of ARI and is still in progress, with satisfactory results. In January 2006 a decree containing the anticipated integrations and corrections to the new Unique Code of the Cultural Heritage was approved. It has been effective since May 12, 2006 (this code is the only text which contains all the norms that regulate the activities of Restoration of the Italian cultural patrimony, the activities of maintenance and restoration included).

In the articles 29, and 182 the figure of the Restorer of Cultural Heritage is legally defined, and the list of qualified C/R is also created by the Minister of Cultural Heritage. Only the C/Rs complying with the laws will have access to this list.

In the art. 182 the criteria of evaluation for the access of C/Rs who have been practicing the profession up to the issue of the new law have been defined, according to what is stated in the official documents of E.C.C.O..

The new educational training that gives access to the profession has also been defined:

The article 29 of the Unique Code of the Cultural Heritage establishes that the specific competence on conservation belongs to the Conservator/Restorer, and officially and definitely in Italy, the training of the restorer of cultural goods became a non stop five-year course with a final diploma which is comparable to a (MA) degree.

According to the new law training centres might be created with an agreement among regions, ministries, universities or also private citizens.

The first centre, expressly authorized by the law, is already operative in the Castle of Venaria Reale, Turin.

The Restorer of Cultural Heritage participates in the whole procedure related to the actions of safeguard of „movable art works“ and of „architecton-

ical decorated surfaces“, in fact his/her role is also irreplaceable in the planning, the validation of the projects and the direction of the works.

The issue of the text of law is extremely important in the European context, because Italy has been the first country to conceive a law which is specifically meant for the maintenance and the restoration of cultural heritage. Nevertheless, the full application of the law is still bound to the issue of the Rules that should put into effect the norms contained in the Code.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage (MIBAC) has promised to emanate such rules „within the end of 2006“. They concern:

- the profiles of the competences of the Restorer of cultural (conservator/restorer) heritage, the technical collaborator of the C/R and the other technical figures of support (paragraph 7)
- the Professional training, with the percentages of theory and practice, the survey on the didactic activity and the final examination, and the standards of the institutes, trainers and professors (paragraph 8),
- the characteristics of the teaching staff (paragraph 9)

The **article 182** includes the transitory norms for the accreditation to the profession (currently valid only for the one that owned the requisites up to December 1st 2001). In the transitory norms some alternative parameters to the specific training are pointed out for people who have been working for many years without the requirements set by the law.

Moreover, the article contemplates an examination, for the C/R who possesses only part of the defined characteristics, that should be presumably activated “una tantum” next year. The same article foresees the creation of a list of the Minister Cultural Heritage in which the qualified Restorers, allowed by the State to work in Italy, will be included.

The norm foresaw its institution within October 2006 but the change of the government and his President has extended the terms of application of the law and the approval of the rules.

Since the definition of the comma 7-8-9 has been

delayed, the ICR Central Institute for the Restoration (Rome) and of the OPD Opificio delle pietre dure (Florence) have suspended the annual contest for the admission of the new students and it has started the procedures of adjustment to the new parameters stated by the law.

The principle that led to the extension of the law derives from the „E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines“, in fact, in the layout of the Paragraph 7 which concerns the profile of competence of the Conservator/Restorer, the European organization is expressly quoted.

Almost contemporarily to the approval of the changes to the New Code of the Cultural Heritage the New Code of the Public Contracts has been promulgated. This new text of law doesn't modify the conditions of certification of the firms of restoration, but it enacts once and for all that the competences of planning, direction, execution and control, should be carried out by a Restorer of BBCC (Beni Culturali/Cultural Heritage), whose role is irreplaceable even when minimal.

To comply with the laws that state an irreplaceable role for the C/R in the planning, validation and direction of the works of restoration, a work group boarding the council of ARI prepared and finally stipulated a convention with Lloyd's of London for the creation of a special insurance policy that protects the Restorer merely in its „professional“ job, before, during and also after the work is finished. In case of controversies the Lloyd's will request advise, control and mediation by the members of ARI.

The promotion of this agreement will be performed during a Workshop, sponsored by Lloyd's, which will be held in Rome next year. Experts of the cultural heritage and members of the government will be invited.

ARI Membership in E.C.C.O.

During the last meetings of the council of ARI, controversial opinions have been expressed about E.C.C.O.. Some members doubt that E.C.C.O. effectively fulfils its own objectives, and suits the needs of the single national associations. Doubts have been also expressed about the effectiveness of the collaboration of CEPLIS to our cause, since

there has been a lack of contribution to the approval of the Zappalà directive and the final draft of the Bolkestein directive.

The council appreciated that Monica Martelli Castaldi, former president of ARI, has been elected as a new president of E.C.C.O., on March 4, 2006.

The present „contractual power“ of the Italian „Restorers of Cultural heritage“ inside the Government is fairly inadequate, because other categories, which are more powerful and numerous, occupy the cultural and professional space of the restores (professional offices of engineers and architects; building enterprises in the restoration; craftsmen that deal with restoration commissioned by antiquity shops, art historians that develop roles in the field of planning and direction of works; laboratories of diagnostic). ARI proposed to E.C.C.O. to make use of its international prestige to support the requests and needs of our category in collaboration with MIBAC or any other Italian organization.

For example, E.C.C.O. might participate in the meetings with the most important government officers trying to make the position of every single association more authoritative in their own country.

The profession in Europe has always been a core normative interest in ARI. Therefore, on January 6 2006 ARI had an informative meeting with the On. Stefano Zappalà, chairman of the Directive on the Acknowledgment of the Professional Titles, to clarify the possibility to obtain the recognition of our profession within the directive approved at the end of 2005.

The chairman has explained that a round table might be organized if the C/Rs are represented at European level as the majority of the professional associations of conservators-restorers, and they require that the profession is regulated according to a specific shared criterion. In alternative, the C/Rs might promote a national action to obtain a specific change to the directive, required by the competent national Ministry.

At the same time the Chairman has drawn attention to the important directive Bolkestein for the manifold aspects concerning our professions.

Conclusion and requests

The demand to formulate a communitarian normative, that follows the directives, contained in the statute of E.C.C.O. and in the E.C.C.O. professional Guidelines, is also a necessity **that cannot be postponed** since the directive Bolkestein is going to impose a dead end.

Italy believes that a working group inside E.C.C.O., should be activated as soon as possible, together with the legislative staff of every state member, to outline a first draft to modify the new directive, with the purpose to prevent that Conservators/Restorers of other states, in which the restrictive criteria adopted by the Italian legislation are not observed, can require and obtain privileges that cannot be recognized to the Italian conservators.

Carla Tomasi

ARI President

E.C.C.O. Working group of ARI

ARP

Associação Profissional de Conservadores- Restauradores de Portugal

This report covers the period from September 2005 to October 2006.

In the beginning of 2006 ARP had board elections and a partially renewed board was voted with Alexandrina Barreiro as the new President. As announced last year, ARP's delegate Francisca Figueira stepped down from E.C.C.O.'s Committee. This year the new delegate, Rui Bordalo, was elected as member of the new Committee and was chosen to be part of the Legislation work group.

ARP's new board has entered its mandate quite enthusiastically with a larger and very participative committee board.

In February 2006 ARP published the second number of its scientific journal, *Conservar Património*, which is indexed in Getty's AATA-online and in the Chemical Abstracts (CAS).

The Portuguese Accreditation System, in which ARP has been a partner together with the Direção Geral de Ensino Superior (DGES – an organism from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education) and the Instituto Português de Conservação e Restauro (IPCR – an organism of the Ministry of Culture and the coordinating member) has recently given a presentation of the Accreditation system to ARP's members and we hope its implementation will soon take place. It is believed that the Portuguese accreditation system will be quite similar to the British one.

The Portuguese Government has implemented a major reorganisation of many public institutions. It is known that the coordinating member, the Portuguese Institute of Conservation and Restoration (IPCR) will be merged with the Portuguese Institute of Museums (IPM), both organisms from the Ministry of Culture, creating the so called Institute of Museums and Conservation. Further details are not known as the bylaws have not yet been published. It is hoped that this merger will not endanger the accreditation system.

With the accreditation system and its continuous





professional development in mind ARP has recently imparted a 30 hour course on competence skills and professional development construction routes. It will continue to implement short courses with programs that aim at building competencies in order to better respond to the new challenges that await its members.

The Bologna Process has already started to be implemented in the Portuguese Universities and in the Polytechnics. At Universidade Nova in Lisbon a first three-year BSc degree was created "in Conservation Materials, degradation and diagnosis" and two MSc degrees, one "in Conservation Science" and the other "in Conservation-Restoration of one specialism". The Portuguese Catholic University in Porto has also implemented the Bologna Process much in a similar way to the Universidade Nova except for the Conservation Science Course, which will not be lectured there. The Polytechnic Institute of Tomar is still in the process of pre-implementing this process.

Unfortunately there is a growing interest in the higher education institutions for Cultural Heritage courses. As a consequence two new polytechnical conservation courses were approved to start lecturing in 2006/2007, in spite of ARP's disapproving position. However no students have applied to these courses and we feel this can be seen as a clear indicator of the growing student knowledge of the increasing saturation of professionals in the work market.

Rui Bordalo

Lisboa, 30st of October 2006

IADA

**Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv-, Bibliotheks- und Grafikrestauratoren
International Association of Book and Paper Conservators**

Committee board:

Markus Klasz (president), Vienna, Austria

Renate van Issem (vice president), Göttingen, Germany

Julia Bispinck (treasurer), Berlin, Germany

Andrea Pataki (secretary), Stuttgart, Germany

Birgit Reissland (editor), Amsterdam, Netherlands

Alexander Aichinger, Vienna, Austria

Manfred Anders, Leipzig, Germany

Irene Brücke, Berlin, Germany

Anna Bülow, London, Great Britain

Monika Schneiderei-Gast, Solingen, Germany

The association currently has 516 members in 17 countries. The central aim of the IADA is to offer professional development and active exchange between colleagues, represent professional interests of their members and promote students. The IADA sees its role, on an international level, in creating a network of paper conservators by transfer of knowledge and in the publication of professional articles in its magazine, in the organisation of international conferences, in the offering of workshops and in partnerships of European Projects.

The IADA is one of the founding members of E.C.C.O., consenting to its statutes and code of ethics.

The IADA committee met in Berlin November 2005 to discuss topics concerning the association and in Vienna September 2006 to start up the preparations for the XI. Conference.

The International conference will take place in Vienna from 17th to 21st September 2007 and will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IADA. The papers will cover all areas of paper conservation and related materials, present new working

methods and materials as well as scientific and historical research projects and treatments of special objects. The conference will be in English and German.

The association is continuing to organise practical workshop for its members. In cooperation with the “Centro de Bel Libro” in Ascona, the course on “Conservation of Fans” was given by M. Noehles and on “Conservation of Papyri” by A. Donau. Again the successful course on “Restoration of Transparent Papers”, given by H. Homburger, was held in Berlin. The results of the EU project “Water and Paper” will be taught to interested conservators during a seminar by H. Homburger and D. Hess in Berlin in October 2006. The cooperation with the “Centro de Bel Libro” in Ascona will be continued in the year 2007 with two workshops, “Mold on Paper” and “The Restoration of Transparent Paper”, where IADA members can take profit from reduced fees.

During the X. IADA Congress in Göttingen 2004, donations for the demolition of the Iraqi Library in Baghdad were collected. The impressions and pictures of the Iraqi War were present at that time, thus we took the chance to start a fundraising campaign. The amount of 750 € could now finally be transferred to the Goethe-Institute in Munich to support the training of an Iraqi book repair technician, who will be also trained in Germany.

Based on the internationality of the members of the IADA, the association publishes in English and in German the quarterly magazine “Papier-Restaurierung” with articles and information on paper conservation topics and related fields of interest. Abstracts of articles are published in the web and in future the articles of the “PapierRestaurierung” will be available as through the web in full length after 5 years.

Work has been dedicated to the design of the new website. Beginning of 2007 the IADA will present its image to the public and offer more information to its members.

Contact:

IADA – Geschäftsstelle
c/o UB Göttingen
Papendiek 14
37073 Göttingen
Germany

T: 0049-551-395202

E: Restaurierung@mail.sub.uni-goettingen.de

www.palimpsest.stanford.edu/iada



Dr. Andrea Pataki
Monika Schneiderei-Gast

ICHAWI

Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland



Business as usual predicated the work of the Institute for Conservation over the last year complicated as it was by the fact that the Institute had to find new premises. This took considerable time and energy involving a move to temporary residence until new offices were acquired via the auspices of the Office of Public Works, a State agency with responsibility for care of the National Heritage. ICHAWI is now located at No 1 Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2.

Although the uptake is slow amongst professional conservators, the work of accrediting new members continued as conservators working in the fields of textile and furniture conservation successfully presented for accreditation. Despite the slow uptake, accreditation is regarded as a valid and necessary means of assessing and benchmarking professional practice. Furthermore in order to maintain parity with the PACR accreditation scheme which ICON members subscribe to, ICHAWI undertook a review of its own accreditation scheme. This was considered important particularly in light of the fact that in the Irish procedure extern assessors are always involved. Susan Bradshaw, who trains the PACR assessors, was invited over to provide a training workshop for ICHAWI assessors.

As the accrediting body in Ireland ICHAWI remains in close contact with ICON having participated in the NCCR's formative discussions leading to convergence. John Kelly, stone conservator, and recent Chairman of the board of ICHAWI is the Northern Ireland representative on the Board of ICON.

Those professional conservators who are not yet accredited members of ICHAWI are represented

by the Irish Professional Conservator and Restorers Association, IPCRA.

IPCRA has representation on the Board of ICHAWI (such representation can only be by ICHAWI-accredited conservators) and also works to promote the conservation profession in Ireland. It meets twice a year and provides a forum for conservators to air and discuss their views and problems.

The Institute remains proactive in supporting the further education of professional conservators by organising several CPD courses including a very successful seminar on the Stabilisation of Iron Gall Ink given by Dr Jana Kolar; David Pinnigar ran a theoretical and practical workshop on Integrated Pest Management and a course was given on Mounting large and Small Objects for Exhibition. As part of British Science Week held in Trinity College Dublin last September, Dr Wolfgang Kautek also delivered a paper on the use of Lasers in the Conservation of Paper following on the work of the European PARELA project in which this delegate was a participant.

Most students of conservation must follow recognised training course abroad as there are few courses available here. In recognition of this and the need to increase professional resources in conservation in Ireland, the Institute, directly funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland, disburses bursaries to defray student expenses abroad. The Institute continued to support several students over the last year.

The conservation community in Ireland became very exercised over the dropping of the only degree course available here, when the BSc course in Furniture Conservation at Letterfrack, Co. Galway disappeared off the radar. Following a joint meeting of interested parties from all sectors of the heritage community, where the importance of the course was stressed in the wider context of the European conservation profession, the course has been reinstated and will begin to take in new students in 2007.

Within the remit of education ICHAWI also runs 'Caring for Collections' courses for those people working in the Heritage sector where issues of preservation inform much of their work. These courses run on an annual basis and are always very well attended.

Grellan Rourke, conservation architect, represented Ireland at the ICCROM Biennial Meeting in Rome last autumn, where he was appointed to the Council of ICCROM. Congratulations were offered to Dr. Mounir Bouchanaki on his new position as Chairman of ICCROM.

Such involvement of conservators at international and European level (via membership of E.C.C.O.) does help to raise the profile of the profession back at home and gives some degree of leverage when arguing for the promotion or consolidation of professional issues and causes.

Susan Corr

ICON – The Institute of Conservation

Icon is the lead voice for conservation of cultural heritage in the UK. Icon aims to be inclusive, forward-looking, outward-looking, transparent, efficient, responsive, empowering, flexible, independent and creative. All of its activities are approached in the spirit of these values.

Our mission is:

1. **Public Access and Understanding:** to raise public, political and professional awareness of the importance of caring for our shared cultural heritage; to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of public and private stakeholders, and the public at large
2. **Advocacy:** to champion the conservation of cultural heritage at every level in both public and private sectors, nationally and internationally
3. **Professional Standards, Ethics, Training and Education:** to act as a unifying force for the conservation profession in setting national standards and supporting the attainment of these standards in ethics, practice, training, education, research and workforce diversity
4. **Membership Services:** to respond to the needs of the conservation community

In 2006, Icon successfully undertook the following activities:

1. Public Access and Understanding

- **The Icon website** is currently averaging 350 hits per hour and nearly 750 visits per day.
- The **Conservation Register** website has continued to see an increase in public use as people search the practice database for accredited conservation businesses and to read about how to care for their heritage. The site currently receives more than 2000 conservation business searches each month.





- Icon joined the steering committee of a new initiative called **Collections Link**. Publicly funded, Collections Link is the national collections management advisory service for museums, archives, libraries and other collections-holding organisations. The aim of the service is to provide a single point of access to best practice in the care and management of collections.
- Icon published an entire new suite of **public information leaflets**, covering the object types members of the public most commonly enquire about. There are now 22 titles of which 9 are printed in hard copy, with the rest available in electronic format only.

2. Advocacy

- In May 2006 Icon was invited to the Houses of Parliament to give evidence to the House of Lords Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee was conducting a national enquiry into **Science and Heritage**. The committee's report, published in November 2006, cited Icon's evidence 28 times and recommended a key role for Icon in the future of UK Heritage Science.
- In October 2006 Icon was invited to the Houses of Parliament once again to present evidence to the House of Commons Cultural Media and Sport Committee enquiry into the **Care of Collections**. The report from this committee will be published early in 2007.
- In April Icon co-published a report on the future of **Training for Architectural Conservators** with English Heritage. November Icon convened a discussion of colleges and employers in Architectural Heritage sector to debate the report. Icon's proposal to use its competence-based professional standards framework as a tool for benchmarking and course development was well received.

3. Professional Standards, Ethics, Training and Education:

- Icon was awarded **£1m of Heritage Lottery Fund** money to provide training placements for conservators in areas of particular skills shortage. In September the first group of trainees took up their placements. Demand was so great for the programme that over 290 applications were received for 17 places. Enthusiasm for employers was also great – there were more than 50 % more training places offered than Icon had funding for.
- **The Icon Book and Paper Group International Conference** in Edinburgh was held in July with over 400 delegates from around the world participating. This was the first major international conference on paper conservation in the UK for nearly a decade. The scope of presentations on specific issues in paper conservation was wide-ranging and forward-looking, with two thirds presented by paper conservators outside the UK. The recently-developed professional accreditation route for preventive conservators was also debated.

4. Membership Services:

Icon currently has 2850 members.

- A **professional insurance** scheme for Icon members was launched in October, and an agreement for discounted insurance to PACR accredited conservators on the Conservation Register.
- A **standard contract** with terms and conditions was made available to all independent conservators in Icon's membership in November.
- In September Icon initiated a process called '**Conservator-friendly commissioning**'. This is a dialogue with the organisations which commission work from conservators, the National Trust, English Heritage and the Council for the Care of Churches. These bodies have agreed to review the way they commission work and to try and make it simpler, less bureaucratic, time-consuming and often, expensive for conservators to bid for work.

5. Europe

In addition to its involvement with ECCO, Icon and VDR exchanged information and met in December to consider European developments and the role of the conservation professional bodies. This new relationship with our German colleagues has been warmly welcomed by Icon Trustees and promises to grow and develop during the coming year.

Alastair McCapra
Chief Executive

Komora reštaurátorov, Slovenská Republika

Chamber of Restorers, Slovak Republic

From October 2005 until November 2006 the executive body of KR – the Board was active in many ways. Straight after the successful seminar in Bardejov we started working at the printed collection of lectures.

In November our Chamber was approached by official representatives of our colleagues from South Africa who wanted to learn about the system how restorers are organised and are working under supervision of which kind of law here in Slovakia. They expressed their enthusiasm towards creation a system as similar to ours as possible under circumstances in their home country.

Mr. Michal Staudt was sent to attend the conference organised by VDR.

In January 2006 the Board of KR started working on preparation towards a new visualisation of KR on web. We also started preparing amendments of our basic documents in the matters of examination rules, more exact wording of specialisations in restoration and improvement of functioning of the licence issuing system. The Board of KR initiated a process of further schooling of our members in the field of legislative, regulating the execution of our profession and asked for cooperation Mrs. Eva Ševčíková, deputy director of the Heritage Office of SR. The Chamber initiates change of practice of the regional heritage offices and requests of acceptance of the amended administration rules and invite restorers as participants in the administrative proceedings.

In March, after the participation of our president T. Lupták and the delegate B. Davidson in the E.C.C.O.'s GA, the KR held its annual GA. We could proudly announce to the members of KR that our delegate became the vice treasurer of E.C.C.O.. The GA approved the amendments of our basic documents also in the matter of administrative fees and the way of their valorisation.



The Board of KR and the Advisory Board of KR were discussing the unsatisfactory number of applications for widening of professional specialisations and questionable overlaps of individual specialisations.

The Board had to prepare for changes sourcing from the innovated examination rules and prepare the questions about legislative. Now the examination consists of two parts; legislation and professional ability.

The directors of Regional Heritage Offices were alerted that a restorer is only entitled to execute restoration work within the extent of the specialisation awarded to him/her.

In September took place the sixth Seminar on Restoration, like the last time, in Bardejov. The theme this year was restoration of works of Medieval art.

The Examination Senate held two meetings within this period. The Chamber got 4 new members in April and another 6 in October. In October, a representative of the KR was nominated into the commission of OSD ("Let's repair our house" state fund).

There were a few disciplinary proceedings against illegal actions over the extent to the restorer awarded specialisations during this time. The investigations are still in process.

The Chamber of Restorers prepares awarding with prices for restoration in a number of categories and it cooperated with the Ministry of Culture of SR in the project Cultural Heritage of the Year.

Representatives of the KR are involved in commissions by the Heritage Office of SR and MCSR and the KR solves proposals from the heritage commission. On request the KR established expert commissions for proceedings.

In November the office of KR was able to offer its humble spaces for a meeting of the E.C.C.O.'s Bureau meeting in Bratislava. The newest from our organisation is the fact, that the KR acquired new space for archive.

Mgr.art. Barbara Davidson

Delegate of the KR for E.C.C.O.

NKF-dk

Nordisk Konservatorforbund – Danmark
Nordic Association of Conservators – Denmark

This report covers the period from October 2005 to October 2006.

The goal of the organisation is to promote the professional and political interests of the conservator-restorer's profession. The knowledge about our profession is to be enhanced via collaboration with relevant organizations and by promoting professional meetings, seminars and such.

Activities

NKF-dk has arranged an array of arrangements for it's around 300 members.

Our newsletter „Bulletin“ generated three issues. The newsletter has a mainly organisational content but also tie the working groups of NKF together. We have active working groups on archaeological items, painting frames, furniture, textiles, paper & photo, storage rooms and exhibition, climate & transport. Our homepage is linked to a mailing list and still has a very satisfying high number of hits. The common Nordic magazine “Meddelelser om Konservering” launched an issue on „conservation of archaeological material“. The peer reviewed articles appear in English or in either of the Nordic languages with English summary.

NKF-dk has been an active member of a working group under the Ministry of Culture setting standards for handling of museum objects. Our chairman is the main editor of the document.

NKF-dk is still actively engaged in the work within the European project on standards concerning cultural heritage, CEN. Denmark hosts the working group “Environment, WG 4”.

General assembly and constitutions

The „Grundtvigs Hus“ in Copenhagen hosted the general assembly in May. After the GA the board constituted as follows: Michael Højlund Rasmussen, chairman, Karen Borchersen, secretary, Vivi Lønborg Andersen, treasurer, Susan Ritterband, editor of “Bulletin“, Maj Ringgard, Camilla Bastholm and Winnie Odder, arrangements officers. Karin Wegener Tams and Lin Spaabæk are account revisers, Katja Storkholm raises advertisements and Helle Strehle is delegate to E.C.C.O..

Furthermore Jens Aagaard continues as our webmaster supported by Karen Borchersen. Mai Stief Ajstrup is editor in chief of “Meddelelser om Konservering”. Tina Kramer Molkte is chairman of Nordisk Konservatorforbund, Michael Højlund Rasmussen was the NKF-dk representative in CEN and chairman of the Danish mirror committee. Michael is also at the board in the network for preservation under the „Organisation of Danish Museums“, ODM. Vivi Lønborg Andersen has been our representative in the union organizing the bachelors of conservation-restoration. And Per Hadsund is our member in the working group for post educational training of conservator-restorers at The School of Conservation, Copenhagen.

Memberships

As full members we presently accept graduates with the 3 year bachelor education from The School of Conservation (or equivalent higher education institution according to the E.C.C.O. guidelines) plus at least one year c-r-work at a recognised institution. Applicants are adopted at the NKF-dk general assembly after an assessment by an evaluation committee appointed by the board of NKF-dk.

By the end of 2006 NKF-dk has 219 full members, 65 associated members, 22 institutional members, 15 pensioner members and 17 student members. Only full members may use the title „Member of NKF-dk“, full members have voting rights and count in E.C.C.O. All member categories can participate in arrangements, seminars and meetings. We have not assessed the number of the potential

members, but we regard our percentage of organization to be high. NKF-dk has campaigns at the School of Conservation and generally Denmark is blessed with a culture of organizing ourselves around interests. It adds to the interest that you need to be a member of NKF to gain access to the rather dynamic site at our homepage with jobs vacant.

For further information please visit the addresses:

www.nkf-dk.dk and

www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org

November 2005

Helle Strehle

NKF-dk delegate to E.C.C.O.

PKL

Pohjoismainen konservatoriliitto – Suomen osasto ry

NKF-FI

Nordiska konservatorförbundet – Finländska sektionen rf

IIC Nordic Group – Finnish Section

The 2006 Annual Spring Meeting of NKF-FI was held at the EVTEK Institute of Art and Design in Vantaa on March 24th. The NKF-FI Annual Meetings are usually divided in two parts: the day starts with lectures and excursions related to a chosen topic, followed by the afternoon meeting.

The theme chosen for this year's Spring Meeting was preventive conservation and rescuing museum collections. Both Finnish and foreign conservators were invited to give lectures, topics ranging





from conservation work after a fire at the wool mill museum archives of Hyvinkää in Finland to models of cultural property risk analysis and preventive conservation in Canada. Experts from other fields related to the topic also contributed: lectures were given by engineers and architects about museum building design and fire extinguishing systems, and by *SPEK – The Finnish National Rescue Association* about the Rescue Act and statutory rescue planning in Finland.

The 2006 Annual Autumn Meeting took place on November 3rd in picturesque Porvoo, the second-oldest of the six towns established in Finland during the Middle Ages and one of the few remaining Finnish towns with wooden architecture. The theme of the Autumn Meeting was: historical buildings acting as museums and exhibition spaces. Lectures were given about the conservation and restoration of two buildings. Excursions to see the buildings were also organised.

The first of the two buildings chosen was a building from 1742 that previously hosted the *Edelfelt-Vallgren Museum*, dedicated to two Porvoo-born artists who achieved international fame: sculptor Ville Vallgren (1855–1940) and painter Albert Edelfelt (1854–1905). The building and its museum technique is to be refurbished and updated and it is to become the merchant's museum, to be opened in 2007 as *Holm House*, giving an opportunity to view the life of a wealthy 18th century merchant family in Porvoo.

The second building was the Runeberg Home, the 1845 wooden house of the national poet of Finland J.L. Runeberg (1804–1877). The building is the oldest home museum in Finland, opened to public in 1882. It was first restored in 2004, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Runeberg's birth.

A sad addition to the planned Autumn Meeting topics was related to the Spring Meeting: the Porvoo Cathedral, originating from the 13th century, was severely damaged due to an intentional fire on May 29, 2006. The case of this centrally located church, of exceptional architectural and his-

torical importance, has raised a lot of discussion in Finland, and the state of the planned conservation and restoration work was discussed at the meeting. An excursion to the church was also organised, allowing the NKF-FI conservators to visit and to see the ongoing works at the site.

In 2006, The Ministry of Education of Finland granted NKF-FI 5.200 Euros for international activities and for obtaining association services.

In 2007, NKF-FI is organising the NKF – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet's meeting, planned to take place in October 2007. The theme chosen is analytical methods in materials investigation and the working title "Analyse this!".

At the Autumn Meeting, the long-term chairman of NKF-FI, Jari Heinonen, resigned. NKF-FI would therefore like to express warm thanks to Jari for his many years of hard work and dedication to NKF-FI. The new chairman from next year will be current vice chairman Riitta Koskivirta.

Suvi Leukumaavaara

E.C.C.O. delegate of NKF-FI

NKF-FI full members 2006: 139

The board:

Jari Heinonen, *chairman (resigned 3. 11. 2006)*

Riitta Koskivirta, *vice chairman (chairman from 2007)*

Anna Häkäri

Maria Järvinen

Pia Klaavu

Ulla Klemelä, *treasurer*

Nina Robbins

Sari Selkee

General secretary: Pirjo Taipale

Members' secretary: Katariina Johde

E.C.C.O. delegate: Suvi Leukumaavaara, *treasurer of E.C.C.O.*

www.konservaattori.fi

NKF-S

Nordiska konservatorförbundet – svenska sektionen

Nordic Association of Conservators – Swedish Section

The board as elected at the General Assembly 31 March 2006:

- Lars Björk** (chair, permanent member)
- Yang Sook Koh** (permanent member)
- Anna Klint** (permanent member)
- Anna Fornäs** (permanent member)
- Daniel Kwiatkowski** (permanent member)
- Carin Petterson** (deputy member)
- Kristin Fyrand** (deputy member)
- Jenni Lindbom** (deputy member)
- Maria Franzon** (deputy member)
- Cecilia Rönnerstam** (E.C.C.O. delegate)
- Idha Holmlund** (student representative)

During the year, NKF-S has had an increase in the number of member applications, which is very positive. Also the NKF-S board now consists of more members than the previous year.

The new system of entrance levels for full membership in NKF-S, described in last years report, was confirmed by a mandatory second voting at the 2006 General Assembly. In 2007, Gothenburg University – hosting the Swedish conservation training programme – will enter the new system of two years postgraduate Masters Degrees. This will open up for further discussion on full membership in NKF-S, in accordance with the aims of E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE. The board has suggested introducing a working-group in co-operation with representatives from Gothenburg University to support the election committee during the process of adjusting the entrance levels for full membership.

The NKF-S member's paper, *Realia – tidskrift för konservering* has been published in one issue dur-

ing the year, with a new editorial board consisting of members from the conservation studio of Jönköping County Museum (Jönköpings Länsmuseum). The next issue is planned for 2007.

In the beginning of 2006 NKF-S could proudly present their new web page, www.nkf-s.se. An English version is under construction.

Finally, NKF-S will host the seventeenth NKF conference in Stockholm, 30 November/1 December 2006, on the theme *Dirt* (Smuts). The conference will be held in English, and the papers published as Postprints. The conference is partially financed by the fund Märta, Gunnar and Arvid Bothéns Stiftelse.

Cecilia Rönnerstam

NKF-S board, E.C.C.O. delegate



RestauratorenNederland RN

Vereniging voor Conservering en Restauratie



The association “Restauratoren Nederland” (Conservators/Restorers, the Netherlands) was founded on 1 July 2005 and originated from a fusion of four Dutch associations in the field of conservation and restoration. These associations were: VeRes (Dutch Association of Professional Conservators/Restorers), VAR (Association of Conservators/Restorers of Paper, Books and Photographic Material), TRON (Textile Restorers-Conservators Consultancy, the Netherlands) and IIC-Netherlands (Association International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, the Netherlands). This new association has become the focal point not only for the professionals working in the field of (preventive) conservation and restoration, but also for the broader group of non-conservators and organisations that have been involved in this field. “Restauratoren Nederland” (RN) represents its members both from the public and private sector and includes all disciplines and specialisations.

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. It 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 2005/2006

As with all newly established companies and associations most work and efforts are put to the internal organisation of the association as well as the creation of frameworks, household regulations etcetera.

Apart from the statutes and household regulations which were written, judged, rewritten and approved by the General Assembly, a huge amount of time and effort has gone to the work of several crucial committees. The committees for Admission, and Standards and ethics Acceptance have come a long way towards their first documents.

Another major centre of attention has been the project on “professional profile and competence” which is now halfway. In this project the complete field of conservation is allotted to several professionals. Players in this field are of course conservators, conservation technicians and restorers but also registrars and collection managers. Most challenging here is the need to get away from what has organically grown and what we are used to, to what is actually needed for both the professional as well as for the “objects and collections” themselves.

A huge amount of work has been put into the association by the original chair and its director for which we are very thankful. The year 2006/2007 will be aimed at finalising the structure and to fill the gaps in the framework of the organisation itself while under the inspired leadership of our new chair and director we will work at our reputation, name and fame so that RN will be the focus in conservation in (to start with) The Netherlands.

SKR/SCR

**Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung
und Restaurierung**
**Association Suisse de Conservation
et Restauration**

Professional conferences and events

At the 2005 conference entitled “Screw loose? Responsible handling of the technical cultural heritage”, the problems involved in the conservation of technical cultural assets were discussed by representatives of different specialisations for the first time in Switzerland. The event was attended by more than 60 people. Despite the tightly packed programme, not all aspects could be dealt with and the participants therefore expressed the wish for a follow-up conference to be held with the focus on technical cultural assets.

The General Meeting and specialised conference for 2006 on the theme “Saved from the flames – Intervention on buildings and art objects after fire damage” was held on 5 to 7 October 2006 in Ticino. In the course of the event, conservation and restoration work on various kinds of objects was discussed: stone, stucco, plaster, painting, glass, tapestries, wood – when deciding on the best type of intervention, restoration of the destroyed object must be weighed up against the documentary value of traces of fire.

Work by the executive

The executive dealt with problems relating to the introduction of bachelor’s and master’s degree courses at the universities of applied sciences. From the discussions, the conclusion emerged that the SKR/SCR must find a solution for the acceptance of bachelor’s degree holders (by 2009 at the earliest) as our Federation continues to require five years of basic training or contact study as a criterion for admission. A bachelor’s degree obtained after just three years of study can only be

a limited professional qualification entitling the holder to play a qualified role in conservation-restoration projects. Only a master’s degree obtained after two further years of study can provide full professional qualification for the independent pursuit of the profession of conservation-restoration specialist under personal responsibility. The bachelor’s degree (unlike the existing FH degree) therefore cannot automatically lead to full membership of the SKR/SCR and graduates will not be able to call themselves SKR conservation-restoration specialists. It will be more appropriate to provide for a membership status which lies somewhere between the previous “trainee member” and full membership for trained conservation-restoration specialists. The executive wishes to hold further discussion of this issue for the first time at the General Meeting in Lugano.

In the year under review, the members of the executive spent part of their meeting for the first time with representatives of students from all the universities of applied sciences in Switzerland. The aim was to get to know each other better and learn to understand the problems and wishes of both sides. The decision was taken to meet at least once a year.

At the request of ICOM Switzerland, Valentin Boissonnas and Egbert Moll Thissen made minor adjustments to the occupational profile of the conservation-restoration specialist to enable it to be included in the new ICOM brochure on the “Museum Professions”.

As a new feature, a postcard designed by Sebastian Dobrusskin and entitled “Losing your head” was sent to members. The aim of this campaign is to call the attention of a broader audience to the existence of the Federation.

At the invitation of the Swiss Federal Commission for Monument Conservation and the Federal Department of Culture (BAK), representatives of the professional organisations in the areas of archaeology, monument conservation and conservation/restoration met last autumn to discuss the subject of “Pressure from the federal authorities to make savings and further education”. The purpose of



this discussion was to clarify the extent to which greater coordination in the area of further education may be possible in view of the fact that the Federal authorities subsidise or support a number of further training opportunities in these different areas.



Fees working group

At the 05 General Meeting, the new paper “Negotiating principles on the matter of fees” was presented. In future, the federation must cease to set fee rates because WEKO (the Competition Commission) has stipulated that the free market must play an unrestricted role. In its recommendations, our federation is working on the basis of those put forward by the KBOB (coordination of the building and property bodies of the Swiss Confederation, Association of building clients in Switzerland) in which figures are quoted for maximum hourly rates. However, we must call the attention of our members to the fact that the SKR/SCR cannot take measures against members who work with rates that are either too low or too high or even offer their services free of charge. The SKR/SCR is only entitled to deliver an opinion on the quality of the work done.

Insurance working group

Here a favourable framework agreement has been negotiated for the members; it includes cover for the risks of property insurance, art objects, business and professional liability including cover for damage during the performance of work and transport damage.

Working group on disaster aid by the SKR

The group agreed that in future, the Federation must work in close cooperation with the Organisation for the Protection of Cultural Assets (KGS) and the Association of Swiss Museums (VMS). An emergency organisation chart is to be drawn up, including the publication of a list of sites at which emergency equipment is available. In addition, the Federation must be able to designate specialists for a rapid intervention group.

Basic and further training

The pilot project on “Craft trades and monument conservation”, which is being implemented by the Federation in cooperation with other bodies, will be successfully completed at the end of 2006. A follow-on two year cycle is planned for 2007. Christian Marty has been elected to the examinations committee as the representative of the Federation.

Coordination meeting/ specialized and regional groups

The coordination meeting was held at the newly inaugurated Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern.

Christian Marty

SKR/SCR Chairman

VDR

Verband der Restauratoren e. V. – (Federation of Restorers)

VDR is a big and active association, representing 3.300 members (2.248 full members). Here we only can give a short summary specialized on the political activities in the professional field. For further information we ask to look on our new website www.restauratoren.de, where we inform about actual projects, activities, professional events and publications.

Please notice, that our next multidisciplinary conference will take place in Bonn, 2007 September 24th – 28th. Subject: “Die Bedeutung der Dinge” (The relevance of objects).

VDR intern

The merger of seven smaller German associations into a big one = VDR is five years ago now. It is time to straighten the VDR, to look on statues and structures. VDR has to take into consideration the requirements of it's members as well as the actual political and economical development in Germany and Europe. We have to think about our future aims and the strategies to reach them.

The so-called “Strategie-Prozess” started in the beginning of 2006 and will have results at the GA 2007. It is important to interest all members and to participate all different point of views. Until September 2006 there have been seven meetings on this subject and around 160 members have been taking part.

Recognition of the profession by law

Since autumn 2005 there has been a new attempt for protection of the title “Restaurator” by law for the region of Baden-Württemberg. The answer, given by the ministry of economics has been negative, but included once more the recommendation of self-regulation by VDR as the professional association in Germany.

Job protection by quality management

In a lively discussion, the 2005 GA decided not to have a “seal of quality” (quite similar to the PARC accreditation scheme run by ICON in UK) but to look how quality measurements can be taken within the structures and statues of VDR. A working group on this subject has been installed and will prepare results for the GA 2007.

Conservator-Restorer as appraiser

A working group of VDR prepared a document which describes the fields and the competences necessary for appraisers in conservation-restoration. The paper has been given to the responsible German Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT) to implement guidelines for the future appointment of appraisers in our profession.

Education – Bologna Process

In Germany there are eight universities who educate conservator-restorers. Two of them already started with the new Bachelor/Master program, four universities are in the process of implementation and will follow within the next two years. It is obvious now, that we will have in Germany a lot of different specializations and levels. The obligatory practical training before entering university varies between one and two years minimum. The Bachelors level can be reached after a minimum of 6, 7 or 8 semesters – depending on the university. The master will be a kind of specialisation with varies from special knowledge and research to general high-level competences and will have additional 2, 3, or 4 semesters study.

VDR is in communication with the concerned institutions from the view of professional practise (see E.C.C.O. reports 3/2005, catalogue of competences) and participates at the evaluation of the new degree programs.

Membership of Bachelor-restorers

VDR General Assembly 2005 decided not to accept the future Bachelor-Restorer automatically as a full member, but to define the conditions under



which a Bachelor-Restorer can reach the full VDR-membership. It is agreed that the Bachelor will be part of our profession and must be integrated in the professional association. Several proposals to this subject were submitted at the 2006 GA but could not get through. A new proposal will be drawn up for the GA 2007 prepared by the working group of quality standards, committee and board of VDR.

Professional Profile – work in E.C.C.O.

With regard to the above mentioned situation VDR repeats the last year's statement: It is important that the document takes into consideration the Bachelor although the Master level of 300 ECTS points should continue to serve as the point of reference. Moreover, the Professional Profile should provide for measures enabling the equalization of non-academically trained members of the profession due to the fact, that academic education is not available in all speciality fields and is introduced only in some countries for long time.

CEN/TC 346

The VDR-efforts for participating at CEN have been successful. VDR president Kornelius Götz has become head of the national German working group and has found competent German working group members for participation in all CEN/TC working groups. In this way it is possible for VDR to have a critical view and influence on the European standardization tendencies and to vote within the CEN TC 346 plenary sessions.

Freelance-Restorers

A new VDR working group will start soon to draw up a recommendation for competition-guidelines (VOF, VOB) concerning conservation-restoration projects to be given to official authorities.

Employed Restorers

In Germany a new tariff-payment-scale for public employees is now implemented. The future grouping into a salary system is in progress. VDR takes part by intensive contacts to the service trade union ver.di.

Cultural sponsorship, collaboration with foundations and associations

There have been a lot of meetings and contacts to various organisations like BfB (Bundesverband der Freien Berufe), Deutscher Kulturrat / Kunstrat, Bundesverband der Sachverständigen, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Verbandsmanagement etc.

At this place only a new program for safeguarding and restoration of mobile cultural heritage shall be mentioned. This initiative from the "Kulturstiftung des Bundes" in cooperation with "Kulturstiftung der Länder" will develop model-projects in different specialities of preservation, conservation and restoration. A jury of 6 persons has been founded and will start working in Halle, November 2006. VDR president Kornelius Götz has been nominated as a jury-member.

Silke Beiner-Büth

*Vice-President VDR and E.C.C.O.-Delegate
Hamburg, November 1st, 2006*

VRS/ARA

**Verband der Restauratoren Südtirols /
Associazione Restauratori-Conservatori
Alto Adige**

The year 2006 has been again a rather quiet one for the Association Restorers – Conservators of South Tyrol as out of the many projects planned by the association, only a few could be realised. Some further educational seminars prearranged by the committee, unfortunately had to be postponed to the following year as of organisational reasons.

The association is financed through means donated by the members themselves, which understandably can't therefore cover the expenses for major projects. As a result of this, for quite a few years the association is trying to receive some donations from the local government. Sadly, all our efforts have not paid off yet.

Our co-operation with the Foundation of Architects Bolzano regarding "Constructed Development 2005" is still ongoing. The next step is focused on the former museum for everyday-life-culture in Egna, which now is in the possession of the company Wuerth. The private art-collection of the Wuerth's Managing Director is planned to be exhibited there permanently. The building itself was examined by the scientist for constructions Dr. Martin Laimer and classified as an outstanding research object. The co-operation with the Foundation of Architects is now reaching the third year and this year's theme is dedicated to the static. The static investigations are carried out by a team from Milan. Participants from German and Italian speaking parts are invited. The symposium will be held in the castle Trostburg.

Some of our committee members are taking part at the ICOR – International Conference on Conser-

vation and Restoration from 18th to 21st October 2006 in Ludbreg, Croatia. The conference is organised by the Ministry of Culture of the Croatian Republic, UNESCO Office from Venice, Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE) and the Croatian Conservation Institute and ICOMOS Croatian National Committee.

The conference will cover the following topics:

- Organisation of the Conservation Restoration Activity
- Education and Training in Conservation and Restoration Activity
- Development and Role of the conservation and Restoration Activity in Cultural and Economic Development

Also this year a few restorers close to our association could take part in international restoring projects. From spring until summer 2006 three members were able to perform restoration work on the medieval wooden ceilings in the big Mosque Al Jami al Kabir in Sana'h, in Yemen's capital. It seems that the restoration work might be continuing for the next years and we will be following the work of our colleagues with major interest.

On the association's next annual meeting in November 2006 those colleagues will present slides about their work in Yemen as to provide an overview about this assignment.

Brigitte Esser

*Association Restorers – Conservators
of South Tyrol
Representative for E.C.C.O.*

