



E.C.C.O.

European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations

E.C.C.O. reports

Nr. 5 / 2007



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. (European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations A.I.S.B.L.) is an international confederation 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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Austria:

ÖRV – Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

Belgium:

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

Denmark:

NKF-dk – Nordisk Konservatorforbund - Danmark

Finland:

NKF-FI – Pohjoismaisen Konservattoriliiton Suomen Osasto ry

France:

FFCR – Fédération Française des Conservateurs/Restaurateurs

Germany:

VDR – Verband der Restauratoren e.V.

International:

IADA – Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv Bibliotheks- und Graphikrestauratoren

Ireland:

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

Italy:

ARI – Associazione Restauratori d'Italia
VRS – Verband der Restauratoren-Konservatoren Südtirols /
 Associazione dei Restauratori-Conservatori Dell'Alto Adige

The Netherlands:

RN – Restauratoren Nederland

Norway:

NKF-N – Nordisk Konservatorforbund / den Norske Seksjon

Portugal:

ARP – Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

Slovak Republic:

KR – Komora Restaurátorov

Spain:

ACRACV – Asociación de Conservadores y Restauradores de Arte de la Comunidad Valenciana
GT – Grup Tècnic. Associació Professional dels Conservadors-Restauradors de Catalunya

Sweden:

NKF-S – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet / Svenska Sektionen

Switzerland:

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

United Kingdom:

ICON – The Institute of Conservation

Editorial

Dear Readers,

A warm welcome to the pages of the second issue of **E.C.C.O.** Reports in electronic form.

We apologise for the delay in releasing the Reports but hope you will enjoy this issue, rich in content.

2007 was a demanding, yet important, year for **E.C.C.O.** with several changes inside the Committee and the Member Organisations, as well as an increasing number of new challenging projects, fruitful contacts and collaborations.

Most importantly, **E.C.C.O.** was finally established as the representative of the field of Conservation-Restoration by the Council of Europe, gaining **E.C.C.O.** the recognition it has been working for since its foundation.

In 2007 **E.C.C.O.** also hosted the first ever Presidents' Meeting, in order to allow the Member Organisations to bond to **E.C.C.O.** not only via their Delegates but by opening up a forum for discussion and bringing together the people who are behind the various acronyms of our member organisations. Previous Presidents and founding members of **E.C.C.O.** were also invited. Please find a report by Nathalie Ravanel, former **E.C.C.O.** General Secretary and Vice President, who acted as the moderator of the meeting. The meeting was a success and a follow-up has been planned.

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

I hope that the Reports will be an interesting read for you.

Suvi Leukumaavaara

Editor



From the President 6

Réunion des Présidents des Organisations membres de E.C.C.O. 12

E.C.C.O. Presindents’ Meeting..... 14

Profiles..... 16

Short Report 18

Treasurer report for General Assembly 2007..... 20

E.C.C.O. Members List 22

National reports:

 APROA-BRK Belgium 27

 ARI Italy 28

 ACRACV Spain 29

 ARP Portugal 30

 IADA International 31

 ICHAWI Ireland 32

 FFCR France 33

 KR Slovak Republic..... 35

 NKF-DK Denmark 38

 NKF-FIN Finland 40

 NKF-N Norway..... 41

 NKF-S Sweden 42

 ÖRV Austria 43

 RN The Netherlands 45

 SKR/SCR Switzerland..... 47

 VDR Germany..... 48

 VRS/ARA Italy 50

 GT Spain 51



Letter from the President

Dear Members,



This report from the President to the members is issued with much delay and I apologise for this inconvenience. It is mainly due to the fact that, in these very last months, I had to limit my personal commitment to E.C.C.O. and give priority to personal work, which had been put second throughout the past two years in favour of our organisation. As you all remember, 2007 was a hard year for E.C.C.O.: we were obliged to conclude various difficult issues started in 2006 and for this reason myself as President and some members of the Committee are now slowly recovering from this work.

It is not easy to get back to the several subjects that we have been facing in this year, as they have been so many and overlapping each other, obliging the Committee to be concrete and effective.

During the last year E.C.C.O. has been involved in the following four topics, which had priority as they were considered of main importance:

- Solution of VDR/ICON problem
- ECPL – *European Conservation Practitioner Licence*
- EQF – *European Qualification Framework*
- *Recommendation on the Conservation-Restoration of the Cultural Heritage* to be presented at the Council of Europe

Other activities have been started or followed up according to the results of the Brainstorming meeting, January 2006, and to the requests of the GA, March 2006:

- Analysis of the membership with questionnaires on different issues of common interest
- Improving relationship with member organisations
- Improving internal organisation of the Committee and Bureau

- Improving visibility
- Work on legislation issues and
- Work for the recognition of the profession

Discussions and work consequent to the VDR and ICON problem have strongly and adversely influenced the ability of the Committee to act with promptness and incisiveness in its daily basic political actions. These issues also coincided with changes in the view of the member organisations, which are crucial for E.C.C.O. and therefore an open discussion was needed for developing a view of ourselves as professionals, arising as a result of different interpretations.

Moreover these issues came out at a crucial time when E.C.C.O. is obtaining institutional recognition for the profession, through the work with the Council of Europe, as a result of the work done in previous years.

All the areas under discussion have been explained in detail in the *Short News* and in some letters directly addressed to the national organisations, so I will shortly go through them, in chronological order when possible. I want here to warmly thank all Committee members for the hard work done and for the support received in several difficult situations.

We hope to continue and finish the work done, with the support of member organisations.

E.C.C.O. is going through an important moment both of change and of recognition of the profession. For the first time a legal document will be diffused at European and international level. The *Recommendation on the Conservation of the Cultural Heritage* which E.C.C.O. is writing with ICCROM and the Heritage Division of the Council of Europe is not compulsory for the governments, but it rep-

resents the first legal text on which to support next actions at European and national level.

For this reason being representative is important. There have to be enough countries as E.C.C.O. members in order to be able to represent the field of our profession in Europe and professionals in national organisations will have to be representative of the reality of their country.

This has to be the main priority for E.C.C.O. in the months to come, we will work hard to improve memberships and the national organisations will have to do the same. Together we will then work for obtaining the support of national delegates to the Council of Europe to obtain a positive vote for the approval of the *Recommendation*.

Report of the Activities of the President and of the Committee

The First E.C.C.O. Presidents' Meeting

The year started with this important event which took place in Brussels on Thursday 19th April 2007, the day before the General Assembly. This has been a very important result for E.C.C.O. as with nearly all the Presidents and Delegates present, with energetic discussions, the assembly gave rise to some clear mandates, which have now been leading the work of the Committee.

One of the themes of the Presidents' meeting was the emphasis on our cultural and educational diversity and the means by which we can find mutual professional recognition. This is a process which, to date, has been tied to the development of a Professional Profile articulated in terms of third level university education and which now will be adapted to the requirements of the EQF (see further on).

E.C.C.O. was founded on the statement that education is of fundamental importance to the professional status of the conservator-restorer, but a difficulty has occurred in the means of delivery of this education and in making comparable the means of assessment. Every organisation member of E.C.C.O. knows how difficult is it to control the explosion of short courses in conservation and,

lately, courses delivering Master's degrees in conservation-restoration without the appropriate previous education in the same topic.

As it was clearly expressed during the President meeting and the following General Assembly, both for historical reasons and as a consequence of the restructuring of the university systems following the Bologna Declaration, there are people in the field of conservation working at Bachelor level (corresponding to the EQF level 6), while the level established to be called Conservator-Restorer is the EQF level 7. It was acknowledged that these professional will need to be accommodated within the overall conservation profession and therefore E.C.C.O. was clearly mandated by the GA to define the profession in terms of the MA qualification or its equivalent, to continue to develop a professional profile reflecting this position and that a separate profile must be articulated for the Bachelor level.

VDR/ICON

Most of the work done during the year 2007, has been done to solve the problems raised by two member organisations of E.C.C.O.: VDR (Germany) and ICON (UK).

These organisations all result from the merge of several national organisations of conservator-restorers, and are therefore composed of a number of members. VDR and ICON have proposed radical changes to E.C.C.O.'s structure and points of view, arriving to propose the creation of a new European body under these ideas.

In VDR, as in many other E.C.C.O. members organisations, for historical reasons conservator-restorers working in the field of conservation with knowledge and competences limited to a Bachelor degree are included in the organisation. These professionals feel they should have the possibility of having their work experience evaluated so as to find equivalence with the Master's degree and to acquire full professional status. It is also central to the position of ICON that the 'delivery' or the 'way' in which education is acquired needs to move beyond the strictly academic route to encompass



other modes including internships and work practices.

E.C.C.O. believes that it is important not to pass over the very basic problem of defining how to obtain and how to control the quality of knowledge/competences the conservator-restorer's work needs at the highest possible level. The basis for the constitution of E.C.C.O. and its ongoing work to define the professional status of the conservator-restorer and have such status universally recognised has focused on educational requirements and as a consequence the means to their delivery.

The Committee has then firmly tried to respect the Statutes of E.C.C.O. but also to the different points of view of the members, in the certainty that the field of conservation has considerably changed in the last ten years and that a different attitude is possible now. The profession is recognised in some European countries and, even if still not legally regulated, it is well known in most of them.

The problem with VDR and ICON was finally 'solved' as follows, and the work of the Committee is slowly returning to business as usual.

Following a meeting of the Board of Trustees of ICON, the E.C.C.O. committee were notified of ICON's decision to withdraw from E.C.C.O. on the grounds that the Trustees were not able to change the membership statutes of ICON to effect compliance with those of E.C.C.O. This has been a very sad result.

The Committee has tried in all possible ways to avoid ICON withdrawal, writing several letters to the President and Board, offering an open attitude to meet with the needs of the organisation according to the specific position of UK in regard to the access and exercise of the profession.

In addition, as E.C.C.O. was undergoing a general revision of the status of member organisations, ICON was offered the possibility to stay in E.C.C.O. even if not totally complying the requirements, to go under revision as the other members. The proposal was to work together for a correct integration of the UK body with the other members of E.C.C.O.. No positive reply ever arrived from the President of ICON.

The German organisation VDR, which, supporting the action of ICON also reacted against the general positions of E.C.C.O., fortunately could stay in E.C.C.O. as in September 2007, the General Assembly of VDR voted a new Board and a new President was elected. The attitude towards E.C.C.O. immediately changed and good collaboration started again. The new delegate is now involved in some of the Working Groups, with determined and useful input.

Theseus Project

Theseus was an initiative by ICON, with VDR and some other E.C.C.O. member organisations, to participate to an EU funded project, proposing 'the establishment of national networks of organisations which share an interest in developing and testing the EQF framework'.

The project meant to develop the Descriptors for the EQF, which should then be promoted to, amongst others, academic and vocational institutions as a framework for curriculum development.

As the *Theseus* project covered the main area of study of the EQF working group as mandated by the E.C.C.O. GA in April 2007 and as internal procedures such as informing the Committee of actions overlapping with the work demanded by the GA have to be respected by all the E.C.C.O. members, the Committee informed ICON and the involved members, that E.C.C.O. did not agree with the procedure which was not formal and not correct.

No further actions had to be taken as the project was not approved by the EU commission.

EQF – Education – Access to and exercise of the profession

The work on EQF, the *European Qualifications Framework*, was already started in the E.C.C.O. Committee in 2006. The *EU Commission for Education, Training and Culture* delivered the proposal for an European Qualifications Framework to be officially adopted in 2009–2010.

The language and structure of the EQF should give a clear set of reference points to which all educational routes in Europe must conform and which has the effect of placing into context educational qualifications and accreditation systems.

Subsequent to a former request received by E.C.-C.O. delegates at a meeting with Ján Figel', the EU Commissioner responsible for *Education, Training, Culture and Youth*, in November 2006, a working group to develop and write the Descriptors for the profession was initiated immediately after the GA 2006, where it was stated that the professional status of the conservator-restorer starts at Masters qualification level which is the equivalent of level 7 on the EQF.

As the referent for the working group was ICON delegate Chris Woods, the work on this issue has been blocked for almost one year due to the problems occurring with the two organisations.

The EQF, by focusing on *Learning Outcomes*, has been seen as the tool to translate and measure acquired knowledge and to control the different education titles and professional qualifications given in the different countries. This is why the work of writing up the Descriptors for the Learning Outcomes has become so important for the profession. For this reason E.C.C.O. felt it important to accept the proposal of Mr Figel' and also to participate to the ECPL project which touched the same topics.

The committee also met Mr Wladimir Šucha, Director for Culture and Communication and Mr David White, Director of Life Long Learning in the EU, to discuss the implementation and application of the EQF, and the work of E.C.C.O. to date. Both meetings were very interesting but further contact will be sought to discuss the work done.

Further work will have to be done to understand who will evaluate the titles and/or the qualification of the professional in the different countries and how this will be recognised at European level – if an accreditation process is required and how the issue of professionals working in the field without complete qualification will be addressed.

ECPL – European Conservation Practitioner Licence

ECPL has been another heavy task for the Committee as it was accomplished during summer holidays in a very difficult situation. The project had already started without any involvement of E.C.-C.O. or ENCoRE. Following the decisions of the GA 2006, the President attended the first meetings of the ECPL project and E.C.C.O. formally signed up, together with ENCoRE, as official collaborators in the first phase of the project. The commitment also implied E.C.C.O. becoming an official partner in the sequel of the project to be known as the *European Conservation Restoration Licence* (ECRL) and in this way taking part in the creation, legal stabilisation and administration of the final body, which should award the ECRL. E.C.C.O. requested the work to be done by a professional with experience in the field, Maura Borelli, proposed to evaluate and harmonise the documents in delivering by ECPL.

The first part of the project was officially closed at a ceremony in Malta on the 25th of September 2007.

The sequel will be named CRELLS – *Conservation-Restoration in Europe: Lifelong Learning Standards*

Council of Europe

In the last few years E.C.C.O. has managed to make interesting and important contacts in Europe and in the EU Institutions gathering some successful results.

This very last one is probably the highest recognition that our profession could have ever expected among the European and international institutions involved in the preservation of cultural heritage.

At the end of May 2007 Mr Daniel Thérond, the Executive Director of the Cultural Heritage Division of the Council of Europe, has asked the President of E.C.C.O. and the consultant Vincent Negri to write the *European Recommendations for Conservation-Restoration of Cultural Heritage*, together with ICCROM. Apart from the 27 EU member countries it will also reach 47 member countries of the Council of Europe and other European countries through their membership in ICCROM. The document has been worked out to be discussed in the GA 2008



and to be presented to the Council of Europe for final approval and implementation.

Other activities

E.C.C.O. Questionnaire

A questionnaire has been developed and circulated to all member organisations. The type of information resulting should reflect many of the issues that have risen from the ICON/VDR discussions and from the ECPL/EQF work done. The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain a precise picture of the configuration of member organisations and how they wish to develop. Results are in development and will be published on the website.

Study on the International Documents on Protection of Cultural Heritage

French archaeologist Catherine Heim has been four months in ICCROM working for E.C.C.O. to analyse the documents on protection of cultural heritage, in order to understand how the profession is considered in these documents and if the conservator-restorer's role is foreseen. The results of the study were presented at the GA and will be available on the website.

CEN/TC 346

In January E.C.C.O. again tried to establish an informal point of contact with the CEN project so as to stay in touch with developments and to disseminate information. Again our interest was actively welcomed but it was reiterated that such contact must be pursued through the formal mechanism of 'Liaison Status'. This offers participation but provides no voting rights. This position is not in E.C.C.O.'s interest and it has already been declined in the past as there is no possibility of veto or influence over any of the project outcomes. E.C.C.O. remains in contact through member organisations but the organisations will have to be officially involved.

CEPLIS – European Council for the Liberal Professions

E.C.C.O. is now officially represented in the Executive Bureau of CEPLIS through former E.C.C.O.

President Michael Van Gompén, who has been formally offered the position.

Contacts and invitations

ICOM-CC Board meeting

For the first time E.C.C.O. has been invited to the ICOM-CC Board meeting, held in Rome at ICCROM in April 2007. A discussion raised on the work committed by ICOM to Gaël de Guichen on Terminology for the Profession. E.C.C.O. requested to be officially considered for an overview of the final text to be approved in ICOM-CC General Assembly in New Delhi, September 2008.

ICCROM General Assembly

Also in this case, for the first time E.C.C.O. has been invited to this important meeting of the international community of conservation-restoration. The meeting was held in Rome, at the FAO offices in November 2007. A short speech was given by E.C.C.O. President to inform on the main issues in work.

LATAM

After the ICCROM General Assembly, E.C.C.O.'s participation was required at the internal meeting for the organisation of LATAM, an ICCROM program for Latin America started in July 2008. E.C.C.O. has been requested to participate as reference for a similar organisation to be created among Latin American countries.

Associazione Giovanni Secco Suardo – Events for the Centenary of Cesare Brandi

The patronage of E.C.C.O. has been requested.

EU funded Projects

Following the work started in the 7th European Conference on Research in conservation, in Prague, May 2006, E.C.C.O. was contacted by two projects to participate in the Advisory Committee. The projects are named TREN and CHARISMA.

Internal organisation

Meetings:

The committee has met as usual four times:

- Brussels after GA, 21st April 2007
- Dublin, 20th-21st July 2007
- Brussel, 12th -14th October 2007

Committee News

Two members retired from the committee; Edith Touré, who has contributed so much over the last eight years and Cecilia Rönnerstam who has been a much valued General Secretary over the last two. Our warmest and sincerest thanks are extended to them both, for all their work on the E.C.C.O. committee.

Jaap van der Burg from Restauratoren Nederland was welcomed as new Deputy Treasurer, and Chris Woods, ICON delegate, was appointed as committee member.

Following the GA of VDR which resulted in a change of Board or Präsidium, Silke Beiner-Büth resigned from the committee of E.C.C.O. And following to the decision of ICON to withdraw membership Chris Woods had to leave the Committee.

Although there have been diverging opinions and views within the committee and between VDR/ICON and E.C.C.O. the committee regrets losing Silke and Chris without the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you on a personal basis and to thank them for the involvement with E.C.C.O.

Office Administrator

The appointment of Stevin Davidson to the post of Office Administrator in November last was greatly welcomed but unfortunately, due to pressure of work and family commitments, Stevin could no longer continue in this post and has tendered his resignation.

Internal Rules and Complaints Procedure

E.C.C.O. is developing protocols to improve the work of the Committee, describing the roles and the duties of the Committee and Bureau members, and a protocol on assessing and dealing with complaints. A transparent and open procedure that can be followed both by E.C.C.O. and the complainant needs to be articulated.

Monica Martelli Castaldi

President of E.C.C.O



Réunion des Présidents des Organisations membres de E.C.C.O., 19 avril 2007



A la suite d'une proposition de l'organisation FFCCR qui naissait d'une réelle nécessité du Conseil d'Administration de E.C.C.O. d'établir un plus ample dialogue entre les différentes associations européennes, a été organisé une rencontre entre les présidents de toutes les composantes de la Confédération. C'était une façon aussi de célébrer les 15 ans passés depuis la création à Bruxelles de E.C.C.O. Pour cela avaient été invités anciens présidents Ulrich Schiessl et Pierre Masson et moi-même comme ancien secrétaire général et vice président. Comme président de ENCoRE était venu René Larsen.

Tous les présidents et les délégués des associations membres avaient été invités pour discuter sur les grands thèmes de la conservation-restauration, la formation et les nouvelles stratégies.

Certaines associations avaient demandé à intervenir pour présenter les propres propositions et positions sur ces grands thèmes; certaines ont saisi l'occasion pour exposer les problèmes internes à leur pays.

Nous avons tous pu constater la grande diversité des situations quand à la quantité et à la qualité des formations, du nombre et du poids des associations dans chaque pays. La diversité aussi dans la situation légale qui avait déjà présenté au cours du projet APEL.

Au cours de la discussion très animée sont apparus quelques points communs:

- la nécessité de bien définir la diversité des situations en repartant des résultats du projet APEL pour trouver un moteur unificateur;
- d'explorer le système EQF (European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning) afin

d'identifier les éléments communs entre les formations et les pratiques professionnelles dans les différents pays;

- de mieux défendre les intérêts professionnels d'E.C.C.O. à Bruxelles;
- de contrôler tous les membres avec une étude précise des statuts afin d'avoir une réelle unité des membres;
- professionnaliser le travail d'E.C.C.O. , s'il est possible, sans toutefois déléguer les activités et le travail à des personnes externes à la profession avec des règles de travail et de communication plus efficace;
- d'organiser des groupes de travail comme cela avait été le cas dans les débuts quand ceux-ci avaient permis de préparer et d'approuver les 3 parties des Lignes de Conduite Professionnelles en 3 ans (la poste électronique n'existait pas encore). Ces groupes de travail permettent de faire participer plus de membres de nos associations à l'activité d'E.C.C.O. et de cette façon d'aider le travail les membres du Conseil d'Administration et un meilleur renouvellement de ses membres au moment des élections;

Une grand débat s'est ouvert sur la formation et les qualifications. Doit-on se baser uniquement sur la formation 3 ans (Bachelor) + 2 ans (Master); doit-on reconnaître les compétences faites de connaissances minimums, de capacités personnelles et d'expériences personnelles ou doit-on reconnaître la formation de 3 + 2 ans plus les compétences. Dans ce débat E.C.C.O. a déjà, d'une certaine façon tranché, en approuvant les Lignes de Conduites Professionnelles, déjà revues et corrigées. La réponse à ce problème est très important pour la reconnaissance de notre profession, en particulier en rapport avec les autres professions de la conservation comme les conservateurs-historiens d'art et les chercheurs physiciens, chimistes ou biologistes.

Un autre grand débat qui concerne le fondement même de certaines organisations, c'est-à-dire, l'étendu professionnel de la responsabilité de E.C.C.O.: s'agit-il de travailler pour les seuls conservateurs-restaurateurs, décrits dans nos Lignes Professionnelles ou s'agit-il de s'occuper de l'en-

semble de la profession; et quelles seraient les limites de cette profession?

La majorité des membres ayant refusé de changer les statuts, E.C.C.O. doit donc s'occuper du domaine professionnel des conservateurs-restaurateurs.

Une autre discussion s'est ouverte sur la nécessité de travailler sur tout le domaine de la conservation-restauration. Je me suis alors permis de rappeler les décisions prises au moment de la création en 1992 à la demande des organisations britanniques et, en particulier de l'UKIC, qui ne voulaient absolument pas que E.C.C.O. s'occupent des problèmes techniques, pratiques et scientifiques de notre travail mais se concentrent sur la partie professionnelle: **un corps professionnel pour les conservateurs-restaurateurs**. Là aussi, la volonté de ne pas changer les statuts répond à cette discussion.

A la fin de cette journée, les membres ont exprimé la volonté de trouver et de mettre en valeur les points communs qui nous unissent tout en conservant les identités de chacun, et en respectant, bien sûr, les Lignes de Conduites Professionnelles approuvées par tous les membres de E.C.C.O.

Nathalie Ravanel

Ancienne secrétaire générale et vice président

Member Organisations present:

ACRACV: Mar Sabaté, President
Christabel Blackman, Delegate

APROA/BRK: Etienne Costa, President
Pierre Masson, Observer
Michael van Gompén, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Member

ARI: Clara Tomasi, President
Monica Martelli Castaldi, Delegate and E.C.C.O. President

ARP: Francisca Figueira, President
Rui Bordalo, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Member

FFCR: Anne Elisabeth Rouaul, President
David Cueco Aguilera, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Committee Memb.

GTCRC: Mireira Campuzano, President
Agnès Gall Ortlik, Delegate

ICHAWI: Grellan Rourke, President
Susan Corr, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Deputy Secretary

ICON: Simon Cane, Chairman
Alastair McCapra, Chief Executive
Christopher Woods, Delegate

KR: Tomáš Lupták, President
Barbara Davidson, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Deputy Treasurer

NKF-DK: Michael Hojlund Rasmussen, President
Helle Strehle, Delegate

NKF-N: Solveig Schytz, President

NKF-S: Anna Klint, President
Cecilia Rönnerstam, Delegate and E.C.C.O. General Secretary



ÖRV: Edith Touré, Delegate

RN: Liesbeth Keijser, President
Jaap van der Burg, Delegate

SKR/SCR: Christian Marty, President
Natalie Ellwanger, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Vice President

VDR: Kornelius Götz, President
Sabina Fleitmann, Chief Executive
Silke Beiner-Büth, Delegate and E.C.C.O. Vice President

VRS/ARA: Verena Mumelter, President
Brigitte Esser, Delegate

Other: Nathalie Ravanel, Moderator
Stevin John Davidson, E.C.C.O. Office Administrator
Rene Larsen, ENCoRE

E.C.C.O. Presidents' Meeting, April 19th 2007

The E.C.C.O. Presidents' Meeting was organised following a proposal from FFCR to the issue of E.C.C.O. Administrator, to establish a more ample dialogue between the different European Member Organisations. It was also a way to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the foundation of E.C.C.O. in Brussels. Former Presidents Ulrich Schließl and Pierre Masson were invited, as well as myself as the former General Secretary and Vice President of E.C.C.O. René Larsen was invited as the Chairman of the Board of ENCoRE.

All the Presidents and the Delegates of the Member Organisations had been invited to the discuss the major issues of conservation-restoration, education and new strategies.

Some organisations wanted to bring up their proposals and positions on major issues, others to explain the internal problems in their countries.

It became evident that there is a great variety regarding the amount and quality of education offered in conservation-restoration, as well as the number of associations and the varying legal aspects in each country, issue that was already acknowledged during the APEL project.

Some of the points that were mutually agreed on during the course of the open discussion:

- need to define the variety of situations starting from the results of the APEL project
- to explore the EQF system in order to identify the common elements between the education and professional practise in different countries
- to better defend the interests of E.C.C.O. in Brussels
- to monitor all the members with a specific

study in order to obtain a real unity of the members

- to make the work of E.C.C.O. more professional, if possible, however without delegating activities and work to externals with working rules and efficient communication
- organise Working Groups like in the early stages that permitted the three parts of Professional Guidelines being prepared and approved of in three years (time before e-mails). These WGs allowed more members to be part of E.C.C.O. work helping the Committee and improved the situation of candidatures for E.C.C.O. Delegates in the elections.

A big debate opened up on education and qualifications. Should it be based only on the 3-year Bachelor course plus a 2-year Master; should we acknowledge personal abilities and experiences or should the 3+2 years be combined with the personal competence? E.C.C.O. has already taken a stand on this matter by approving the Professional Guidelines, already revised and corrected. The answer to this question is very important for the recognition of our profession, especially regarding other conservation related occupations such as art historians and conservation scientists in physics, chemistry or biology.

Another big debate opened up about the foundation of the organisations, and the extensive professional responsibility of E.C.C.O.: is it about working for the conservator-restorers only as described in the E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines or the whole of the profession, and what are the boundaries of this profession? The majority of members have refused to change the Statutes, E.C.C.O. should therefore deal within the field of conservator-restorers.

A discussion opened up on the need to work on the whole field of conservation-restoration. I did then remind the forum of the decisions taken during the foundation of E.C.C.O. in 1992 when the British organisations, UKIC in particular, were absolutely against E.C.C.O. dealing with technical, practical or scientific problems of our work but to

concentrate on the professional part: a professional body for the conservator-restorers. The will to not to change the statutes also responds to this discussion.

At the end of the day the Member Organisations expressed their will to find and to emphasize the common points, yet retaining everyone's identity and respecting the Professional Guidelines, approved by all the members of E.C.C.O.

Nathalie Ravanel

*Former General Secretary and Vice President
of E.C.C.O.*



Profiles



Monica Martelli Castaldi
(President)

Born in 1957 in South America where she lived several years.

Diploma in conservation of easel

and mural paintings at *Istituto Centrale del Restauro* in Rome in 1981. Coordinator of courses on Scientific Principles of Conservation and Mural Painting Conservation at ICCROM for approximately 10 years. Freelance conservator-restorer since 1981 with her own firm, works mainly in the Campania region in South of Italy. Since 1996 works especially in archaeological sites being consultant for the Archeological Superintendency of Pompeii for the conservation of decorative features. Since 2000 in charge of the conservation of all the decorated surfaces of the site for the *Herculaneum Conservation Project*, financed by the Packard Humanities Institute and directed by the British School at Rome. Since 1994 E.C.C.O. Delegate of ARI, the Associazione Restauratori d'Italia, and from 2002 in the E.C.C.O. Committee. Since November 2003 President of ARI.



Natalie Ellwanger
(Vice President)

Graduated in 1995 as a conservator-restorer from *Höhere Fachhochschule für Gestaltung (HFG)* in

Bern. After years in Germany and Switzerland, since 2005 working at the *Vorarlberger Landesmuseum* in Bregenz, Austria.



Susan Corr
(Deputy Secretary)

An accredited paper conservator-restorer working in private practice.



Michael van Gompén
(Treasurer)

Born in 1967, studies in electronics and horology. Freelance conservator-restorer of scientific and me-

chanical instruments and time keepers (clocks, watches, etc.) since 1994 in Brussels. Graduated in conservation-restoration from the *Edward James Foundation – West Dean College* in England in 1992.



Jaap van der Burg
(Vice Treasurer)

Born in 1958, graduated from School for Conservators (now

Institute for Cultural Heritage) in

Amsterdam in 1985 specialising in organic polymers (preventive conservation). Has worked as Head of the Keepers Department at the *Royal Dutch Army and Arms Museum* (1984–93), Project Manager at the *National Museum of Ethnology* (1993–96), Tutor in Preventive Conservation at the *Institute for Cultural Heritage* (1994–2003) and as Project Manager for Collection, Care & Consult for the *Gerlach Art Packers and Shippers* (1996–99). Since 2000 co-founder and director of *Helicon Conservation Support*. 1994–98 Board Member and President of IIC Netherlands, currently Vice President of Restauratoren Nederland (2006–).



Suvi Leukumaavaara
(Vice President)

Degree in Painting Conservation in Finland in 2000. Postgraduate

studies in Italy and the UK, doing

research on historical and contemporary painting materials. Works also as lecturer and freelance illustrator.



Barbara Davidson
(General Secretary)

Born in 1970

After graduation from *High School for Arts and Crafts* in Bratislava, worked 1988–92 as technical support and assistant restorer in the *City Gallery* of Bratislava. 1992–1998 studies at the *Academy of Fine Arts and Design* in Bratislava, department of Restoration of Art Works where she obtained the title *Magister artis* (Mgr.art.) in Fine Art – Restoration of Easel Paintings. 2000–06 studies at AFAD towards Art.D., currently awaiting defence. From 1998 employed in the *City Gallery* of Bratislava as an independent specialised restorer.

From 1997 member of the Chamber of Restorers (KR) in Slovakia. From 2005 member of the Board of KR and delegate for E.C.C.O.. In 2006 elected to the ECCO committee as vice treasurer, 2007 general secretary.



Chris Woods
(Committee Member)

Chris Woods was elected to the Committee at the 2007 General Assembly, where he was attending

as the UK representative, for Icon (the Institute of Conservation). His background is in archive conservation and until 2006 he was Head of Conservation & Collection Care at the *Bodleian Library*, Oxford University, with 20 years of professional experience as a conservator. In 2006 he became Director of Collection & Programme Services at the *Tate Gallery* in London, where he oversees the work of the Conservation Department, the Library & Archive and the Collection Management Department.



David Aguilera Cueco
(Committee Member)

Born in 1959. After studying (1981 to 1985) at *Maîtrise de sciences et techniques conservation restaura-*

tion des biens culturels de l'université de Paris 1 panthéon Sorbonne, graduated in 2000, and worked as a free lance conservator-restorer of painting, specialized in structural problems and conservation of contemporary Art. Since 1986 works essentially for museums collections. Graduated from master in preventive conservation Paris 1 2005. Delegate of FFCR and Committee Member of E.C.C.O. since 2005, currently vice-president of FFCR, since 2004 after being its president (1998–2003).



Rui Bordalo
(Committee Member)

Born in 1979 in Portugal.

Graduated in conservation-restoration, with specialisation in paintings.

He is currently a PhD candidate in the UK, conducting research in the application of lasers in the cleaning of paintings and particularly the effects of laser radiation in pigments. He is delegate of ARP and is Committee member of E.C.C.O. since 2005.



Silke Beiner-Büth
(Vice-President, till October 2007)

Paintings Conservator-Restorer, works since many years at the *Hamburgmuseum*.



Short Report from the Presidents' Meeting, General Assembly and Preview to Committee Work in 2007



Report by the President

To mark the 15th anniversary of E.C.C.O. since its inception in October 1991 it was felt timely and appropriate for E.C.C.O. to reconnect with its member organisations in an inclusive and direct way, the better to define the range and focus of E.C.C.O.'S resources and activities. As a result, a Presidents Meeting was organised to coincide with the General Assembly. Presidents of all the member organisations were invited to a forum where they could air their views and make proposals.

The Presidents Meeting took place on Thursday 19th April followed by the General Assembly on Friday 20th. Both days were attended by a full complement of Presidents and Delegates which generated much energetic discussion giving rise to some clear mandates. Many, many thanks are extended to all the Presidents and Delegates for taking the time to attend, for their active participation and thoughtful contributions.

One of the recurring themes of the meeting was the emphasis on our cultural and educational diversity and the means by which we can find mutual professional recognition. This is a process which, to date, has been tied to the development of a Professional Profile articulated in terms of third level university education.

Education is of fundamental importance to the professional status of the conservator-restorer but a log jam has occurred in the means of delivery of this education and in making comparable the means of assessment.

To this end, the language and structure of the European Qualifications Framework, (EQF), have given the process a clear set of reference points to which all educational routes in Europe must con-

form and which has the effect of placing into context educational qualifications and accreditation systems. The professional status of the conservator-restorer remains at Masters qualification level which is the equivalent of level 7 on the EQF.

It now remains the job of E.C.C.O. to work towards a new Professional Profile set within the context of the EQF, and crucially, to write the descriptors specific to our profession as they relate to the different levels of Learning Outcomes on the EQF regarding skills, knowledge and competences against which all qualifications are measured.

Both for historical reasons and as a consequence of the restructuring of the university systems following the Bologna Declaration, into a three year - two year cycle to Masters qualification there exists a body of people working at Bachelor level, (level 6 on the EQF). While it was acknowledged that these people will need to be accommodated within the overall conservation profession, E.C.C.O. was clearly mandated to define the profession

1. in terms of the MA qualification or its equivalent.
2. to continue to develop a professional profile reflecting this position.
3. that a separate profile must be articulated for the Bachelor level.

Committee News

Two members retired from the committee; Edith Touré, who has contributed so much over the last eight years and Cecilia Rönnerstam who has been a much valued General Secretary over the last two. Our warmest and sincerest thanks are extended to them both for all their work on the E.C.C.O. committee.

We would like to welcome Jaap van der Burg from Restauratoren Nederland who will become our new Deputy Treasurer and Chris Woods from ICON as committee member.

ECPL

Monica Martelli Castaldi is to have a further meeting in Florence on the 6th and 7th of May with members of the ECPL project. Resolutions on the

direction of the Professional Profile with regard to the EQF will be brought to the attention of the ECPL committee. ENCoRE will also have a representative attending the meeting.

CEN/TC 346

In January E.C.C.O. again tried to establish an informal point of contact with the CEN project so as to stay in touch with developments and to disseminate information. Again our interest was actively welcomed but it was reiterated that such contact must be pursued through the formal mechanism of 'Liaison Status'. This offers participation but provides no voting rights. This position is not in E.C.C.O.'s interest and has already been declined. Monica Martelli Castaldi is in contact with ICOM-CC about CEN as they find themselves in a similar position and together are hoping to publish a joint opinion with regards to the project.

CEPLIS

The committee met with Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas, Director, Senior Policy Advisor of CEPLIS on the Saturday following the GA.

CEPLIS represents the liberal professions in Europe. In the context of the deregulated market within which these professions practice, Dr. Koutroubas discussed the development of the European Professional Card (EPC) which can be likened to a professional Passport. A prototype card 'ENGCARD' has just been issued for engineers and the final date for deliverance of the EPC for each profession is scheduled for 2009.

The EPC will be issued to all members of professional bodies.

CEPLIS has been working on a 'Code of Ethics' which is to be included in the Directory of Services in the Internal Market to be officially published on 27th June 2007. This code reflects a set of 8 values which are seen as universal and common to all the intellectual professions. The Code of Ethics is described as 'Soft Law' but will be binding on all liberal professions leading to a form of official recognition by virtue of compliance. Dr. Koutroubas strongly recommended that E.C.C.O. redraft their code of conduct for the con-

servation-restoration profession so as to include the 8 values.

Dr. Koutroubas also informed E.C.C.O. of the existence of National Interprofessional Associations who represent the liberal professions in each member state and for whom CEPLIS is the umbrella body. E.C.C.O. would ask each member organisation to make contact with the Director of their respective Interprofessional Association. Contact names will be obtained from CEPLIS and distributed shortly along with a copy of the Code of Ethics.

Working Groups

A series of working groups have been established to focus on different issues. Each group has been assigned a coordinator who is to determine initial strategies and parameters of work.

Access and Exercise of the Profession

Coordinator: Mr Chris Woods.

CEN Project

Coordinator: Susan Corr

Insurance:

Coordinator: Proposal to be confirmed. Contact point: Monica Martelli Castaldi.

Intellectual Property:

Coordinator: Proposal to be confirmed. Contact point: Monica Martelli Castaldi.

Legislation:

Coordinator: Monica Martelli Castaldi

Susan Corr

April 2007



Treasurer report for General Assembly 2007

A RESULTS 2006

I Expenses

Office & Administration

Administration expenses were a little bit more than last year as in November the trial period of E.C.C.O.'s Office Administrator and Archive started.

During 2006 E.C.C.O. managed to switch back to full use of Belgian ING bank account. This will reduce the Swiss bank fee costs.

Telephone and Postage costs have been higher as several payments for previous years have been made.

E.C.C.O. Reports

Costs within budget as the 2006 Reports were not published in printed format.

Bureau & Committee meetings

Costs higher than last year due to a higher number of people in the Committee and several invitations and participations to Conferences and other meetings.

Membership fees

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

The 2006 membership fee has been paid in due course.

Other expenses

The travel costs of E.C.C.O. Delegates is within budget.

There were no Lobbying Action costs in 2006.

2006 Working Groups costs are within budget.

The E.C.C.O. website will be changed in 2007, both server and the actual website, for which budget is increased.

APEL

No costs.

II Incomes

The 2006 E.C.C.O. Full Members Fee was the same as in 2005.

E.C.C.O. and APEL publication sale was active in 2006, in fact ICCROM has run out of some publications.

The total result for 2006 is a gain of:

7.974,79 euro.

B BUDGET 2007

I Expenses

Office & Administration

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

Due to the hiring of an Administrator from November 2006, the 2007 budget has been increased. The Swiss bank account will be closed in 2007, the costs of the closure will be debited from the money released.

The Deutsche Bank account has been closed earlier in 2007.

Telephone and Postage expenses budget increased.

E.C.C.O. Reports

Only editing costs for the Reports from 2007 as they have been agreed to be made in electronic form only. The saving in printing costs and postage expenses will allow E.C.C.O. to hire an Office Administrator.

Committee Meeting Expenses

Budget has been increased for 2007.

Membership Fees

The CEPLIS Membership fee has proved to rise annually.

Other expenses

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

The budget for the working groups had 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. webhotel and actual website will be changed in 2007 for which budget increased.

Some expenses for possible APEL re-printing or for making a digital version is budgeted for 2007.

II Incomes

Some late payments for the Full Members Fees, that have already been recorded in the accounting.

E.C.C.O. publication sales seem to increase.

The exceptional foreseen loss of 20.423,89 is well covered by our previous year's savings.

Suvi Leukumaavaara

Treasurer of E.C.C.O.



Full Members	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 2005 (GA 2006)	Number of Full Members 2006 (1.1.06)	Votes 2006 (GA 2007)	Number of Full Members 2007 (1.1.07)	Votes 2007 (GA 2008)
A.P.R.O.A.-B.R.K. (B)	128	2	134	2	134	2	132	2	133	2
A.R.I. (I)	60	1	78	1	52	1	46	1	78	1
ACRACV (E)	54	1	60	1	80	1	70	1	53	1
AREAA (F)										
ARP (P)	86	2	89	2	106	2	109	2	105	2
ARRC (I)										
DRV (D)										
FFCR (F)	163	2	183	2	162	2	193	2	222	3
GT, APCR (E)	119	2	127	2	120	2	120	2	140	2
IPC (UK)	176	2	185	2	185	2				
IADA (D)	376	3	364	3	359	3	356	3	385	3
ICHAWI (IRL)			24	1	24	1	27	1	27	1
ICON (UK)							626	4	1.645	4
KR (SK)					174	2	174	2	164	2
NKF-DK (DK)	224	3	231	3	224	3	221	3	205	3
NKF-FI (FIN)	88	2	88	2	143	2	139	2	149	2
NKF-N (N)	120	2	133	2	136	2	124	2	139	2
NKF-S (S)	132	2	127	2	128	2	145	2	168	2
RN (NL)							302	3	452	4
RVS (D)										
SKR/SCR (CH)	246	3	266	3	267	3	262	3	263	3
SSCR (UK)	85	2	88	2						
UKIC (UK)	405	4	415	4	415	4				
VeRes (NL)	290	3	285	3	276	3				
VDR (D)	2.364	8	2.357	8	2.353	8	2.250	8	2.251	8
VRS (I)			19	1	18	1	18	1	17	1
ÖRV (A)	180	2	178	2	209	3	219	3	247	3
Total:	5.296	46	5.431	48	5.565	46	5.533	47	6.843	49



E.C.C.O. Member List

November 2007

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Silke Beiner-Büth, Barbara Davidson,
Suvi Leukumaavaara, Susan Corr

COMMITTEE:

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Silke Beiner-Büth, Barbara Davidson, Susan Corr,
Michael van Gompén, Suvi Leukumaavaara,
Chris Woods, Jaap van der Burg, David Cueco-
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<p>Silke Beiner-Büth (Vice President), only half term</p> <p>Hamburgmuseum Holstenwall 24 DE - 20355 HAMBURG GERMANY T: + 49 40 4281322375 F: + 49 40 4281323103 E: silke.beiner-bueth@hamburgmuseum.de E: beiner-bueth@wttnet.de E: vizepraesident@restauratoren.de</p>	<p>Verband der Restauratoren e.V. (VDR)</p> <p>Dr. Sabina Fleitmann (Geschäftsführerin)</p> <p>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>

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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: corrnewman@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.

This year has been fruitful in terms of advances for our profession in Belgium.

Our official request to get the professional Title of “Conservator-Restorer of Works of Art and Cultural heritage” protected by law has been launched and goes now through the process of getting accepted by a series of commissions before being ultimately approved by the Minister in charge.

We are currently looking for the largest possible number of supporters to our Request to demonstrate the legitimacy of our attempt to the Belgian Authorities. Most operators in the conservation-restoration field in Belgium are in agreement with us but we fear to get some kind of opposition from short term education centres that do not fit in the criteria of our Request.

So the more support we could get will be most welcome.

Let's remind everyone that this protection will only apply to the Title of “Conservator-Restorer of Works of Art and Cultural heritage” and will not be a restriction to practice the profession (access to the profession). After the protection occurs, the Title could only be used by those who meet the proper Education and qualification criteria.

The various phases of checking of the Request will take time. If we have managed so far to succeed in establishing the ground for our demand, we cannot yet guarantee that no further problems or oppositions could occur. In the next E.C.C.O. Reports, we really hope to be able to report the success of our Request and the new effective regulation of the use of our professional title in Belgium.

In a few days, at the end of November our bi-annual two-days Symposium will be held, the theme this time focuses on the search for authenticity in conservation-restoration together with the difficulty to interpret scientific analysis linked to that search.

This important theme is not always enhanced enough as being a difficult phase of the treatment of a work of art. More than often, the results of scientific analysis are subject to discussions and their interpretation itself can vary. It is therefore important to question the limits of the search for authenticity based on science. We hope that the various lecturers will tackle the complexity of this process and the limits that they personally experienced.

The Lecturers will be quite a few and from all specialities in conservation-restoration. The organisation of this kind of event remains very important for us as it is the essence of the life long learning process in our field and it provides the opportunity for many rich exchanges between all the professionals of our sector during that couple of days.

We always try to program annually either this kind of lectures or some more practical trainings such as workshops with a precise theme and concrete application for the treatments of the works of art. The demand for these practical trainings especially for new types of treatments and new techniques is always renewed by our Members.

The coming year will offer us a chance to set up a workshop dedicated on the scientific analysis. It will also be a year of follow up of our Request for the official protection of our professional title.

Etienne Costa

President of APROA-BRK



ARI

ARI Associazione Restauratori d'Italia



The profession is defined by the law since 2004 as “*Restauratore di Beni Culturali*”, translated in English as “*Conservator/Restorer of Cultural Heritage*”.

The Italian situation is now at a deadlock, since the Ministry of Cultural Heritage failed to publish any document concerning the professional qualification of the conservator/restorer of cultural heritage.

Due to this uncertainty, various interpretations of the law were made by the local offices of the Ministry so that the rules could be either enforced strictly or not enforced at all.

Frequent meetings with the various national organisations and with the Ministry representatives are still in progress to obtain the enforcement of the law on the national territory.

Items to be still approved are:

- The professional profile of the Conservator/Restorer of Cultural Heritage and of the other professionals or workers that assist the study and the achievement of the restoration intervention (DL n°42 art. 29, comma 7)
- The creation by the Ministry of a National Register for Conservators/Restorers of the Cultural Heritage who already possess the titles set by the law, and of those who could acquire the titles through the overcoming of an examination.
- The definition of the study plans and of the qualifications of the staff that will teach in the universities during the five-year course of restoration (DL n°42 art.29 comma 8–9).
- In particular, the two most important Italian schools of restoration I.C.R.-Rome and O.P.D.-Florence were forced to suspend their activities, especially for the block of access of new students, because the law was not issued.

The Italian association ARI is taking in care many different problems, contributing to verify the texts of the Decrees and suggesting how to modify them

to be faithful to the original proposed text. ARI has also collaborated with the Lloyd's insurance company to set up an insurance policy concerning the professional responsibility of Conservator/Restorers, who is responsible of the project, according to the new law of 2006 regulating the public bids,

ARI has also participated to the annual fair: “Fiera del Restauro” which is held in Ferrara. This fair gathers all professionals, organisations and the suppliers connected to the profession. This annual occasion offers several interesting meetings on different subjects of actuality, being an important opportunity for ARI to have an open and public dialogue with the institutions in charge of the safeguard of the cultural heritage getting the necessary visibility to our profession.

A workshop on the “Project and Plans in Restoration” was held. The new tasks which, according to the new law on the public bids, pertain to restorers were enlightened.

2007 has been a busy year for ARI's president Carla Tomasi who gave her contribution to many discussions about the proper enforcement of the new law and the opportunities connected with it. She participated to the meeting on Cesare Brandi, the meeting on the safeguard of the cultural heritage organised by the C.N.R. (National Council on Research), the meeting of experts in diagnostics on the problem of the interpretation of analyses carried out on artworks.

The participation to various meetings deepened the exchange of views with other professionals that are involved in projects on the safeguard of the cultural heritage.

ARI came recently to an agreement with the National Professional Order of Architects to public the honoraries of Conservator/Restorer when acting as consultant or as project developer.

ACRAV

Asociación de Conservadores y Restauradores de Arte de la Comunidad Valenciana

During the last year or so, ACRAV has channeled most of its work into the defense of the livelihood of the professional conservator-restorer. This has entailed a legal challenge which seeks to demand **transparency, equality and fairness** within the official existing framework. However it is difficult to fight such a powerful Goliath, as most members of our association have subsequently been black-listed.

The main professional obstacles that exist in Valencia are due to the monopolization of all public work in conservation and restoration by the Institute of Conservation and Restoration of Valencia. No contracts are offered for public tender. Almost all work available in conservation is distributed exclusively according to personal preferences of the authorities. This makes it very difficult for many professional conservators with decades of work experience who have been deliberately excluded from the work sector to seek transparency, equality and fairness.

At the present no contemplated system exists to facilitate the transitory measures that are necessary to compensate for professional competences and/or qualifications that have been issued prior to the Bologna Process. This is especially significant in Spain because more often than not, the different qualifications of professional training are deliberately unrecognized according to regional or local preferences.

It is now possible to do a two-year postgraduate Masters Degree in Conservation at the University of Polytechnics of Valencia, with specialization in different fields. This is currently available to Arts graduate students, however apparently it will soon be incorporating the graduate degree in con-

servation. The amount of students who are accepted into these degrees is excessive when compared to their future prospects in the work market.

The main problem that exists in Spain is **unity** in the profession. There is no national association of conservator-restorers and no general Code of Ethics. The few active associations are not consulted by the decision making sectors, and the interaction between regional associations is minimal. However Spain does have a rich cultural patrimony and there are many worthy conservator-restorers who are not only doing interesting and valuable work but also carrying out innovative advancements in investigation.

Christabel Blackman

Delegate for ACRAV



ARP

Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal



This report covers the period from November 2006 to November 2007.

The best news is that ARP has achieved to have a representative element in the National Council of the Ministry of Culture. A credibility status that contemplates no other cultural professional organization within the Ministry of Culture.

The Bologna Process has already started to be implemented in the Portuguese Universities where Conservation and Restoration is taught but the transition period is still going on. The Universities (*Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Universidade Católica Portuguesa*) have chosen to adopt a generalist first cycle, more focused on the diagnostic and degradation causes of different materials and a second cycle oriented towards one specialisation. A conservation science MSc course has also started at *Universidade Nova*.

The Polytechnic Institute of Tomar (*Instituto Politécnico de Tomar*) used to run a course which was equivalent to the universities mentioned above, before the implementation of the Bologna Process, but now faces problems within the higher education Ministry, not managing to implement a second Cycle (Master program).

In this turmoil of changes there is a movement (led by scientists) to confine the conservator-restorer to a more limited role. One example of this is the difference in the written specifications of both MSc from *Universidade Nova*. The specified aims of the MSc in Conservation and Restoration state that they may apply preventive conservation actions and carry out restoration treatments.

The MSc in Conservation Science has specified aims that overshadow those of the conservator-restorer: they may elaborate intervention proposals, both preventive and curative and they are the only ones to have unique competencies to lead and coordinate multidisciplinary teams.

Another interesting fact is that those who finish

the first cycle in conservation are not allowed to enter the conservation science MSc.

Before the Bologna Process Portugal had, as already reported last year, university courses, known as *licenciatura*, lasting 4–6 years. The fact that the same term – *licenciatura* – has been retained for the present first degree lasting 3–4 years is problematic and has brought lot of confusion on the statute of the conservator-restorer. If the Decree Law is not changed our professional status will be lessened. We are trying to lobby by presenting E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE directives but politically it seems difficult.

Portugal still faces the problem of having secondary education training in conservation-restoration (level III).

To make it worse The Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education has recently introduced a new problem. It allowed the training of conservation-restoration to be introduced in the recently established Courses of Technological Specialization (CET) which is intended for those that have not finished the 12th year of secondary school. These technical courses that give professional qualification (level IV), last for 3 semesters and offer 60 to 90 ECTS credits. They pose a special problem because the legislation recognises them capacity to work independently.

The Accreditation project is presently in a standby process. In the future, a simpler system may be implemented or the process may even be overcome by a legislation, which may create similar mechanisms concerning conservation interventions in classified heritage or in the process of being classified.

ARP's magazine, *Conservar Património*, continues to be published periodically.

Since last November ARP started to promote continuous professional training courses. So far, it has already developed 5 courses on continuous professional development: leadership, writing of a scientific article, bibliographic search mechanisms, analytical methods for the examination of paintings and cultural heritage marketing.

Rui Bordalo

Lisboa, 10th of November 2007

IADA

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



IADA is 50 and going even more international

1957–2007 IADA celebrated fifty years during an inspiring 11th congress in Vienna. Those fifty years represent intense collaboration, professional exchanges, development and friendly contacts between conservators from numerous countries during generations. IADA's mother language is German. It started to grow between Austria, Germany and Switzerland. But such a smart child learned quickly and crossed further borders. At its last general meeting in September 2007 in Vienna, IADA members elected a new committee whose members are active in eight different countries. This committee will have the fascinating task for the next years to underline and assert IADA's internationality. Access to articles always in both languages, German and English, has for example already been launched for 2008 in our publication "Papierrestaurierung" which is released four times a year. The committee also announced the location of the next congress 2011 in the Swiss capital Bern.

André Page

President

ICHAWI

Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland



The Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland, ICHAWI, is the accrediting body for the conservation profession in Ireland and as such is currently the only body in Ireland that represents the profession at European level through its membership of E.C.C.O. Membership is small although it has strong links on several levels including board level, with a larger pool of professional conservators represented by the Irish Professional Conservators Association, IPCRA.

ICHAWI was established as a company limited by guarantee to offer a method of benchmarking standards in professional practice, and to lobby for funding to promote and support the education and training of conservators. Because of its educational role, it was granted charitable status. With the exception of the excellent BSc degree in furniture conservation offered by Letterfrack and the Masters degree in Architectural Conservation at University College Dublin, there is an acute lack of conservation education in Ireland.

The Institute therefore disburses money to support students undertaking conservation education abroad and contributes towards the Continuous Professional Development of practising conservators by providing courses and/or financial assistance to attend CPD courses. ICHAWI is presently enabled to provide such bursaries with grants from the Heritage Council of Ireland.

In the year under review, bursaries have been awarded to full-time students in disciplines such as archaeological conservation, easel painting and prints and drawings. Practising conservators were also awarded grants to assist them attend continuing professional development courses. A very successful course on "Plastics, their deterioration and conservation" was held in June.

Two internships, co-financed by the host institu-

tion and the Heritage Council were also advertised and successfully filled.

Developments with regard to the European Qualifications Framework are being monitored by the Institute and as they may relate to the accreditation process. Close links are also maintained with PACR and the Conservation Register in Britain. The Register accepts ICHAWI's accreditation as one of its criteria for inclusion.

In an effort to address many of the issues within the conservation profession the Heritage Council facilitated an open day last June to discuss and develop strategies and possible synergies. The day was chaired by Diane Gwilt, ICON and guest speakers included the Director of ICOM, Mr Jan Wouters, Mr Chris Woods, ICON, and Mr Mike Vasques Dias, Restauratoren Nederland. A report of the day's proceeding has just been published. A conservator has been re-appointed to an advisory sub-committee of the Heritage Council.

Contacts with the business world are actively pursued through affiliation to "Business 2Arts", an organisation which seeks to attract sponsorship for the arts from the business community. In October, a showcase event was hosted by Business 2 Arts in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin for the business community to demonstrate the conservation work this learned body has commissioned from conservators over many years, and the care with which it is fulfilling its role as guardians of our cultural patrimony.

ICHAWI and IPCRA are actively engaged with each other to raise the profile of the profession, support education and training and promote professional conduct in Ireland. It is with interest that we respond to and await the results of the recent Questionnaire distributed by E.C.C.O. on the constituency of professional bodies throughout Europe.

Susan Corr

FFCR

Fédération Française des Conservateurs/ Restaurateurs

2007 has been a very heavy year for France, with political changes, and also a very busy time for the FFCR committee.

Since reorganisation in 2006 the FFCR, now with regional delegations, has three levels which can act on the different levels in the world of French cultural heritage.

In the regional dimension, there is local professional recognition and there can be promotion, finances and budgets pressure, and contacts to take with regional politicians. It's a need to represent conservation restoration in the area where the work is done, having to use publicity and diffusion of conservation activities to inform and stay tuned to the "real world" (funding, public tendering procedures, how to arrive at decisions etc.).

In the national dimension, where the state has a centralized power, the committee aims to maintain contacts and negotiations with ministers of culture, economy and different public services devoted to historical Monuments, Museums, Archives ...

In the European dimension, with the re-involvement of FFCR in E.C.C.O. (through our delegate), after the "renovation" or "confirmation of trust" of all members to the E.C.C.O. committee, and after the Presidents' Meeting. With the re-definition of topics of priority voted at the GA, we wish to contribute and develop new strategies, actions, and ways of searching for funding, to step ahead of the European Community and the Council of Europe to achieve what bears E.C.C.O. Statutes.

In the regions, our delegations (2 delegates per region elected by national GA) have as objectives the representation of views up and down – giving FFCR central and local positions to official public and private administrations, and to gather together all professionals we recognise who are listed in

our database, with diplomas and without, whether they are members or not. Not all the regions are yet involved in this regional dimension of FFCR, but Aquitaine, Brittany, Poitou-Charente, Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur (PACA), Rhône-Alpes are already at work.

Our first aim is to gather together and to inform every professional concerned by our actions, so that they can decide to support and to participate, or not.

Our second aim is to attract new members and to increase our representation nationally. These targets and our "on site actions" are apparently well received and accepted by our colleagues, and the meetings and the gathering work is efficient. Beside that "ant activity" a new communication dimension is on the way with annual booklets to promote local and national conservator-restorers, and also specific guides on conservation of cultural heritage, its goals, its means, and its public and private interests for the community. Furthermore, local internet sites are under construction with national and inter-regional links between each other. For these "new" media strategies, funding resources are being looked for, and it appears that regional level could be a richer and more generous provider of money than the former national state budgets, which are often "cut before paying out".

On a national level it is more difficult to understand where the "boat is travelling". After being, for centuries, the nation where every decision was centralised, everything is now being regionalised. Not so bad but it often means only that state is giving up the missions it used to take charge of, and cultural heritage seems to be the next victim. Decreases in budgets, dismantling of administrations devoted to museums and replacement systems or alternatives are not yet conceived of...

Budgets lose their way and often never reach the place they were designed for. Even so, budgets which are supposed to last the whole year are cut in June. Work is now mostly distributed (or stopped) by or through large public tendering systems, meaning more unpaid work for conservator-restorers in sometimes badly organised procedures ...



Some are cancelled or postponed without a date of resumption being announced ...

On the other hand FFCR has worked for many years with the French administration, on the writing of a guide explaining the good use of rules for spending public money on the conservation of heritage. Different types of procedures are explained and described: how to appreciate needs, how to consult a professional, how to judge, why cheaper is not necessarily better ... A good reference tool to distribute, to be published soon!!

Politically, FFCR is waiting for the decision of 'the Ministress' of Culture on the 2006 report she has received on conservation and restoration activities, prepared by a parliamentary deputy from the majority, Christian Kert. Recommendations were made, among others, on the need for a name, and the necessity for a high educational level to be considered in order to define 'professional', as expressed in the 2002 law on the 'Musees de France'.

We are also facing, as all E.C.C.O. members are, the implementation of European directives in existing legislation on heritage, taking account of service directives and professional directives. These issues have not yet been decided, although decisions should have been taken last October!

FFCR is also involved in the work of CEN/TC 346 through a national experts mirror group, particularly for terminology, and specific work has been done for the definition of the "condition report", although the CEN/working group did not wish to work on this topic at the beginning. General terms (conservation, restoration, preventive conservation etc. ...) have been defined and are now considered at a European level as a necessity. As E.C.C.O. cannot be represented at CEN, it is of greater importance that all members of E.C.C.O. take account of this activity of normalisation at their national level, through their national normalisation organisation. FFCR recommends all E.C.C.O. members to become involved in this work, so that their views on definitions are not produced after the CEN/definitions have become official. It could be also a way for E.C.C.O. to "contaminate" the debates in a "good" direction.

It appears that specific budgets can be allowed for this activity at national level. Please, think about it.

Internally, a group of FFCR is working on a professional name which could be accepted in France, as we try to escape to the dilemma of being named "restorer", (which refers to only a small part of conservation activity) or 'conservateur-restaurateur', not accepted by the 'conservateurs du patrimoine' (curators) and the national administration. This work is, among others, in progress, and will continue in 2008, as we keep in mind all the ideas and progress made in E.C.C.O. for us, and for cultural heritage.

David Aguilera Cueco

Vice President, E.C.C.O. Committee Member

Komora reštaurátorov, Slovenská Republika

Chamber of Restorers, Slovak Republic

The last year the KR prepared for its members the usual events in the form of the annual GA in spring and the autumn Seminar on restoration, which was held in the middle of Slovakia, in Banská Bystrica. In the building we had the lectures, is a special room, called Green. It was by chance, the room was freshly restored and not only that, it was even rewarded – not the room, but the restorers, who performed here a great job. The prize was awarded by the magazine *Pamiatky a múzeá* (in English *Heritage and Museums*), to the collective of Academic painter Jozef Dorica – responsible restorer, Mgr. art. Ivan Havasi, Mgr. art. Marek Holomaň, Mgr. art. Miroslav Slúka and



Detail: Cartouche after stabilisation, before retouching



Detail: Cartouche after retouching

artistic craftsman Pavol Santa. I would like to present the rewarded restoration of the Green room of the so called Thurzo's house on the Námestie SNP (SNP Square) in Banská Bystrica, which today belongs to the Middle-Slovakian Museum (Stredos-



Detail: State after stabilisation, after plastering the losses



Detail: State after retouching

lovenské múzeum) also to you. This is an example, where it is very obvious, what are the artistic skills, which are required and trained during the restorer's schooling provided at art academies in central Europe (Bratislava, Prague, Budapest ...) and how they can be used in practice. That is why I am not going to describe much about the art-historical background, restoration research and technologies used. An extensive report was published by the KR and Obec reštaurátorov in the Collection of lectures from the 6-th Seminar on restoration in Bardejov 2006 (available on request from the KR office in Bratislava) and the in situ presentation will be published in the 2007 edition of the Collection of lectures (expected in the autumn 2008).





The eastern wall of the Green room of the Thurzo's House in Banská Bystrica – extent of the preserved original decoration



State after retouching (view at the eastern wall of the Green room)

I present to you photographs (with the kind agreement from the authors) where you can see the artistic approach to the heritage. It is a sensitive theme and the decision about the final look is in cases like this is always individual.

The prevailing green colour in the decoration of the whole room was the symbol of expression of renaissance's ideas of respect and admiration to nature. The author of the decoration is not known. It is possible to date it around the year 1490 because coats of arms of king Matthew Corvinus (he ruled 1458 – 1490) and his wife Beatrix of Aragon are composed into the decoration in the apex of the vault.

First restoration of the wall paintings was executed in the years 1956 – 1958 by the painters Edmund Massány and Eugen Petrikovič. From today's point of view their restoration treatment and state of the preserved original painting seemed physically and morally amortised. In the very brief text and photographic archive materials from the previous restoration report from Edmund Massány from January 1956 he writes: "During removal of covering layers these tear down the colour of the original layer approximately in

70%". This fact can be today seen as tragic when we imagine which extent had the covered original painting decorations preserved until the fifties of the last century.

The present restoration works started in December 2005 and ended in 2007.

The aim of the restoration as it is set in the methodical proposal was the revitalisation of heritage values of the Green room in the whole extent.

... In specialisations dealing with works of fine arts (is required) the ability to proceed with the aim to reveal their spiritual and content value while applying the highest measure of respect to the originality and physical, historical and aesthetical unity and artistic form of works of art and ability to interpret the aesthetic value of an artwork ...C

citing from the category *Skills* required in the Conservator-Restorer EQF Level 7 Curriculum Principles, (Model curriculum) for the Learning Outcomes – Conservator-Restorer within the ECPL project.



State after plastering the losses (detail of the eastern wall of the Green room)



State after retouching (detail of the eastern wall of the Green room)

To illustrate the artistic approach of contemporary Slovak restorers, I would like to present to you an unpublished restoration work, which is still in process. The site is close to already mentioned Banská Bystrica, in the village of Hronsek. Mgr. art. Rudolf Boroš is restoring wall paintings in a renaissance chateau, built in the years around 1572 – 1586. The state of the heritage was very poor, since the walls were heavily damaged also due to a missing roof and repeated repairs of their plaster. The wall paintings were originally done in the technique of secco fresco and preserved only in fragmented state. The heritage is being under a complete reconstruction since the year 2006. (The photographs are used with a kind agreement of the author R.B.)

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 2006 to November 2007.

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

General Assembly and constitutions

The Aarhus Art Museum hosted the General Assembly in May. After the GA the board was constituted as follows: Michael Højlund Rasmussen continues as chairman, Karen Borchersen as secretary, Vivi Lønborg Andersen as treasurer, Susan Ritterband holds the post of editor in chief of "Bulletin", Katja Storkholm Plinius is responsible for raising advertisements for "Bulletin" and Maj Ringgard, Camilla Bastholm and Winnie Odder are arrangements officers. Lin Spaabæk and Feliz Kuvvetli are accountants, and Helle Strehle continues as delegate to E.C.C.O.

Activities

NKF-dk has arranged several events for its around 300 members: two visits "behind the bars", a workshop about the Muthcloth technique from Mali and a seminar on defining competences of the conservator-restorer. We also held a party without any excuse other than beeing in the mood for a BIG party. And jolly good fun it was!

Together with the Organisation of Danish Museums, NKF-dk has developed an accrediting course for leading museum employees including conservator-restorers. This is a new endeavour in Denmark, the course awarding 60 ECT-points, which

is the equivalent of one years full time work. Winnie Odder and Karin Bonde Jensen are our representatives in the working group.

The Organisation of Danish Museums also runs Network for Preservation with Michael Højlund Rasmussen as a member of the board.

Karen Borchersen is a member of a networking group within the trade union organizing the Masters and PhDs in conservation-restoration.

NKF-dk works closely together, when relevant, with the School of Conservation in Copenhagen. Our chairman has participated in debates about the future content of the education and on the desirable profile of the conservator-restorers. Furthermore, Per Hadsund is our member in the working group for post educational training of conservator-restorers at The School of Conservation, Copenhagen.

NKF-dk has been an active member of the working group under the Ministry of Culture setting "Standards for Handling Museum Objects". Our chairman is the main editor of the document which was launched in early 2007.

NKF-dk is an expert witness on preservation of cultural heritage issues in the Danish Parliament. Issues raised by our organisation has provoked questions from Danish parliamentarians in the Cultural Committee. The Minister of Culture has addressed the matters in his answers.

Our newsletter "*Bulletin*" generated two issues. The newsletter is of mainly organisational content but it also ties together the working groups of NKF. We have 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. Jens Aagaard continues as our webmaster supported by Karen Borchersen.

The common Nordic magazine "*Meddelelser om Konservering*" launched an issue with articles about "identification of amber", "PIXE analysis",

“polyester dyeing” and “cyclododecane”. The peer reviewed articles appeared in English or in Danish with an English summary. Mai Stief Ajstrup is editor in chief of the publication.

Memberships

As full members we presently accept graduates with the 3 years Bachelor education from The School of Conservation (or equivalent higher education institution according to the E.C.C.O. Guidelines) plus at least one years conservation-restoration 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. We are prepared to change our rules to conform to a future “professional profile”, which will hopefully soon be generated by E.C.C.O.

By the end of 2007 NKF-dk has 201 full members, 62 associated members, 20 institutional members, 15 pensioner members and 29 student members. Only full members may use the title “Member of NKF-dk”. Full members have voting and membership rights in NKF-dk and E.C.C.O. All member categories can participate in events, seminars and meetings. We have not accurately counted the number of potential members, but we estimate that most of those who can be members, are in fact members. To encourage being a member we run campaigns at the School of Conservation aimed at the students. Further, to have access to our dynamic site with job vacancies you need to be a member.

For further information please visit the addresses:

www.nkf-dk.dk and

www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org

Helle Strehle

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



NKF-FIN

Pohjoismaisen konservattoriliiton Suomen osasto ry

IIC Nordic Group – Finnish Section



In the end of 2007 NKF-FIN had 275 members (149 full members, 44 associate members, 70 student members, 3 honorary members and 9 supporting members).

The board 2007: Riitta Koskivirta, chair
Anna Häkäri, vice chair
Maria Järvinen
Pia Klaavu
Anni Lehtimäki
Taina Leppilahti
Tina Lindgren
Nina Robbins

Treasurer: Vuokko Ahlfors
Secretary: Pirjo Taipale
Members' secretary: Katariina Johde
E.C.C.O. delegate: Suvi Leukumaavaara

The Annual Spring Meeting took place in Espoo on March 16th at the newly renovated Wee-Gee building. We had the pleasure to hear how the building, originally a printing factory, was transformed to host five museums: The Clock Museum, The Espoo City Museum, The Espoo Museum of Modern Art (EMMA), the ethnographic Helinä Rautavaara Museum, and The Toy Museum. It was also very interesting to see these very different museums and their co-operation. After the Annual Spring Meeting the Helinä Rautavaara Museum hosted the General Assembly.

The Annual Autumn Meeting was held in Lahti on November 16th. We heard presentations on the new (new in Finland) law on acquisition and guidelines on conservation contracts for persons

or institutes needing to make invitation for tenders. A form prepared as a helping tool was also presented. The lectures were held at The Ski Museum. In the afternoon we visited The Lahti City Conservation Laboratories, The Military Medical Museum and The Military Music Museum in Hennala. The Autumn GA was held at The Military Music Museum's concert hall. The GA resolved, according to the board's motion to grant a 50% discount of the members' fee for retired conservator members.

Tina Lindgren works as the Finnish contact person for the Nordic *Meddelelser om konservering* magazine.

The NKF-FIN's newsletter *Konservaattoriliiton lehti* published four issues in 2007. Editors were Katri Kurkela, Katariina Melvas and Heidi Wirilander. The mailing list is hosted by the Oulu University and moderated by Jari Heinonen (konservaattorit@lists.oulu.fi). The website is operated at www.konservaattoriliitto.fi. At the site's discussion forum most debate raised E.C.C.O.'s recommendation (through the Bologna Declaration) for the full members' qualification to have a Master's degree.

Riitta Koskivirta

Chair of the board
Riitta.koskivirta@fmp.fi

NKF-N

Nordisk konservator forbund – Norge

Nordic Association of Conservators – Norwegian Section

The NKF-N Board's work

The NKF-N General Assembly (GA) was held in Oslo on April 28th 2006, in connection with the spring meeting at the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo.

The board 2006–2007

Chair:	Solveig Schytz
Vice Chair/ Cashier:	Morgan Denlert
Secretary:	Guro Hjulstad
Board members:	Anne Sommer-Larsen Bent Bang-Hansen Erika Gohde Sandbakken
Deputy members:	Anne-Grete Slettemoen Randa Arntzen

The board held 8 board meetings during the period from the GA in April 2006 until the GA in April 2007.

The board has among other things worked with:

1. New website: defining needs and finding a suitable supplier
2. Cooperation with the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (*ABM-utvikling*) and the Norwegian Museum Association (*Norges museumsforbund, NMF*)
3. Cooperation with NKF-N representatives in E.C.C.O. and NMF's Working Committee on Conservation.
4. Cooperation with the other NKF organisations
5. Planning of member meetings

On the June 1st 2006, Solveig Schytz and Morgan Denlert participated in the annual Nordic meeting for conservator-restorers' organisations in Stock-

holm. Anne Sommer-Larsen represented the Board at the GA of NMF in September 2006. Erika Gohde Sandbakken represented the Board at the NKF-congress in Stockholm November 30 – December 1, 2006. Solveig Schytz participated in the E.C.C.O. Presidents Meeting and the E.C.C.O. 2007 GA in Brussels on April 19th and 20th.

Member meetings

The Board organised four member meetings during the year.

- The 2006 GA was held at the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo in connection with the Spring Meeting. At the Spring Meeting there were two lectures: Kjersti Ellewsen, conservator at the Museum of Cultural History held the lecture: *"The Relief Buckle from Sande – From the Grave to the Safe"*. Johan Mattsson, mycologist from Mycoteam held the lecture *"What is eating and growing in my objects, and what can I do to prevent it?"*
- October 19th, biologist Monika Åkerlund from the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm held a lecture at the Autumn Meeting of NKF-N at the Museum of Natural History museum in Oslo: *"What is integrated pest management?"*
- The NKF-N Christmas meeting on December 6th was held at the Norwegian Film Institute. Professor Erling Skaug held a lecture with the title *"The water torrent in Florence 1966 and the "Nordic Centre for Restauration" (1967–70)"*.
- The NKF-N Winter Meeting took place on the 8th of March at The National Library in Oslo. Paintings Conservator Linda Aarstad presented her Master's degree thesis *"Conservation of a landscape painting by Gunda Paulsen"*.

Membership status 31.12.2006

Full members.....	126
Associates.....	64
In total.....	190

Solveig Schytz
Chair NKF-N



NKF-S

Nordiska konservatorförbundet – svenska sektionen

IIC Nordic Group – Swedish section



The board as elected at the General Assembly in March 2007:

Anna Klint (president, permanent member)

Thea Winter (secretary, permanent member)

Kristin Fyrand (vice president, permanent member)

Daniel Kwiatkowski (treasurer, permanent member)

Anna Fornäs (membership file, permanent member)

Lars Björk (Bothén's Foundation, deputy member)

Maria Franzon (NKF-s website, deputy member)

Carin Pettersson (E.C.C.O. representative, deputy member)

Ellen Wijgård Randerz (student's representative, University of Gothenburg)

Sofia Rydell (student's representative, University of Linköping)

In December 2006 IIC Nordic Group held their XVII Triennial Conference in Stockholm for two days. The name and theme of the conference was SMUTS (DIRT) and the subject was spoken about from a broad spectrum. Speakers were invited from both the Nordic countries and abroad. Jonathan Ashley Smith (UK), Tine Frøisaker (Nor), Ulla Knuutinen and Arja Koskinen (Fin), Yangsook Koh (Swe), Brunetto Giovanni Brunetti (It), Michael Daley (UK) and Morten Ryhl-Svendsen (DK) were some of the speakers. The conference had an active and large audience and the final discussion was lively, creative and interesting.

The General Assembly was held at the Royal Library in Stockholm the 31st of March 2007. Margareta Edebo Ekrot from the University of

Gothenburg was invited to speak about the new Master programme for conservators. The new programme is designed after the Bologna Declaration and starts autumn 2007. Now it is possible to study a conservation programme in 3 years (BA) + 2 years (MA) even in Sweden!

In October 2007 the first dividends of funds from the Bothén's Foundation were awarded. The Foundation is exclusively linked with the NKF-S and its funds are strictly given to full members only. Full members can ask for economic help for study travels, seminars, publishing books aimed for the conservation field etc.

Next General Assembly will take place the 31st of March 2008 at the Army Museum in Stockholm.

Currently the NKF-S has 363 members, 172 of them are full members.

Carin Pettersson

NKF-S, E.C.C.O. Delegate

ÖRV

Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

Ordinary Members: around 245

www.örv.at

email address: info@örv.at

Activities of ÖRV in Austria

In this last year 2007 ÖRV has organised a **conference** about conservation-restoration of modern art. It took place in the private art museum ESSL in Klosterneuburg, near Vienna.

The **publication** will be ready in these coming weeks.

The publication of the conference 2006 “Water” – that took place in the Museum of Applied Art in Vienna – has been distributed at the end of last year.

Most damage is coming from ignorance or neglectance about the natural cycle of water and its properties inside the materials and from outside action. Various case studies were given to illustrate the phenomenon of “water” as positive and negative factors in the care and restoration of built monuments and objects in history and presence.

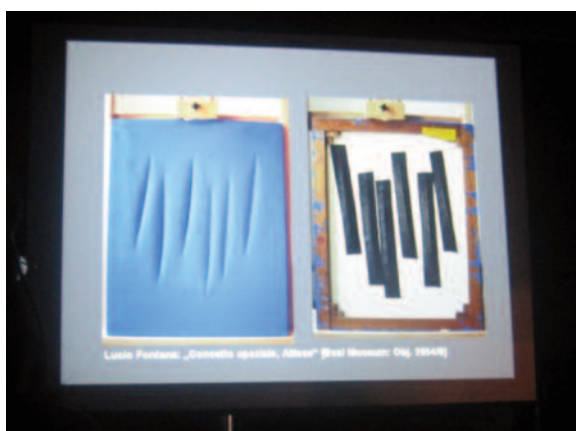
The publication can be ordered from the ÖRV website.

Our **Newsletter** is distributed since last year as an attachment via internet, like the E.C.C.O. Reports.

This has been accepted by all our members – nevertheless, from next year on, ÖRV will make one printed edition of the end of each year. This edition will contain the calendar for the next year and summaries of conservation-restoration works of the last year.

Since summer 2007 the ÖRV has organised a **working group** about the definition of the professional profile. With the help of a legal advisor the committee started to formulate – on the last version of the E.C.C.O. profile – its own definition. First **contacts** to the politicians had proved encouraging. We hope very much to get more information about the situation in all the other European countries via E.C.C.O. by the next General Assembly.

We look forward to becoming a member of an **international working group** that will be able to solve the dilemma of the MA/BA definition in a satisfactory way.



We are aware that the historical background is not the same here than in other countries, but we would like to aim for the highest possible academic title, bearing in mind that compromises should be possible, for the sake of our common cultural heritage.



ÖRV has hired the service of a **public relation professional** since last year. This has proved to be very efficient. Several articles in the important newspapers about our work had been published and guided tours for the public through conservation-restoration institutes, mainly in museums, have taken place.

The future

ÖRV is preparing a new conference for the end of 2008 about conservation-restoration of religious art. It will take place at the Minoritenkirche in Krems, a beautiful Middle Age town situated on the Danube, in the Wachau, approximately 60 km from Vienna.

The call for papers has been sent out to all professional organisations in E.C.C.O.

We would be happy to welcome this time some guests and visitors from abroad.

The next **ÖRV General Assembly** will take place in June 2008.



Photos by Edith Touré

Edith Touré

*ÖRV E.C.C.O. Delegate
December 2007*

RestauratorenNederland RN

Vereniging voor Conservering en Restauratie

Mission

The mission for Restauratoren Nederland is to look after the interests of the occupational group and to 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 2006/2007

In the GA held in September 2006 the present board was elected. The board consist of:

Liesbeth Keijser (President)

Sabine Westerhuis (Treasurer)

Regien Geerke

Gwen Tauber

Erika Mosenbacher

Raymond Leeuwenburg

Jaap van der Burg (Vice-President and E.C.C.O. Delegate)

Since (as we all know) there is only a limited amount of time and energy all these volunteers can put into an organisation the board was very happy to be able to propose Willemien 't Hooft as director of RN. She was accepted by the assembly by acclimation.

Willemien has a two-day contract with RN, which makes our association an employer as well with all its complications.

As expected this year was focussed on the project on 'professional profile and competence'. The first phase of the project was finished and presented to our members in April.

In this project the complete field of conservation

is allotted to several professionals. The field itself was limited to those professionals that actually work physically with objects. Three professions are defined: Conservator Restorer, Conservation Technician and Conservation Assistant. Since we want to have an 'open mind' for the second phase where we will define who is supposed to do what and what he will have to know to be able to do what is expected (competences), we are using the English 'names' to circumvent the sensitive and Dutch Titles with all its prejudice and biases. However it turned out that we use these English titles different from how ICON uses them (in particular the 'assistants' and 'technicians' are switched).

After phase two is finalised (end of 2007/early 2008) and when we know who will do what, we will try to come up with understandable Dutch and English titles for these functionaries.

This project is a major drain on our financial possibilities and can only be continued thanks to Flemish and Dutch private and public sponsoring.

Our committee 'toelatingen' (acceptance) has been working on the criteria a conservator-restorer has to fulfil to be accepted as a full member. After a multitude of sessions and discussions amongst committee members, members of RN as well as interested 'outsiders' the result will be presented at the GA in November 2007.

Members for the committees for 'complaints' and 'appeal' have been found and will be installed at the GA in November 2007. Also we have been able to find the necessary members for our advisory board.

Next to all these activities focused on organising the association and the way it is going to operate we have been present in the bi-annual 'restoration-fair' in Den Bosch. Also RN is a solid participant in the discussions about education and schooling in our sector.

Something that has not really worked out as we wanted it are the activities of our 'sections'. A section within RN consists of a group of specialists



that want to develop, gather and share knowledge and experiences on particular fields of interest. Some of the already active sections are; 'Books, Paper and Photographic Materials', 'Ethnography', 'Conservation Assistants' (Behoudsmedewerkers). In the coming year RN will start up as many 'sections' as possible.



Jaap Van Der Burg

SKR/SCR

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

The Board once again gave intensive consideration, as it had done in the previous year, to problems relating to bachelors and masters degree courses. In the first instance, the aim was to determine the procedure to be followed for the acceptance of bachelor degree holders as members of the Federation. Discussions in our neighbour country Germany show that this matter is extremely sensitive. For example, in the German Professional Federation (VDR) the debate surrounding the two new professional study courses has shifted from an objective to an emotional level. At the VDR annual assembly for 2007, no less than 7 motions were tabled on this subject, ranging from total rejection of bachelor graduates to their inclusion as full members. The SKR/SCR Board wishes to avoid any such emotional debate and is therefore working on a model which gives bachelor degree holders an opportunity to join the Federation before becoming full members after completing a master's degree course. Those who do not intend to take a master's course will presumably be able to remain associate members. This membership status was already introduced by the SKR/SCR some years ago.

Another focus of the Federation's work consisted of efforts to set up a pool of experts of conservation/restoration experts to intervene in a disaster. We imagined that this would be more simple than our negotiating partner – the Swiss Federal Department of Population Protection – imagines. The fact that we were unable to set up an ad hoc pool of experts of this kind is explained primarily by a number of open issues relating to insurance, remuneration for a mission, liability etc. The Federation is not willing, under any circumstances, to take a risk if specialists from our professional fed-

eration work under supervision of the Federal authorities. We will keep them informed of further developments in this matter.

Our Board member Martin Ledergerber already reported on the departure of our Federation from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) in SKR/SCR bulletin 2007. After two years existence of the Swiss shadow body in which the SKR/SCR was able to follow activities in five existing CEN/TC 346 working groups in detail, we were obliged to conclude that the outcome was rather meagre and that continued existence of the national shadow body was neither meaningful nor necessary. SKR/SCR and the other participating members in Switzerland have therefore terminated their membership of the SNV as, contrary to our initial fear, there is no likelihood that conservation/restoration activity will be affected in the immediate future by norms which we might regard as problematic. Up to now, draft versions of eight norms have been submitted, but these relate especially to test and analysis methods. The CEN standards are generally based on existing national norms and confined to activity areas of the research institutions which are represented in the working groups.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of E.C.C.O (European Confederation of Conservation and Restoration Experts), Christian Marty spent two days in Brussels, in his capacity of SKR President, at the invitation of the Confederation with the other Presidents of European professional federations to discuss the present situation of conservation and restoration experts in Europe. He noted with satisfaction the fact that our Federation is already able to offer a wide range of services and recommendations relating to insurance, placing of orders etc. for its members and that the status and acceptance of conservation and restoration experts in our country certainly stands up well to comparison with other European countries.

On behalf of the Board

Christian Marty
SKR/SCR President



VDR

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



VDR intern and General Assembly (GA) 2007

As described in the reports of the years 2005 and 2006 the VDR was undertaking an intensive process of „self-reflection“ and discussions about future strategies in professional politics – the so-called „Strategieprozess“. Subject of one working group has been the structure of the association, which presently has a three-stage hierarchy: around 3200 members, a committee of 33 representatives (20 committee members represent different professional sections and 13 committee members represent local sections from the different federal states of Germany) and a presidium of 5 members.

From the different options for a reform of the structure only one proposal of the working group had been favoured by the presidium. In preparation of the GA 2007 the presidium had already announced an agenda item, namely to decide upon the proposed change: (1) subdivision of the old committee into 3 advisory boards (without supervisory and legislative functions) and (2) enlargement of the presidium by 3 representatives of those committees. In reaction to this announced agenda item several alternative agenda items had been announced beforehand by other members.

The participants of the GA rejected the proposal by the presidium and decided with a narrow majority to further examine the different proposals and models for the upcoming GA 2008.

Another working group developed a questionnaire with ethical, political and practical questions about the aims and strategies and the current work of the association. As a result the group made a proposal for a „mission statement“ of VDR, which has been adopted by the GA 2007.

The election of a complete new presidium (president: Prof. Volker Schaible, Stuttgart) can be seen in connection with the decision of the GA to prolong the discussion about the structure and other changes.

After this decision there was not enough time left to vote about another agenda item put forth by the presidium, namely to leave ECCO. The new presidium will take this opportunity to reinstall confidence between VDR and ECCO in aiming at common objectives of professional politics.

At the GA 2007 the old presidium informed the members that the association finds itself in a critical financial situation. Missing member-fee payments over some years and late response to the gravity of the situation caused a liquidity problem at the end of this year.

Collaboration with Academic Institutions

The VDR delegates an observer to the annual meetings of the faculties of academic institutions in German speaking countries, which offer curricula in the field of conservation and restoration. The aim of these meetings is to exchange experiences in the Bologna-process and to prevent serious obstacles for students to change from one institution to another.

VDR intends collaboration with all academic institutions (and other institutions) in Germany to organise and offer extended vocational training possibilities of high quality.

CEN / TC 346

The process of normalisation according CEN/TC 346 is ongoing with participation of VDR members (see VDR reports 2005, 2006). An evaluation of the benefits and consequences of this work is difficult at present in the light of the complexity and dense time schedule of the project.

The following points represent a personal summary of reactions from several VDR members:

Natural scientists appreciate the normalisation for example of methods for analysis and measurement because this is a necessary presupposition for comparability and facilitation of traceability.

Normalisation of the conservation process is still a controversial issue and needs to be examined for every envisaged domain for normalisation. Notwithstanding the tight time constraints it is recommendable to consider the outcomes of actual scientific projects, which are explicitly dedicated to issues of normalisation, such as norms for terminology (glossaries).

We would appreciate to exchange experiences and opinions within ECCO member organisations.

For any further information please consult our website www.restauratoren.de.

Mechthild Noll-Minor

(VDR vice president and ECCO delegate)



VRS/ARA

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



Our association was able to organise some projects for its members, which are being listed here in detail.

At the beginning of the year 2007 an exhibition dedicated to the first Province conservator after the Second World War, Dr. Nicolo` Rasmio, was opened to the public in the Municipal Museum of Bolzano. Dr. Nicolo` Rasmio used to be a leading authority in the field of art history and the protection of historical monuments and he was well known beyond the boundaries of the province. Dr. Silvia Spada, the director of the Municipal Museum of Bolzano was guiding the members of our association through this exhibition.

The 2006 General Assembly was held in March. At the Assembly important issues were discussed and decisions reached.

April 19th to 21st April 2007 the E.C.C.O. General Assembly and the E.C.C.O. Presidents' Meeting took place in Brussels and it was our representative, Ms. Brigitte Esser, to attend the meeting for her first time. At the committee conference on May 22nd 2007 Ms. Esser reported on the vivid and interesting discussion to the committee concerning fundamental topics such as the formation/training as well as the job outline of the conservator-restorer.

For August 2007 the committee of our association was able to get Ms. Lanfranchi an expert on the consolidation of wall paintings from Florence to hold a short further training course. Ms. Lanfranchi stayed with us as she was attending a meeting in our province. As one of the members of the as-

sociation was at that time directing a building site whose wall paintings showed the right problematic nature for a consolidation on the basis of barium, Ms. Lanfranchi was able to show us the technique vividly on the basis of these wall paintings which make part of the arcades of Brixen's cloister. The theoretical part took place in the morning, while the consolidation on the basis of barium was shown to us in the afternoon.

October 17–20th 2007 Ms. Brigitte Esser was attending the 19th Austrian „Day of the Museum“ in Salisbury. The meeting, at which experts coming from the German-speaking region gave a talk was attended by a large audience. As real highlights can be seen the lectures given by Mr. Dieter Ronte from the Art Museum in Bonn, Mr. Edelbert Köb from MUMOK Vienna and Mr. Klaus Albrecht Schröder from the Vienna Albertina.

At the end of this year our Province conservator, Dr. Helmuth Stampfer is going to retire. It is a custom of our association to organise at the end of every year, in the days before Christmas, a meeting with all members and directors of the superintendence of Bolzano. On this occasion some shorter lectures as well as a reflection on the past year will be held. Then, of course, there is always a pleasant getting-together with a good dinner table.

This year our Province conservator, Dr. Helmuth Stampfer will be retiring and we are going to welcome officially his successor, Dr. Leo Andergassen.

Brigitte Esser

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

GRUP TÈCNIC

Conservators' Association of Catalonia

This year, the Grup Tècnic has elected a new president: Rosa Marina Formento. She is a paintings conservator and works independently.

2007 was the first year the Grup Tècnic attended an E.C.C.O. meeting. It was quite intense, but very useful for our association. Hopefully we'll be able to come back next year.

During the Brussels meeting we explained that Catalan conservators were trying to create a professional order. But today the two associations involved (GT and ARCC) are still waiting for the Catalan parliament to vote the creation of this professional order.



The picture represents the 2007 bureau, from left to right:
Mireia Campuzano, Vice President
Consol Marco, Secretary
Alex Masalles, Vocal
Rosa Marina Ruiz, President
Ferran Mauriz, Treasurer

About education, the university of Barcelona (UB) has just opened a PhD in conservation. However, we are facing a fundamental problem: there is no Master degree and the university is still in the process of creating a license ...

This year, the association has decided to publish its first professional directory. We are in the process of taking a census of all the qualified conservators in Catalonia. This work has never been done before. Therefore, nobody knows how many conservators have a diploma and work in Catalonia ...

In April 2008, the Grup Tècnic will hold its 11th Technical Conservation Meeting (*Reunions Tècniques*). This conference will take place at the *Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya* on the 3rd and 4th of April 2008. The topic will be "*Problematical solutions: Diversity in the criteria of intervention, inpainting and presentation in conservation*". This meeting will also be an opportunity for the association to celebrate its 25th birthday with a special party. We hope it will be as successful as the last one!

Agnès Gall Ortlik

