



SHORT NEWS

December 2008

Dear Members

The committee met in Paris over the weekend 24th-26th October to coincide with the presence in Paris of the EQF Working Group, members of which attended the ENCoRE GA on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October.

ICOM-CC Conference, New Delhi

The President's report on her attendance at the IIC conference in September is posted on the E.C.C.O. website. With regard to the proposal by ICOM-CC to change the title of Conservator-Restorer to that of Conservator, little discussion took place before the vote at the conference, which occurred without major announcement. The President reported that the letter from E.C.C.O. outlining our position, as reported in the last edition of the Short News, was not circulated to ICOM-CC members, as requested, but only read and considered by the Bureau. She also noted that there were several complaints on the issue.

Arising from the above situation, a new letter will be reissued to ICOM-CC reiterating our position and the President proposes that

- E.C.C.O. and ICOM-CC establish a formal point of contact or liaison between both organisations and E.C.C.O. will write to ICOM-CC to this end.
- E.C.C.O. support the proposal by Lidia Rissotto from the Italian *Istituto Centrale del Restauro* and university *Venaria Reale* to write a paper on the term conservation-restoration so as to inform ICOM-CC about the different reasons for keeping this term at least inside Europe.
- A task force with ENCoRE has been set up to work on this term; the results should be presented at the next ICOM-CC meeting.

ENCoRE GA

Monica Martelli Castaldi attended the ENCoRE GA as President of E.C.C.O. as part of a reciprocal agreement with ENCoRE who sends René Larsen to the E.C.C.O. GA.

Susan Corr attended as Co-ordinator of the E.C.C.O. EQF Working Group to provide an update to ENCoRE members on the work of the Group to date. Jeremy Hutchings attended both in his capacity as member of the EQF Working Group and as an ENCoRE member, David Aguilera Cuello attended as member of the EQF Working Group and Sebastian Dubrosskin, E.C.C.O. Committee Member, attended as an ENCoRE member.

Jeremy Hutchings delivered a short presentation on *Learning Outcomes* as they affect the delivery and assessment of education courses.

ENCoRE voted unanimously to work with E.C.C.O. in writing the Descriptors for the EQF. A joint meeting is to be arranged in the near future.

EQF Working Group

A brief analysis of the present status of the work is summarised as follows:

To date, the Working Group has identified competences that profile our profession by assessing the conservation process; from initial engagement via diagnosis, through to direct intervention to aftercare and guidelines for future preservation. The proposed competences associated with each stage in the conservation process have been analysed in the language of the *Learning Outcomes* as they describe *Knowledge, Skills and Competences*. The

proposed measure of knowledge and skill has been quantified using the taxonomy of learning provided by Anderson and Krathwohl.

A document outlining these proposed competences has been circulated to all the member organisations and feedback is required to ascertain, most importantly, whether

- a) the model we have chosen to identify competences is workable
- b) the competences are comprehensive
- c) the competences are calibrated correctly

Such feedback is ideally required by January 2009 to ensure any reworking in time to present a framework document to the GA.

Learning Outcomes describe Knowledge, Skills and Competences. This is the language of the EQF. It is the same language that education providers must use to construct their courses so as to deliver these Outcomes and are the terms of reference for how the courses are to be assessed or measured. This represents the work of ENCoRE's members.

Where the work of E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE meets is at the point of calibration on the scale of the EQF. The education providers must calibrate these Learning Outcomes correctly on the EQF scale by writing the Descriptor for each level cognisant of the level at which we, the profession, have set our competences. For E.C.C.O., access to the profession as conservator-restorer is set at Level 7. A joint working group between E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE will meet towards the end of January 2009 to write the Descriptors for the different levels.

Finally, at a late meeting in Paris following the presentation to ENCoRE, it was recognised that for the competences that we propose to be as fully representative of the conservation community in Europe, a mechanism will have to be found to allow E.C.C.O. to consult with non-members to bring them into the process at some point. This should most likely take place after the GA.

Council of Europe - European Recommendations and Charter for the Conservation and restoration of Cultural Heritage

The document was officially presented to the *Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape* (CDPATEP) at the end of November. We are now waiting for the final result of the discussion.

A message will be sent to E.C.C.O. delegates and member organisations to address their governments' representatives at the Council of Europe, according to the instructions received on the 12th of September 2008. The final vote will probably take place in May-before the summer.

CEN

The terminology paper in which the ICOM-CC umbrella term 'conservation' has been proposed will be issued in January with a five-month period for further comment. As stated earlier, E.C.C.O. will reiterate its position and seek support from amongst its members to lobby against the formal adoption of this term. E.C.C.O. recognises the importance for member organisations to be actively involved in the CEN project at the consultation stage through the participation in 'mirror' groups at national level, where this is possible. E.C.C.O. will continue to seek liaison status with the CEN project.

New Members

Hungary has recently submitted all the necessary documentation to support their application for membership. The Czech Republic have adjusted their statutes to comply with those of E.C.C.O. preparatory to application for membership and the Pan-Hellenic Association of Conservators of Antiquities have requested membership, further clarification is being sought.

E.C.C.O Reports

There has been some inadvertent delay in getting the 2007 reports published but they are nearly finalised and will be issued soon. National reports for 2008 need to be submitted by January 2009.

Insurance

Jaap van der Burg reported back on the recent survey on indemnity for private conservators.

The situation remains ad hoc and difficult. No national cover exists and JVDB pointed out that it remains unfeasible to get one common policy that is applicable to all. Findings suggest that insurers are reluctant to offer indemnity because of the difficulty in distinguishing between incompetence and accident.

A report on the findings will issue shortly.

Presidents Meeting

Dates for the Presidents' Meeting are proposed as 28th -31st March 2009. Venues under consideration are Brussels or Sofia. Members will be balloted early in the New Year on their preference. It is thought that a meeting in Sofia might offer the opportunity for a "joint moment" (GA, President Meeting) together with a meeting of Eastern and Balkanic countries. Though not members of E.C.C.O., they are members of the Council of Europe, and the Recommendations and EQF results could be presented. Negotiations are continuing and details will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Finally, the committee take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and fruitful 2009.

Susan Corr
General Secretary,
Galway. December 08