



E.C.C.O. SHORT NEWS JANUARY 2012

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all our members. News from the Committee has been slow over the latter half of the previous year; a contributing factor has been due to the pressure of work experienced by many of the Committee Members. The Committee finally convened in Budapest on the 9th-12th December, having been unable to meet as a group since the last Committee Meeting in Paris in June 2011. The Agenda over the three days was very full as a result.

The meeting took place in the Museum of Fine Arts, *Szépművészeti Múzeum* in a room with a view over Heroes' Square, *Hősök tere*. The meeting kicked off with a warm welcome from Mr. Miklos Szentkirályi and István Bóna, the President and E.C.C.O. Delegate of *Magyar Restaurátorok Egyesülete* (MRE), the Association of Hungarian Restorers. Their generous hospitality was much appreciated. We allowed ourselves an hour on Sunday to make a quick trip around the stunning collection. A visit is highly recommended. Having the meeting in Hungary also made it possible for us to meet with colleagues from Rumania and Croatia over the course of the weekend.

Commemoration of Prof. Dr Ulrich Schießl and 10th anniversary of VDR

Sadly this year was marked by the death of Prof. Dr Ulrich 'Ulli' Schießl (1948–2011), who was one of the founding members of E.C.C.O. Ulli had been Vice-President of E.C.C.O. in 1992 and then President in 1993 and 1994. President Monica Martelli Castaldi was invited to a commemoration service organised by the University of Dresden in honour of Ulli. On the following day she also attended the 10th anniversary of VDR, *Verband der Restauratoren e.V.*, which was celebrated with an important conference on the profession followed by a dinner and ball.

IADA Congress Bern

Four members of the Committee attended the *XIIth IADA Congress Berne 2011* in Bern at the end of August, to emphasise the importance of IADA (*Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv-, Bibliotheks- und Graphikrestauratoren*) continuing its membership of E.C.C.O. in light of a proposal to cede from E.C.C.O. It was stressed that the very specificity of their representation, leading to developments and changes in the field, makes it important for IADA to remain an active member in E.C.C.O. The *Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession* booklet was sold at the E.C.C.O. stand and much interest was expressed in it. E.C.C.O. Vice-Treasurer Sebastian Dobruskin organised the meeting and was nominated as our delegate to represent E.C.C.O. in IADA.

Thanks to resigning Committee Member Agnès Gall-Ortlik

Thanks are extended to Grup Tècnic Delegate Agnès Gall-Ortlik who was responsible for bringing the E.C.C.O. General Assembly to Barcelona in April 2011, and making it such a success. We regret to announce that in September 2011 Agnès tendered her resignation from the E.C.C.O. Committee and we will miss her input in the work to come. We will stay in touch with Agnès who is very active in professional development politics as President of Grup Tècnic and we hope also to benefit from her feedback on unfolding developments in Spain, where a new organisation is trying to unify the many professional associations, which exist in the different "autonomies" or regions.

Legislation

Immediately after the General Assembly in Barcelona, on the 12th of April 2011, a small delegation from the E.C.C.O. Committee met in Rome with Daniel Théron, General Secretary of CDPATEP (*Comité directeur du patrimoine culturel et du paysage – Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape*) and Mounir Bouchenaki, Director-General of ICCROM to discuss and progress the *Recommendations*. During the meeting the E.C.C.O. *Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession* publication was presented and the importance of the document was confirmed, some ideas came out for future work. Both, Mr. Théron and Mr. Bouchenaki were to attend a subsequent meeting of CDPATEP in Strasbourg, in May, to ratify the recent agreement signed by the two organisations. The internal structure of the Council of Europe is currently being restructured and some of the Steering Committees have been merged in a new unified committee. This is causing considerable delay in the work on the *Recommendations*, but in the interim, a Working Committee has been set up. There has been no feedback to date.

Competences

Great interest has been shown in the E.C.C.O. publication *Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession* and efforts to date have focused on getting the books distributed and the English text translated. This has not been without its difficulties both technically, in terms of the books layout, and linguistically. The German translation is in the review stage, the French and Spanish translations are complete and the Italian translation was due at the end of December. It is hoped to have all translations printed in one go and to be available for the General Assembly 2012.

CEN TC 364

A task force has been set up to develop the new business plan for CEN. The members were to meet in Paris on 12th-13th December to discuss proposed drafts, as the current structure of the working groups needs to be reorganised and extended while some precisely defined subjects are to be set for future standardisation. The definition of the Conservation-Restoration process should be one of the “hot” topics and the Working Group in charge will probably look at the E.C.C.O. Conservation-Restoration Competence Map as a base to develop this definition, particularly to help identify the different areas of work in the process.

Experience of *CEN TC 346* has led the German, British and French standardisation committees to insist that such work should involve more cooperation or be in direct consultation with all the professional bodies, at national mirror group levels. This has not always been the case so far.

E.C.C.O. Vice President Jaap van der Berg attended a meeting in November in Bilbao with Working Group 4 on *Environment*. A new Working Group on *Risk Assessment* has been formed. In October in Madrid another meeting of Working Group 1 focusing on the glossary of damage proposed to erase a large number of the 276 terms already chosen and worked, but there would appear to be no consensus on the suppression of terms from the list to date.

An overview of the CEN project is being developed for the E.C.C.O. website to include what has been agreed already, what is under review and any new proposals. General Terms adopted in July 2011 are due to be published this January.

Terminology and ICOM-CC meeting, Lisbon

E.C.C.O. continued to argue for the retention of the title *Conservator-Restorer* in the Statutes of ICOM, in light of the ICOM-CC proposal to change the name to the umbrella title of *Conservation*, adopted in Delhi (2009). This was to be voted upon at the ICOM-CC General Assembly in Lisbon in September 2011, but debates were finally postponed to the next ICOM-CC General Assembly in 2014. This was due to strong internal discussion about it, possibly after firm written reactions from E.C.C.O., ENCoRE, and other national professional bodies. The other proposal to suppress the ex-officio membership of ICCROM in the committee of ICOM-CC, provided the opportunity for strongly argued discussions resulting in a negative final vote and the rejection of this proposal. ICCROM stays in the committee as an ex-officio member.

8th EU Framework programme for Research HORIZON 2020

Cultural heritage research and demonstration is carried out at national, European and international level, it covers not only the technical aspects and interventions in movable, immovable heritage and archaeology, but also the management of digital aspects of cultural heritage knowledge, socio-economic and policy aspects.

Within the *European Framework Programmes*, cultural heritage has been addressed in numerous programmes (*EESD*, *IST*, *CRAFT*, *Policies*, *INCO-MED*, etc.), and most recently in *FP5* and *FP6*. Within the *FP7* (2007-2013), cultural heritage has also been given priority status by the EU Commission in themes such as “Environment”, “Nanomaterials”, “Processes and ICT”, “Information and Communication Technologies” or “Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities”.

VDR has notified the E.C.C.O. Committee that the terms of reference for the next EU Framework Programme no longer specifies cultural heritage as a priority. In other words there is no specific research programme connected to the field of cultural heritage. This is not only detrimental to all who work in this sector but undermines the major role cultural heritage plays in the overall economy of the EU. To this end VDR has proposed that each member organisation lobbies for a change in the terms of reference.

E.C.C.O. has set up an Online Petition under the following link: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/horizon-2020-cultural-heritage-research>

You are invited to sign the online petition, which can be downloaded, adapted and sent as a letter to politicians and relevant MEPs in your own country. The petition also seeks the support from other professionals working in the field of cultural heritage and we ask that you might publicise the petition amongst such professional bodies that you are in contact with.

In Germany the initiative of VDR got a very positive echo amongst a wide range of professionals being active in research and preservation of cultural heritage. You may find the closed Online Petition of VDR (German version) under the following link:

<http://openpetition.de/petition/online/horizon-2020-streichung-der-kulturerbeforschung>

ECROP

Work on the proposed Forum has been slow. The committee voted to continue to pursue the objective of a forum or network outreach for the European conservation community.

Next General Assembly

Dates for the next GA have been proposed for May 14th and will take place in Naples with a site visit to Herculaneum.

Finally the Committee take this opportunity to wish all our Members peace, happiness and success this coming year and look forward to seeing all the Delegates at the GA.

Susan Corr

E.C.C.O. General Secretary