

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

SHORT NEWS
July 2006

Report from the E.C.C.O. Bureau and Committee meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, 2-4 June 2006.

Report by the President

The President Monica Martelli Castaldi represented E.C.C.O. at the 7th European Congress 'Sauveur', Safeguarded Cultural Heritage- Understanding & Viability for the Enlarged Europe, held in Prague 31st May – 3rd June 2006, by giving a talk on the legal status of the conservation-profession in Europe. The paper has been prepared with Vincent Negri, E.C.C.O.'s external consultant in legal matters.

E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE proposed a survey within the conservation-restoration community; to determine what impact EU funded scientific research has on conservation practice. The proposition was adopted by ICCROM who will try to set up a project with E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE.

To further improve of E.C.C.O.'s presence and visibility at conferences and seminars, the committee will seek to finance a future Poster and/or a PowerPoint presentation.

The committee has agreed to arrange a separate Presidents meeting (all member associations presidents) in relation to next years General Assembly.

Membership categories and requirements

It was proposed at the meeting that E.C.C.O. should raise the question of membership categories within the member associations. The reason being that there are associations who still accept BA level trained conservator-restorers as full members, as opposed to the MA level stipulated in the E.C.C.O. - ENCoRE Joint Statement.

Professional Profile

At the last E.C.C.O. - ENCoRE meeting (Brussels 23 January 2006) it was agreed that both organisations would work separately on a text on the MA conservator-restorer professional profile. The document is a consequence of the E.C.C.O.-ENCoRE agreement *Joint statement on the education of conservator-restorers for cultural heritage* 25 September 2002, stating that "*the Bachelor qualification is not sufficient for working as a conservator/restorer. BA graduation qualifies for work within the field of conservation-restoration only under the supervision of a qualified conservator/restorer*". This text is the essential and irreplaceable basis on which to base training and exercise the profession in the future. In order to define the position of conservator - restorers who do not yet fulfil these requirements, the national bodies will have to provide *transitory measures* in short term.

German VDR (one of the national associations whose General Assembly has voted to accept only MA level conservator- restorers in the future) has recently proposed to the E.C.C.O. Committee that the Professional Profile should include BA-levels as well as MA levels,. The question has been discussed among the Committee and a vote gave that a separate text for BA level will be drafted, however not included in the same document as the Professional Profile. The texts must stay separate because they do not define the same profession, and keeping them together would cause confusion on a subject that is by now accepted; that 5 years of MA

level education is required to become a conservator-restorer. The texts will be discussed at the next Committee meetings and, later on, in their final version, with ENCoRE.

Future E.C.C.O. Archive

E.C.C.O. has received an offer to arrange for an official archive and/or secretariat in Bratislava, Slovak republic, including a part time administrator. A physical archive and secretariat address is something E.C.C.O. would benefit much from, however, the financial conditions need to be further drafted before any decision can be made.

E.C.C.O. Website

Treasurer Suvi Leukumaavaara has put much work into getting the E.C.C.O. web page working and updated. Now the Short News, the General Assembly Agendas and Minutes, and the article by Ira Mazzoni can be found on the E.C.C.O. web page. The current E.C.C.O. web site is rather old, costly and not user friendly. The committee is looking for a new domain to start a new E.C.C.O. web site.

E.C.C.O. reports

It has come to the committee's knowledge that, due to financial issues, all member associations do not distribute E.C.C.O.'s annual Report among their members. This has raised the question on whether the report should be electronic rather than printed matter. It was agreed that printed versions are still important, but may be replaced or complemented by electronic files in the near future.

It has been suggested that the report should include the Budget, and that all delegates bring their National Reports on CD the General Assembly to be published on the web site soon after the General Assembly. The idea is to have more interesting articles or statements of our member organisations in the reports. To reduce costs for printing and sending out we also consider a different format and layout.

Official E.C.C.O. position on the EU Directive for Services

The committee has voted to accept free movement of conservators between countries in the EU, as suggested in a directive from CEPLIS.

Working Groups

The *Legislation* working group reported at the Prague congress mentioned above, and will have a further meeting during summer.

The *Education, Qualification and Practice / Professional Profile* will draft a separate BA text, as described above.

The *E.C.C.O. - EU Policy* is a new working group which will search and update information on new organisations, projects, meetings etc within conservation-restoration in the EU.

The next Bureau and Committee meeting is planned to take place in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, on the 28-29 October or the 11-12 November 2006.

26 July 2006

Cecilia Rönnerstam
General Secretary