



E.C.C.O. Short News June 2012

This Short News documents the topics and issues arising from the recent General Assembly and Committee Meeting which were held in Naples in early May.

However we have since received the very sad news that the former delegate of VRKS/ARCA, Brigitte Esser, has passed away. We are all shocked and upset at such unexpected news. Brigitte has contributed to the work of E.C.C.O. in a strong and positive way for a long time now and has fought for the definition and the recognition of the profession in her region and in Italy. We are immensely grateful to her for this.



Roberto Borgogno, member of ARI, represented E.C.C.O. at her funeral where he noted the large attendance and his own personal emotion on reading her obituary and on seeing her picture in the church with the inscription below her name:

"Restauratorin" - A definition and a profession which she has always defended with pride.

Brigitte Esser in Barcelona at the 20th anniversary meeting of E.C.C.O.

Photo: David Aguilera Cueco

Report on the GA and Committee meeting in Naples

As the meeting room was unavailable on the Sunday prior to the GA, the Committee convened on Friday 11th May and worked through Saturday. Sunday was then spent visiting Herculaneum, the Villa of Oplontis and Pompei meeting up with some of the Delegates as they arrived throughout the day. Although an enforced and unprecedented break, the personal tour of these sites by President Monica Martelli Castaldi, who has been directly involved in the ongoing care and conservation of wall paintings in these places, was a great privilege and served to highlight in a very tangible way the nature and character of our work.

The visits certainly proved a timely injunction as to the value and importance of Conservation-Restoration in the management of cultural heritage and specifically as that management relates to public interest as a key

factor in the decision making process. At Herculaneum, management in latter years has sought to curate the site as an amenity for the local population; a park has been created beside the excavated site as part of a strategy of public inclusiveness.

The General Assembly itself took place in the Sala Accoglienza in the Royal Palace in Naples, on Monday 14th May. 23 people attended the meeting which comprised of Committee Members, Delegates and observers. President Monica Martelli Castaldi discussed the work of E.C.C.O. since the last Committee Meeting in Budapest on December 9th–11th, conferences and meetings attended and the current economic climate in which member organisations find themselves. She was happy to welcome two new organisations as Full and Associated Members respectively, ACRE from Spain and A.C.C.RO from Romania. All attending delegates contributed to the meeting with comments and discussion and short reports about aspects of their work and national situations. Some old friends were missed and new Delegates were warmly welcomed including Johanne Velling (NKF-dk) in place of Helle Strehle, Elis Marçal in place of Rui Bordalo (ARP) and Martin Pittertschatscher (VRKS-ARCA) in place of Brigitte Esser. Sami Supply (NKF-FI) was welcomed as the new Delegate from Finland.

It was good to see all these new faces. Issues of some concern for the E.C.C.O. Committee are those of relevancy and representation. Contact with our member organisations through our Delegates is very important as is feedback and there is always the worry that the work of E.C.C.O. is not seen to be pertinent to local/national issues or to ordinary members on the ground. The other issue concerns the transfer of knowledge and skill to new Committee Members so as to ensure continuity and progress. Certain areas of concern have been observed in the functioning of the Committee, from its demands on Committee Members' time and their ability to participate at national level in their organisations to differences in opinion between a formal E.C.C.O. position and that of a member organisation. Good dialogue with our member organisations is vital and examining ways to promote this dialogue informed much of the discussions over the weekend.

Communication

Website

The website has undergone considerable change in the last few years. Suvi Leukumaavaara and Rui Bordalo are owed much thanks and particularly Rui, who has designed and maintained the site. As a tool for information and communication the website is critical but it is acknowledged that we are not using it to its potential. Although the committee work via a Forum which also archives our correspondence and is very useful for posting internal documents etc., the website remains outwardly static to our members. Apart from blogging recent updates on our work, such as in CEN and CEPLIS, it was suggested that a 'Most Frequently Asked Questions' page should be created. This will be investigated. Regretfully, ECROP, an open platform for networking which was proposed following the GA in Sofia, has not got off the ground despite much technical preparation having been done. Vice President Mechthild Noll-Minor suggests that this knowledge is used to enhance the current website.

Working Group: Stefan Belishki, Mechthild Noll-Minor (Coordinator), Jaap van der Burg

Legislation

Council of Europe - European Recommendations on Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Shortly after the GA in Barcelona 2011, Mr Daniel Thérond, Council of Europe, and Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, Director of ICCROM, attended a meeting of the two Steering Committees on Landscape and Cultural Heritage, CDPATEP *Comité Directeur du Patrimoine Culturel et du Paysage* in Strasbourg to support the passage of the Recommendations on Conservation-Restoration. An internal Working Group was set up to work on the 'draft Recommendation'. Due to a structuring of CDPATEP, the two committees have since been merged and renamed CDCPP *Comité Directeur de la Culture, du Patrimoine et du Paysage*. The new Director of ICCROM, Mr Stefano de Caro, attended a meeting of CDCPP in Strasbourg, coinciding

with our GA in Naples, where he called for the Working Group looking into the Recommendations to progress with its deliberations. In the meantime, the proposal can still be used by E.C.C.O. members, for legal work at national level. E.C.C.O. Consultant Vincent Negri met the former President of CDPATEP, Bruno Favel, who said that the Recommendation raised much interest, but for it to progress inside CDCPP, an evaluation of existing EU laws as they impact on Conservation-Restoration will have to be carried out. He suggests that it is necessary to make evident the need for the adoption of the Recommendation which will fix the basic principles defined by E.C.C.O. and to try and reduce any negative effects of EU laws and regulations. This is part of the new contract with Vincent Negri who is to write guidelines for the transposition at national level of those EU laws which influence Conservation-Restoration.

Referent: Monica Martelli Castaldi

CEPLIS

E.C.C.O continues to be a member of CEPLIS where Michael Van Gompén has been on the Executive Board for the last five years. CEPLIS is the European Council for the Liberal Professions. There are only 7 regulated professions recognised specifically at European level (when there are about 800 professions regulated at least by some Member States at National level) and all the other professions fall under the automatic recognition rule for professions. With its 29 full members, CEPLIS engages with the professional concerns of organisations in a deregulated free market economy and promotes self-regulation by professional bodies (soft law) as a key strategy and one, which relies on the articulation of a strong code of professional conduct. This is indeed the only realistic way since the intention of the EU Authorities is surely not to support more regulation for profession but on the contrary to reduce as much as possible the numbers of regulated professions at National levels for these are considered Barriers for the free movement of professionals in EU. On this particular issue, our relationship with CEPLIS is mutually beneficial as the manner in which E.C.C.O. is constituted is in line with these principles.

A key role of CEPLIS is assessing the impact of Directives emanating from the European Commission as they affect conditions of trade and practice. For the last three years the main focus has been on the new Directive on Health reflecting the Commission's own focus. This has now shifted back to the *Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications* (Directive 2005/36), which is currently under review. This Directive is of particular interest to E.C.C.O. and there was a Public Hearing in April which Michael Van Gompén attended. He reports that the new draft on the Directive is very unclear in the meantime CEPLIS is in the process of addressing this in a new White Paper which will be published on their website. For the moment, no one can say if important items such as the Common Platforms and the Professional Cards will be maintained in the final new version of the Directive.

On the issue of professional regulation, E.C.C.O. had hoped for several years to have the Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications amended to include the profession of Conservation-Restoration. By inclusion it was hoped to harmonise professional status through professional qualification creating legal precedent for the profession, governed as it would be by the Directive. This was generally accepted as positive but proved to be impossible to achieve. The current review may shed light on any further amendments that the Directive may require although having the profession included in the General System of the Directive is still unrealistic and unachievable goal; the only possible way being to claim for compensation measures if the number of Member States that regulate the profession is considered sufficient by the Commission to justify such compensations.

In the meantime Mr Vincent Negri was contracted last June, following discussions at the GA in Barcelona, to work on the application of those EU laws; the Directive on Services and the Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification, as they influence national law. Mr Negri is to orient the content of

this document in such a way as to offer a rationale for arguing their adoption in favour of Conservation-Restoration at national level and particularly in relation to the EU recommendation on Professional Qualifications. This work is in progress.

In relation to this issue, Roberto Borgogno of ARI, who attended the E.C.C.O. GA as observer, asked if E.C.C.O. could lobby to have the world list of economical activity 'NACE' amended to obtain a specific code for Conservation-Restoration. It was pointed out that specialisms in the field are dispersed amongst other professions; the construction industry includes architectural Conservators and furniture Conservator-Restorers are subsumed into cabinetmakers, for instance, when paintings and other artefacts conservation falls under the "Artists" codes. The NACE list is revised every five years and coordinated lobbying action is required to have the profession located under its own code. Roberto Borgogno emphasised how important he considered that action to be, as it may determine the tax bracket in which the Conservator-Restorer is assessed. This issue will be discussed further at committee level.

European Qualifications Framework/ Professional Competences

The delivery routes to the profession of Conservation-Restoration are diverse across Europe as are the qualifications leading to professional status, even though E.C.C.O Guidelines have specified access to the profession as requiring a Master's degree or its recognised equivalent. Equivalence of qualification has been problematic for Europe as a whole and lead to the development of the *European Qualifications Framework* EQF, following on from the Bologna agreement in 1999.

The defining of professional competences, resulting from E.C.C.O.'s engagement with the EQF, can be interpreted as a formal statement on professional identity. The Competences promote mutual recognition while also acting as a nexus between education provision and the profession. However, initial feedback suggests that the application of the framework as a tool in real terms needs to be more fully realised, so that professional bodies can engage with it more directly. The work has also prompted a re-evaluation of the delivery and measurement of skill as it relates to hands on practice within the university education system. Wolfgang Baatz, Chairman of ENCoRE approached the issue of practical work in a recent presentation to their GA and is seeking to work closely with E.C.C.O. on this matter in the coming months.

The booklet on Competences has been translated into French, German, and Spanish with subsequent changes to the layout prepared by Sebastian Dobrusskin. A final proofreading of the Italian version is due and it is proposed to then print 500 copies in each language which will allow for active distribution to libraries and schools free of charge. Otherwise cost remains 5,00 euros per copy. For orders, please contact Vice President Jaap van der Burg.

Following a number of requests from our members, a condensed and summarised version of the booklet, no more than 3 pages long, in the language of each member organisation will be produced to be used for political lobbying.

Working Group: Susan Corr (Coordinator), Jeremy Hutchings, Jaap van der Burg, David Aguilera Cueco.

CEN TC 346

CEN TC 346 has developed a new Business Plan, which was ratified in Venice in March of this year by the Technical Committee. It will be sent out to national standardisation bodies who are the official members of CEN and who have national voting power. As a result of the new plan there are now 11 Working Groups making it very difficult to maintain an overview of CEN activity without direct liaison or feedback from individual members who participate in their national mirror groups. Jaap van der Burg urges delegates to ensure that their organisations get involved and help in the transmission of this information.

David Aguilera Cueco, who has been involved in CEN as a representative of FFCR in the French mirror group, advised the GA of a new topic which deals specifically with the “Conservation Process”. Although tabled for some time, the topic has only recently been addressed subsequent to the distribution of a copy of the Competences booklet. The publication was greatly welcomed and is likely to be consulted in the development of CEN standards on the Conservation-Restoration process. The scope of the proposed work will consider the identification of the different steps in the Conservation-Restoration process where standards might apply. E.C.C.O. is of the opinion that the profession should remain alert as to where power and authority may come to reside as a function of decision-making in the CEN work particularly as E.C.C.O. presents Conservation-Restoration as a decision-making narrative from start to finish. The convening of this new Work Group on the Conservation-Restoration process is to be given to the German Secretariat, chaired by Kornelius Götz (former President of VDR), under the administrative supervision of DIN (German national standardisation body).

On a point of clarification, in CEN work it is stated that the term Conservation can be interpreted as being synonymous with the term Conservation-Restoration and appears clearly as such in the list of terms. Professional titles such as Conservator or Restorer, or Conservator-Restorer are not used in the work of CEN thereby allowing for the variation in professional title throughout Europe.

On General Terminology, CEN 15898 is now published as an official European Standard. Two general standards on *Condition Reports for Movable Heritage* and *Condition Surveys of Immovable Heritage* are in the formal voting phase and could be adopted imminently. These will become ‘soft law’ and it was emphasised that E.C.C.O. will have no influence on the standards once they are accepted, some of which are reported to be causing conflict in the Czech Republic and Romania. Member organisations are invited to critique the impact of these Standards so that E.C.C.O. can determine the way in which it can work in conjunction with Ministries and support our members. For more updated information please consult our website. For any direct questions feel free to contact our CEN liaison, Vice President Jaap van der Burg.

Working Group: Jaap van der Burg, David Aguilera Cueco.

ICCROM

E.C.C.O. welcomes the new Director of ICCROM Mr. Stefano de Caro and looks forward to continuing good relations with the organisation. E.C.C.O. was recently invited to join a Research Consortium on science in conservation organised by ICCROM and requiring a 10,000 Euros participation fee. As the Committee are not empowered to make a decision entailing such a large financial outlay without consultation with the membership, the decision was delayed to the GA, where the general consensus was that that the issue of science in conservation is a very pertinent one to our members and it is with regret that we are unable to participate for strictly financial reasons.

At the GA, the President was anxious to emphasise the political influence accruing to E.C.C.O. in being used as a referent in the constitution of such a consortium from its inception and, while acknowledging the high cost of participation for E.C.C.O. in this instance, suggested that such cost may need in future to be reckoned against the political reputation E.C.C.O. is building. It is therefore necessary to consider carefully how the outcome of any such work may be of benefit to and impact on our profession. The research consortium has already fulfilled the necessary membership quota needed to make the consortium viable, but it was put to the floor that we should continue to actively support this project, perhaps in the role as observers and a vote was taken on a minimum level of financial leeway in respect of any goodwill gesture the committee felt it might be necessary to make.

Horizon 2020

Notice of the new European Framework Programme for Research ,‘Horizon 2020’, was announced in the Short News in January. This Framework Programme marks a shift in the direction of EU funding and remains contentious as it not only cuts funds for cultural heritage but represents new procedures and vision. The Programme reflects a shift in outlook; emphasis is now on innovation and activities related to infrastructural construction while all cultural heritage programmes and projects are to be derogated to member states. A petition was launched by E.C.C.O. in February and can be found on our website. E.C.C.O. is concerned that the focus of EU financial support should not be solely determined by an agenda of Europe as ‘innovation society’, but should actively promote Europe as a civil society with a cultural heritage agenda.

Statutes

Changes in conditions of practice and the way in which Conservation-Restoration has evolved since the E.C.C.O. Statutes and Code of Ethics were written, has led the Committee to initiate a review of same and the Statutes of our member organisations, some of whom have amended their own Statutes in the intervening years. It is important that notification of any changes is given to E.C.CO.

Working Group: Jaap van der Burg, David Aguilera Cueco, Barbara Davidson, Jeremy Hutchings (Coordinator), Stefan Belishki.

Strategic Plan

Discussion at committee level about the Strategic Plan has focused on several key areas that underpin the work of E.C.C.O. aiming

- to improve our ability to work as a political body at a European and international level
- to influence the legal framework that impacts on the Conservation-Restoration profession and where necessary, initiate the introduction of specific norms for the field
- to continue to ensure that our work is applicable, practical and visible

These issues will inform the work of the Strategic Working Group.

Working Group: To be decided

Membership Fees

We have been alerted to the economic difficulties, which the financial crisis is causing for many of our member organisations. This has prompted a re-evaluation of our fee structure. It was agreed by the GA that the flat rate of fees, which all organisations pay, is to be reduced in ratio to the number of votes per organisation. Votes are proportional to membership, therefore those organisations with 1 vote are to pay a flat fee of 50 Euros; those organisations with 2 votes are to pay a flat fee of 100 Euros, those with 3 votes and over are to continue to pay a flat fee of 150.00 Euros.

The GA also agreed to limit the maximum amount an organisation is liable to pay, irrespective of membership numbers, to 10.000 Euros per year.

We hope this is a fair and equitable way of calculating the reduction in fees and hope it eases the budgetary constraints of member organisations somewhat.

New Members

The GA was delighted to ratify the application of the new Spanish organisation ACRE as Full Members of E.C.C.O. Their application for Full Membership followed the merger of several Spanish organisations into a single body and was considered to have complied with E.C.C.O Statutes. Their application for membership was supported by ARP, Portugal and Grup Tècnic, Catalonia, Spain and their observer to the GA, Vice President María Masaguer Otero, was warmly welcomed and congratulated.

President Gheorghina Olariu spoke on behalf of the Romanian Association A.C.C.RO, which has 53 members. It is developing international relations and she expressed her delight in having the opportunity to meet the E.C.C.O. Committee in Budapest in the course of preparing their submission for Associate Membership. Their application was presented to the GA and ratified accordingly. ACB, Bulgaria and ARI, Italy supported their application for Associate Membership. Ms Olariu was likewise thanked and warmly welcomed.

Working Group: Barbara Davidson, Stefan Belishki.

Resignations

It is with regret that we lose Rui Bordalo who has been a member of the Committee since 2006 and has been hugely helpful with his time and expertise in amongst other things, designing, managing and maintaining the website and forum. To this end the Committee are hoping to discuss the continuing maintenance of the website with Rui. Rui has been a great representative of ARP and we wish him every success, particularly with his on line e-conservation magazine. Thank you Rui.

Suvi Leukumaavaara has been Office Administrator over the last year having been on the committee prior to that for the last 7 years. She has been extremely active and efficient in the running of E.C.C.O. Suvi has indicated her possible resignation. She will remain in her role but will help in preparing somebody else to eventually replace her in the future. Thank you Suvi.

New Committee Members

The Committee has two new members following the GA. They are Elis Marçal from ARP, Portugal, and Jana Šubic Prislán, DRS, Slovenia. We are delighted to welcome them on board and look forward to working with them in the coming years.

Re-election of Committee Members

The three year term of office fell due for Monica Martelli Castaldi, President, Michael Van Gompén, Treasurer, Barbara Davidson, David Aguilera Cueco, and Stefan Belishki, ordinary Committee members. All five submitted for re-election and were formally reinstated by the GA.

Michael Van Gompén had signalled his intention to retire as Treasurer of E.C.C.O. sometime ago but it came as a bit of a shock to the Committee to have to actually find a replacement for him at the committee meeting post-GA. Michael has a long and very conscientious history with E.C.C.O. as Treasurer; for keeping us in good standing with Belgium law, likewise with our external and internal Auditors and for keeping a prudent eye on our expenditure. We wish Jaap van der Burg well in picking up the reins, thank you Michael, good luck Jaap.

President: Monica Martelli Castaldi

Vice-Presidents: Mechthild Noll-Minor, Sebastian Dobruskin

General Secretary: Susan Corr

Deputy Secretary: Jeremy Hutchings

Treasurer: Jaap van der Burg

Vice Treasurer: Michael Van Gompén

Ordinary Committee Members: David Aguilera Cueco, Barbara Davidson, Stefan Belishki, Jana Šubic Prislán, Elis Marçal.

The next Committee Meeting will take place in Vienna in September 2012.

Susan Corr

E.C.C.O. General Secretary