

E.C.C.O. A.I.S.B.L.

EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF CONSERVATOR-RESTORERS' ORGANISATION

SHORT NEWS

May 2006

Following the General Assembly which was held in Brussels on the 3rd March this year a number of changes took place at committee level. A word of thanks must go to Michael Van Gompen for his hard work and contribution as President over the last year and also to outgoing committee members, Cornelia Weyer and Tanya Røskar Reed for their input and commitment to E.C.C.O. over the last number of years. The new committee is as follows:

President: Monica Martelli Castaldi (ARI)

Vice Presidents; Natalie Ellwanger (SKR) and Silke Beiner-Büth (VDR)

General Secretary: Cecilia Rønnerstam (NKF-S)

Deputy Secretary: Susan Corr (ICHAWI)

Treasurer: Suvi Leukumaavaara (NKF-Fin)

Deputy Treasurer: Barbara Davidson (KR)

Ordinary Committee Members: Michael Van Gompen (APROA), David Cueco Aguilera (FFCR) and Rui Bordalo (ARP).

A recent committee meeting took place in Prague to coincide with the European Conference. The next meeting of the Bureau and the Committee takes place ????

New Members

E.C.C.O. is happy to announce that both the Netherlands and the UK are represented again through their respective organisations; Restauratoren Nederland, RN, and the Institute of Conservation, ICON, each organisation having successfully united autonomous, professional associations into single national bodies.

Website

The E.C.C.O. website has recently been updated by Suvi Leukumaavaara. Please send your news or items of interest to Suvi. A list of the e-mail addresses of committee and member organisations are posted on the web page.

www.ecco-eu.info/<http://www.ecco-eu.info>>

The Apel website can be accessed at

www.apel-eu.info/<http://www.apel-eu.info>>

Committee Meetings

The committee was busy prior to the GA having met in January for a brainstorming meeting followed directly by a meeting with ENCoRE. The 'brainstorming session' was most professionally and ably coordinated by Tanya Røskar-Reed. Its aim was to streamline the functions of E.C.C.O and identify issues that most urgently need to be addressed. (A new caption 'The Past is our Future' was chosen as most concisely

reflecting intentions and is to be used in future PR work.) *Natalie made deletions on her text but wasn't sure what exactly was to be said at this point.*

E.C.C.O-ENCoRE Meeting

The meeting with ENCoRE was timely and useful given that E.C.C.O, in conjunction with ENCoRE had been working hard but failed, to have the 'European Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications' ammended to include the Professional Profile for the conservation-restoration profession.

It was agreed that work would continue on the Profile but that the present document was difficult to read, leading to misunderstanding. Both organisations aspire to the professional title of Conservator-Restorer being obtained through education to Masters degree level or its equivalent, but there are still outstanding problems as to what constitutes 'equivalent' and how these equivalencies are to be measured and assessed. At the meeting it was not possible to get an agreement on the present Profile document particularly given its difficult language. It was agreed that each organisation would draw up its own 'Professional Profile' document clarifying the terms and conditions, in clear English, of what constitutes a Professional Profile acceptable to each organisation. These documents can than be used to negotiate and move the development of a 'Professional Profile' forward.

International Congress, Prague.

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 between 31st May – 3rd June 2006. Monica delivered a paper outlining the legal status of the conservation-profession in Europe and briefly discussed the Professional Profile.

Further information about the Congress can be obtained by logging on at:

<http://www.arcchip.cz/ec-conference>

European Conservation Practitioners License

E.C.C.O was notified of the 'European Conservation Practitioners License' ECPL, which is a project that has received EU funding (Leonardo da Vinci Project) so as to develop a 'vocational training' standard in the field of conservation-restoration. The project includes training institutions from Malta, Italy (Palazzo Spinelli, Florence), France (Avignon) and Greece. E.C.C.O. was not formally approached or consulted but has been mentioned in their official documents. The committee is worried that the promotion of this project will lower the standard of qualification to Technical/Craft level rather than uphold an academic qualification. The committee is to investigate further and is officially opposed to the project.

CEN Project

E.C.C.O. is not involved in the CEN project but has been informed that the project is progressing and that many national associations have formed mirror groups as points of contact with the project.

E.C.C.O. Reports

Finally, the new deadline for organisations to submit their annual reports to Natalie Ellwanger is October 1st 2006 . Please note this new date and that it is final and absolute. Any reports received after this date will not be printed.

Contact persons, working groups and projects