



Short News – November 2013

Changes to the committee at the GA in Lisbon involving the retirement of our previous President and Deputy Treasurer, the acquisition of three new members combined with a reshuffle in positions amongst the committee has resulted in much bedding down and assessment of all our different activities. Since the last edition of the Short News the Committee has been very busy and there has been plenty of work taking place.

Meetings

The Committee has met twice since Lisbon once in Paris and most recently in Rome. In July the President, Susan Corr with a small E.C.C.O. delegation including David Aguilera Cueco, referent for Professional Legal Affairs, Silvia Borghini committee member, Monica Martelli Castaldi, member of the E.C.C.O. legal working group together with Vincent Negri, cultural heritage lawyer met with the Director of ICCROM, Mr Stefano De Caro and Catherine Antomarchi, Unit Director, ICCROM to discuss the work and progress of the Recommendations. It was agreed that both parties would sign a Memorandum of Understanding recognising their commitment to working together towards a legal statute for the practice of Conservation-Restoration in Europe. E.C.C.O. was subsequently invited to attend the ICCROM GA which was held in Rome in November 27th -29th where it was announced that the Council of ICCROM would support this work.

The latest committee meeting was held in Rome 18th -19th October and was organised by Silvia Borghini to whom our warm thanks is extended for all the work involved. Many issues were discussed and are briefly reported as follows:

Member Organisations' Professional Issues

There were some requests for support from 3 of our member Organisations regarding some serious issues. These were ARP in Portugal, ARI in Italy and MAPCoRE in Malta and resulted in the issuing of letters expressing E.C.C.O.'s concern and support of their members.

A copy of these letters will be posted on the members' forum of our website.

European Directives

Conventions and Directives which affect our profession and conditions of practice remain under discussion and include the « Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society» (signed in Faro 2005). Its precepts on the value of cultural heritage to society as they affect the practice of Conservation-Restoration were explored and discussions are ongoing.

Further discussion took place on "The Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications" and 'Administrative Cooperation through the Internal Market Information System" and the second Directive which has an influence on our work - the "Directive on Services in the Internal Market 2006-123".

The European Union wants free circulation of professionals and services. No borders equate with less regulation but some regulated professions do already exist in some countries. The main principle is the consideration that if you are a professional in one country of Europe, you can be considered a professional in other member States. The subsidiarity principle comes into play should regulation

create barriers to the free circulation of professionals, the general principle takes positive discriminant measures to reduce the barriers, unless a general public interest has been formulated by the member state. Professional organisations play a crucial role in the recommended procedures for ensuring and recognising professional qualifications. The new European Parliament legislative resolution of 9 October 2013 concerning changes to the afore mentioned directive (adopted 9th October 2013) invites European and national professional organisations to “submit to the European Commission suggestions for common training frameworks” under the conditions “that the profession to which the common training framework apply is regulated or the education and training leading to that profession is regulated in at least one third of member states.” (DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC, Title III, chapter III, article 49a)

“The common set of knowledge, skills and competences combines the knowledge, skills and competences required in the systems of education and training applicable in at least one third of all Member states.” (DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC, Title III, chapter III, article 49a)

E.C.C.O. has to check (together with V. Negri) if the profession of Conservator-Restorer fulfils these conditions and if E.C.C.O. may proceed in this way to get a common training framework for Conservator-Restorers recognised by the European Commission.

The role of professional organisations is described furthermore as follows:

“As a result, it should be laid down that any host Member State in which a profession is regulated must take account of the qualifications obtained in another Member State and assess whether they correspond to those which it requires. The general system for recognition, however, does not prevent a Member State from making any person pursuing a profession on its territory subject to specific requirements due to the application of professional rules justified by the general public interest. Rules of this kind relate, for example, to organisation of the profession, professional standards, including those concerning ethics, and supervision and liability.” (DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC, (11)), „Where a service provider moves, he shall be subject to professional rules of a professional, statutory or administrative nature which are directly linked to professional qualifications, such as the definition of the profession, the use of titles and serious professional malpractice which is directly and specifically linked to consumer protection and safety, as well as disciplinary provisions which are applicable in the host Member State to professionals who pursue the same profession in that Member State.“ (DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC, Art.5, 3.)



E.C.C.O. committee on quest for food in Rome

European Professional Card

The idea of a “European Professional Card” (EPC) for the internal market information system is also back on the table. The “professional profile” could be a tool for translating the Competences to a registration leading to the card. E.C.C.O.’s committee is now working on the consequences of the Directive as it is now accepted by the EU and is looking into the consequences, which will lead to a presentation at the GA.

In order to get a clearer understanding of national cases reflecting the directives and the possibilities to fulfill the above mentioned conditions for the proposal of a common training framework, we will ask our member organizations for case studies of national laws. E.C.C.O.’s aim is to have a complete overview of all national laws regulating and/or deregulating Conservation-Restoration work. This includes not only English translations of the regulations themselves but also case studies or descriptions of the way they are actually applied in real life.

New Members and Subscriptions

Elis Marçal, Treasurer and Peter de Groof Vice-Treasurer, after several requests, are working on setting up a PayPal account to facilitate the payment of membership fees.

E.C.C.O. has received an application by the Croatian association and the New Members Sub-Committee is supporting their candidacy.

Funding for Cultural Heritage

While in Rome in October, some of the committee had an informal opportunity to meet the MEP from Spain, Cristina Gutiérrez -Cortines Corral. The European Programme for Structural Funding which was just about to be signed came up in discussion. Ms Gutiérrez-Cortines was emphatic on the need for organisations involved in cultural heritage to press their national representatives in prioritising cultural heritage in the allocation of such funds. This political activity is something that both E.C.C.O. and our member organisation at national level will have to engage in and prepare for more coherently in subsequent Budgets. If cultural heritage is not identified as a field for the spending of these structural funds there will be no funds made available for cultural heritage. On this note, E.C.C.O. reminds our members that elections to the European Parliament take place next May providing an opportunity for organisations to identify and meet with future candidates at national level to lobby for the prioritisation of cultural heritage and its protection.

Strategic Plan

A small working group mediated by Jeremy Hutchings and involving Susan Corr, Jaap van der Burg, Sebastian Dobrusskin and David Aguilera Cueco met in Dublin this past weekend to write up the strategic plan for E.C.C.O. based on the preparatory work and discussions arising at the GA in Lisbon. It is intended that this plan will be ready for the next GA.

E.C.C.O General Assembly 2013

The E.C.C.O General Assembly will take place in Sud Tyrol this coming 14th April 2014. Further details will be posted early in the New Year.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas with best wishes for a peaceful 2014.

Jaap van der Burg
E.C.C.O. General Secretary