The 2017 and 2018 period was globally satisfactory for us since our relationship with the ministry of Culture has improved. We have met with the Cultural Heritage advisor, the director of the services des Musées de France among others in the minister’s office.

Very important, a socio-economic survey of our profession we had been demanding for years, was finally launched by the ministry in 2017.

Finally, the Ministry accepts to open the discussion about creation of a protected title, only protected title but not a regulate profession.

Despite our repeated demands, the Ministry does not wish to include us in the brainstorming meetings for the moment. Up until now, they are attended only the representatives of the public conservation training programs and representatives from the ministry. Three meetings have already taken place, but we might be invited to the next one on June 1rst. It has yet to be confirmed.

The implementation of the title must first start with the standardization of the title of qualification awarded by the four schools. This part of the task is almost achieved since both Tours and INP have agreed to align with the Paris 1 title “grade de Master de conservation-restauration de biens culturels” provided for l’INP that they retain the right to keep the “restaurateur du Patrimoine” distinction on their diploma.

Once this aspect has been achieved, it’s the actual title that will be discussed. The IGAC report was in favor of “restaurateur du patrimoine diplômé” as a title. We rejected this for the following reasons:

- It would be difficult to protect since many unqualified professionals use it;
- It keeps us linked to the ‘liste des métiers d’art’ (arts and crafts)
- A private school used it at some point as a qualification title;
- There is no mention of the term conservation which is an important part of our practice.

We have tried to find a way out and we suggested “ingénieur en conservation-restauration”. This enables us to keep “conservation-restoration” which we value and use the notion of engineering. It seems fitting since ours is a profession that analyses, designs and implements.

Engineering implies that we master science, techniques and craftsmanship, at the crossroads between different technologies and subjects. It also reflects our high level of training.

Tours school is very favorable to this as well as Paris 1 and Avignon. It seems that INP might equally be convinced as far as we know.

However, the ministry is worried that they might find opposition with the CTI (commission des titres d’ingénieur).