

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

SHORT NEWS

December 2010

Dear Members,

The Committee met on the 26th -27th of November in a very cold Berlin. The meeting took place in the atelier of the sculptor Marguerite Cardenas within a community of artist's ateliers. Surrounded by torsos, busts, figures and faces hewn in stone, we set about our work amidst the very tangible evidence of the cultural heritage which we in turn are committed to protect and preserve. Work over the two days was concentrated and productive and warm thanks are extended to Marguerite for the use of her studio. This edition of the Short News brings us to the end of 2010 which saw the conclusion of work in some projects and the stirrings of new directions in other areas. The committee take this opportunity to wish all our members a peaceful and fruitful 2011 and we look forward to convening with Presidents, founding members and delegates at the 20th anniversary GA meeting in Barcelona in April.

Presidents Report

The National Research Institute for Cultural Heritage NRIC, Korea, organised an international conference themed 'Conservation ethics for rational decision making: dialogue between the east and the west' at the beginning of November. Monica Martelli Castaldi delivered a paper on the development of E.C.C.O. and the Code of Ethics as the Institute is working towards the articulation of a code of ethics for practice in Korea. Dr Lee Sujeong, NRIC gave an overview of the Korean position and the intent arising from this meeting to articulate a set of values which will both assimilate and differentiate norms according to Asian cultural and social values. It was apparent that E.C.C.O. is an important reference for this work and the meeting, which was also attended by AIC, gave rise to much discussion.

Reports from the Working Groups

EQF

The professional competences which were developed arising from the work on the European Qualifications Framework have yet to be disseminated widely. Work began on a publication to explain the Competences but at the last meeting it was felt imperative to publish the original document as ratified at the GA 2010 particularly in light of its publication in Slovakia.

The Competences were published in the Slovakia Annual Collection of Lectures by the Association of Restorers and Komora Restauratorov and translated by Slovenska Akademicka Asociacia pre Medzinaridnu Spolupracu.

It is hoped to have the original document translated and published in as many languages as possible in time for the GA and will coincide with a short seminar on same to coincide with the Presidents' meeting.

Working Group: Susan Corr, Jeremy Hutchings, Sebastian Dobrusskin, Agnès Gall Ortlik, David Aguilera Cueco.

Presidents Meeting

The Presidents' meeting will take place in Barcelona on Monday 4th April followed by the GA on Tuesday 5th April.

The year 2011 marks the 20th year since the formation of E.C.C.O. All founding members and past E.C.C.O. Presidents will be invited to the Meeting. An invitation will also be issued to every non-member organisation to attend the Presidents' meeting which will be considered an open forum. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, all will be welcome to attend the GA as observers. A presentation on E.C.C.O. will be

made on the morning of the Presidents' meeting. The committee welcome any photographs which members may have lurking in their archives. A Museum trip will be organised for Monday evening and venue and agendas will be issued shortly.

Working Group: Monica Martelli Castaldi, Mechthild Noll Minor, Agnès Gall Ortlik

ECROP

Information about The European Conservator-Restorers Open Platform ECROP was sent out to members in October with a subsequent letter to non-members to be circulated. Until there is a registration form on the web no further action is required. The website will need to be maintained and moderated and anybody interested in getting involved can contact Mechthild Noll Minor who is coordinator of the Working Group. Working Group: Mechthild Noll Minor, Monica Martelli Castaldi, Jaap van der Burg, Jeremy Hutchings, Rui Bordalo.

CEN

The most recent CEN Meeting took place in Milan on 9th and 10th September and was attended by David Aguilera Cueco and Jaap van der Burg.

There have been three Public Enquiries to date.

The results of the Second Public Enquiry on General Terms and Terminology were submitted in July 2010. All the comments were gathered and discussed at the meeting in September and agreement found. The new final document was issued on November 10th and circulated amongst WG1. The document will be formally sent to CEN in December where it will be distributed to the National Bodies sometime in January seeking their vote. Abstentions are taken as Yes.

Drafts of all Public Enquiries are accessible and are sent to E.C.C.O. There is no formal route for E.C.C.O. to disseminate these as yet and to date members must contact Jaap van der Burg directly. Jaap van der Burg proposes that, in discussion with Rui Bordalo, they will try to make these drafts available through the Forum.

The CEN Working Group will try to disseminate through the website, outstanding CEN documents currently in the Public Enquiry stage. If this does not work they will be sent directly to the delegates.

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

The Recommendations on Conservation-Restoration

A meeting between Mr Therond, President, Council of Europe and Catherine Antomarchi of ICCROM should take place shortly to develop a Working Group within CDPATEP to look at the Recommendations. The next CDPATEP meeting is scheduled for May.

Ongoing Activities

National Reports

The national reports for 2009 are in the process of being completed and the national reports for 2010 are now due. Delegates are kindly requested to submit their national reports to the Office Administrator, Natalie Ellwanger, early in the New Year. The collection of the national reports from our member organisations often proves to be a slow, thankless task. Nevertheless, the committee remains committed to publishing the reports as it is considered a good way for organisations to remain visible to one another. Your support is necessary.

European Projects/Contacts

IIC Conference

Stefan Belishki attended the IIC Conference in Istanbul at the end of September where the E.C.C.O poster was on display and resulted in some new contacts being forged or renewed including that with Cornelia Weyer ex-VDR representative on E.C.C.O. and now involved with INNCA..

INNCA International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art

Cornelia Weyer confirmed that INNCA would be interested in forming a partnership with E.C.C.O.

Europe and Cultural Heritage; a challenge towards a European cultural heritage strategy

This Conference was held in Bruges in December 9th -10th and was attended by Monica Martelli Castaldi. Jaap van der Burg tried to attend but impossible weather conditions meant a fruitless day spent in traffic jams. No immediate outcome.

NET Heritage

NET-Heritage is a network of institutions around Europe who work for research in Cultural Heritage and it is linked into the 7th Framework Programme for Research. The majority members are scientific bodies. They are not research or policy making bodies. Mechthild Noll Minor informed the committee that VDR have become affiliated to NET-Heritage. E.C.C.O. is to seek further information to determine whether it is important for E.C.C.O. to get involved.

CEPLIS

A meeting on the 'Evaluation of the Directive on Profession Qualifications' took place in Brussels on the 29th September. It was not possible for E.C.C.O. to get an invitation to the presentation of the review but through CEPLIS, Michael Van Gompel attended and CEPLIS submitted a 'non-paper' on 8 different issues with regard to the Liberal Professions stating their case for special treatment or derogation. There was no official reaction from the Commission, EU Parliament members and representatives from the European Social Dialogue group. However informal feedback suggested that the arguments were interesting for putting pressure on the Commission to develop considerations/derogations in the Recognition of the Qualifications Directive

The wish of the Commission is still to deregulate as much as possible. It is one of the intentions of CEPLIS to produce a new survey to stress how important it is to have a code of conduct for Liberal Professions. CEPLIS insist that codes of conducts are not an obstruction to the free movement of professionals within the EU and argue that they are also linked to the protection of the public. CEPLIS has established a new body called the Leeds Institute which will publish studies on research on this area.

The CEPLIS GA took place on the 9th November. The membership fee is to rise by 3% which will impact on E.C.C.O. to approximately 200 Euros.

New Members

The Slovenian application for full membership will be recommended to the GA in April. The New Members Working Group is actively pursuing contacts throughout Europe.
Working Group: Stefan Belishki, Babara Davidson.

Thanks are extended to all the committee for their hard work and dedication over the last year
Susan Corr
General Secretary