



EUROPEAN
a s s o c i a t i o n
Historic Towns & Regions

**Bureau Meeting - 19th May 2006
Council of Europe
55 Avenue Kleber
PARIS**

Report

Present

Louis Roppe, President, EAHTR
Per Haken Slotte, President, Finnish Association of Historic Towns
Alexander Bartling, Administrator, Congress of Local and Regional
Authorities
Ian Poole, Chairman, EHTF
Biserka Simatovic representing the Mayor of Dubrovnik
Prof. Rusen Keles, Turkish Association of historic Towns
Brian Smith, Secretary General, EAHTR
Madame Marie José Wacheaux

1. Report of Bureau – 14th September 2005

1.1. Report of Bureau meeting on 14th September was accepted as a correct record of the meeting

2. Matters Arising

2.1 The Bureau noted that the new Web Site was now live. Photographs would be added as and when resources permitted.

2.2 Ian Poole reported that the EHTF annual conference in Bury St Edmonds could include visits to other historic towns in East Anglia, Norwich, Cambridge, and Kings Lynn if there was interest from members of EAHTR. This would not be an organised visit by EHTF but it should be possible to help arrange meetings with the other cities. Per Haken Slotte said he would confirm as soon as possible whether there was interest from Finland.

2.3 The Secretary General reported that he was contacting the Association of Historic Towns of the Netherlands at the request of EHTF to explore whether a visit to Dutch historic towns by EHTF could be organised for 2007.

3 Dubrovnik Symposium

- 3.1 The Bureau reviewed the programme leaflet and suggested some minor amendments. It was agreed that the Secretary General would establish the estimated printing and postage costs of distributing a paper version to contacts in addition to using e-mail.
- 3.2 The Secretary General circulated a list of potential speakers and presidents of sessions for the Bureau to comment on and prioritise. This was in line with the discussion in Dubrovnik. He undertook to revise the programme in the light of the comments received.
- 3.3 Alexander Bartling reported that the Council of Europe budget for external experts was overspent already for 2006 and that this could affect the level of funding now available. He had previously indicated a contribution of paying for 6 speakers with the balance coming from the contribution by EAHTR and Dubrovnik but this could not be guaranteed. The Bureau urged The Council of Europe to maintain its contribution if at all possible as this could prejudice the viability of a two day symposium.
- 3.4 The opportunity of having small exhibition display in Fort Revelin was discussed and agreed that if this were possible then member associations should be invited to promote the work of their association, city or project adjacent to the main symposium area.

4 Council of Europe

- 4.1 Alexander Bartling reported back on Spring Session of CLRAE where the Secretary General had made a short presentation on the work of the Association.
- 4.2 The Secretary General reported that EAHTR had recommended an expert to work on historic areas and modernity -Tony Wyatt from Newcastle. Tony had made a presentation at the Spring Session along with another expert from Innsbruck. How to encourage quality modern architecture in historic cities was a key issue and one that EAHTR would like to develop further with the Council of Europe possibly contributing to the proposed symposium in Innsbruck in 2007.
- 4.3 Alexander Bartling reported that the Council of Europe's key priorities for the next two years or so that might be relevant to the activities of EAHTR would include: -
 - Reconciliation between heritage and modernity (adopted report)
 - Inter - cultural dialogue and the role of local authorities (under development)
 - Universities and their contribution to regional development (under development)
 - Regional Identity –does it stimulate or hinder integration (future reports)
 - Mass Tourism and Cultural Tourism –a folklorisation of cultures

5 Turkish Association of Historic Towns

5.1 Prof.Rusen Keles outlined the work plans of the Turkish Association of historic Towns. He said that over 200 mayors of historic cities had attended a visit to Prague to explore common issues relating to managing cultural heritage. He confirmed that the Turkish Association was keen to work with EAHTR He hoped the Turkish Association would contribute to the Dubrovnik Symposium and that a Bureau meeting and future symposium might be arranged in Turkey.

6 European Projects

6.1 The Secretary General reported on progress of the INHERIT project which, although involving a significant workload, was proving worthwhile in terms of identifying examples of good practice. He reported briefly on the recent study visit to Ubeda in Spain and highlighted examples of their comprehensive approach in managing cultural heritage. Bureau members were invited to visit the new INHERIT web site to follow the progress of the project (www.inheritproject.net).

6.2 He also briefly reported on recent work on the EPOCH and CULT STRAT projects where he hoped a project officer might be appointed shortly funded by the projects to help- develop the work. Both projects would make contributions to the Dubrovnik Symposium and planned to display details of their work at the Symposium.

6.3 The Secretary General reported that EAHTR had been invited to join a new project by a member city from Turkey, Elmali. Ubeda had also agreed to join at EAHTR's invitation. The project was called MEDPACT about developing good practice and training in conservation of cultural heritage particularly in Mediterranean historic cities. The Bureau agreed that EAHTR should support the project and join as an associate member providing the financial arrangements allowed involvement to be self-financing.

7 Membership

7.1 The Secretary General reported that unfortunately the Association of Historic Settlements of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia had decided not to continue as a member of EAHTR. Jana Fischerova, Member of the Council of Europe Regional Assembly representing the Czech Republic had talked with Mr Sedlacek the new chairman of their association, on our behalf. She reported that there was no budget this year and this fact plus elections meant that they could consider re joining next year and that that was a possibility. The Bureau hoped that the Association would be represented at the Dubrovnik Symposium and would re join next year. They had been involved in establishing EAHTR and it was very important that they continued to be represented at a European level.

7.2 The Secretary General reported that a new association had been formed in Romania. The Romanian Association of Historic Towns – A.L.Z.I.A.R. had joined EAHTR and the Web site would be changed to reflect the new membership. The President welcomed the new Association and hoped it would become involved in the activities of EAHTR. The Secretary General reported that A.L.Z.I.A.R. had expressed a willingness to be represented on the Bureau and it was agreed to invite the association to nominate a representative.

- 7.3 The Secretary General updated the Bureau on the current position of the Russian Association of Historic Towns and Regions. Mr. Kamil Iskhakov (EAHTR Vice President) was no longer Mayor of Kazan but had been promoted to be the Plenipotentiary Representative of President Putin in the Far East Region. His successor as Mayor of Kazan was Mr Ilsur Metsin. Michel Stoliarov had written stating that Mr Metsin would like to replace Mt Iskhakov as Vice President of EAHTR, that Kazan City Duma wished to join EAHTR in its own right as a full member city and that he had been assured that the Kazan City Duma would honour the outstanding debt of € 15,750.
- 7.4 The Bureau welcomed the wish of Kazan to join EAHTR as previously discussed last year and the new Mayor's desire to serve on the Bureau. However Bureau members considered that it was imperative that a clear arrangement be also agreed with the Kazan City Dumo with regard to the outstanding debt and asked the Secretary General to clarify what was proposed in terms of staged payments as part of the overall changes to Kazan's participation in EAHTR.
- 7.5 The Secretary General reported that the historic City of Kalkan in Turkey had joined EAHTR. The President welcomed the City of Kalkan and hoped it would become involved in the activities of the association.
- 7.6 Biserka Simatovic representing Mrs Suica, the Mayor of Dubrovnik, reported that the mayor with the support of the Secretary general had begun the process of establishing a Croatian Association of Historic Towns. There had been great interest from approximately 20 other Croatian historic towns, a draft constitution had been produced and the Mayor hoped that the new association would be created at the Dubrovnik Symposium.
- 7.7 The President welcomed Madame Marie José Wacheaux to the meeting. Madame Wacheaux was a former senior French civil servant who was prepared to help try to encourage French historic towns to join EAHTR. She expressed support for the aims of EAHTR and felt she may be able to help make contact with French Towns on behalf of EAHTR. Following a general discussion it was agreed that: -
- Madame Wacheaux be invited to represent EAHTR in making contact with French historic Towns
 - The Secretary General would liase with Madame Wacheaux to agree an approach and provide the necessary back up information
 - Bureau members would try to identify a list of twinned towns particularly French towns twinned with their member towns and notify the Secretary General.

8 Financial Report

- 8.1 The Secretary General reported on the current financial position and confirmed that although the overall budget was healthy this including funding from European projects which were 'ring fenced' i.e. could only be spent on these projects. EAHTR Core activities relied on membership subscriptions and

although membership was growing the relatively low level of funding remained a difficulty.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Ian Poole, Chairman of the EHTF reported on a major review of the activities of EHTF that was currently underway. One issue under consideration was the possibility of expanding the English Forum to include Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Bureau welcomed the potential creation of a UK- wide forum and the President praised the work of EHTF as a role model for other member associations.

10 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 6p.m. 27th September, Fort Revelin, Dubrovnik

Brian Smith
Secretary General