



**Bureau Meeting – 27.11.2009
Strasbourg, France**

Report

Present

Louis Roppe, President EAHTR
Brian Smith, Secretary General EAHTR
Fikret Uccan, Representative Turkish UHT
Alexander Bartling, Council of Europe
Conny van Nes, Dutch Association of Historic Towns
Ferenc Csorban, ALZIAR Romania
Ilona Csorban, ALZIAR Romania
Paul Newell EAHTR

1. Apologies

2. Report of the Bureau Meeting 18th September 2009.

3. Matters Arising

These were all covered under the agenda items below.

4. Symposia 2010

4.1 Kayseri, Turkey. The dates for the symposium have now been agreed and confirmed during the Bureau meeting as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, October 2010. It is proposed that the symposium will be joint with the Council of Europe's Committee of Education and Culture and hosted by the Turkish Union of Historic Towns.

Funding for the symposium was a major point of discussion. Alexander Bartling stated that the CofE scope for financial participation was limited – particularly relating to costs for translation – and costs for an external meeting of the Committee would need to be limited to 10-15 members. A figure of €14,000 Euros was suggested as the CofE contribution with EAHTR agreeing to make this up to €20,000 Euros. Brian Smith, Secretary General also agreed that EAHTR would meet travel costs for the

Bureau members attending. Fikret Uccan said that the Turkish UHT were happy to cover all other costs not met by CofE / EAHTR.

Themes for the symposium were discussed – Brian Smith putting forward “Sustainable Tourism”, and work on the HerO project. Brian also suggested inviting some of the HerO project members to the symposium as some of the project findings will be available by then. A title for the conference was suggested as “Integrated Management of Historic Cities – Engaging the Community”

4.2 Ribe, Denmark. EAHTR has been invited to support a group of European historic cities representing the oldest cities from 28 European countries. The symposium is organised as part of the Oldest Towns Conference – Ribe will be celebrating its 1000 years. This is planned for 16th & 17th September 2010.

4.3 Amsterdam. The Bureau was informed by Conny van Nes from the Dutch Association that the proposed symposium on “Industrial Heritage” to be held in Amsterdam in September will not be taking place. The reasons for the cancellation were explained as lack of support from the City of Amsterdam due to financial difficulties and upcoming elections in March.

Conny informed the meeting that there was however a conference on Industrial Heritage being organised in the city of Essen, Germany (Essen will be Capital of Culture 2010). Conny is to find out more information on this and report back to the Secretary General.

Conny van Nes also proposed contacting the city of Maastricht with a view to a possible symposium there in 2011.

5. Study visit to Graz, Austria.

The Historic Towns Visit to Graz, Austria has been confirmed and will take place on the 3rd and 4th June 2010. This visit will be open to delegates from across Europe and limited to between 20 – 30. Graz, being one of the HerO project partners, will present how they deal with heritage issues. The focus will be on Graz and it was proposed that other historic Austrian cities should be invited to participate in the workshop, EAHTR to follow this up. Details of the visit programme are to be included in the next newsletter “Chronicle”.

Ferenc Csorban from the Romanian Association suggested that the visit to Graz could also include a visit to the city of Szombathely in western Hungary (ancient capital of the region and birthplace of St Martin of Tours), Alexander Bartling adding that Szombathely was on the Council of Europe’s Cultural Itinerary. Ferenc will contact the Szombathely Municipality regarding this visit and their possible involvement.

6. Experience Exchange.

6.1 The Experience Exchange between the cities of Newcastle (UK) and Delft (Netherlands) will take place in the next few weeks. This reciprocal exchange will look at contemporary architectural design in historic areas and industrial heritage respectively.

6.2 It is proposed that Guidelines are produced following the exchange, examining in the first instance, how contemporary architecture can be assimilated into historic areas. Brian Smith, Secretary General stated the need for people to contribute to these guidelines, and Conny van Nes will make enquiries via contacts at Delft University.

6.3 The Secretary General proposed that a further opportunity should be offered to 2 cities to participate in an exchange in 2010. The Bureau was asked to put forward ideas as to future participants and themes.

7. Partnership Proposal from ISG.

7.1 Brian Smith gave a brief résumé of the ISG (Internationale Städteforum Graz) proposal as to a possible partnership between the 2 organisations via the ISG magazine. The proposal is that the magazine be jointly 'branded' with EAHTR, having 8 pages per issue (4 issues per year) dedicated to EAHTR for case studies of good practice in member towns/cities. The Bureau agreed that this will be a good vehicle offering value to members by giving further exposure for member towns/cities (up to 4 towns/cities per issue), and the opportunity to share experience with a wider audience. It was agreed that the EAHTR content should be more analytical rather than merely descriptive, providing valuable case studies on current issues facing Historic Towns and Regions.

7.2 The Secretary General stated that a proposed 2 year commitment to the magazine may not be possible at the present time as EAHTR funding is not guaranteed beyond 2010.

7.3 If the proposal goes ahead member towns/cities for inclusion in the magazine should be sought and the Bureau was asked for ideas on this, along with suitable themes. Fikret Uccan is to approach the Turkish UHT, and Ferenc Csorban suggested an historical region in Romania as a possible candidate – delegates are to report back to the Secretary General. It was agreed that any participation should be left until Q2 2010 as the January deadline for the first issue would not be met.

8. Production of Guidelines.

8.1 Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism have been produced and Brian Smith will be meeting Brian Human (lead expert / author) to finalise the plans for a summary of the guidelines to be produced in leaflet format as proposed at the last Bureau meeting in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

A pilot group of towns/cities needs to be identified to apply the guidelines in practice. The group of towns/cities should be constituted to give a range of experience – small, medium, large, complex etc. Possible candidates put forward were Valetta, Malta and Helsinki, Finland as well as some member towns of the Turkish UHT. The importance of the Guidelines being formally adopted by the Council of Europe was stressed, and it is proposed that EAHTR should present the guidelines to the

Committee on Culture and Education at their next meeting in Strasbourg on 16th March 2010. Alexander Bartling stated that the presentation of test cases showing practical application would be important for the guidelines to be formally adopted. He also thought it unlikely that formal adoption would happen until the following plenary session of the Committee in October 2010.

8.2 The Public Realm. The production of guidelines on the Public Realm are in progress, and Ian Poole has been appointed as lead expert. Information/data has been gathered but this needs further refining with emphasis on the economic and social benefits of both the improvement and use of public space in historic areas. It is proposed to put together a team in 2010 to progress work on these guidelines.

9. HerO Project update.

Following the recent HerO project meeting in Valetta Brian Smith has been asked to produce a paper for the EU Commission. The paper will put forward the case for greater recognition of the importance of Cultural Heritage in the sustainable development of Historic towns/cities, and the economic and social benefits this brings to the urban environment.

10. Communications update.

10.1 Newsletter. Work is being done on the creation of an 'E' newsletter which will spearhead the membership communications programme. The newsletter will be sent direct to members via their inbox, and it is proposed to link this back to the main EAHTR website with the possibility of further links to EU sites such as information on EU funding opportunities. This will continue the work of the communications and publicity strategy in developing value added services to EAHTR members.

10.2 Heritage Zone. Further work will be carried out on the Heritage Zone site, and meetings have already been held to discuss ways of taking this forward. Reconfiguring of the Heritage Zone site to better meet user needs is seen as necessary if there is to be wider take up. A campaign to promote the site and its value to potential users is planned.

10.3 Membership update. The Bureau was informed of several recent successes in attracting new members to EAHTR notably the Municipality of Stip, Macedonia and Liverpool, UK. There are also a good number of potential members who have been contacted in Q4 of 2009, and it is hoped that these contacts will be translated into actual Full members in 2010. The Bureau was given an updated listing of contacts that had been made, and the status on each. Paul Newell to follow up.

10.4 Heritage Heroes. The Secretary General is a member of the judging panel on this project. The candidates and winners will be shown on BBC World in 2010. Brian Smith reported that there were good contacts to be made, and that there were obvious benefits in raising the profile of EAHTR through its association with this programme.

11. A.O.B

Louis Roppe, President raised the point that the city of Turku, Finland will be Capital of Culture in 2011 and suggested contacting them to try to revive participation in / membership of EAHTR from Finnish towns/cities. Brian Smith is to follow up.

12. Date and Location of next Meeting.

The Secretary General proposed March 2010 for the next Bureau meeting and Essen could be a likely venue. This would be timed to coincide with the conference on Industrial Heritage to be held in Essen next year as reported by Conny van Nes from the Dutch Association. Brian Smith is to investigate this and report back to the Bureau members.