



**Bureau Meeting – 27th March 2009
The Mediterranean Conference Centre
Valletta**

Report

Present

Louis Roppe, President of EAHTR
Brian Smith, Secretary General of EAHTR
Fikret N Uccan, Turkish Association of Historic Towns
Yonca Morali, CEKUL, Turkey
Connie Van Nes, Federation of Historic Cities of the Netherlands
Marleen Slooff, Chair, Federation of Historic Cities of the Netherlands
Carmen Stefaescu, Secretary General of ALZIAR
Alexandra Baietan, Alba Iulia, Romania
Sam Howes, Chair, Historic Towns Forum
Mateja Haffner Dolenc, Secretary General, Association of Historic Towns of Slovenia
Ian Micallef, The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe
Ian Walters, Project Officer, EAHTR

Apologies

Dubravaka Suica, Mayor of Dubrovnik
Eija Muttonen-Mattila, Finnish Association of Historic Towns
Alexander Bartling, Council of Europe

1. Report of Bureau on 9th September 2008

The Report of the Bureau meeting on 9th September was accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

These were all covered under the agenda items below.

3. The 2009 Work Programme

The 2009 work programme has been submitted to the CULTURE programme and has been approved with a total grant award of €82,000. The activity and financial reports for 2008 are currently being finalised. **Action: EAHTR**

4. Heritage Zone

This web based facility is intended to assist communication between people working on heritage matters at both the technical and political levels. It is thus aimed at people rather than organisations, like Face Book, and is intended to assist with the exchange of experience, finding partners for EU projects, etc.

The domain name www.heritagezone.net has been registered, software purchased, consultants appointed and the initial site design completed. 30 people are being invited to trial the overall concept and members of the Bureau were asked to participate. A formal launch of Heritage Zone will take place later this year. **Action: EAHTR, Bureau Members**

5. Round Table Discussion Forums

EAHTR has shared experience in the recent past mainly through project work. However, we need to find quicker and more informal ways of sharing experience. Such discussions would then be recorded and disseminated across Europe. Bureau members were asked to suggest topics for such discussions. **Action: Bureau Members**

6. Experience Exchanges

Part of the work of the INHERIT project involved one week visits to exchange experience between individuals from two of the partner cities and the production of a report about what had been learnt. The CULTURE funding will pay for travel and bed and breakfast to support such experience exchanges during 2009. Bureau members were asked to put forward suggestions. **Action: Bureau Members**

7. Heritage Guidelines

It is taking longer than expected to identify persons to be involved in work on each of the topics-

- Air Quality: this work aims to summarise in 'lay' terms the very detailed and technical report of the CULT-STRAT project to produce concise guidance for municipalities.
- INHERIT: a draft checklist has been prepared for municipalities to assess the stage that they have reached with heritage led regeneration. This checklist needs to be tested and refined by a sample of councils.
- Flooding: this issue is topical in old towns and is an issue across Europe. The project leader of the CHEF project, Tomas Drdacky a lead expert on the

subject has offered to work with EAHTR , to produce guidelines on flooding for dissemination.

- Sustainable Tourism: Brian Human, the former Head of Policy Planning at Cambridge City Council has along with the Secretary General contributed to a Council of Europe report on sustainable tourism. Heritage Zone will now be used to facilitate this work. The Congress has asked EAHTR to take forward the production of guidelines. Brian Human has been appointed as lead 'expert' on this work and a working group has been formed. The aim is to complete the work by July 2009. **Action: EAHTR & Partners**

8. The HerO (Heritage Opportunity) Project

This project, which is led by the City of Regensburg aims to develop an integrated approach to manage the historic environment and to produce a comprehensive and integrated policy. The project has fast track status and includes EU representatives to ensure that Structural Funds can be accessed for investing in heritage. EAHTR has invited all the HerO partner cities to join the Association and to date Regensburg, Graz and Valletta have agreed to join. The role of EAHTR is to provide technical support and to assist with dissemination of the findings through its member cities and associations. **Action: EAHTR**

9. Study Visits

The study visit to The Netherlands of 20 members of the EHTF and organised jointly by EAHTR and the Dutch Association in June 2008 had been very successful. Bureau members were shown the EAHTR Chronicle that reported on the visit and included reflections from the participants.

This year's study visit will be to Vilnius in July 2009, as part of that city's celebrations as 2009 European Capital of Culture. The aim is to attract about 40 key decision makers – mayors and staff at director level – to attend a study visit, seminar and site seeing tour. Copies of the invitation leaflet were distributed to Bureau members and further dissemination will take place in early April. **Action: EAHTR**

10. Future Symposia

The Council of Europe has proposed a Symposium in Bydgoszcz, Poland on 21 to 24 September, to be organised jointly with EAHTR and the overall theme is creative cities. There is currently uncertainty as to whether this is proceeding. **Action: Secretary General to contact Alexander Bartling urgently**

The Council of Europe has been proposing, jointly with EAHTR, to hold a Symposium in Istanbul in May 2010 to coincide with that city being the Capital of Culture. There is uncertainty with regard to the current Council of Europe position.

The meeting agreed to proceed with EAHTR organising a Symposium, jointly with the Turkish Association and the City of Istanbul. **Action: Fikret Uccan and Yonca Morali**

The Netherlands is proposing a Symposium, jointly with EAHTR, in Amsterdam in October 2010 with the theme of redeveloping industrial heritage sites and buildings. It was suggested that the speakers should also be invited from Germany, England, Gdansk Poland and Gothenburg Sweden. **Action: Marleen Slooff, Connie Van Nes, Secretary General.**

11. Europe's Oldest Towns Group

EAHTR has prepared advice on organisational arrangements and funding opportunities to take forward the conclusions of the meeting in Ptuj, held in September 2008. **Action: EAHTR**

12. Any Other Business

Sam Howes reported that EHTF is now the Historic Towns Forum with the membership widened from England to include the UK and Ireland. The next HTF conference will be held in Ireland in July.

Brian Smith asked Bureau members to tell him about conferences and other events that are being planned this year for inclusion in the next issue of the Chronicle. **Action: Bureau Members**

13. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Monday 21 September 2009, Bydgoszcz, Poland (subject to the Symposium being confirmed).