

# EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC TOWNS AND REGIONS

## Report of Bureau Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 1999

### Council of Europe - Strasbourg

Present: Mr Louis Roppe, President  
Mr Richard Hartley, Council of Europe  
Mr Joseph Attard, Malta  
Mr Tadhg Curtis, Ireland  
Mr Jan Jansen, Netherlands  
Mr Per-Hakan Slotte, Finland  
Mr Jean-Louis Chochoy, France  
Mr Andrew Farrall, UK  
Mr Mikhail Stoliarov representing Mr Kamil Iskhakov, Russian Federation

In Attendance: Brian Smith, Secretary General

Apologies: Mr Calin Catalin Chirita, Romania

1. Final Declaration Action

The Final Declaration was agreed as an accurate record of the main decisions taken at the Launching Conference. The summary note prepared by the Secretary General was agreed for general use.

2. Continued Involvement of Counsel of Europe

Bureau noted the letter of thanks sent by the Secretary General setting out the Association's hope that the Counsel of Europe would play an active part in the future of the Association.

Richard Hartley confirmed that the Counsel of Europe through its Chamber of Local Authorities and Regions would continue to consider some further support for the activities of the European Association. It had, for example, agreed to fund the costs associated with this Bureau meeting. He confirmed that the work of the Chamber through its working party on policies for the Town saw a continued role for the Counsel of Europe in relation to the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions. He confirmed that he would continue to represent the Chamber on the Bureau of the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.

With regard to future support he thought this would be possible in principle but that specific proposals needed to be submitted for consideration on their merits as part of a package covering the next six months or so. He suggested that the Bureau in the

course of the meeting should identify its specific needs and undertook to report these to the next meeting of the Chamber of Local Authorities and Regions on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Bureau/RH

Richard Hartley also confirmed that the Counsel of Europe Campaign 'Europe - a Common Heritage' had already contributed to the creation of the European Association of Historic Towns by paying for the Launching Conference. He indicated that the co-ordinator of the Campaign Mr Ballester was interested in further co-operation although it should be understood that funds under the Campaign were limited. It was suggested that a meeting later in the day with Mr Ballester would be helpful in clarifying whether there were specific actions which the Association could take in co-operation with the Campaign. RH/ President/ Secretary General

3. Constitution

The Bureau agreed the Final Constitution which had been amended to take account of points raised and decisions made at the Launching Conference.

The Bureau also asked that the Secretary General add a clause in order to include an appropriate procedure relating to how any future changes to the Constitution would be handled. Secretary General

4. Culture 2000 Decision

The Secretary General outlined the position with regard to the Culture 2000 decision not to support the application submitted by the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions. He explained that he had not received any written confirmation of this decision and had found it very difficult to speak to anyone in authority at DG10, the department responsible within the European Commission.

Richard Hartley also confirmed that he had been unable to speak to the responsible officials but would keep pressing to secure an explanation of the reasons behind the decision. He said that he understood that 410 applications had been received by DG10 but that there had only been sufficient funding for .....

The President also confirmed that he had been endeavouring to make contact with DG10 and that he would be continuing to press for a meeting.

The Bureau felt strongly that it was important that we try to secure a meeting with DG10 particularly in relation to understanding how a revised application might be successful. RH/ President/ Secretary

next time.

General

5. Headquarters

The Bureau noted the Secretary General's report on progress in establishing the Headquarters. The Bureau also considered and agreed the outline terms of an interim agreement on administrative arrangements in the light of the Culture 2000 decision.

The Bureau also asked the President to write on their behalf to Norwich City Council thanking it for the support it had given so far in establishing the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions and congratulating the City on becoming the headquarters. The letter should also indicate that the Bureau were happy with the proposed interim agreement on administrative arrangements. In this regard the President was authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Bureau.

President

6. Communication Arrangements

The Bureau considered and agreed on the desirability of all Bureau members establishing an e-mail address to assist with effective communication. Details of Bureau members contact information was circulated and the Secretary General undertook to produce an up-to-date list of contact details for circulation to all Bureau members.

Secretary  
General

7. Historic Towns Web Site

The Secretary General outlined progress on establishing a web site and on the work being carried out by Oracle in partnership with the English Historic Towns Forum.

The Bureau agreed the recommended approach and proposed content for the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions' web site. Further suggestions for information that might in due course be included covered sources of European funding, details of European projects and partnership programmes underway and details of size of towns and Associations.

The Secretary General was authorised to continue to develop the web site on the basis proposed.

Secretary  
General

8. Logo and Identity

The Secretary General presented options on different approaches to the design of a logo for the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions. He outlined the desirability of

also agreeing a shorter title for the purposes of promoting the Association more effectively. He also stressed that, whilst a shorter title would be important in marketing terms, it would also be important to include the full official title of the Association in addition on, for example, letterheads etc.

The Bureau considered that the logo options presented needed further development and asked the Secretary General to explore options that more specifically reflected the identity of historic towns.

Secretary  
General

The Bureau agreed that a shorter title would be useful in publicity terms and agreed the use of 'Historic Towns - Europe' in appropriate circumstances on the basis that the full title would also appear. The Bureau thanked Norwich City Council for making resources available to develop a logo design and identity for the Association.

9. Sponsorship and other Funding Opportunities

The Secretary General reported on discussions he was having with Oracle Europe with a view to Oracle becoming a sponsor of the European Association. He hoped to meet the Vice President of Oracle Europe in January. He would report further to the Bureau in due course.

The Bureau welcomed the potential involvement of Oracle Europe as a sponsor of the Association.

Secretary  
General

Bureau members undertook to explore whether there was any potential funding and/or support from national governments, particularly departments of culture. The Secretary General also asked that Bureau members give a thought to whether there are international companies within their country which could be approached as potential sponsors/partners.

Secretary  
General/  
Bureau

10. Membership

The Bureau agreed the summary paper produced by the Secretary General for use in explaining subscription rates.

The Secretary General outlined action he was pursuing in relation to establishing whether there was interest from Germany, Greece and Italy.

Mr Slotte indicated that an association of historic towns of Finland was to be established in February and that the Finnish Department of Culture would be inviting the Secretary General to attend the launching seminar.

Mr Slotte

Mr Curtis indicated that considerable progress had been made in moving towards the establishment of an Irish association of historic towns and he also indicated that an invitation would be forthcoming for the Secretary General to attend the launching conference in due course.

Mr Curtis

The Bureau considered that where countries did not have an association of historic towns and regions we should approach the National Association of Municipalities and seek to involve them in the work of the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.

Secretary  
General

The President reported that he was in talks with the Belgium Association of Historic Towns and he hoped to play a part in developing the Association's activities and hoped that they would make a significant contribution to the work of the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.