

## APPENDIX 1



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

### **General Assembly – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2002** **ROOM 2 –Council of Europe**

#### **Report of Meeting**

##### **Annual Report**

1. The General Assembly noted the progress achieved during 2001 and approved the Annual Report. Several delegates congratulated the Bureau and the Secretariat on the work carried out and the success in developing EAHTR to date.
2. Delegates in approving the Annual Report specifically noted and where appropriate agreed: -
  - The Partnership Agreement between EAHTR and Norwich City Council
  - Progress on Membership and Sponsorship
  - The Establishment of a newsletter –‘The Chronicle’
  - The development of the Web Site
  - Work on Policy Development and Promotion during 2001
  - The conference programme for 2002
  - Work on European Projects
  - Support given to member Associations and Cities
  - The transition of EAHTR to become a ‘Company Limited by Guarantee’ and as such a ‘Legal Entity’ under the Law of England and Wales
  - The Financial Report 2000-2002
3. The Council of Europe representative Mr. Richard Hartley expressed his satisfaction with the development of EAHTR. He reported that while CLRAE expected organisations like EAHTR to be self financing the Congress would consider a recommendation at a forthcoming meeting to formalise the relationship of EAHTR to the Council of Europe including the creation of limited budgetary support.

##### **European Priorities on Cultural Heritage**

4. David Miles, Head of European Commission unit ‘City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage presented the new ‘6<sup>th</sup> Framework ‘Programme of the European Commission. He pointed out that this programme was open to all European

Countries not just members of the European Union and explained the opportunities for involvement by EAHTR and its member Associations, towns, cities and regions. He confirmed that the Commission was keen to see 'users' play a greater part in research on cultural heritage.

5. Mr Roland Ries, member of CLRAE with responsibility for Historic Towns and a former Mayor of Strasbourg, set out the Council of Europe's approach and priorities on cultural heritage including its collaboration with UNESCO. He also outlined the future potential for increased collaboration between EAHTR and the Council of Europe including exploring closer ties with the Council's Committee on Sustainable Development'

### **Programme for 2002**

6. The General Assembly received the following presentations: -
  - An outline of the proposed Symposium in Kazan called 'Cultural Diversity – Key to a sustainable future by the Mayor of Kazan, Mr, Kamil Iskhakov. Mr Iskhakov also set the scene for the Symposia by showing slides of the beautiful city of Kazan and its Kremlin – a world heritage site.
  - Mr Graham Bell, representing the Grainger Town Partnership in Newcastle, U.K illustrated the regeneration of the historic centre of the city and explained the background to the proposed International Conference -Investing in Heritage – Regenerating Europe's Historic Cities.
  - Nada Zajk and Mayor Vojka Stular from Piran, Slovenia set out the history of the Walled Towns Friendship Circle and its objectives and future priorities. Mayor Stular outlined the programme for the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium to be held in Soave, Italy
  - The proposed symposium on 'The wooden Town Through the Centuries' was outlined by Mr. Per Haken Slotte, Mayor of Porvoo, Finland. He explained with the help of slides the importance of wooden buildings to both the historic character of the city and to its future development where extensive new housing is under construction using wood.

### **Elections to Bureau**

7. 4 positions on the Bureau were due for election. The following were elected to serve for 2 years: -
  - Mr. Roland Ries, France
  - Mr. Peter Studdert, England
  - Mr. Per -Hakan Slotte, Finland
8. One co-opted member was elected for 1 year, in lieu of clarification of the fourth vacancy as follows: -
  - Ms Mateja Hafner Dolenc, Slovenia

### **Work of Historic Towns Associations**

9. The work of member Associations of historic towns was discussed with presentations from: -
  - Mr Steve Bee, Vice Chairman of the English Historic Towns Forum

- Ms Mateja Hafner Dolenc, Secretary General of the Association of Historic Towns of Slovenia
- Mr Joseph Attard, President of the Maltese Association of Historic Towns

## **Future Priorities of EAHTR**

10. The following Priorities were discussed and agreed by the General Assembly as follows: -

### **1. Strengthening the Network**

The General Assembly noted that while progress has been made continued efforts need to be concentrated on strengthening the network both in terms of its representatives and its financial stability and sustainability. The success of attracting towns, cities and regions to join will be particularly important in this respect.

The following was agreed as key priorities: -

- 1.1. Promote the 'cities and regions' campaign
- 1.2. Develop the historic towns database of contacts and mechanisms to disseminate information and obtain members views and feedback
- 1.3. Seek the establishment of representation from countries who have not yet joined as Associations, including, Ireland, France, Italy, Greece and Germany
- 1.4. Build links with Universities- promote membership of EAHTR as Associate members
- 1.5. Increase sponsorship
- 1.6. Consolidate and develop relationship with the Council of Europe including exploring possibility of future financial support
- 1.7. Develop links with other organisations working in the fields of sustainable management of historic towns and cultural heritage

### **2. Promotion and Publicity**

The General Assembly noted that sustaining the production of the newsletter and its widespread circulation will take a considerable part of the secretariat's current capacity but it has an important role to play in publicising and promoting the organisation. Equally the full potential of the web site has yet to be realised.

The following was agreed as key priorities: -

- 2.1 Produce 3 editions of 'The Chronicle' per year, resources permitting
- 2.2 Promote members joining the web site and adding information on good practice
- 2.3 Develop the web site as a 'gateway' linking to members and other web sites
- 2.4 Develop the web site as part of future European projects
- 2.5 Revise the design of the site to ensure it continues to meet our needs, resources permitting

- 2.6 Produce a new leaflet for general use explaining the aims of EAHTR
- 2.7 Update the membership and partnership leaflets
- 2.8 Exploit the potential of e-mail in communicating with members and potential members

### **3. Develop Work Programme**

The General Assembly noted that at this stage in its development EAHTR has a limited capacity to carry out research on good practice without funding. The EC programmes being pursued are all on a 'self-financing' basis i.e. the funding would pay for the additional project staff that would be needed. The work involved in preparing European project proposals is considerable but it is essential that this continues, resources permitting, as it appears the only option of attracting the funds necessary to bring people together to work in working groups.

The following was agreed as key priorities: -

- 3.1. Submit FRESH and FORUM by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2002 to EC and establish 'user' networks for each project including Historic Towns Associations a range of cities and other stakeholders.
- 3.2. Link the work of EAHTR to the policies and work priorities of the Council of Europe and the European Commission
- 3.3. Publish the outcomes of each of the conferences in partnership with other organisations/sponsors and disseminate this widely to members, subject to resources
- 3.4. Explore the establishment of a working group of cities on heritage-led regeneration on a self-financing basis (each city meets its own costs) or as part of an application to the EC for funding
- 3.5. Work with the Association of Historic Settlements of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in the administration of the European Union Cultural Heritage Award should their application be successful
- 3.6. Work with the member town of Qormi in implementing the MEDINET proposal under the Community Framework for co-operation to promote sustainable urban development, should the application be successful.
- 3.7. Identify key topic areas for future research and as themes for conferences e.g. European historic trade routes and housing within historic centres.
- 3.8. Establish 2003/4 Conference Programme including exploring future events at Maastricht, Norwich and Malta

### **Subscription Rates**

- 11. The General Assembly agreed the recommendation of the Bureau to introduce a fairer structure for Towns, Cities and Regions who become 'Associate' Members to reflect both population size and location by country as follows: -

### Population

	Up to 25,000	25-50,000	50-150,000	150,000+
<b>A</b>	200€	350€	600€	1000€
<b>B</b>	150€	250€	450€	750€
<b>C</b>	75€	150€	300€	500€

12. The General Assembly also agreed to changes to the Associate Membership category for Universities as follows: -

Country	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
University	350	250	150

### Conclusions

13. The President of EAHTR, Mr. Louis Roppe thanked all speakers and delegates for their contribution in ensuring an exceptionally high quality of debate throughout the day. He summed up the day's proceedings as marking an important step in the development of EAHTR and congratulated the Bureau and Secretariat for their hard work and commitment over the last two years.
14. The President considered that the presentations from the EC and Council of Europe had given EAHTR an important incentive to work in partnership with both bodies to help secure the sustainable management of Europe's Historic Towns.
15. He was particularly heartened by the excellent work being carried out by national and regional associations of historic towns. Not only the English Historic Towns Forum which had been a role model in establishing EAHTR and continued to demonstrate what can be achieved by historic towns working together – but the work of the new associations in the Russian Federation, Finland, Slovenia and Malta.
16. The President thanked the Secretary General for his Annual Report which clearly demonstrated significant progress in establishing EAHTR as an effective and well managed organisation. He fully endorsed its central conclusion that EAHTR was now poised with a full conference programme and clear priorities for the future to 'make a difference' in helping secure a sustainable future for Europe's historic towns. Resources, however, remained a concern and it would be important to continue to give priority to expanding membership, partnership and sponsorship.
17. The President concluded by thanking EAHTR's sponsors Oracle and Norwich City Council and the Council of Europe for their continuing support and, last but not least, the interpreters for their efficient translation of the days events.

**Brian Smith**  
**Secretary General**