



EUROPEAN
association
Historic Towns & Regions

REPORT OF BUREAU MEETING, FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2003 COUNCIL OF EUROPE 55 AVENUE KLEBER, PARIS

Present: Louis Roppe, President, EAHTR, Brian Smith, Secretary General, EAHTR, Mateja Hafner Dolenc, Secretary General, Slovenian Association of Historic Towns, Ian Poole, Vice-Chairman, EHTF, Per Haken Slotte, President, Finnish Association of Historic Towns.

Apologies: Richard Hartley, Council of Europe, Joseph Attard, President, Maltese Association of Historic Towns & Regions Hans Magdelijns, President, Association of Historic Towns of The Netherlands.

1. REPORT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY/ BUREAU MEETING 15TH MARCH 2002

The meeting confirmed the report as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary General reported that the Council of Europe had agreed to formalise links with EAHTR and establish a small budget to support its activities. It was also intended that EAHTR would assist the Council of Europe in taking forward its work programme where appropriate. The Secretary General reported he had been invited to make a presentation to the Spring Session of the Culture and Education Committee of CLRAE on 20th March 2003.

2. ACTIVITIES IN 2002.

The meeting considered the report previously circulated dealing with the Association's activities in 2002.

The meeting noted the completion of a successful conference programme, progress on projects and the development of the newsletter with significant outputs having been achieved including the "Kazan Declaration".

The meeting also noted the difficulties with resources during 2002 and approved the revised budget report submitted by the Secretary General.

3. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES 2003

The meeting approved the participation of the Secretary General in the proposed "Regeneration of Historic Urban Cores" conference in Malta from the 13th – 15th April 2003. This was agreed as a significant opportunity to promote the work of EAHTR. The Bureau also agreed that this was an opportunity for the President and Secretary General to meet with the Maltese Association of Historic Towns.

4. WOODEN TOWNS PORVOO, FINLAND.

Per Haken Slotte reported on the proposed programme. There was considerable discussion around the opportunity to broaden the programme to include speakers from other countries. It had previously been proposed that the General Assembly should take place in Porvoo but it was accepted that this was not possible as the timing of the conference coincided with Council of Europe meetings in Strasbourg which would prevent the CLRAE being represented.

The Bureau also considered and agreed EAHTR's participation in a number of joint events planned for 2003. These included the proposed conference being organised principally by the Turkish Association of Historic Towns on 30th – 31st May in Bursa, Turkey and the Walled Towns Friendship Circle Annual conference which will take place in Waterford, Ireland on the 9th – 14th June.

The Secretary General reported on the invitation of Europa Nostra for the President and himself to make a presentation to their meeting which will celebrate their 40th Anniversary and will take place on the 19th – 22nd June in Strasbourg. This will be an opportunity to explore with Europa Nostra how the interests of historic cities can best be promoted between the two organisations.

5. INHERIT

The Secretary General reported on the INHERIT meeting that had taken place earlier that day. 4 cities had agreed to join INHERIT and begin the case study research into how each city had been regenerated through investment in heritage. The Bureau considered that this was a very important initiative and wished to give it full support.

6. NEWSLETTER

The Secretary General reported that the next newsletter would be in the Summer 2003 and invited Bureau members to consider possible articles for inclusion. It was agreed that the newsletter would include a report of the Wooden Towns Conference in Porvoo and that an associated article on the Finnish Association of Historic Towns should be included.

7. HISTORIC TOWNS VISIT

The Secretary General reported on a request from the English Historic Towns Forum to visit an Eastern European country. Ms Mateja Hafner Dolenc confirmed that the Slovenian Association of Historic Towns would be happy to host a visit. Ian Poole representing the EHTF welcomed this and said that he would report back to the EHTF Executive, particularly on timing as to whether the visit should take place this year or possibly in 2004.

8. FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Secretary General reported on the various priorities of EAHTR as agreed by the General Assembly. The Bureau agreed that the Secretary General should explore with Richard Hartley opportunities for contributing to the Council of Europe work programme. The INHERIT project was considered to be a top priority for 2003/4.

The Secretary General reported that Norwich had been invited by the Council of Europe and EAHTR to jointly host a major international conference on historic towns in 2004. This was likely to be planned for September 2004 and the Secretary General undertook to report back on the specific themes of the conference in due course.

The Secretary General reported on the current position with regard to the Association's website. The Bureau agreed that the web site should endeavour to establish links to other Association's sites acting as a "portal" or gateway to information on historic towns and their associations. The president of the Finnish Association of Historic Towns indicated that they would be contacting EAHTR shortly with a proposal to join the EAHTR web site on a similar basis to EHTF. Ms Mateja Dolenc confirmed that the Slovenian Association web site would include pages in English shortly.

9. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERSHIP OF BUREAU

The Secretary General reported on the position with regard to 3 places on the Bureau filled by Mr Calin Catalin Chirita, Vice President, Mr Tadhg Curtis and Mr Roland Ries. The Secretary General reported that changes in circumstances of these three Bureau members had resulted in them being unable to participate in the affairs of the Association or attend Bureau meetings for some time.

The Bureau agreed that it was important to ensure it's membership consisted of representatives who are able to play a full part in the Association's activities. Bureau members therefore asked the Secretary General to write to the three members thanking them for their past contribution and to explain that in the circumstances the Bureau now needed to secure replacement members for these positions.

The Bureau also considered that it was important to replace on an interim basis the role of Vice-President held by Mr Calin Catalin Chirita. The President proposed that Mr Per Haken Slotte, President of the Finnish Association of Historic Towns fulfil this role on a temporary basis until the General Assembly 2003.

10. DATE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FUTURE BUREAU MEETINGS.

The Secretary General was asked to look at the possibility of holding the next Bureau meeting and General Assembly at Verona in conjunction with the proposed INHERIT meeting. If this was not possible then a meeting in Strasbourg should be arranged for September/October.

Brian Smith
Secretary General