



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

Report of Bureau Meeting – 27th June 2005

**Council of Europe
Meeting Room 17
Palais de l'Europe
Strasbourg**

Present

Louis Roppe, President, EAHTR
Antonella-Maria Cagnolati, Deputy Chief Executive, Council of Europe
Alexander Bartling, Administrator, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
Jean-Philippe Bozouls, Secretary, Chamber of Local Authorities
Ian Poole, Chairman, EHTF
Dubravka Suica, Mayor of Dubrovnik
Anders Swennson City of Gothenburg
Brian Smith, Secretary General, EAHTR

Apologies:

Per Haken Slotte, President, Finnish Association of Historic Towns;
Mateja Hafner Dolenc, Secretary General, Slovenian Association of
Historic Towns
Joseph Attard, President, Maltese Association of Historic Towns &
Regions
John Price, President, Walled Towns Friendship Circle
Mark Stafleu, Acting President, Association of Historic Towns of The
Netherlands
Arnaldo Vecchietti, Director of Community, Policies Department, Verona
Council
Mehmet Ozhaseki, Mayor of Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality,
Association of Turkish Historic Towns and Regions.

1 Report of Meeting on 8th December

- 1.1 Report of Bureau meeting on 8th December was accepted as a correct record of the meeting

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 The meeting considered the future representation of the Council of Europe on the Bureau. The possibility of transferring responsibility for the Bureau to the Culture Committee was being considered and this would have a bearing on who would

represent the C.of Europe on both the Bureau and EAHTR LTD. In the meantime the first contact would be with Alexander Bartling.

3 Report back from meetings with Council of Europe directorates concerned with Culture and Heritage

3.1 Brian Smith reported on a series of meetings held that morning attended by the President and himself between: -

- Alexander Bartling, Secretary of the Culture and Education Committee of the Congress
- Christopher Grayson, Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly and Alexander Bartling
- Gabriella Battaini - Director General of the Directorate of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Daniel Therond, Director, ad iterim of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, Domenico Ronconi - Head of Cultural Action Division and Alexander Bartling

3.2 Alexander Bartling considered that the meetings had provided an invaluable opportunity to explore how EAHTR and the Council of Europe could work together more closely in the future. He and Brian Smith summarised the main opportunities identified including: -

- Developing a work programme with the Culture Committee on the theme of 'Cooperation between historical towns and regions of Europe and reconciliation of the historical heritage and modern development within European cities' EAHTR would help identify an expert to prepare an initial report for consideration in Spring 2006
- Promoting the EAHTR to members of the Council of Europe especially encouraging cites and regions to join as individual members. An invitation would be extended to the Secretary General to make a presentation on the work of EAHTR at the September session of the Congress in Denizli, Turkey
- Continue to organize jointly bi-annual symposia on Historic Towns following on the success of symposia previously organized in Kazan and Norwich. The next joint symposia would be Dubrovnik 2006
- Other opportunities identified included helping the work of the Parliamentary Assembly on public private partnerships in Cultural Heritage and working with the Directorate of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport on issues related to cultural identity and diversification particularly involving historic cities in contributing to the concept of European identity

4 Production of EAHTR Exhibition Stand

4.1 The meeting discussed the desirability of producing a portable exhibition stand setting out information on the EAHTR; its aims and objectives and its activities. It was agreed, subject to resources being available, to prepare a stand for use at future meetings with the text ideally in French and German as well as English. The Council of Europe would look at what help could be provided in terms of graphic design, translation and production of the stand.

5 Future Membership of the Russian Association of Historic Towns & Regions

5.1 The Secretary General referred to the discussion at the last bureau meeting in December relating to the problem that had arisen with non-payment of subscription fees by the Russian Association of Historic Towns and Regions. Mr Sagitov, representing Mr Iskhakov, Vice President of EAHTR, had undertaken to report back to Mr Iskhakov and to underline the seriousness of the current position.

- 5.2 The Bureau noted that neither the secretariat or President had received any communication on this matter from Mr Iskhakov prior to the meeting. In a further attempt to progress this issue before the Bureau meeting both the President and Secretary General spoke to Mr Stoliarov, advisor to Mr Iskhakov who asked that a decision be deferred until later in the year to allow further time to try to resolve the problem.
- 5.3 As a consequence the Bureau agreed to consider the matter formally at its next meeting in Gothenburg in September 2005.

6 Historic Towns Visits

- 6.1 The Chairman of EHTF outlined the programme that had been put together for The Slovenian Association of Historic Towns and the Finnish Association of Historic Towns to visit historic towns in England. The Bureau congratulated the EHTF on a varied and interesting programme.

7 European Projects

INHERIT

- 7.1 The Secretary General presented the report on the INHERIT project covering project approval, contract negotiation, project start up and details of the first study visit to Gdansk held from 9 -12 May.
- 7.2 The Bureau congratulated the project team in securing a project grant of €636,587 with matching funding from the seven partners of €385,303 giving a total project value of €1,021,890
- 7.3 The Bureau noted the large amount of work involved in progressing this large and complex project and the detailed requirement and responsibilities that now fall to EAHTR as lead partner and to the Secretary General as overall project Director.

EPOCH

- 7.4 The Secretary General reported progress on the EPOCH project. The overall objective of EPOCH is to provide a clear framework for improving the effectiveness at the interface of technology and the human experience of cultural heritage.
- 7.5 The Bureau noted the paper prepared by EAHTR on how local municipalities might contribute and benefit from the wide - ranging and extensive work of the project.
- 7.6 The secretary general reported on the meeting to be held the next day, hosted by the Council of Europe, with representatives of a range of historic cities from across Europe. The meeting would be looking at how technology might better meet the priority needs of historic cities.

8 2005 Symposium 'Heritage Led Regeneration – Delivering good Practice'– Gothenburg

- 8.1 The Secretary General reported on the arrangements for the EAHTR symposium and General Assembly organised jointly with the City of Gothenburg. Anders Swennson from the City of Gothenburg Planning Department circulated the latest programme and outlined the themes and speakers planned.

- 8.2 The Bureau congratulated the City of Gothenburg on putting together a varied and interesting programme.

9 Dubrovnik Symposium

- 9.1 Dubravka Suica, Mayor of Dubrovnik confirmed that the city of Dubrovnik would be delighted to host the next joint symposium on historic towns to be organised jointly with the Council of Europe and EAHTR.
- 9.2 The Bureau briefly discussed the potential theme of the symposium as embracing cultural identity –socially, economically and environmentally tying in with the Council of Europe’s future work programme looking at amongst other things the contribution historic cities can make to the concept of European Identity.
- 9.3 The Bureau agreed that Mrs Suica would write formally to the Congress setting out the proposal including the contributions possible from the City of Dubrovnik and EAHTR as well as those needed from the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe representatives would look at helping fund a delegation to visit Dubrovnik later in the year as part of the preparations for the Symposium

10 Any other business

- 10.1 It was agreed that the next Bureau would take place in Gothenburg prior to the Symposium in September 2005. Details would be circulated in due course.

Brian Smith
Secretary General