

Final Conclusions 2012, Germany

A ROLE OF THE EHHF

The EHHF has been operating for 6 years. Having canvassed the views of the members on the effectiveness of the forum it was agreed that:

- EHHF is a professional and expert network for national heritage heads that provides a forum for information and experience exchange.
- Once the Reflection Group has been dissolved, that the EHHF will act as the primary contact for the European Commission (DG-EAC) for cultural heritage issues and work with them on the new cultural heritage strategy & provide the necessary expertise to undertake their internal impact assessments (IIIP)
- The EHHF sees NGOs as one of the most appropriate actors for lobbying and will find ways to work with them
- Recognising the above, the EHHF will continue to act as an advocate for heritage and produce strong statements on specific issues to support common concerns
- Europe is recognised as a world leader in cultural heritage research. This research has played, and should continue to play, a vital role in getting heritage on the European agenda.
 - The EHHF members will encourage their responsible government departments to ensure that 'cultural heritage' remains an explicit priority in the EU 'Horizon 2020' programme (2014-20)
 - The EHHF should create specific task forces to facilitate common research between the state heritage agencies, but also work together with, and reinforce, existing EU-funded research programmes where applicable.
- EHHF now needs a full time secretariat to support its work (see B below)

B ORGANISATION OF THE EHHF

In response to the call for greater support and communication to EHHF members from the secretariat and the creation (and support) of task forces on specific issues, it has been suggested that the EHHF should have a funded full time secretariat.

A small group will be tasked to develop the work plan for a permanent secretariat, along with proposals for a financing structure. The group will include the current tripartite secretariat (Germany, Norway, Belgium and the UK (England)) as well as Denmark, France and Poland who will meet in the autumn 2012 in Oslo and present the final proposal for agreement and adoption at the EHHF meeting in Oslo in May 2013.

C RESPONSE TO 'REFLECTION GROUP' RECOMMENDATIONS

The EHHF commends the work of the 'Reflection Group' under the Belgian and Polish Presidencies and looks forward to working with Lithuania to prepare a text on cultural heritage to present to Ministers for consideration in the conclusions of the Lithuanian EU Presidency in 2013.

The EHHF welcomes the report presented in Potsdam and has taken into consideration and responded to the following recommendations:

- a. ***Action 3: The reflection group suggests the EHHF to invite most important civil society organisations in the field of cultural heritage at European level for a session to explore these issues.***

Whilst recognising the important relationship that exists in many countries between the state heritage authorities and civil society, it was agreed that in advance of any meeting between the EHHF and EU-level civil society organisation this would need to have a clear purpose with agreed outcomes. The relation between EHHF and other bodies will be discussed in Oslo.

- b. ***Action 7: European Heritage Heads Forum takes care of better diffusion and follow-up of its final statement, certainly at EU-level***

It was agreed that the EHHF should do more to diffuse the final statements of the meetings to DG-EAC Heritage Policy Department, and other relevant EU bodies. The statements should be translated, by the relevant state responsible agency, into the national language for wider national dissemination. The distribution strategy will be discussed as part of the specific discussions on the role of a future permanent secretariat.

- c. ***Action 10: The EHHF members are invited to create a taskforce on a common methodology for collecting economic data of cultural heritage***

This proposal was fully supported by the EHHF. The UK (England), Germany, Poland, Iceland, Italy, France and Norway will collaborate in the first meeting of this EHHF task force. It is proposed that this be held in London in collaboration with the London School of Economics during the autumn of 2012.

D ROLE OF THE EHLF MEMBERS

The EHHF recognises the successful work of the EHLF and continues its support of this sub-group.

Whilst recognising the role and purpose of the EHLF as the watchdog for EU directives, the EHHF agreed that the EHLF should also act in the area of EU policies. As such the EHHF member is requested to ensure that the EHLF member(s) have a strong understanding and competence in cross-sectoral working within their national administrations (i.e./ national lobbying) and is able to access the necessary technical expertise in their country.

EHHF
Potsdam, 25 May 2012