

EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM

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FINAL STATEMENT

Following on from last year's meeting, at the second meeting of the European Heritage Heads Forum, held in Prague on 10-11 May 2007, significant issues that were discussed include:

- EU directives and the role of cultural heritage
- The impact of climate change on EU directives
- Energy efficiency of historic buildings
- The Council of Europe's HEREIN project
- The significance of cultural heritage as an economic force
- The impact of tourism and development pressures and the need for more economic studies

The inadvertent, negative impact of EU Directives and recommendations on the cultural heritage was discussed. Those present strongly emphasised the importance of this issue. The cultural heritage should be taken account of when EU legislation is being prepared. It was agreed that Article 151-4 of the European Treaty (which calls for the general inclusion of cultural aspects in all community policies) is a strong legislative tool that should be used by each state in influencing all draft legislation.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

- To refresh our commitment to HEREIN and to encourage the Council of Europe that HEREIN meets the heritage sector's current needs
- To make available on the EHHF website, research on thermal efficiency in relation to historic buildings
- To continue work on the publication of case studies showing the economic and social benefits of investment in the historic environment
- To propose a way in which the members of EHHF can have influence on the development of EU legislation taking account of cultural heritage. (Norway)

NEXT MEETING:

Denmark will host the next meeting in Copenhagen in May/June 2008



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EHHF Secretariat, c/o English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 132 – 142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST
tel: +44 (0) 20 7973 3849 email: secretariat@ehhf.net