

European Heritage Legal Forum (EHLF) Work Report 2015-2016

Meetings:

Two EHLF meetings were organised for the period 05/2015 to 05/2016. First, the EHLF General Assembly took place on October 6th, 2015, in Brussels. The new EHLF Secretariat was elected by the present members for the period 10/2016 to 10/2020. The new EHLF Secretariat Members are:

- Ms. Vera AMEELS (Belgium-Flanders)
- Ms. Nives MILINKOVIC (Croatia)
- Ms. Alexandra WARR (UK-England; reappointed Member)
- Mr. Jacek BRUDNICKI (Poland; reappointed Member)
- Mr. Wolfgang Karl GOHNER (Germany; reappointed Chairman)
- Mr. Terje NYPAN (Norway; reappointed Member).

The General Assembly was attended by 13 Members. The second meeting was an Open EHLF Secretariat meeting which took place on March 16th, 2016, in Munich. It was attended by 7 Members. EHLF Heads should ensure that a competent EHLF contact person is designated per Member State.

Consultations using *core scripts*:

Two consultations were coordinated by the EHLF this year. First, a draft letter was formulated on the EU Water Framework Directive and the adverse effects of its implementation at national level. Some Member States are indeed experiencing the so-called gold plating of the Directive by national water bodies and other environmental agencies, jeopardising thousands of historic watermills and other water-related heritage constructions. The EHLF is convinced that traditional heritage systems using water streams are not associated with the current disruption of the ecological continuity of watercourses. The letter appeals to the European Commission to clarify the situation with Member States and formulate an official guidance document expressing the EU's intentions as regards the preservation of cultural heritage along river basins. It was individually sent in April 2016 to Mr. Calleja Crespo, Director-General for Environment, by 7 EHLF Members: Flanders, Wallonia, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Norway, Sweden.¹

The second consultation concerned Horizon 2020. This EU programme allocates a substantial budget for cultural heritage through a set of calls. The consultation addressed Societal Challenge 5 'Climate action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw materials'. It is very relevant for the EHLF to show our need for more funds towards cultural heritage. Only two EHLF Members contributed to this consultation: Flanders and Wallonia.²

Calls by Members:

The Member for Flanders launched a call to the EHLF Members in October 2015 about the EU Directive 2005/36/EC on the 'recognition of professional qualifications' and its implications as regards archaeologists. A total of 7 Members answered the questions asked by Flanders. After analysis of the answers, the EHLF recommends state heritage authorities to effectively transpose the

¹ <http://www.ehhf.eu/news/eu-water-framework-directive-puts-watermills-risk>

² <http://www.ehhf.eu/news/new-eu-horizon-2020-calls-published-cultural-heritage>

Directive into national heritage acts and to ensure that compensatory measures for migrating archaeologists are adequately formulated.³

Screening of EU Roadmap:

EHLF Secretariat Members have scrutinised the new European Commission's roadmaps. A presentation was given on heritage-based exceptions to the REACH Regulation⁴. Terje Nypan wrote "Extended comments on 2016 EU Roadmap for Energy efficiency regulations (2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU, 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU) with related regulations and the Safety on Passenger ships (98/18/EC)"⁵. It is important for each EHLF Member to individually review on a regular basis upcoming EU Regulations and Directives⁶ as well as Public Consultations, and immediately inform EHLF Members whenever a potential impact for cultural heritage is detected.

The EHLF would like to thank Benjamine Dobbelaere, Administrative Secretary of the EHLF, for her active role in coordinating and facilitating information exchange.

Find enclosed to this report the list of EHLF Members.

³ <http://www.ehhf.eu/news/free-movement-archaeologists-european-union>

⁴ <http://ehhf.eu/system/files/REACH%20exceptions%20Heritage.pdf>

⁵ Accessible on the private section of the EHLF website.

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/index_en.htm