

Programme 2025

THURSDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER

- 08:30 *Coffee and registration*
Mediterranean Conference Centre, Triq it-Tramuntana
- 09:00 **Opening of the 19th EHHF Annual Meeting**
Superintendent Kurt Farrugia
- 09:10 **Welcome addresses**
Nigel Vella, CEO, Mediterranean Conference Centre
Hon. Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for Culture, Lands and Local Government
Glenn Micallef, EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
- 10:00 **Keynote: The Valletta Convention 30 Years on: Insights and New Horizons**
Dr Adrian Olivier BA PhD FSA, Chair of the Historic Environment Forum
- 10:30 **Shaping our Past and Present: The Use and Relevance of the Valletta Convention for Archaeological Heritage Management in Addressing Contemporary Challenges**
Marjolein Verschuur MPhil, EAC President
- 11:00 *Coffee*
- 11:30 **4 minutes / 4 slides: Examples of the Implementation of the Valletta Convention**
- 13:30 *Lunch at the conference venue*

- 15:00 **Thematic workshops on the Valletta Convention followed by a rapporteur session**

17:30 *Conclusion of the first day*

19:00 **Guided tour of the Grandmaster's Palace**
58, Triq ir-Repubblika

20:30 **EHHF Official Dinner at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry**
64, Triq ir-Repubblika

FRIDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER

- 08:30 *Coffee and registration*
Mediterranean Conference Centre Triq it-Tramuntana
- 09:00 **Opening of the second day**
- 09:10 **Challenges and Insights into Preserving World Heritage Sites**
Prof. JoAnn Cassar, BSc PhD CSci CChem FRSC FGS FIIC, University of Malta
- 09:30 **Challenges and Insights into Sustainable Development and Archaeology**
Joseph Magro Conti, BA PGCert MA, Technical Consultant, Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government
- 10:00 *Coffee*
- 10:30 **EHHF Plenary Session**
Updates from the Secretariat, the EHLF, and the Task Force
- 11:30 **Vote on the new budgetary period and the secretary position**
- 12:00 **News from the Heads**
- 12:30 **Troika handover to Croatia**
- 12:45 **Closure of the 19th EHHF Annual Meeting**
- 13:00 *Lunch at the conference venue*

16:45 **Meeting at the Conference Centre (MCC) for the departure to Qrendi**
Triq it-Tramuntana

17:30 **Visit to the UNESCO's World Heritage Sites of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra**

19:30 **Wine tasting and finger food at Ta' Betta Wine Estates**
Siggiewi

22:00 **Return to Valletta**

SATURDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER

Tickets for the following sites will be provided to the members who have indicated their interest:

- Fort St Elmo
- MUŻA
- Fort St Angelo
- Inquisitor's Palace



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dress code: Normal clothing for the conference day (be mindful there will be AC inside) and business casual attire for the Welcome Reception and Official Dinner. Comfortable clothing and shoes are advised for the UNESCO World Heritage sites visit. No stilettos are allowed in the Cathedral.

Accompanying persons: The Annual Meeting is strictly reserved for Heads and their accompanying delegates. Accompanying partners are welcome to join the additional activities at the end of each conference day, in the blue boxes of the programme.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER

17:00 **Gathering at Parliament Building**
Triq ir-Repubblika

17:15 **Visit of the National Museum of Archaeology**
Triq ir-Repubblika

18:30 **Visit of St John's Co-Cathedral**
Misrah San Ġwann

19:45 **Welcome Reception at the Malta Society of Arts**
Palazzo De La Salle, 219, Triq ir-Repubblika





SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM

Valletta
24-26 September 2025



**Dear EHHF members,
Dear colleagues,**

For the 19th EHHF Annual Meeting, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage within the Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government is delighted to welcome you to Valletta, the smallest European capital city. It is also one of the most concentrated historical areas in the world, and in its entirety, a World Heritage Site.

The choice of the subject was an obvious one. In 1992, the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe was signed in Valletta, and came into force in 1995.

Under the theme, The Valletta Convention: 30 Years in Practice, we invite you to engage with this subject through discussions and workshops. Subjects will revolve around the provisions and the implementation of this convention, from theory to practice and logistics. How are archaeological research and conservation financed in your respective countries? Not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY)-ism... Is this an occurrence in your country? These are some of the themes that will be discussed.

We augur you fruitful discussions leading to knowledge and idea sharing. Last but not least, we wish you a pleasant stay.

Kurt Farrugia
Superintendent of Cultural Heritage

The EHHF 2025 Annual Meeting is hosted by:

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage

173, Triq San Kristofru
<https://schmalta.mt>

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With support from:

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MEETING POINTS

- A** Parliament Building
- B** National Museum of Archaeology
- C** St John's Co-Cathedral
- D** Malta Society of Arts
- E** Mediterranean Conference Centre
- F** Grandmaster's Palace
- G** Maltese Chamber of Commerce

All meeting points are easily reachable by foot and are 15 minute walking distance from each other at most.

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1** Upper Barrakka
- 2** Lower Barrakka
- 3** St Paul's Shipwreck Church
- 4** Hasting's Garden
- 5** Fort St Elmo
- 6** MUŻA
- 7** Fort St Angelo
- 8** Malta Maritime Museum
- 9** Inquisitors' Palace